



Reacts **In**

NEWSLETTER

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ReactsIn works with women and adolescent girls to address hunger and malnutrition, promoting micronutrient-dense foods in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia.

Through Deliberate Learning, We Uncover Insights We Didn't Expect

Most of us are so busy focusing on delivering our commitments to communities and donors that it is difficult to make time to reflect on, and learn more about, the change that we are catalyzing and the impact of our work.

In World Vision Tanzania, we are fortunate to have three major grants (ReactsIn, GROW-ENRICH and NOURISH), that build on the significant investments and transformative results of the Global Affairs Canada-funded ENRICH project (2016 – 2021) in Shinyanga and Simiyu regions in Lake Victoria Zone of Northern Tanzania.

We decided that it was essential to ensure that learning across these grants was being actively promoted and designed a learning event to bring together World Vision staff, partners and our government counterparts. This ensures that learnings from the event will be taken into other spaces.

The learning event included field visits, plenary sessions and discussions on key topics. There were several important conclusions regarding operational efficiencies and successful implementation strategies. During the event, we listened to community members and project participants. Sometimes the results they described were surprising and gave us new insights. Nowhere was this more apparent than when we turned our attention to the impact of our work on gender. Let me illustrate this with a simple example.

We routinely promote male attendance at antenatal care (ANC) visits for pregnant women, but we rarely ask what the wider impact of this change in behaviour has been. We talked to women and men in Shinyanga District Council about the results of increased male attendance. They told us that men were taking the issues surrounding maternal health more seriously, actively supporting women and allocating resources for transport to make sure that they attended ANC visits.

Couples participating in the project told us that there had been a much deeper, and perhaps more interesting result: making visits to health centres together had brought them closer. They had space to talk about issues that they had never discussed before, which improved mutual understanding. I consider this to be truly transformative, and it would never have been highlighted if we had not created a deliberate space for learning and sharing experiences.

As a National Office, we are now determined to do this more regularly and ensure cross-project events that promote learning by actively engaging our staff and partners, project participants and the community members where we work.

Dr. Gideon Cohen
Resource Development Director,
World Vision Tanzania



The Numbers: Launch to Date

56,090

Women in Bangladesh reached with essential MNCH and SRHR initiatives

495,200

Iron and folic acid tablets distributed to health facilities in Kenya

88,600

Kilograms of biofortified crop seeds distributed to vulnerable households

500

Men trained on sociocultural barriers that hinder gender equitable nutrition in Somalia

Data-Driven Program Improvement Turning data into action

Data-driven initiatives are crucial to improve program outcomes. This includes developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks, standardizing data collection tools and using data to inform decision-making and enhance accountability. The focus is on aligning collected data with program requirements and building capacity for consistent indicator interpretation and ethical data practices.

THREE ACTIONS FROM THE ReactsIn LEARNING EVENT IN KENYA

1

Standardize data collection tools and reporting formats across countries.

2

Build capacity for consistent indicator interpretation and ethical data practices (e.g., anonymization).

3

Enhance collaboration across countries to harmonize monitoring and evaluation practices.



In Bangladesh, a group of courageous adolescent girls meet regularly to learn, advocate and fight for the rights of women and girls in their communities. These girls are more than just a small group—they are leaders of a brighter, more equitable future.

Click the video window or scan the QR code to watch the video about Sultana, an active member of the Girl Power Group in Bangladesh.



Accelerating Project Implementation in Tanzania and Somalia

From June 23 to July 10, ReactsIn Chief of Party, Dr. Asrat Dibaba Tolossa, and Zara Raheel, Grants Finance Manager at World Vision Canada, visited project activities in Tanzania and Somalia to review the FY25 Annual Results Report, co-develop action plans and strengthen accountability for adaptive and continuous learning.

In Tanzania, the team engaged with SANKU, a non-profit organization that focuses on ending malnutrition by equipping small-scale flour mills with the technology (Dossifiers) and resources to fortify their flour with essential micronutrients. To date, 30 dossifiers have been procured, with nine already installed in the project area. Three weeks after installation, 11.6 metric tons of flour were fortified, benefiting an estimated 13,882 people. SANKU has committed to installing the remaining units by December 2025 and has conducted miller surveys, engaged government stakeholders, trained food inspectors and carried out community sensitization.

The team also met with Ministry of Health officials to discuss the rollout of the Gender Transformative Framework for Nutrition (GTFN) which seeks to review and update national policies to make them more gender transformative. In Tanzania the new National Nutrition Policy is at the cabinet approval stage and is expected to be signed after the 2026 national elections. Once finalized, the policy will be analyzed in partnership with the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

The delegation also visited three Program Excellence and Impact Delivery (PEID) sites in Maswa and Meatu districts, engaging with community members, observing achievements, discussing challenges and identifying opportunities for improvement.

In Somalia, the focus was on strengthening financial and programmatic capacity. Ms. Raheel guided teams and partners through Global Affairs Canada’s finance and compliance requirements, covering various aspects such as contribution and implementation agreements, internal controls, procurement procedures, fraud prevention and risk management. Dr. Tolossa led sessions on the project’s logic model, theory of change and outcome monitoring methodologies. Teams reviewed FY 2025 annual outcome monitoring results and used a fishbone diagram to identify root causes of low performances.



Sophia: The Student Becomes the Teacher



2017

It’s 2017. Sophia is an active part of her community and has always wanted to develop and learn new ways to help herself and those around her. This is why she took part in a training, facilitated by World Vision’s ENRICH project, that taught local women how to plant orange flesh sweet potatoes (OFSP).

Orange flesh sweet potatoes are high in vitamin A, which boosts the body’s immune system and helps combat anemia, which can affect pregnant mothers. World Vision worked with Sophia to help her plant and harvest OFSP. Sophia is an influencer in her community, and if the village saw Sophia planting OFSP then they may follow suit.

Fast forward to 2025. ENRICH has ended and Sophia’s village does not fall in the implementation zone of ReactsIn (the continuation of ENRICH in Tanzania). However, this hasn’t stopped Sophia from using what she learned during her time with ENRICH to the benefit herself and her community.

Sophia still plants OFSP and makes enough money from the sale of these crops to buy all the household utilities for herself and her grandchildren. She also shares the knowledge she gained about the health benefits of the crops with her family and community. Using the money from the OFSP also allows her to allocate the sale of other crops she harvests to improve her homestead and purchase chickens and goats to support her family.



2025

ReactsIn Voices: Meet Our Intern - Natalie

As a Master of Science in Global Health candidate at McMaster University, I joined World Vision Canada as a Policy and Research Intern for the ReactsIn Project. I am passionate about health equity, gender equality and evidence-based program delivery.

Among the eight projects I was involved in over the past few months, a main aspect of my role involved designing tools to help teams follow through on set action items. I created a six month post-learning event mastery plan as well as risk and compliance assessment checklists, which can now be used across ReactsIn Field Offices (FOs) and with partners to track priority actions, monitor implementation progress and identify areas needing further support. Each activity is linked to output indicators and is provided with suggestions for available, evidence-informed resources to support achieving set goals. I also developed a user-friendly semi-annual risk and compliance checklist for FO teams, covering everything from activity alignment to emergency preparedness, financial accountability and safeguarding, to support consistent monitoring and strengthen accountability.

My work aimed to turn strategic insights into practical follow-up systems and transform high-level compliance priorities into actionable field guidance. I look forward to bringing these skills in stakeholder engagement, systems thinking and knowledge translation into my future career in health consulting, policy development and international development.



~Natalie



“Gender equality is a non-negotiable for sustainable impact. Evidence from ReactsIn shows that when women and girls have equal access to nutrition and health services, whole communities benefit - malnutrition decreases, agricultural productivity rises, and household incomes grow.”

Marie Bettings
Director - Program Excellence & Impact Delivery
World Vision Canada