

West Africa Region



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2025

**Bold Hope
for Children**

WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

Boubacar (7) and his sister Mariama in Kaffrine, Senegal. Read their story on page 11.

Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



Our vision for every child is **life in all its fullness**. Our prayer for every heart is **the will to make it so.**

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Happy children wave in a community supported by World Vision in Senegal.
Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



Vera (8), sponsored through World Vision, with her mother and grandmother in Ghana.

Photo: Laura Reinhardt/World Vision



Sidy, a participant in Mali, and his daughter Mariam delighted to receive their P&G water purification packets distributed by World Vision in Mali.

Photo: Salomon Guindou/World Vision

REGIONAL LEADER'S FOREWORD

Dear friends and partners,

It is truly a privilege to share this report with you. Within these pages are stories of resilience, faith, and hope from the children, families, and communities we have had the honour of serving alongside throughout 2025. These stories demonstrate both individual impact and the broader results we achieved together in a year that marked the conclusion of the second phase of our global strategy, Our Promise, and the completion of a five-year journey for which we are deeply grateful. Indeed, God did 'exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20).

Guided by our Christian faith and our commitment to the most vulnerable children, our teams continued to walk alongside communities across West Africa. Thanks to the enduring commitment of our donors, partners, and sponsors, our team of over 1,800 staff directly reached more than 11.5 million people through our development, humanitarian, and advocacy programmes.

Together, we strengthened access to healthcare and nutrition services, expanded opportunities for children to learn and thrive, supported families to build more resilient livelihoods, and responded to humanitarian needs in communities affected by conflict and displacement. Through advocacy with governments, partners, and communities, we also contributed to changes that benefited more than 38 million children across the region.

Over our 45 years of working in West Africa, we have learned that lasting change happens when communities are empowered to lead their own development. This year offered many examples of that conviction in action. Children and young people raised their voices on issues affecting their futures, families strengthened their resilience through locally led approaches, and communities continued to identify and drive solutions to their own challenges.

Several moments stand out from the year. Among them, we were encouraged by the visit of World Vision International President and CEO Rev. Andrew Morley to Central African Republic, where he witnessed firsthand the strength and dignity of the indigenous Aka community as their children received vaccines for the first time. We also saw the growing impact of major health interventions across the region, including work supported through the Global Fund and Gavi, helping to expand access to life-saving services and reduce the burden of disease for millions of children and families.

As we look ahead, we enter the next phase of our strategy, Bold Hope for Children (2026–2030), with confidence and expectation. Child sponsorship is at the heart of this work, providing a foundation of long-term support that enables children, families, and communities to thrive. We remain committed to working alongside communities, churches, governments, sponsors, donors, and partners to ensure that children are protected, cared for, and given every opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

The past year has reaffirmed both the resilience of the communities we serve and the value of long-term partnerships rooted in trust. I extend my sincere gratitude to our staff, volunteers, faith leaders, sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters whose dedication and partnership make this work possible. Most importantly, I thank the children, families, and communities who welcome us into their lives and allow us to share in their journey.

This report reflects their stories, their perseverance, and their hope. As we begin a new chapter, we do so inspired by their vision of a world where every child can experience life in all its fullness, by God's grace.

Carla Dominique Denizard
Regional Leader - West Africa Region
World Vision International





WE ARE WORLD VISION

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian, development, and advocacy organisation working to end extreme poverty and injustice, one child, one family, and one community at a time. Fuelled by our faith, we believe in every child's dignity. We believe each person is created in the image of God and that we share a collective responsibility to build a sustainable and just future for all. The challenges we face are complex, and so is our work. We respond to urgent needs while confronting root causes, driven by an unshakable faith that refuses to give up on children.

In the West Africa region, World Vision serves and partners with communities in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Our work also extends to Cameroon and Nigeria through partners.



World Vision staff in action across the region.

Photos: Ben Adams, Prince Thierry Bassigue, Nanette Gendry, Ange Gusenga-Tembo & Elissa Webster/World Vision

The region in 2025

In 2025, children across West Africa lived with the weight of compounding challenges. Hunger, displacement, and limited access to basic services shaped life for millions of girls and boys. Conflict, climate shocks, rising living costs, and political instability reinforced each other in ways that made recovery harder and need greater.

Across the Sahel and Central Africa, international humanitarian response plans were only funded at 24% of identified need.

NEEDS AT A GLANCE*

- More than 40 million people across the region could not reliably feed themselves or their children during the 2024 post-harvest season; projections placed this figure at 52.7 million during the June to August 2025 lean season
- 3.4 million people were living at emergency levels of hunger (IPC Phase 4)
- 16.7 million children under five were acutely malnourished, continuing a multi-year upward trend well above the previous decade's average

*Sources: FEWS NET (2025), IPC Global Platform (2025), UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Malnutrition Estimates (2025), UNHCR West and Central Africa Regional Update (2025), WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (2024), UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (2025).

- 12.7 million people were forcibly displaced across West and Central Africa, with the Sahel at or near record levels
- Fewer than two in three people across the region had access to basic drinking water, and fewer than half had access to basic sanitation
- International humanitarian response plans were only funded at 24% of identified need

Rising to respond

Three situations stood out as acutely severe during the year. In Chad, the ongoing conflict in Sudan had driven more than 844,000 people across the border by September 2025, nine in ten of them women and children, placing receiving communities under enormous strain. In Central African Republic, 2.8 million people, nearly half the national population, were classified as extremely vulnerable, and the humanitarian plan designed to assist them was only 56% funded. In Burkina Faso, displacement into cities outpaced the capacity of support systems, and it became critical to extend programming into urban areas for the first time.

It is in this context that World Vision adapted its approach to go further in reaching the most vulnerable, sustaining presence in the hardest places and deepening its work with communities, governments, and partners across the region.



Children in West Africa faced nearly **40% higher vulnerability** than the global average.

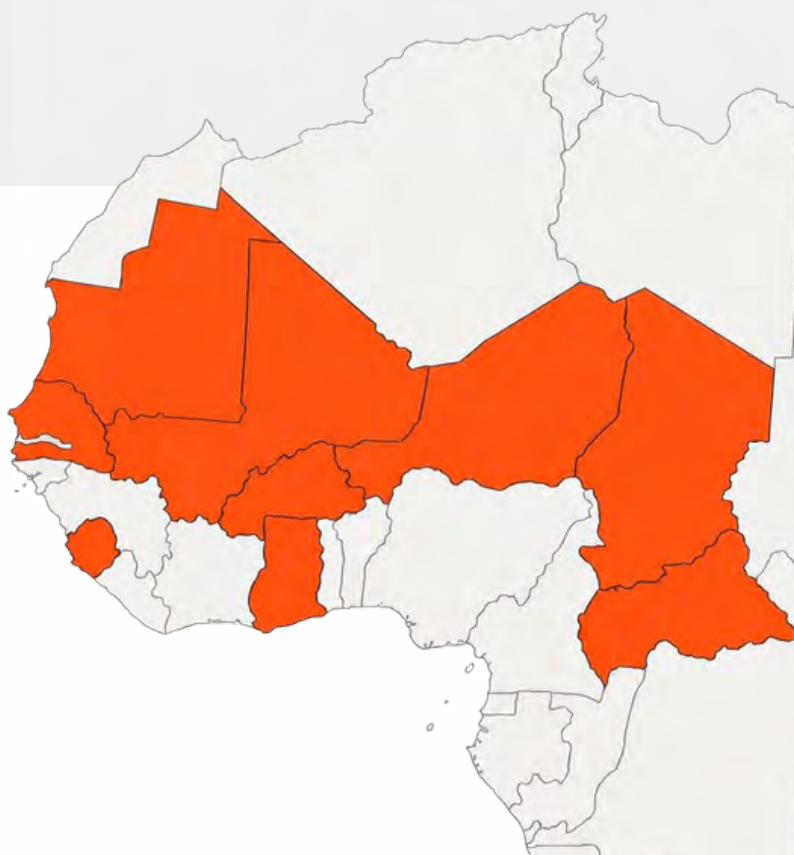


Fewer than **4 in 10 households** in World Vision programme areas had access to basic sanitation.



Only **1 in 3** young children in World Vision programme areas had full vaccination coverage.

Sources: Multidimensional Child Vulnerability Index, World Vision International & Institute for Economics and Peace (January 2026); World Vision Annual Impact Measurement surveys, FY25 (8 and 7 countries respectively, programme-area data, not nationally representative)



Afaf, a World Vision volunteer, skips rope with children at a Child-Friendly Space in Mile Refugee Camp, Chad.

Photo: Jon Warren/World Vision



Driving impact, expanding influence, and growing income for children

Reaching the most vulnerable children requires long-term commitment, trusted local partnerships, and sustained investment. In 2025, World Vision invested US\$235 million across West Africa through a combination of community-based programmes, humanitarian responses, and grant-funded initiatives.

This work was delivered through a network of 121 Area Development Programmes, where locally-rooted

approaches in health, nutrition, education, child protection, livelihoods, and community participation help children, families, and communities create lasting change.

Together, these efforts help communities build resilience, expand opportunities for children, and drive their own development.

OUR REACH & IMPACT AT A GLANCE

In 2025, our work reached more than 11.5 million people, including 6.6 million children across the region.



5.9M+
 People reached through development programmes



5.8M+
 People reached through humanitarian operations



38M
 Children reached through advocacy and policy change

How we measure our reach and results:

Reach figures count people who participated in or received services from our programmes during the October 2024 to September 2025 fiscal year, drawn from programme records across all nine countries. The development programme total is unduplicated across sectors, meaning a person reached through both health and education programmes is counted once.

The humanitarian operations total is counted separately using a different methodology that

captures cumulative reach across all five crisis responses and is not directly comparable to the development figure. Hence, we present both alongside a combined total rather than simply adding them.

Outcome indicators, such as recovery rates, learning levels, and household food security, come from structured surveys conducted in our programme areas and describe conditions in those specific communities, not across the wider population.



Children at a community in Taif Thiekene, Senegal.
Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision

DRIVING LASTING TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNITIES

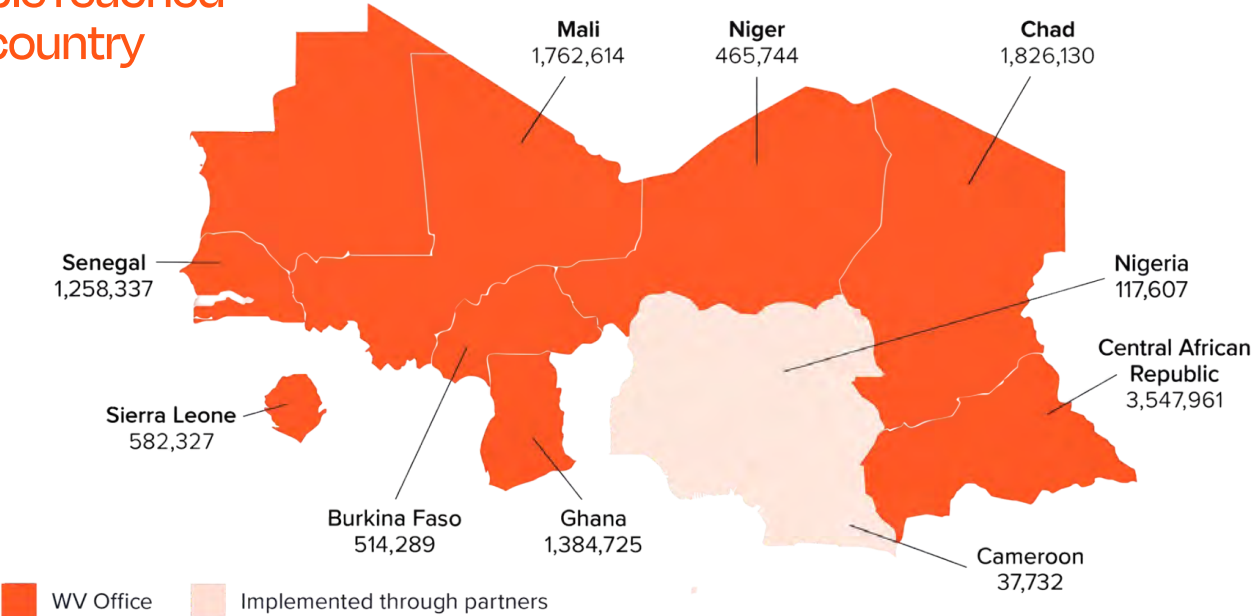
In 2025, World Vision's work spanned seven technical sectors and all nine countries of operation, with additional programming implemented through partners in Nigeria and Cameroon.

People reached per sector

-  **4.9M+** Health & Nutrition
-  **2.2M+** Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
-  **1.7M+** Child Protection & Participation
-  **1.6M+** Livelihoods & Food Security
-  **1.4M+** Faith & Development
-  **803K+** Education & Life Skills
-  **5.8M+*** Humanitarian Emergency Affairs

*Humanitarian reach reflects cumulative reach across five responses and uses a different counting methodology from the six development programme figures above.

People reached per country



Results for children and communities, lasting for generations to come



Eight-year-old Vera, a sponsored child, with her mother and grandmother in Ghana.
Photo: Laura Reinhardt/World Vision



Child sponsorship in West Africa

Child sponsorship is the foundation of World Vision's work in communities. Through long-term partnerships with children, families, and local leaders, it provides the consistency needed to strengthen child protection systems, improve health and nutrition outcomes, expand access to education, and support children's well-being over time. By investing over many years, sponsorship enables communities to build on progress, respond to evolving challenges, and sustain results beyond the lifespan of individual projects.

In West Africa, this approach supports 121 Area Development Programmes across seven countries, helping communities address immediate needs while investing in the systems and relationships that underpin lasting change. By the end of 2025, more than 346,000 children were registered in our sponsorship programmes across the region, including over 235,000 who had an active sponsor.

While only one child in a family is typically registered and linked to a sponsor, the benefits of sponsorship extend far beyond that individual child, helping strengthen services, systems, and opportunities that support many other children and families within the same community.

In contexts such as Senegal, sponsorship fuels 67% of World Vision's national programme budget, making it possible for reading clubs, nutrition sessions, savings groups, and child protection committees to reach countless families such as Boubacar's (story on next page).

The table below details World Vision's Child Sponsorship coverage in West Africa.

ADP = Area Development Programme

Country	ADPs	Registered Children
Mali	24	67,263
Sierra Leone	26	65,526
Ghana	18	55,890
Senegal	19	52,020
Mauritania	13	39,255
Niger	14	38,431
Chad	7	27,917
Total	121	346,302



SDG Alignment & Contribution
World Vision's child sponsorship model contributes towards advancing SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, and SDG 10, providing the sustained, long-term funding that enables communities to build the health, education, and protection systems that reach the most marginalised children and families.

Impact Story

Seven-year-old Boubacar, happy, healthy and playing freely with his friends.

Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



The power of Child Sponsorship: Boubacar now moves freely

In the Kaffrine region of central Senegal, seven-year-old Boubacar and his 15-year-old sister, Mariama, faced both physical challenges and social barriers in their community. Boubacar was born with a disability that left him unable to walk, while Mariama lives with a condition that leaves her walking with bowed legs as a result of an untreated childhood fracture. For much of their lives, misunderstanding and stigma shaped how others viewed them. Local beliefs led many people in their community to think their conditions were caused by spirits, and their father sought help from traditional healers without success.

Everything began to change when World Vision started working in their village. Through awareness campaigns and ongoing engagement, the community's attitudes toward Boubacar and children with disabilities began to improve. When Boubacar received a wheelchair, a whole new world opened up, giving him a greater sense of independence.

As part of World Vision's child sponsorship programme, three of Boubacar's eight siblings are currently registered and sponsored. Boubacar himself is one of these sponsored children, with a sponsor living in the United States. His other four siblings are still waiting for sponsors.

Because of World Vision's community-based sponsorship model, for every sponsored child, four more benefit as well, so they began receiving immediate support and care, and other children in the community who are not yet sponsored also benefit.



Read the full story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Building resilience in fragile and crisis-affected communities



5.8 million

People reached through humanitarian operations



2.9 million

Children reached through emergency responses



USD 148 million

Invested in cash and in kind

World Vision has maintained a sustained presence across West Africa for more than 45 years, building the community relationships and local capacity that allow a meaningful response when crisis deepens.

In 2025, four Sustained Humanitarian Responses and one National Response remained active across the region's five crisis-affected countries, where families continued living with food insecurity, displacement, and limited access to basic services. Across the region, international humanitarian response plans were funded at 24% of identified need (OCHA, December 2025).

World Vision mobilised more than USD 155 million and reached 5,838,884 people across its five humanitarian operations in 2025. In Burkina Faso, teams reached 514,000 people including 216,000 children across eight fragile regions, extending into urban areas for the first time as displacement accelerated into cities. In Central African Republic, a USD 87 million Global Fund grant supported programming for 2.8 million people classified as extremely vulnerable.

In Chad, more than 844,000 refugees had crossed the border from Sudan by September 2025, nine in ten of them women and children, placing receiving communities under enormous strain. In Mali and Niger, sustained responses combined food, protection, water, and health services for communities living under protracted insecurity.

Across programme areas in crisis-affected contexts, 72% of households that faced a disaster reported returning to the living standards they had before the shock. Years of investment in community-level support had built enough that when the shock came, households had something to fall back on. Cash and voucher assistance reached communities across the region, with USD 39 million distributed across Mali and Chad, enabling households to meet immediate needs while preserving their capacity to make their own decisions.

Even in the most constrained operating contexts in the world, communities continued to organise for children's rights.



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's humanitarian response in West Africa directly contributes towards advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), addressing the compounding needs of communities affected by conflict, displacement, and climate shocks.

Impact Story



Adam with his mother, before and after.
Photo: Mallory Dionkain & Thierry Prince Bassigue/World Vision

From malnutrition to renewed hope in eastern Chad: Adam's story

In the Mile refugee camp in eastern Chad, two-year-old Adam was suffering from severe acute malnutrition. His mother watched his health deteriorate in a context marked by the massive influx of refugees from neighbouring Sudan as well as fragile health services. Through the Integrated Support for Sudanese Refugees and Host Communities project funded by the US government, Adam was treated in hospital for two weeks, received therapeutic milk, and was closely monitored by medical teams. He also received Plumpy'Nut, a nutrient-rich therapeutic food. Today, Adam is three years old, ever-smiling and playful, and has regained a vitality that restores hope to his mother. His incredible transformation story shows the powerful impact of World Vision nutrition in emergency programmes. In 2025, 89.1% of children in our programming areas across the region recovered from severe acute malnutrition (see the next page for more details).



Read the full story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Read our 2025 Disaster Management Overview

This regional overview reflects not only what World Vision delivered, but how we carried out humanitarian action in a complex and changing environment, underscoring our continued commitment to ensuring that children across the region remain protected, supported, and visible in the midst of crisis.



Scan the QR
Code or [click here](#).

Advancing children's health and nutrition



Raman, a healthy young boy, at a clinic in Ghana.
Photo: Laura Reinhardt/World Vision



4.9 million

People reached through health and nutrition programmes



3.3 million

Insecticide-treated nets distributed (Global Fund GC7)



65,500

Zero-dose children vaccinated for the first time (Gavi Raise 4 Sahel)



89.1 percent

Recovery rate from severe acute malnutrition in programming areas

In 2025, an estimated 16.7 million children under five experienced acute malnutrition across West Africa, reflecting a persistent multi-year increase attributed to conflict, climate shocks, and chronically underfunded health systems. Among affected children, malnutrition frequently co-occurs with illness, including malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and HIV/AIDS, disrupts educational attainment, and diminishes resilience to additional threats.

Addressing this challenge requires interventions that extend beyond clinical settings. Effective strategies include community engagement, training mothers and caregivers as primary agents of detection and response, and strengthening local capacity to identify and treat children before their condition becomes critical. World Vision's community-based model exemplifies this approach, with 2025 results demonstrating its effectiveness.

In 2025, World Vision's health and nutrition programmes reached 4,876,253 people across 11 West African countries, including Nigeria and Cameroon. Among children treated for severe acute malnutrition through World Vision's community programmes, 89.1% recovered, surpassing the internationally recognised SPHERE minimum standard of 75%. Recovery rates were 88.1% for girls and 90.2% for boys.

Community management of acute malnutrition treated 226,802 people, achieving 127% of our annual target. This outcome corresponds to approximately 202,000 children who transitioned from life-threatening malnutrition to normal growth trajectories during the fiscal year.

Community-based nutrition: Burkina Faso and Ghana

- Positive Deviance/Hearth sessions engaged 62,707 participants, achieving a regional success rate of 75%, with rates exceeding 90% in the highest-performing programme areas.
- In Burkina Faso, World Vision trained mothers of young children in malnutrition screening, enabling early identification of warning signs.
- In Ghana, the Ghana Health Service committed to scaling the community-based model following a review of programme outcomes. These results reflect the impact of leveraging community knowledge and capacity, which extends beyond the capabilities of clinical systems alone.

School meals: Central African Republic, Ghana and Chad

- In Central African Republic, World Vision's school feeding programme reached 275,702 school children with school meals, both wet and dry rations over the past year. With near-equal numbers of girls and boys, the programme helped to keep vulnerable children in school, improve attendance and concentration, and reinforce household food security in fragile settings.
- In Ghana, the community-led "One Child, One Egg" initiative demonstrated how even modest school-based feeding can lift attendance, with teachers reporting that absenteeism dropped once feeding days were aligned with the school week.
- In Chad, World Vision secured a new WFP-funded emergency school meals programme covering the eastern provinces, extending school feeding to children affected by conflict starting 2026.



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's health and nutrition programming directly contributes towards advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), including target 3.3 on ending the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, tackling acute malnutrition and strengthening community-based health systems in some of the world's most underserved areas.

Immunisation: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali and Niger

With support from the Gavi-funded Raise 4 Sahel project, World Vision vaccinated 65,506 children who had never received any vaccines before. Faith leaders, mobile teams, and community health workers who know their communities helped reach these children. Vaccination rates in these areas show there is still work to do, which is why ongoing, local outreach is so important. Working with partners made it possible to reach even more children.

Global Fund: Central African Republic and Sierra Leone

World Vision serves as Principal Recipient for Global Fund grants in both Central African Republic and Sierra Leone, a distinction held by few organisations in the region. The two grants deliver integrated malaria, TB, HIV, and health systems strengthening services in two of the region's most fragile settings.

In Central African Republic, the USD 87 million Grant Cycle 7 grant supported health programming across the country.

World Vision distributed 3,350,901 insecticide-treated nets and delivered 1,255,434 malaria tests, intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp) for 141,017 pregnant women, antiretroviral therapy for 28,334 adults and children, and the notification of 5,735 TB patients. All of this was underpinned by 3,540 community health workers, whose integrated services benefited an estimated 874,683 people.

In Sierra Leone, World Vision invested USD 6.7 million under its Grant Cycle 7 grant, spanning HIV, TB, malaria, and health systems strengthening. Quarterly last mile delivery moved health commodities to some 1,500 health facilities across all 16 districts, cutting delivery times from two weeks to under four days. HIV prevention reached 64,298 people at highest risk of infection, and 17,465 began pre-exposure prophylaxis, the daily medication that prevents HIV. Teams provided nutritional support for patients with multidrug-resistant TB and deployed two mobile TB diagnostic trucks. World Vision also handed over 20 of 33 planned facilities offering directly observed treatment, in which a health worker supervises each dose of TB medication. Community behaviour change raised IPTp uptake among pregnant women by 60%.

Impact Story



Mothers with babies and toddlers learn to prepare nutritious food for their families in Positive Deviance/Hearth sessions in Dosso, Niger. Photo: Jon Warren/World Vision

Local food, local knowledge: Community sessions help children recover in Niger

In September 2025, 89 children took part in Positive Deviance/Hearth sessions at two sites in Dosso, Niger. Mothers worked together to cook meals using local foods and shared knowledge from their community, with support from community health workers. By the last day, 81 children (44 girls and 37 boys), or 91% of those who joined, had gained at least 200 grams, reaching the rehabilitation goal. Families could see the difference in their children. Health workers saw proof that community-based efforts can help children who might not get care at clinics. On a bigger scale, parents in Niger who learned how to measure mid-upper arm circumference checked 97 children on their own. This was the first step in a process that no longer depends on waiting for a health worker.



How Positive Deviance/Hearth works:

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Expanding access to quality education and safe learning environments

Deborah (14, centre), a sponsored child, learning with her classmates in Ghana.
Photo: Jon Warren/World Vision



803,000

People reached through education programmes



387,000

Children aged 6-18 who improved learning outcomes



75,000

Children aged 0-6 in early childhood development progs.



70 percent

Children in programme areas attending a structured learning institution

Education is one of the best ways to improve children's well-being and future prospects. In West Africa, early reading skills are the strongest sign that a child will stay in school. Children who fall behind are more likely to drop out, and girls are especially at risk and less likely to return. Insecurity in the Sahel has forced thousands of schools to close, while teacher shortages and a lack of learning materials make it hard for students to succeed even in safer areas.

In 2025, World Vision partnered with communities, schools, and governments to help children stay in school, especially in places affected by poverty, displacement, and conflict. By investing in teacher training, involving communities, and providing learning materials, we improved both access to education and its quality.

School meals played a key role in our efforts. More than 275,000 children, the majority of them in Central African Republic and Chad, received school meals through World Vision-supported programmes during the year. In stable communities, school feeding programmes and school gardens helped improve both nutrition and attendance. In emergency contexts, these meals helped keep learning going, and local communities now manage the canteens themselves. Communities are playing an increasing role in sustaining these initiatives by managing canteens, maintaining school gardens, and contributing local resources.

World Vision's education programmes reached 803,222

people, consistent with the previous year (802,803) despite a challenging operating environment. Across programme areas, 70% of children attended structured learning institutions, while 47% of primary caregivers actively supported their children's learning, a significant achievement in a region where adult literacy rates remain low.

A total of 387,000 children aged 6 to 18 in our programme areas showed better learning results, and 75,000 children aged 0 to 6 took part in early childhood development programmes. Communities and partners helped make 20 changes to education policies across the region. More children now have access to water and sanitation at school, with 35,576 gaining drinking water and 199,064 gaining handwashing facilities.

School meals and attendance: Sierra Leone and Ghana

- In Sierra Leone, children established agricultural clubs and school gardens in eight primary schools, training 240 pupils in climate-smart agriculture and vegetable production. The gardens now supply fresh produce for school meals, directly benefiting 2,359 pupils while improving nutrition and attendance, and strengthening the government's school feeding programme at community level.
- In Ghana, child-led advocacy through the ENOUGH campaign contributed to strengthened financing for the national school feeding programme, which now serves 2.9 million children across 8,600 public primary schools.



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's education programming contributes towards advancing SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, and SDG 8, supporting access to quality and inclusive education, equipping young people with the life skills they need to thrive, and addressing the barriers that keep children, especially girls, out of the classroom.

Reading proficiency: Senegal, Chad, Mali and Niger

In Senegal, reading proficiency in World Vision-supported areas increased from 16% in 2024 to 34% in 2025, surpassing national trends. This progress was driven by 281 active reading clubs led by 557 community facilitators, training and monitoring 822 teachers, and distributing more than 4,500 books through community reading banks. Ninety percent of trained teachers were assessed as effectively applying new skills in the classroom. Children participating in reading clubs achieved 53% reading comprehension, compared with 35% among non-participants.

Regional Annual Impact Measurement data from Niger, Chad, and Mali show a reading proficiency rate of 11%, highlighting both the scale of the challenge and the potential of intensive literacy interventions when fully implemented.

Learning continuity in crisis: Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Central African Republic

In some of the region's most complex contexts, World Vision partnered with Education Cannot Wait to help children continue learning despite conflict and displacement. Across Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Central African Republic, these programmes supported access to safe learning opportunities for children whose education had been disrupted by crisis.

Impact Story



Children learning in Senegal.

Photo: Joseph Tama Bidiar & Komla Hanson Masro/World Vision

More than books: Reading clubs boost children's confidence in Senegal

Across 281 communities in Senegal, reading clubs have become a lifeline for 18,428 children. In rural areas where teachers and books are scarce, these clubs offer the most reliable path to literacy. By 2025, reading proficiency in World Vision operational areas in Senegal soared to 34%, doubling from the previous year. Teachers notice that club members walk into class with newfound confidence. Community reading banks now hold over 4,500 books, and the love of reading nurtured outside the classroom is inspiring children to return to school, eager to learn more.



Join our vision for children's education:

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Strengthening child protection and children's participation



1.7 million

People reached through child protection programmes



570,000

Children reached through violence prevention activities



279,000

Children with access to child protection referral mechanisms



15

Child protection policy changes, all with evidence of implementation

Violence against children in West Africa frequently remains undetected and unreported. Harmful practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, and child labour are deeply embedded in social norms across numerous communities. Displacement further disrupts family and community networks that typically provide protection. Effective child protection in this region depends on community systems that are trusted, well-trained, and sustained over time.

Annual Impact Measurement data from 2025 illustrates the scale of the challenge: 24.1% of adolescents reported experiencing physical violence or psychological aggression from parents or caregivers in the past twelve months; 23.3% of children were engaged in child labour; 21.4% of adolescents attending school reported physical violence by a teacher; and 11.4% experienced sexual violence. These figures highlight the conditions targeted by World Vision's programming and provide an evidence base for continued investment in community-level protection systems.

In 2025, World Vision's child protection programmes reached 1,742,362 individuals, representing a 12.8% increase compared to 2024, with coverage extending across all nine countries. Chad (229,741), Senegal (228,035), and Mauritania (217,048) recorded the highest numbers, while Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Sierra Leone also contributed significantly.

Activities to end violence reached 570,039 children, and 279,359 children across the region gained access to child protection reporting and referral mechanisms. Within programme areas, 60.6% of girls reported positive self-identity, and 88.6% of adult direct participants undertook actions to promote positive social norms for children. The capacity of girls to make and act on decisions, measured at 27%, remains an area with limited progress despite increasing community-level engagement. Child marriage rates in programme areas are 4%, which is substantially lower than regional averages. Birth registration was achieved for 62% of children aged 0 to 59 months.

Children contributed directly to 41% of all policy changes secured in 2025. Additionally, communities achieved 15 child protection policy changes across the region, each with evidence of implementation.

Kids' Clubs and child-led impact: Sierra Leone, Niger and Ghana

- In Sierra Leone, 352 Kids' Clubs maintained a membership of 9,648 children, including 4,961 girls and 4,687 boys, who received training in public speaking, leadership, and skills for engaging decision-makers. A child-led radio programme "Pikin Tok" reached over 2.6 million people nationwide. A national petition contributed to the enactment of the Child Rights Act and the implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's child protection and participation programming contributes towards advancing SDG 5, SDG 8, and SDG 16, strengthening community-based systems that protect children from violence, exploitation, and abuse, and ensuring their voices shape the decisions that affect their lives.

- In Niger, young people in Kids' Clubs gathered evidence and petitioned the Governor of Zinder regarding environmental law enforcement, resulting in a formal commitment.
- In Ghana, 25 children from Kids' Clubs presented community priorities that influenced the National Strategy.

Public advocacy reaching national audiences: Senegal and Mali

- In Senegal, World Vision led the Joining Forces coalition to train children as communication and advocacy ambassadors on child rights, securing USD 15,000 in funding and convening 14 authorities and media representatives at a press luncheon focused on early marriage, female genital mutilation, and school exclusion. This event generated media coverage that reached communities where legal protections exist but enforcement remains limited.
- In Mali, a Girls Take Over initiative was broadcast on national television, amplifying girls' voices to a national audience.

Shifting community norms: Mali and Sierra Leone

- In Koulikoro, Mali, a BMZ-funded project that integrated community awareness, savings groups, and school participation contributed to a reduction in the child marriage rate for girls under 15 from 35% to 8% over three years, as independently verified by an external evaluation. Active community leadership against child marriage and gender-based violence increased from 10% to 89% of community leaders across the 12 target communes.
- In Sierra Leone, a menstrual hygiene management project supported by World Vision Korea addressed a significant barrier to girls' education: menstruation-related absenteeism decreased by 23% following the introduction of school hygiene infrastructure, peer support systems, and community norm change initiatives.
- In both contexts, communities established sustainable protection structures, such as child protection committees, school codes of conduct, and trained gender focal points; interventions designed to continue beyond the duration of grant funding.

Impact Story



Mariame (18, centre) and her friends in Senegal.
Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision

Meet the teenage girls who built a network to fight child marriage in Senegal

At just 10 years old, Mariame came home to find a 45-year-old man waiting to marry her, a reality shared by many girls in her Fulani community in rural Senegal. Rather than accept this fate, she spent four years negotiating her freedom, supported by World Vision, and eventually won her parents' agreement to let her stay in school. But Mariame didn't stop there. She went on to build a grassroots network of 25 teenage girls across multiple villages who monitor their communities for signs of early marriage, intervene when they spot them, and use travelling theatre to shift deeply held cultural attitudes. Connected through a WhatsApp group, they have already stopped more than a dozen child marriages and prevented countless others through their advocacy and awareness-building activities. Mariame now dreams of becoming a lawyer to help girls and women in rural communities build futures free from fear.



Read the full story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Expanding access to safe water and healthier environments



Children celebrate water in their school in Sierra Leone. Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



2.2 million

People reached through WASH programmes



425,000

People gained access to basic drinking water collection points



336,000

People gained access to basic sanitation



300

Water supply systems now run on solar energy

West Africa remains one of the regions with the lowest levels of access to safe water and sanitation globally. Fewer than two in three individuals have access to basic drinking water, and fewer than half have access to basic sanitation. This gap significantly affects children's health, school attendance, girls' safety, and the time women spend collecting water instead of engaging in other productive activities.

In 2025, our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes reached 2,194,313 people across all nine countries, representing a 12.2% increase over 2024. A total of 425,285 people gained access to basic drinking water collection points, 336,048 gained access to basic sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities reached 742,911 people.

In our programme areas, 81% of community water collection points remain functional, demonstrating the sustainability achieved through long-term investment in community ownership and management. In 2025, we installed 2,018 new community water points. Ninety-eight healthcare facilities gained access to safe drinking water, nearly five times the annual target, and 137,511 households now have hand-washing stations with soap and water.

Working with government and faith leaders

World Vision worked with district authorities to develop 24 district-level WASH investment plans, setting out what each district requires to reach full coverage of water and sanitation services.

A further 1,191 faith leaders trained on water, sanitation and hygiene.

Solar-powered water: Sierra Leone, Mali and Ghana

Across the region, more than 300 water supply systems now operate using solar energy instead of hand pumps, and this transition is accelerating. Solar-powered systems are not reliant on fuel supply chains, which are often disrupted during crises. In areas affected by floods, conflict, or damaged infrastructure, solar-powered water systems continue to function when other systems fail. Community members trained to operate and maintain these systems ensure their continued operation and ownership beyond the duration of external programmes.

In Sierra Leone, school management committees in Pujehun District assumed formal ownership of solar boreholes and sex-separated latrines, including menstrual hygiene management systems, thereby removing barriers that previously prevented girls from attending school.

In Mali, solar-powered water infrastructure for community market gardens provided women farmers with year-round access to water for food production. Management committees, composed predominantly of women, were trained to maintain these systems.

In Northern Ghana, World Vision installed seven solar water systems across three districts, accompanied by community-led restoration of degraded land.



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's WASH programming contributes towards advancing SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, and SDG 13, expanding access to safe water and sanitation while reducing the burden on women and girls, keeping children in school, and building water systems resilient enough to withstand the climate shocks already affecting the region.

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Action (ESCA)

ESCA programmes restored and protected over 262,000 hectares of land. Across programme areas, 60% of households are now implementing Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration practices, a significant behavioural shift that requires years of sustained community engagement. This change is particularly important in a region where up to 65% of productive land is already degraded. World Vision trained 83,000 individuals in sustainable agricultural techniques, and communities established or strengthened more than 800 disaster risk management committees. In Niger, a young activist from the Tree Initiative, a local environmental organisation supported by World Vision, presented climate priorities developed during a national children's consultation at the African Climate Summit in Addis Ababa, influencing continental discussions on children and climate action.

Impact Stories



A community member fetching water in Wudzedeke, Ghana.
Photo: Laura Reinhardt/World Vision

Water from the sun: A new dawn for women and girls in Ghana

In Wudzedeke and Bedzame, Ghana, two communities started using solar-powered water systems in September 2025, stopping the daily long trips for water that mostly affected women and girls. With dependable water nearby, children can go to school without spending hours fetching water, and women have more time for farming and savings groups than before. Local water committees, trained to run and care for the systems, took charge of the water facilities when they were launched, with no need for fuel or outside technical help.



Read the full story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

When water comes home: Partnering to supply hope in Mauritania

In the peri-urban neighborhoods of Riyad and Dar El Beida in Mauritania, access to safe drinking water has long been unreliable. To respond to this challenge, World Vision worked with local communities and its top ten private-sector service providers to bring clean water directly into homes.

Children like nine-year-old Halima, who used to have to carry 20 litre jerrycans every morning, now have the freedom to focus on school.

A happy Halima (9) smiles, with water close to home.

Photo: Mohamed Sidaty/World Vision



Read the full story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Strengthening livelihoods and economic resilience



Thriving women at a market gardening site in Gorgol, Mauritania.
Photo: Nanette Gendry/World Vision



1.6 million

People reached through livelihoods programmes



734,000

Children in households where caregivers received livelihoods support



322,000

People in Savings for Transformation groups



72 percent

Households that faced a shock and returned to pre-shock living standards

Economic stability provides families with a foundation that enhances children's safety. Children in economically secure households are more likely to remain in school during harvest failures, access health care when ill, and avoid premature entry into the workforce.

In West Africa in 2025, over 40 million people were unable to reliably feed themselves or their families. Surveys conducted in programme areas indicate similarly severe conditions: three out of four households experience moderate or severe food insecurity, and nearly all live below the international poverty line. Livelihoods programming is integral to health, education, and child protection efforts, serving as the economic basis upon which these interventions depend.

In 2025, our livelihoods and food security programmes reached 1,660,026 people, with Mali, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, Chad, and Central African Republic representing the largest country contributions. Seventy-two percent of households that experienced a shock in programming areas were able to recover their previous living standards, demonstrating that communities had established sufficient economic resilience to withstand adverse events without total loss.

Across the region, 58.9% of households in programme areas are able to protect, restore, or increase their productive assets following a shock, and 53.3% report adequately providing for their children. Fewer than five percent of households cultivate crops adapted to climate variability.

Savings and access to finance: Senegal

Over 16% percent of households in World Vision programme areas across the country have access to formal credit. Among 321,765 participants in Savings for Transformation groups, women constitute the vast majority, with some programme areas reporting nearly full female membership. These groups independently manage governance, make collective lending decisions, and develop financial capacities unavailable through local banking institutions. Savings groups also open a route into formal credit. Through VisionFund's Finance Accelerating Savings Group Transformation (FAST) model, established savings groups gained access to loans from formal financial institutions. In Senegal, savings groups held total savings of USD 10.6 million, and 17,694 members took out a FAST loan during the year, drawing on USD 579,900 disbursed to groups.

THRIVE: Senegal and Ghana

THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) 2030 is World Vision's flagship livelihoods programme, now running in 11 countries. It brings savings groups, access to formal credit, market linkages for smallholder producers, climate-adapted farming and Empowered Worldview training (learn more on page 31) together into a single pathway for household economic growth, so that families build income, assets and confidence in step rather than separately. In Senegal, THRIVE 2030 interventions reached 102,800 participants directly and indirectly. Local value chain development organised 220 producer groups and added 6,165 new members, exceeding annual targets in both cases.



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's livelihoods and food security programming contributes towards advancing SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, and SDG 13, strengthening the economic foundations that allow families to meet their children's basic needs, recover from shocks, and build more stable futures, while placing women's economic leadership and climate-adapted practices at the centre of that work.

A further 26,060 people completed Empowered Worldview training, and 6,564 participants received training on gender equality and social inclusion, including 5,774 women.

In Ghana, World Vision launched Everyone THRIVE Ghana, a three-year programme running to December 2027 that will connect smallholder farmers to markets, savings groups and financial services.

VisionFund International, World Vision's financial inclusion arm, extends the reach of our community programmes by giving families access to the financial tools they need to generate income, build stability, and invest in their children's futures. In West Africa, VisionFund operates in Ghana, Mali and Senegal, reaching 86,441 clients in 2025, the majority of them women.

Learn more about VisionFund:

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.



Impact Story



Women including Mme Mariame (center) celebrate the impact of their savings group in Wanar, Senegal.
Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision

From exclusion to empowerment: How a village savings group in Senegal transformed a community's hearts and minds

In the small village of Wanar, Senegal, Mme Mariame, a 40-year-old mother of three with albinism, previously lived in isolation and relied on begging for survival. Her circumstances shifted significantly when a World Vision community volunteer encouraged her to join a Savings for Transformation (S4T) group, a community-based savings and credit programme designed to foster financial independence. Mme Mariame's S4T group not only welcomed her but also elected her as president, which contributed to a shift in community perceptions. Currently, she operates a shop selling household goods and cold drinks and is recognised as a respected business owner. Today, Mme Mariame has achieved confidence, financial independence, and, most importantly, the respect and acceptance of her community. Thanks to her S4T group, she is not only transforming her family's future but also challenging unjust, deeply rooted cultural beliefs.



Read the full story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Amplifying children's voices and advancing policy change



Young women at a sewing skills workshop in Burkina Faso .
Photo: Mohammed El Habib Cisse/World Vision



38 million

Children reached through policy changes



69 percent

Policy changes driven by community action



41 percent

Policy changes with children's direct contribution



81

Policy changes, each with evidence of implementation

Direct programmes benefit individual households, but policy change works on a larger scale by shaping government funding, how systems operate, and how millions of children are treated by long-standing institutions. In West Africa, children are especially vulnerable because systems are underfunded and political commitment to their rights is often inconsistent. Policy change is crucial to build on and maintain progress made by programmes.

What changed for children in 2025

Communities play the main role in driving this change. In 2025, World Vision contributed to 81 policy changes across West Africa, impacting an estimated 38 million children. Each policy change was supported by documented evidence demonstrating that implementation is already underway. Niger recorded the highest number of policy changes (22), followed by Mali (19) and Ghana (12). The highest number of changes occurred in Health and Nutrition (32), followed by Education (20), then Child Protection and Participation (15).

Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)

Sixty-nine percent of the region's 2025 policy achievements were driven by community action, with communities organising, collecting evidence, and engaging decision-makers directly. While World Vision provided support and resources, communities drove this process. CVA was the approach behind much of this.

CVA brings communities together with government officials and the people who deliver services day to day, the nurses, teachers and head teachers, to compare what a school or clinic is required to provide against what it actually provides.

As part of CVA, communities assess services against national standards, take the findings to those responsible, and agree what will change. Over time the relationship shifts from complaint to shared work, and the gains appear in the services children use. In 2025, citizen-generated evidence, such as community scorecards, local monitoring tools, and grassroots assessments, supported 30% of advocacy efforts.

Community-driven change is more likely to be sustained than externally imposed interventions. Over the past year, communities achieved 13 policy changes in crisis-affected contexts, compared to three in 2024. In places where civic space is severely restricted and even public gatherings carry risk, communities still found ways to hold authorities accountable for children's welfare.

Faith actors

Faith actors participated in 58 of the 81 policy changes, representing 72% of the total. This involvement demonstrates the depth of World Vision's faith engagement in the region and the significant influence of religious leaders on community norms and government decisions.

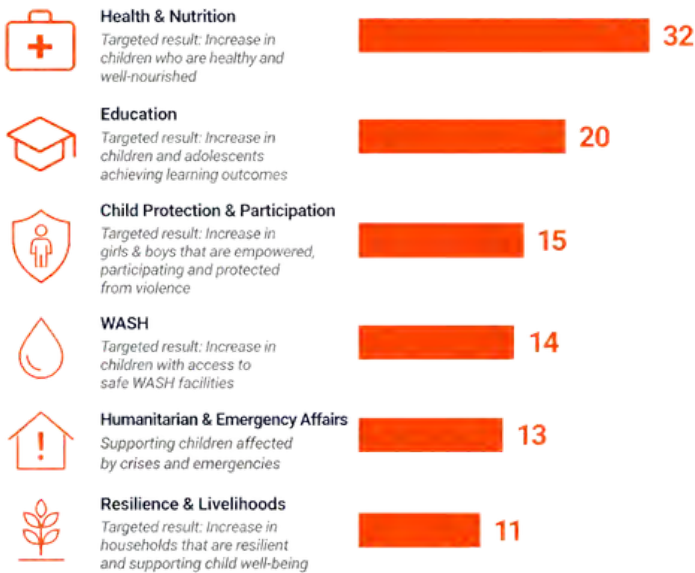


SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's work to amplify children's voices and drive policy change contributes towards advancing SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 10, SDG 16, and SDG 17, ensuring that the issues affecting children most (from hunger and health to education and protection) are reflected in the decisions governments make and the budgets they commit.

World Vision's advocacy efforts contribute not only to individual policy successes but also to cross-sectoral progress and broader development objectives for children. This cross-sectoral engagement is evident in contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals. The accompanying figure presents policy changes by sector and their alignment with the SDGs. Some policy changes address multiple sectors or SDGs, while others focus more holistically on child well-being. Therefore, the total number of policy changes represented in these tables does not sum to 81.

Policy changes by sector



Policy changes by SDG



Impact Stories

Children's petition answered in Niger

For years, children in Zinder, Niger, watched pollution slowly take over their community. Refusing to stand by, they joined Kids' Clubs supported by World Vision, collected evidence, and boldly presented a petition to the Governor of Zinder, urging stronger enforcement of environmental laws. The Governor responded with a formal promise to take action. For the thousands of young people in clubs across Niger in 2025, this moment proved that when voices unite and speak up at the right time, real change can happen.

From survey to Parliament in Mauritania

To tackle ongoing malnutrition and school dropout rates in Mauritania, World Vision launched a targeted initiative based on solid evidence, not just advocacy. A detailed survey in six wilayas, nine moughataas, and 41 schools highlighted major problems in school canteens, such as limited coverage, few meal options, poor water access, and weak infrastructure. These results were shared at a national workshop with parliamentarians, civil society, and technical partners. The group made clear recommendations for budget increases and program growth, which led to the creation of a parliamentary group focused on nutrition. This group is now active and supports Nutrition for Growth goals. In this way, strong evidence helped drive political change.

Children addressing authorities in Niger.
Photo: Ibrahim Mohamed Samna/World Vision



ENOUGH FOR EVERY CHILD



A bountiful harvest for children in Krachi, Ghana.
Photo: Stephen Frimpong Boadi/World Vision



34 million

Children reached through ENOUGH policy changes



2.9 million

Children reached through strengthened school feeding



31

Policy changes on food security, nutrition and school meals



13

Policy changes resulting in government budget commitments

Ending child hunger and malnutrition

Hunger and malnutrition remain pressing challenges across West Africa, affecting the health, development, and future opportunities of millions of children. Through the ENOUGH campaign, World Vision advocates and acts to ensure nutritious food for every child, sourced ethically and sustainably, enabling children to thrive, not just survive. As part of the campaign, World Vision works with governments, partners, and communities to strengthen nutrition systems, promote sustainable solutions, and advocate for the resources needed to improve children's well-being.

In 2025, ENOUGH secured 31 of the region's 81 policy changes, reaching 34 million children through those changes. Thirteen produced government budget commitments for food security and nutrition.

Across 65 of our 121 Area Development Programmes, communities organised around ENOUGH priorities. In Ghana, child-led advocacy strengthened financing for the school feeding programme, now covering 2.9 million children in 8,600 public primary schools. In Central African Republic, World Vision contributed to adoption of the Code on Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes. In Mauritania, a multi-stakeholder process revised the National Malnutrition Treatment Protocol to align with WHO standards. In Sierra Leone, child nutrition was embedded in the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2024 to 2030, and Sierra Leone adopted its first Nutrition Responsive National Budget for 2026.

In Mali, a national advocacy day produced recommendations to allocate 1% of the national budget to school feeding, and the campaign reached 3 million people. In Niger, children broadcast radio spots for the ENOUGH campaign and petitioned the Governor of Zinder on environmental law enforcement, securing a formal commitment to act (story on page 25). In Senegal, ENOUGH advocacy contributed to strengthening community engagement in nutrition and school feeding policy discussions.

In Burkina Faso, ENOUGH work continued through integrated programming despite severe access constraints, with communities maintaining advocacy functions even in areas of active insecurity.

Children's own voices were central to nutrition advocacy in 2025, contributing evidence and testimony that shaped both public commitments and national policy decisions. In Central African Republic, the country's first Children's Nutrition Dialogue brought young people's testimony directly into national policy discussions. In Ghana's Krachi West District, children from the Monkrah Kids' Club planted, tended, and harvested school gardens that now supply produce for school meals. At the ENOUGH Campaign launch, they presented their working solution directly to local government officials and traditional leaders, who publicly committed to sustaining the gardens beyond the project cycle. By the time they presented to officials, the gardens were already producing.



Photo: Ben Adams & Elissa Webster/World Vision



Read our 2025 ENOUGH
Campaign Report: Scan the QR
Code or [click here](#).



ENOUGH IN ACTION



Photo: Tidiane Damango/World Vision

Mali communities lead the way in school nutrition

In M'Pessoba, a community in Mali, local communities chose not to wait for outside help to feed their children at school. Although 12 canteens receive support from external partners and the government, community members constructed and currently operate an additional three canteens, collectively serving 1,399 students (653 girls and 746 boys). Through the ENOUGH campaign, World Vision facilitated collaboration among local stakeholders to establish shared objectives, enhance nutrition and canteen management capacities, and implement governance structures overseen by the communities. These initiatives have led to improved school attendance and retention rates. Furthermore, local leaders have committed to prioritising school feeding as a sustainable objective.

Currently, as students continue to benefit from school meals, the M'Pessoba model is under consideration for expansion to additional programmatic areas.

From local courage to national advocacy for children's rights in Ghana

Through World Vision Ghana's Agotime-Ziope Area Programme, 16-year-old Eugenia applied her training in child rights, protection, and public speaking to heroically rescue a 12-year-old girl in her community from a potential sexual assault. Recognising her leadership, World Vision invited Eugenia to the national launch of the ENOUGH Campaign in Accra, a global initiative demanding that every child enjoys enough nourishing food to thrive. Eugenia took this platform back to her region to mobilize her community around children's nutritional needs, culminating in her attendance at the Children Model Summit for the Future. There, she co-authored a policy proposal on child food security that was presented directly to Ghana's President and his cabinet, beautifully embodying the ENOUGH Campaign's goal of empowering children to actively influence national policy and lead the fight for their own rights.



Read the full story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.



Eugenia (left) with fellow children at the Children Model Summit for the Future.

Photo: Daniel Amponsah Kwarteng/World Vision

CHILDREN & YOUTH LEADING CHANGE

Across West Africa in 2025, children and youth were not merely passive recipients of change, but active contributors to it. The following accounts represent children and youth leading different types of change in their communities, demonstrating their critical role in exercising real influence in governance, food security, environmental advocacy, and child rights.



Photo: Noëlje Sawadogo /World Vision

Burkina Faso

In Dédougou and Boromo, children and young people actively participated in nutrition dialogue workshops organised by World Vision as part of the ENOUGH campaign. They provided concrete recommendations, which were compiled into an advocacy note and submitted to the Civil Society Network for Nutrition. This note was then presented at the Nutrition Summit in Paris in January 2025, ensuring that the priorities of children from Burkina Faso's most vulnerable communities were included in international policy discussions. Despite operating in a challenging environment with limited security and restricted civic space, these children succeeded in making their voices heard at the highest level.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Children's Parliament, peace clubs, and nutrition dialogues in CAR placed children's voices at the centre of the ENOUGH Campaign. Children's ideas shaped campaign messages, advocacy recommendations, and discussions on school canteens. This participation contributed to five policy wins in FY25, reaching 2.47 million children through policy changes, and to CAR's adoption of the Code on Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes. In the country's first Children's Nutrition Dialogue, children's testimony directly informed national policy discussions weeks before the Nutrition for Growth Summit.



Photo: Alexandre Amadou Gassama /World Vision



Photo: Nathaniel Abadji/World Vision

Ghana

In Krachi West District, children in the Monkrah Kids Club planted and harvested school gardens that now supply produce for school meals. At the ENOUGH Campaign launch, they presented their working solution directly to local government officials and traditional leaders, who publicly committed to sustaining the gardens beyond the project cycle. Sixty-four children in Semanhyia separately formed a savings club contributing one cedi each per week, building GHS 1,000 over four years and donating building materials for their school's renovation. In communities where child labour and early marriage remain high, both groups demonstrated what happens when children are trusted with real responsibility.



Photo: Sifatou Ba/World Vision

Mauritania

During the 46th session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) in Lesotho, two girl parliamentarians, aged 14 and 16, represented the perspectives of Mauritanian children at the continental level. Supported by World Vision Mauritania and the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Children, these delegates contributed substantively to the session. World Vision was the sole international non-governmental organisation designated for this session. The participation of the girl parliamentarians was substantive, as they reinforced the session's recommendations regarding children's involvement in governance, particularly in a context where such participation remains limited.

Niger

In the commune of Simiri in Tillabéri, children drove a joint advocacy and communication initiative on malnutrition as part of the ENOUGH Campaign. Structured around children's right to adequate nutrition, the initiative combined policy analysis, key message development, and participatory dissemination through community channels. Children engaged local stakeholders directly, raised awareness on root causes, and mobilised communities around sustainable solutions. The approach was grounded in a theory of change aligned with national and global priorities, demonstrating that child-led advocacy can be rigorous as well as visible.



Photo: Fabita Ali Soumaila/World Vision



Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



With World Vision, I have a voice, and I can make a change. I will use the voice I have to end teenage pregnancy, and together with my friends Otilia, Foli, and the rest, we will make change happen."

-Princess, Age 14, Ghana



Read Princess' story

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.

Strengthening faith and transforming communities



Children praying in Ghana.
Photo: Nathaniel Abadji/World Vision



1.4 million

People reached through
Faith & Development progs.



285,000

People reached through
Celebrating Families model



7,600

Faith leaders engaged in
programming for child well-being



72 percent

Policy changes involving
faith actor engagement

Faith in action

Church and faith partnerships remain a cornerstone of World Vision's approach to sustainable development. More than 98% of communities in West Africa engage with faith actors in some form, and working through those trusted local relationships allows faith leaders and faith communities to extend the reach of health, protection, peacebuilding, and social cohesion initiatives to populations that are beyond the reach of formal systems. Across the region, these partnerships continued to demonstrate the role that faith actors can play in promoting positive social norms, strengthening community resilience, and supporting lasting change for children and families.

In 2025, World Vision's Faith and Development programming reached 1,405,785 people, a 21.2% increase over 2024. Among our key project models, Celebrating Families reached 284,952 participants, Channels of Hope 265,521, Empowered Worldview 254,869, and the Spiritual Nurture of Children 158,046. A total of 7,650 faith leaders took part in activities supporting child well-being.

Across the region, 42.3% of boys and girls aged 12 to 18 reported experiencing God's love, and 88.2% of adult participants took action to spiritually nurture children. Faith actors were involved in 72% of the region's 81 policy changes.

Church partnerships

Churches are central to how this work is delivered, providing congregations, volunteers and leaders whose authority on family life and health is already established. In Senegal, memoranda of understanding bring churches into programme delivery, while in Sierra Leone, 481 churches operate in World Vision programme areas and 586 of 755 church leaders have completed training in Faith and Development models.

Faith leaders and immunisation: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali and Niger

Through the Gavi-funded Raise 4 Sahel project, World Vision trained 4,612 community and religious leaders using the Channels of Hope curriculum adapted for maternal, newborn and child health. Those leaders went on to reach 97,684 people through awareness campaigns and home visits, strengthening local capacity to promote immunisation, maternal and child health, and positive health-seeking behaviours. Faith leaders drew on their religious authority and trusted community relationships to engage families previously unreached by health services.

Health and protection: Sierra Leone, Central African Republic and Ghana

In Sierra Leone, 50 religious leaders joined malaria community action committees, facilitating 913 referrals to health centres in collaboration with trained community health workers.



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's faith and development programming contributes towards advancing SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 10, and SDG 16, engaging religious leaders and faith communities as trusted agents of change on health, gender equality, child protection, and social cohesion in some of the region's most hard-to-reach communities.

In Ghana, faith leaders participated in nutrition dialogues and vaccination awareness campaigns.

Peacebuilding and social cohesion: Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, World Vision trained 7,016 religious and community leaders in peacebuilding to reduce intercommunal violence, thereby strengthening social cohesion alongside humanitarian efforts.

Together, these efforts demonstrate that faith engagement can accelerate the adoption of positive health behaviours, strengthen community ownership, facilitate shifts in harmful social norms, and expand the reach of programmes to some of the most vulnerable and underserved populations.

Impact Story



An empowered Aïssatou and her three children.
Photo: Tidiane Damango/World Vision

The wealth within: Aïssatou's shift from waiting to action in Mali

In Sabalibougou, Mali, Aïssatou Diallo was active in her community but often felt she could not make a real difference without help from outside. Many people around her shared this belief, thinking that real change needed outside resources and support. When she joined World Vision's Empowered Worldview training, her perspective changed. This faith-based program encourages caregivers and community members to see and harness the abilities and resources that God has already given them, instead of waiting for help to come from elsewhere. Through group discussions and lessons, Aïssatou realised that her community already had what it needed to care for its most vulnerable members. After finishing the training, she put her new understanding into action. She started a community exchange group, bringing together women from her neighbourhood under a large mango tree. Together, they identified the most vulnerable people, especially widows, and organised support that fit their needs. The women shared their experiences, prayed together, and supported each other, creating a caring network that had not existed before. The change also affected her home life. Her nine-year-old son, Moussa, noticed that his mother now had time to listen to him, help with his homework, and talk about his future with confidence. The curriculum, rooted in faith and community strength, changed not only what Aïssatou did, but also how she saw herself and her community's potential.



Learn more about our faith and development programming and project models:

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more.



Photo: Laura Reinhardt/World Vision

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

For more than 45 years, World Vision has partnered with communities in West Africa from rural agricultural villages, to urban areas and disaster, conflict and fragile contexts. Our decades of experience have taught us that the most effective way to transform lives is through a holistic approach. Our ultimate goal is to ensure all children are cared for, protected, participating, educated, and feel loved.

2025 FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS



90% of proposals funded:

Our proposal success rate rose from 65% to 91% between 2023 and 2025, reflecting stronger technical design, deeper donor relationships, and a more competitive regional presence.



More than USD 140 million

secured (125% of target), across 84 awards from 28 different donors.

Collaborating to reach the most vulnerable: Special thanks to our donors & partners

The results in this report reflect what becomes possible when the right partners work with the right organisations in the right places. To every donor, partner and supporter who invested in children in West Africa this year, thank you.

Our top donors in 2025 included the United Nations World Food Programme, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Our partnership was instrumental in delivering food assistance at scale, implementing health system strengthening, and delivering zero-dose vaccination campaigns that together reached millions of children who would otherwise have gone without.

Alongside them, bilateral, private, and multilateral partners funded water systems, livelihoods, child protection, education, and climate resilience work across our nine countries of operation, plus Cameroon and Nigeria.

DONORS & PARTNERS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG Alignment & Contribution

World Vision's grants portfolio contributes towards advancing SDG 17, mobilising partnerships with governments, multilateral institutions, and civil society to channel resources where children's needs are greatest and sustain the long-term programming that no single funder can deliver alone.

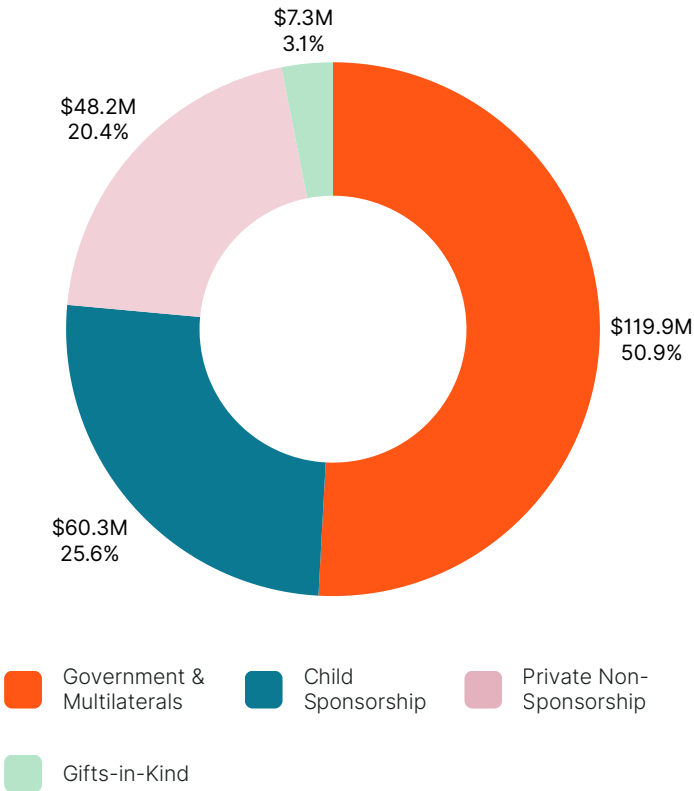
Financial Summary

In 2025, World Vision West Africa mobilised \$146.9 million in new funding, reaching 125% of the USD 118.5 million target and reflecting strong resource acquisition performance across a challenging year.

Total actual expenditure across the region reached \$235 million, drawn from child sponsorship, government and multilateral grants, private non-sponsorship funding, and gifts in kind. Government and multilateral grants include food assistance delivered with partners, principally the United Nations World Food Programme.

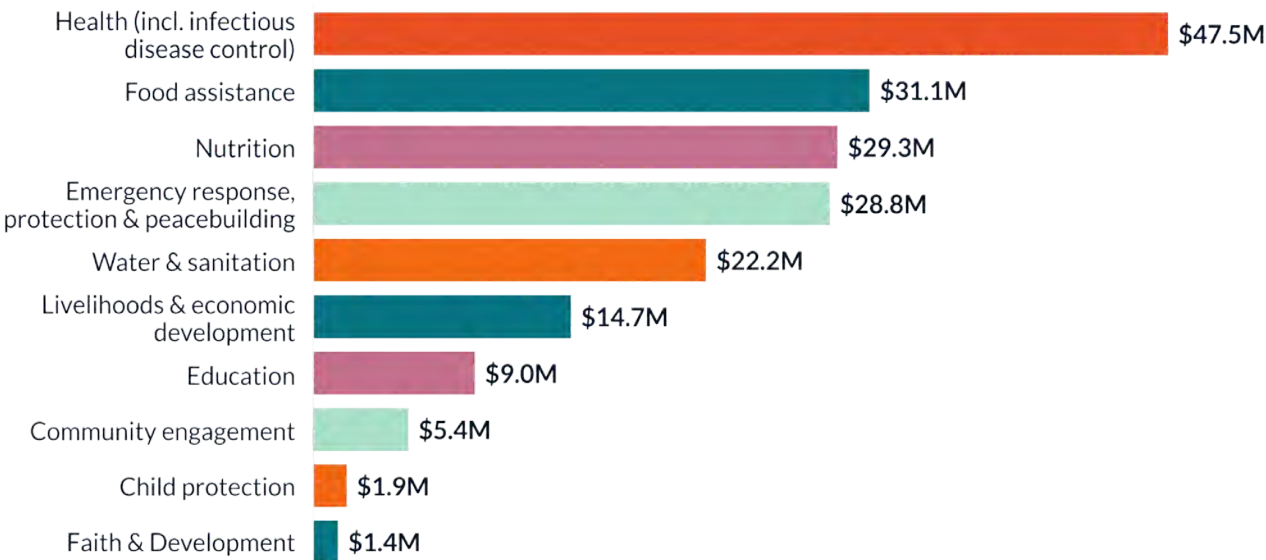
The following charts show how that investment was allocated by funding source and by technical sector, reflecting both the scale of need in the region and the breadth of World Vision's response.

2025 Funding Mix (Sources)



Investment by Programming Sector

The chart below illustrates the distribution of World Vision's programming investment across technical sectors in West Africa during our 2025 fiscal year. Health and nutrition, humanitarian response, and water and sanitation account for the largest shares of investment, directed toward the conditions that most determine whether a child in West Africa survives, grows, and thrives.



FY25 actual expenditure, Oct 2024 – Sep 2025.

LOOKING AHEAD: BOLD HOPE

A new chapter, the same commitment

The achievements in this report are important not just for what they show about the past five years, but also for what they make possible in the next five.

The next phase of our strategy, Bold Hope for Children, begins as challenges for children become more complex. Conflict, climate shocks, displacement, rapid population growth, and economic uncertainty continue to pressure children, families, and public services across West Africa. Meanwhile, the development and humanitarian landscape is changing, requiring new ways of working and partnerships.

Our focus will not necessarily be on expanding efforts, but on focusing more sharply. With Bold Hope for Children, we will direct our resources, expertise, and influence toward the child outcomes where we can make the biggest difference. We will rely more on evidence, using data from children and communities to guide decisions, improve accountability, and demonstrate what works at scale.

We will also focus more on building influence. Over the past five years, we have learned lasting change happens when communities, local institutions, and governments have the ability and commitment to act for children.

Along with our direct programs, we will work more to strengthen systems, support local solutions, and help shape policy so progress for children reaches beyond the places where World Vision works directly.

Most importantly, children will play a bigger part in shaping this work. The future we want cannot be built for children alone; it must be built with them. As we move forward, we will continue to create opportunities for children and young people to influence decisions that affect their lives and help them find solutions their communities need.

The transition to the next phase is not a change in destination, but a change in how we pursue it: with greater focus on results for children, stronger collaboration with local actors, deeper use of evidence, and a renewed commitment to amplifying children's voices. Across West Africa, we step into this next chapter with confidence, knowing the relationships, trust, and lessons built over decades provide a strong foundation for the work ahead.

The work of changing children's lives is not finished. But what we have seen in the past five years gives us strong hope and clear evidence of where we need to go next.



Children at Farchana Refugee Camp, eastern Chad.
Photo: Amy Van Drunen/World Vision

HOPE JOY & JUSTICE

For All Children

Happy children playing in a community supported by World Vision in Sierra Leone.
Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



Front cover Photo: 18-year-old Mariame, pictured with her younger sisters at home in Kaffrine, Senegal. She and her network of advocates fight child marriage in their community and beyond (read her story on page 19).

Back cover Photo: World Vision staff in Sierra Leone.

Both Photos: Ben Adams/World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian aid, development, and advocacy organisation, working to end extreme poverty and injustice – one child, one family, one community at a time. As a global collective, we protect and provide for children, refusing to accept poverty and injustice as the end of the story.

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Comments and inquiries are welcome. Information on the use of material in this report in training, research or programme design, implementation, or evaluation would be appreciated.