



It's time to end violence against children

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN REPORT



It takes a world
to end violence against children

World Vision 



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to end violence against children

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Names have been changed to preserve the dignity and ensure the safety of the child survivors in this document.

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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"There is a lack of knowledge about violence against children, and we should be working together to educate people about this problem and take care of the children."

Eyoel, 14 | **Ethiopia**

"Every youth and child has the right to speak and share their voice. If all of us gather together and help one another, even a small voice when joined with other voices will be a great and powerful voice . . ."

Rose, young person | **Thailand**

"I want to become a lawyer to be a voice for other children like me. Let us work together to end violence against children."

Gloria, 17 | **South Sudan**

"Violence against young people and children is avoidable. It is possible to take action for the future of our community."

Children's group member | **Guatemala**

It takes everyone
playing their part

It takes action
everywhere

It takes scaling up
what works

It takes a world
to end violence
against children





Photo by Nigel Marsh

Kevin meets Robert in Uganda.

Foreword by

Kevin Jenkins

Every time I visit World Vision projects, I am taken to places where our work must address the damage done by people who inflict violence on children before we can make progress towards our development goals.

Boys forced to fight in militias. Girls raped as they struggle to make a living, trafficked for sex or married far too young. Even children murdered for body parts for witchcraft—like seven-year-old Robert, whom I met in Uganda, partially paralysed after the community reacted just in time to save him from death.



Most violence against children is not so spectacular. I have seen children whipped into line in schools, slapped and demeaned at home, threatened and assaulted by police officers. Violence is the unspoken secret in every culture—everyone knows it happens, but nobody wants to talk about it. It's time to shine a light on it.

As a Christian organisation, World Vision is motivated by the belief that God loves every child. Scripture gives us the word of Jesus, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Allowing the routine cycle of violence to continue, generation upon generation, hinders children in every way. Why shouldn't we be the ones who bring an end to the repeating cry of pain which echoes down the generations?

These acts of sexual, physical and emotional violence threaten children's survival, health and education. They erode a country's human and social capital, slowing development and tearing at the fabric of society.

Families are the most important line of defence for children. We must help parents and caregivers to protect their children by offering them new skills and by improving family income and economic security.

Religious leaders and faith communities have a role to play. Many traditional beliefs about the right way to raise a child have been wrongly muddled up with religious practice.

Government action is vital. It is not enough to pass laws which outlaw child marriage, genital mutilation or physical beatings. Governments should measure

success by the number of convictions, not the number of laws.

Teachers are crucial. We want children to spend their formative years getting an education which will benefit them and their nations, but teachers must recognise that their first duty is to keep pupils safe from harm.

Perhaps most of all, we need children and youth to know that it is their right to live without violence and to stand up for one another—and for society to support them when they do.

Abusing a child is never justifiable, and it is preventable. From empowering children and youth to speak out, to equipping families, to campaigning against harmful traditional practices, we have plenty of evidence to show which interventions really work.

What has been lacking is the will. World Vision **will** play its part in a growing movement of empowered children and youth, of civil society and faith-based networks, of national governments and other partners. We **will** demand urgent action and drive progress for children wherever we work.

Every one of us is responsible to do our part to keep children safe. Join this campaign. Let's work together and sow the seeds of a movement that spreads around the world.

It takes a world to end a world of pain for children.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kevin J. Jenkins'.

Kevin J. Jenkins

President and Chief Executive Officer
World Vision International



MANY CHILDREN FACE
VIOLENCE IN PLACES
WHERE THEY SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED MOST SAFE:

HOMES
SCHOOLS
COMMUNITIES

The time for action is now

Our dream for every child is simple: to thrive without the experience of violence. The chance to play, to go to school, to be healthy, to make friends, to be loved and, above all else, to be safe from harm. We believe this is possible. We believe a world without violence against children is possible. This is our goal, our vision. We will not stop until all children are safe from violence.

Tragically, this is far from the current reality.

Every year, violence affects more than one billion children, in every country and every community. It robs them of their dignity, their rights, their potential, their future and, too often, their lives. If we don't end violence against children, we risk jeopardising the progress and losing the investments made in child survival, health and education, as well as overall economic development. Violence against children costs up to US\$7 trillion a year. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Violence against children includes all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence; neglect or negligent treatment; maltreatment or exploitation; harm or abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and child labour; and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.

Children tell World Vision that violence is the biggest concern affecting them today across all regions, nations and economic contexts. Many children face violence in places where they should be considered most safe: in their homes, schools and communities. Children are more likely to be exposed to violence than adults and are particularly vulnerable to physical, emotional and sexual abuse, often suffering long-term consequences on their well-being and behaviour.

The highest global levels of forced displacement since World War II are pushing more and more children to be on the move, escaping war and conflict only to fall vulnerable to other forms of violence: use and recruitment by armed groups, sexual abuse, trafficking, labour or child marriage. The traumas of war, forced displacement and natural disasters leave children especially vulnerable, stripping away their normal safeguards, placing them in situations of high risk, abuse or exploitation, and often spurring continuing cycles of fear and aggression.

World Vision's new global campaign commits the organisation's full weight behind the goal of ending violence against children, building on the lessons learned from local programmes in more than 60 countries and aligning with global frameworks of best practice.

Our campaign specifically seeks to do this by igniting movements to catalyse changes in attitudes, raise awareness and drive courageous and effective action; strengthening prevention, response and restorative measures to address violence against boys and girls; increasing long-term, targeted funding; and ensuring greater accountability for the implementation of existing and new commitments to end violence.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Over the past 25 years we have seen gradual progress towards ending violence against children. There is no shortage of guidance on protecting children—international and regional agreements such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, international humanitarian law, national constitutions and specific laws, as well as our collective moral compass. However, only recently, with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, have we seen violence against children acknowledged as a global development issue.

The world's governments have set ambitious targets to end violence by 2030 in order to deliver the vision of a world where all children—girls and boys alike—grow up free from violence and exploitation. This task is beyond the reach of any one organisation or institution. New global initiatives have been formed to support increased action at the country level, to drive coordination or to tackle specific forms of violence. All of us—decision makers, faith leaders, civil society, children, young people and families—now have an unprecedented opportunity to make a real and tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable children. But we must move quickly, and we must do so together.

Ending violence against children requires scaling up effective prevention and response approaches to reach every child in every community in every country, particularly the most vulnerable in the hardest places. Increased investment is urgently needed in proven strategies to strengthen systems that should protect children, powered by partnerships among governments, communities, children and families, religious institutions, businesses and civil society.

This report showcases stories of action being taken across the world to end violence against children. It outlines the power of partnerships of all shapes and sizes to raise awareness of violence against children, to change attitudes of parents and caregivers, to engage faith leaders in ending harmful practices, to strengthen local and national child protection systems, to keep children safe online, to secure justice for victims of sexual violence and to support the rehabilitation of former child soldiers. Most of all it is a call to action, a call for collaboration and alliances that together will span the smallest community to the largest world stage.

Our vision of an extraordinary global movement that can deliver on the promise of ending violence against children will only be realised by amplifying the actions taken every day by courageous individuals and groups. World Vision stands alongside each child, young person, parent, faith leader, decision maker, business leader, civil society organisation and global initiative that has committed to ending violence against children. We believe that everyone has a part to play.

It takes a world to end violence against children.

Ending all forms of violence against children will require action across the Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to meeting the specific targets found in a sub-set of goals.

AROUND THE WORLD ...

Over half the world's children ...

1 BILLION CHILDREN

between the ages of 2 and 17 years, **EXPERIENCE SOME TYPE OF VIOLENCE** every year.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

There are an estimated **168 million child labourers worldwide** with 85 million of these children involved in hazardous work.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

Worldwide, about **1 in 7 adolescent girls** (aged 15 to 19) are currently married or in union. More than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

Slightly more than **1 in 3 students** worldwide between the ages of 13 and 15 are **regularly bullied** in school.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

Children make up 28% of all detected trafficking victims.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

28 million children have been driven from their homes by violence and conflict within and across borders.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

Around **6 in 10 children** between the ages of 2 and 14 worldwide are subject to **physical punishment** by their caregivers on a regular basis.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

Globally, about **1 in 10 girls** have been subjected to forced sexual acts before age 20.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN COSTS UP TO US\$ 7 TRILLION EACH YEAR, UP TO 8% OF GLOBAL GDP.

[VIEW SOURCE](#)

WE BELIEVE ...

It takes everyone
playing their part

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS	
CHILDREN & YOUTH	COMMUNITY & TRADITIONAL LEADERS
FAMILIES	

PARTNERSHIPS	
BUSINESS	DECISION MAKERS
FAITH LEADERS	

It takes action
everywhere

NATURAL DISASTERS	URBAN
CONFLICT SETTINGS	ONLINE SCHOOL

FRAGILE CONTEXTS	HOME
RURAL	HEALTH CENTRES

It takes scaling up
what works

NORMS & VALUES	IMPLEMENTATION & ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS
	PARENT & CAREGIVER SUPPORT
	SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

EDUCATION & LIFE SKILLS	INCOME & ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING
RESPONSE & SUPPORT SERVICES	





It takes everyone **playing their part**

Ending violence against children requires all of us to change the way we see and understand it. Children should be growing up in safe nurturing environments, free of fear and free to fulfil their potential. This is achievable, if all schools, places of worship, parents, businesses and governments step up their existing efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children.





CHILDREN AND YOUTH DRIVING CHANGE

In North Kivu, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), stories of child rape are common. According to the Gender Ministry report, in 2013, 6,898 cases of sexual violence were reported in North Kivu, with 846 cases located in Beni. The average age of survivors in these cases was between 13 and 15 years. From long experience in the field, World Vision knows these figures merely hint at the reality, with the majority of cases going unreported and unpunished. Although DRC law requires everyone to report concerns about child health and all forms of child abuse, and sets fines for failing to do so, this is rarely applied in practice.

As part of its child protection project in Beni town, World Vision DRC supported a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen their knowledge of child protection and sexual violence laws.

Participants included child protection committees and networks, children's clubs, child protection police, health workers, teachers, traditional leaders, faith leaders, child-mandated institutions and child parliament members. As a result, the children's clubs designed and led a project through which they established a child-friendly complaint mechanism, implemented in four schools in Beni town. World Vision supplemented this initiative by helping key stakeholders to strengthen their skills in terms of monitoring and referring child-abuse cases. Doing this helped these stakeholders connect with the judicial system, both the police for investigations and lawyers to bring offenders to trial.

This child-led complaint mechanism provided an enabling environment for children to speak out against child abuse, increasing their confidence and fostering a culture of reporting in the community. This has led to action in reporting cases of sexual violence against children and legal resolution of some cases. Twenty-six cases of child abuse have been brought before the courts. Seven of these cases were for sexual violence, three of which have already resulted in a successful ruling against perpetrators. Punishments have included a minimum sentence of five years in prison, as well as reparation and compensation fines.

Strengthening coordination among the different actors that make up child protection systems, including the community, civil society and mandated state institutions, is enabling children and survivors of abuse and sexual violence to track down their abusers and bring them to justice. Children and young people are also able to access the care they need in the aftermath of the abuse.

"I was sexually abused by a boy I knew from the village. After the rape I denounced him to the neighbourhood chief who linked me with the child parliament. The child parliament filed an accusation with the police. When the boy knew the police was looking for him, he ran away. Fortunately he was arrested after three months and brought to trial where he was convicted. Even if he is not able to compensate me for this act, I'm glad he is punished. For me it is already a solace." **Natasha**, a sexual abuse child survivor



ESTABLISHING THE FIRST NATIONWIDE CHILD HELPLINE

In Mongolia more than one in three children were experiencing violence in their own homes. In response to this situation, and in line with one of the recommendations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, World Vision Mongolia, Mobicom Corporation (a large national mobile-phone operator) and the Government of Mongolia partnered to establish the country's first toll-free 24/7 nationwide child helpline in 2014. MobiCom made critical contributions to the partnership, based on its core skills and assets, in the provision of hardware and software to log, track and store all calls; free usage of its servers; and training for the telephone counsellors.

As a result of this cross-sector partnership, children can now call the helpline from anywhere, anytime, toll free, to report abuse. The helpline provides emergency assistance; psychosocial support; and advice to children, parents and the general public. The helpline has been so successful that the government is committed to running the service on an ongoing basis. Within the first three years of operation, almost 400,000 calls to the hotline have been made—several hundred each day—providing counselling and transferring issues to relevant authorities. In addition, data generated by the helpline is proving an invaluable source of evidence for further advocacy towards improving child protection legislation and service provision in the country. In 2017 the Government of Mongolia increased the budget to expand the helpline beyond a reporting and referral service to also include temporary shelter accommodation for emergency cases.

At its launch, then Mongolian Prime Minister Norovyn Altankhuyag recognised the child helpline as “an important step for the country towards serving children's rights and protection.” He also congratulated World Vision Mongolia for being the first international non-governmental organisation (NGO) to connect the private sector, government and civil society in a joint project to improve child well-being.





CHALLENGING SOCIAL NORMS TO TACKLE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

In Gargara, a village in the extreme northeast of Somaliland, it is an expected tradition for girls to go through female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) as a rite of passage to become a “real woman.” FGM/C has major implications for the health, education and psychological well-being of affected girls in the community. Throughout the project in Gargara, World Vision worked with the community to improve child protection, promote gender equality and empower women and girls.

The project followed a **3-pronged approach**:

- 1 Building knowledge and confidence** – By reaching out to women and girls, alone at first, through their existing social spaces, the project was able to increase their knowledge of child protection and raise their confidence, thus preparing them to engage with the rest of the community.
- 2 Fostering community dialogue** – Taking place in a fragile context with a conservative society, the project's perceived agenda was initially met with suspicion by the community. Only by securing agreement from both village and religious leaders on the need to protect children did the project manage to move forward and gain access to the whole community. The key to building trust was to use community media and World Vision's Channels of Hope approach (see box below). Involving imams in the communication process meant they were able to use their influence in the community to dispel myths that FGM/C is enshrined in religion.
- 3 Supporting direct collective action to address FGM/C** – In this context it would have been very difficult for the project to address FGM/C too abruptly. Thus, the project established neutral spaces such as child rights committees and children's clubs where everyone worked towards the common goal of child protection. This allowed the project to expand social spaces for women and girls. It also allowed it to start bringing men, women, boys and girls together and then address FGM/C. Involving men in the process ensured its success. While women were the visible perpetrators of FGM/C, men were the silent force behind it.



World Vision's Channels of Hope for Child Protection is a methodology that motivates and builds capacity in faith communities to address violence against children including various forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation. It equips them with factually correct information and insight, and guides them to be powerful change agents. It is usually implemented as part of a wider approach to strengthen the local child protection system.



The practice of FGM/C in Gargara has substantially decreased, with an end-of-project evaluation showing that it is now cited by project communities as largely uncommon, as compared to the start of the project. Key informant interviews with FGM/C practitioners show them to have abandoned or greatly reduced their activities, due to reduced demand. Women and girls now have an increased voice on issues affecting them in the community.

“We have heard that in neighbouring villages, girls are still undergoing genital mutilation. It is not happening in our village anymore and we are going to talk to them so that they abandon that practice. It’s not good for girls.”

Fadumo, Child Rights Committee member | **Gargara**

“When we are talking girls’ rights in our community we are talking 0% of voice in the community. Now I see something pushing us and saying come and be the front line. It was the first time a girl has been a part of leading a team in our school, but now we are vice-chair and secretary of child rights committees in Garbo-Dadar.”

Farduusa Yasin Ahmed, Vice-Chair of Child Rights Committee | **Garbo-Dadar**





It takes action everywhere

One billion children experience violence across the globe every year, in their communities, schools and homes—the very places they should be most protected. Issues of violence affecting children are found in every country, in rich and poor households, and in stable, fragile and conflict-affected settings. The most vulnerable children include those deprived of parental care; children living on the streets, in residential or correctional institutions, in conflict and fragile contexts; and children on the move due to forced displacement.





KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

Increased internet use by children and youth in the communities where we operate was identified as a growing threat to children by World Vision's office in the Middle East and Eastern European region, putting them at risk of identity theft, cyber bullying, pornography exposure and being trafficked. As a result, the Keeping Children Safe Online project was launched in 2009 to provide young people and their parents with the knowledge and tools they need in order to stay safe online.

Keeping Children Safe Online is an approach that teaches children to protect themselves and minimise risks of online violence. It attempts to reduce the risks of children encountering predators and other harmful content found on the Internet. The innovative and adaptive framework uses child-friendly and age-appropriate multimedia tools and resources that can be contextualised. It also supports children, youth, families, communities and governments to provide the infrastructure necessary for ongoing protection. Peer-to-peer training is a key component of the process, including children and youth as trainers.

The programme has expanded to be incorporated into World Vision's child protection and participation work in Latin America and Africa. Additionally, the tools (which were nominated for an award for the best tools to help children protect themselves online in Europe) have been translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese, giving children across the globe a better chance of keeping themselves safe online. In the countries where the programme initially launched, local authorities have taken ownership of the processes and incorporated the activities into their ongoing work, ensuring the sustainability and ongoing protection of children.

Results of the programme include:

- an increase in knowledge and protective skills among participating children, young people and caretakers; for instance, in Lebanon an increase of 20 per cent was reported
- schools in participating countries have adopted the tools provided by World Vision to include online protection in their curricula
- e-helplines and hotlines were developed and included as a component of each country's larger reporting and referral mechanisms
- national education curricula were adapted to include safer Internet components in four countries
- partnerships with private corporations contributed to sustainability, with Microsoft in Armenia and Georgia providing a free domain for the Keeping Children Safe Online website.





KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN THE HOME: ENDING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

As part of the Region Free of Violence campaign, countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region have advocated for the protection of children from corporal punishment. In the Dominican Republic, World Vision and partners were motivated to act by the fact that physical punishment affected more than 6 in 10 children nationally, and more than 8 in 10 children in many communities. The NGO Coalition for Children, of which World Vision Dominican Republic is a member, asked the state to adopt a comprehensive law that addressed all forms of abuse of children and adolescents, including the prohibition of corporal or physical punishment in all contexts. This was accompanied by a petition with more than 10,000 signatures of supportive citizens. Together, these efforts ensured that the prohibition of corporal punishment was a mandate within the Dominican Republic's *National Roadmap for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children*.

Faith leaders also responded to this call to action through a joint statement which supported the “adoption of legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the family environment. This is necessary and urgent, and a crucial step towards a compassionate and non-violent society. No religion or belief can be used as a justification for the use of corporal punishment as a method of parenting.”

Since 2014, World Vision Peru has worked to collect signatures to a “pact” to end violence against children both as a symbolic and public commitment. Through the efforts of that campaign, as well as the Vote for Children from the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, legislation that prohibits physical and other humiliating forms of punishment against children became law in December 2015. With this development Peru became the ninth country in Latin America to have a specific law prohibiting corporal punishment.

World Vision Peru and partners, including Investment in Childhood, the Salgalú Association for Development and Save the Children, developed a virtual course to inform and train public officials about what they can and must do within the framework of this new law. The Ministry of Justice and the Ombudsman's Office provided critical support. The course provides tools to understand the need to end violence against children and how to support the effective implementation of laws protecting children. Upon finishing the course, all participants are asked to create a plan of action to incorporate their learnings into their daily lives. There are currently 2,500 participants registered for the course, including teachers, psychologists, advocates, human rights activists, representatives of the ministries of health and education, and many others.



Sources: World Vision Dominican Republic, *World Vision solicita al Congreso penalizar castigo físico contra la niñez* (29 September 2015)

World Vision Republica Dominicana, *Líderes religiosos y espirituales solicitan prohibir por ley el castigo físico* (19 November 2015)

World Vision Perú, *Curso Virtual sobre Ley que prohíbe el uso del castigo físico y humillante contra la niñez* (13 December 2016)

World Vision Perú (2016)



REDUCING CHILDREN'S VULNERABILITY TO VIOLENCE IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Children in the Central African Republic (CAR), one of the world's poorest countries, have been living through a "forgotten crisis" that has largely slipped off the international agenda. Decades of political instability have led to the destruction of the national economy, the weakening of state institutions and a stagnation of development efforts.

Almost the entire population of 4.6 million has been affected by the current crisis that began in December 2012. Since then, CAR has experienced spiralling violence (including atrocities and massacres), intercommunity tensions and ethno-religious conflict. At present, 2.3 million people remain in need of humanitarian aid, nearly 385,000 have been internally displaced, and more than 13,000 children and adolescents are currently being exploited by armed groups. Children have been subjected to sexual abuse and gender-based violence and face ongoing risk of being injured or killed. Many remain displaced and separated from their families, exposing them to even greater risk of abuse and exploitation.

Since 2014, World Vision CAR has worked with 590 children and adolescents (aged from 8 to 18 years) demobilised from armed groups in the sub-prefecture of Damara. Many of these children displayed signs of distress, suffered nightmares, presented social withdrawal, had difficulty concentrating and sometimes regressed to previous developmental behaviours (e.g. bedwetting or thumb sucking). Former child soldiers were also met by communities with reticence and opposition, which left them feeling isolated, lonely and hopeless.

In line with a broader strategy to address longer-term social cohesion and peacebuilding issues, World Vision began implementing the Empowering Children as Peace Builders (ECAP) project model. This project model promotes participatory community-based management of peace clubs. These clubs aim to support and sustain the efforts of local, national and international actors towards the protection, reintegration and empowerment of demobilised children associated with armed forces and groups. They also reduce the risk of these children being recruited again.

The peace clubs are designed to help children and adolescents become agents of peace and change for themselves, their families and their community. The Peace Road Curriculum that is implemented in the peace clubs helps targeted children and youth to:

- protect themselves from violence and make good decisions
- treat others with respect and tolerance
- foster relationships that result in a safer, more cooperative community for all.





Peace clubs have been established in seven villages in the sub-prefecture of Damara. In order to support local sustainability, World Vision and implementing partner URU, a youth-led peacebuilding organisation, engaged community leaders to provide community management and oversight of the peace clubs. Each club is managed by a committee comprising representatives from youth groups, women's groups, religious leaders and village chiefs (the local government is represented by the village chief).

Approximately 4,900 boys and girls, including the 590 demobilised children, orphans and child-headed households, have benefitted from the programme. All these children come from very poor families and many from different faith backgrounds. Despite their personal histories and the brutality they had been subjected to, these children continue to demonstrate incredible capacities for peace and tolerance.

"My name is Odre. I'm 18 years old, and I used to be part of the Anti-Balaka militia until the election of the transitional government, after which I concluded that the reason why we decided to fight was no longer relevant. Going back home was much more difficult than I imagined. People were afraid of me. I was lonely and frustrated at the fact that they judged me for having been part of the militia. I had the urge to turn tables and help my community with something other than a gun. A head of Damara came to my village and explained that a new project was starting with the aim of bringing young people and ex-combatants like myself together to take part in peace promotion activities. I joined with a friend of mine without hesitation. The project is definitely helping change the way people see us—I feel a lot better now." **Odre**, 18, former militia

Most of the children and youth involved in the peace clubs are regaining normal social behaviour, routines and regular activities (such as education and play), despite the country's ongoing turmoil. They are responding well to the peer support, familiar or family settings, with the appropriate care and protection from their regular caregiver. Since the implementation of the programme, none of the demobilised children or adolescents has returned to the armed groups. No children within the targeted communities have been reported to have joined or expressed the desire to join armed groups.



ZIMBABWE

CREATING GIRL-FRIENDLY PLACES OF LEARNING

"I got to know about the IGATE project when we were taught by our matron, Mrs. Ndlovu, in class. Before I joined the IGATE [Power Within] club, I used to be so shy, but now I feel that I am more confident and I no longer fear to talk in front of others." **Basitsana, 11**

Supporting girls to become more confident in themselves and in the roles they play in their families and communities is only one goal of the IGATE—Improving Girls Access through Transforming Education—programme in Zimbabwe. The project works to build school and community capacity to ensure schools are girl-friendly places of learning. World Vision is working specifically with religious leaders to address issues such as child marriage and other harmful practices that have negative consequences on girls' health and well-being.

Sponsored by the UK Department for International Development's Girls' Education Challenge Fund, this six-member consortium is reaching women and girls through a school-centred, holistic approach to improving girls' access to, and retention and performance in, school. IGATE is reaching over 100,000 marginalised girls from more than 460 schools located in four provinces in Zimbabwe.

In partnership with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, IGATE addresses:

- girls' understanding of their own potential, power, capacity and knowledge
- familial understanding of a girl's potential, her need for education and the benefits to her and her family
- familial financial capacity to support girls' education
- school capacity to ensure schools are girl-friendly places of education
- religious and traditional leaders' understanding of, and support for, girls and their participation in education
- issues related to long distances to and from school
- men's and boys' championing of girls' education
- literacy and reading outcomes, through reading clubs
- communities' capacity for social accountability to hold leaders to account.

The IGATE programme works to influence these outcomes through locally contextualised models that focus on girls, their families, churches, the community, schools, and local and national government. Programmes like the Power Within club have helped girls feel more equipped to succeed at school and in life.





“We have been taught about child rights, career guidance and also communication. I think as I continue with this project, I will grow up to be a more clever and confident person.” **Basitsana, 11**

Other models, like the Village Savings and Lending Scheme, have helped parents pay children's school fees.

“My life has significantly changed since starting activities with IGATE. I used to face difficulty in paying school fees ... Now I can pay school fees for my children and also buy other necessities, especially for my daughter, such as sanitary pads.” **Taki, mother**


Although women and girls are the focus of the education programme, partnering with and educating men is critical to IGATE's success and sustainability. One example is the active participation of men in mothers' groups that identify and address barriers that hinder girls from accessing quality education. There are currently 344 active mothers' groups in Zimbabwe.

“In the mothers' group we sew pads [sanitary napkins] and these are distributed to needy girls so they can have something proper to use. At first, sewing pads was difficult for me, but it has become easier. We are hoping to sew as many pads as we can. We also teach children on menstrual hygiene, though I must admit that at first it was a difficult thing for me to do.” **Lot, 66-year-old man participating in the mothers' group**

Through religious and traditional leadership education, IGATE also works directly with male and female leaders to help them respond to gender-based inequalities and discrimination and to reduce negative practices like polygamy, female genital mutilation/cutting and gender-based violence.

“For me as a traditional leader, a mothers' group is not a group of mothers. Rather, it is a ‘mother figure’ for the community. Therefore, I feel honoured to participate in such a platform as it will assist the girls in my area of jurisdiction.” **Headman, Lupane District | Zimbabwe**



Sources: World Vision International, *IGATE: Improving Girls' Access through Transforming Education* 

World Vision International, *Improving Girls' Access through Transforming Education: The IGATE Programme in Zimbabwe* (8 March 2015) 



It takes scaling up **what works**

Ending violence against children requires challenging and changing the attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that condone it; ensuring governments enact policies that prohibit it, and providing services that prevent it. The most effective measures to end violence against children are contained in the INSPIRE package, a set of seven strategies to end violence against children. INSPIRE identifies key areas where countries and communities should intensify their efforts in order to tackle the issue.





IMPLEMENTATION AND
ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS



NORMS AND VALUES



SAFE ENVIRONMENTS



PARENT AND
CAREGIVER SUPPORT



INCOME AND ECONOMIC
STRENGTHENING



RESPONSE AND
SUPPORT SERVICES



EDUCATION
AND LIFE SKILLS

There is clear alignment between the **INSPIRE package and World Vision's programming; most of the project models that World Vision promotes in child protection and other sectors can be related to at least one, if not more, of the seven strategies.**

World Vision's experience demonstrates that the way in which these strategies are implemented is critical to their success. Ensuring that solutions are locally developed and owned, as well as implemented in a way that builds on community assets, is critical to ensure real change in children's lives. This requires investing in effective partnerships among families, children, communities, traditional and faith leaders, businesses and government institutions.

World Vision's most successful approaches also demonstrate that child protection services are even further strengthened when they work in combination with services for education, health, civil registration and livelihoods support, and when due attention is given to ensure access to services for particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups.

The INSPIRE framework identifies a select group of strategies that have shown success in reducing violence against children. These have been identified following extensive research conducted with partners on a number of programmes, projects and interventions across different contexts as having the biggest impact on reducing violence against children. INSPIRE is a collaboration between 10 organisations initiated by the World Health Organization.



EQUIPPING GIRLS TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS

Lima was a bright student with ambitions of becoming an engineer, despite growing up in a particularly deprived part of Bangladesh. In 2012, when she was in Grade 9, Lima's father became severely ill and had to leave work. In order to support their family of five, her mother took a job at a shrimp factory. The income could not cover the education costs for Lima and her two brothers, and Lima decided she would leave school and sacrifice her own education so that her brothers could continue to go to school.

At this time World Vision Bangladesh's Child Safety Net Project started a local child friendly space. Among other activities, the project provided life skills-based education to adolescents in Lima's area. Lima heard about the opportunity and, after attending, became determined to pursue her dream to become an engineer once more. The project provided books, educational materials and school fees. Lima passed the Secondary School Certificate exam in 2014 with grade "A+", which gave her access to a course in engineering. Now, along with her studies, Lima works as a peer educator, earning money which helps her to continue her education.

Evidence shows that life-skills training can prevent violence against children by enhancing their communication, conflict management and problem-solving skills, and by assisting them to build positive peer-to-peer relationships. World Vision's life skills-based education uses discussion groups, role playing and games to help boys and girls learn to communicate more effectively, think more critically, and express ideas creatively.

Lima conducts life skills-based education sessions for the other adolescent girls in her community. Lima and her peers have exercised these new skills in relation to issues relevant to teenagers, such as the risks of early marriage. Through the life skills-based education training Lima and her peers were empowered to stop a child marriage in the community, and all of them are encouraging the parents of the community to concentrate on girls' education. Lima now dreams of completing her higher education abroad and becoming a renowned engineer for her country.

"Life skills-based education has just changed my view of life. I was a dreamer but life skills-based education has made me a winner. I will never quit in any situation. I want to motivate all the girls like me, who have to face bitter reality every day to chase their dreams. Girls are not born to just bake cakes; rather they can win in every sphere of life with strong determination and ruthless dreams. I will fulfil my dreams and one day I will contribute to the well-being of the children of my community." Lima | Bangladesh



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES

Child abuse is a major concern in Senegal, affecting both girls and boys, but particularly girls. Many young girls are exposed to sexual harassment; forced marriage is culturally accepted; and sexual abuse in the family is considered to be widespread. Sexual violence and physical abuse are also entrenched in schools. Victims of violence face a struggle if they try to have their attackers recognised or punished, and this has been linked to school dropout as the only way for children to avoid further abuse.

Resolving a culturally accepted cycle of violence was at the heart of World Vision's Vélingara Child Protection project in Kolda, Senegal. By linking together networks of care already inherent in the family and community, the project aimed to create better protection structures across all the spaces where children were at risk: in the home, in the streets and in schools.

The project was effective because it used resources and networks already in place in any community or village. This made it not only a logical approach to reducing risks for children, but also an affordable one. The project set up local and accessible community-based child protection structures called alert, monitoring and listening committees (AMLC). These committees call on relevant community decision makers and leaders to play specific roles in child protection, including identifying risk, mediating community conflict and referring cases to appropriate authorities.

In Vélingara the committees quickly became referral points for cases of child abuse, where children, parents and concerned community members would bring their abuse-related concerns. Between 2010 and 2012, a total of 114 AMLCs formed, as did an inter-village network that joined local groups and connected them to district-level monitoring and action. Complementing this work were school-based committees that trained teachers and children to recognise, report and prevent child abuse.

Children in schools and in the community formed theatre groups and performed regularly to raise awareness of themes of violence and child rights. Many of them had witnessed or experienced the forms of violence that they acted out on stage, such as early marriage, sexual abuse, female genital mutilation or hazardous child labour. Adults in the community commented that hearing the children speak with maturity and authority on the issues they faced had led to increased respect for children as citizens.

Evaluation of the project shows that children, parents and other adults in the community all better understood their own roles and capacities to end violence and abuse against children. Children were more aware of their right to grow up free from abuse and violence, and the number of girls and boys who knew how to report violence against them or their friends or families had increased by 43 per cent. There is evidence to suggest





that, for perpetrators, knowing that children can report violations directly has been acting as a deterrent against continued abuse. School violence decreased, and the junior high dropout rate halved—a particularly beneficial trend for girls.

In 2013, even before the Vélingara Child Protection project concluded, local governments had adopted the AMLC model to set up village-based committees in five other regions. In December 2013, the Government of Senegal adopted a National Strategy for Child Protection that endorsed the approach, and in 2015 the AMLC model was standardised nationwide by the country's National Authority.

ENDING CHILD TRAFFICKING

With limited opportunities for safe and legal migration in the Greater Mekong Region, irregular migration is widespread, creating opportunities for the trafficking and exploitation of migrants. World Vision's End Trafficking in Persons (ETIP) programme was a regional anti-trafficking programme working across six countries in the sub-region: Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, from 2011 to 2016. It was founded on three main pillars of action:

- **prevention:** empowering vulnerable communities to reduce the risk of trafficking
- **protection:** strengthening protection services and empowering human trafficking survivors
- **policy:** creating a collaborative environment and using field-based evidence to strengthen policies related to human trafficking, creating lasting change.

The programme was implemented in both “source” communities from which migrants originate and are considered vulnerable to trafficking, and in “destination” communities to which migrants travel and where exploitation may take place. In addition, it worked closely with law-enforcement agencies and other stakeholders in the identification and protection of trafficking victims.

Through drama, dance, debates and song competitions, children and youth educated their peers about the issues and spread messages of prevention. They also recounted real-life stories of exploitation, in person and over the radio, to warn others about the dangers of illegal migration by exposing the tactics of those who lure vulnerable and trusting youngsters.



"I have learned about safe migration, different forms of human trafficking, and how brokers can trick you with tales of a high salary, paying money in advance to your family, and preparing the necessary travel documents."

Buavanh, 14

In more than five years the programme's anti-trafficking events reached more than 150,000 individuals, including through youth clubs, where young people learned about safe migration, and trafficking prevention groups, where community members received training to safeguard their communities from traffickers. Human-trafficking survivors were actively supported to return and reintegrate to their home country.

At the age of 17, Nang, a survivor of human trafficking, decided to go back to school and was invited to join one of World Vision's ETIP youth clubs—building life skills and providing safe migration and self-protection information for youth. After joining and graduating from the club, Nang volunteered to be a youth facilitator to help teach her peers. She now serves as a youth speaker and advocate on trafficking and protection issues in her community.

"At first, I didn't know what trafficking and labour exploitation was. After I had my own experience, I never told anybody except my father. After joining the ETIP youth club, I now understand what happened to me. I want to share my experience with others so that they know about trafficking and I can prevent them from the hardship situation I had." **Nang, 17**



ETHIOPIA

TACKLING CHILD LABOUR

Tarekegn, 13, was born into a poor family in Ethiopia that struggled to send him to school. His parents had just enough income to feed the children, but not enough to pay for school uniforms or supplies. As a result, Tarekegn had to work long hours after school to earn money to cover school-related costs and help his family.

After attending classes in the morning, Tarekegn had to walk 40 minutes in the afternoon in search of daily labour. "The type of work I found was carrying goods from market to people's homes. Imagine how tiresome it is to carry heavy goods without eating lunch. It was very tough and makes you lose the sense of life," he recollected miserably. Tarekegn was a avid learner with a dream of becoming a pilot. However, because he had no time to study or do his homework, his school performance declined.

"I have always loved school. But time, money and opportunities were not by my side to allow me to study properly and do my homework. Hence, my school performance was constantly deteriorating." **Tarekegn, 13**



"I wish my son had gone to school without challenges, but the lack of resources and poor awareness about child labour were not allowing me to think clearly," **Meleko**, Tarekegn's father

World Vision, through the Ethiopians Fighting Against Child Exploitation project (E-FACE), provided school supplies and uniforms for Tarekegn—and other children in similar circumstances in his community. This enabled him to quit his daily labour and attend school properly. The same project sensitised his parents about the risks of child labour through parenting education.

Tarekegn explained the changes resulting from this intervention:

"Parenting education and community conversations have deeply touched my parents' heart. Do you know what my father said at the end of the training? 'I hurt you unknowingly my son. I will never expose you to child labour hereafter. I will pay every price to free you from child labour.'"

Tarekegn's family was economically strengthened through the project. It was provided with improved potato seeds that yielded better production. Encouraged by this, Tarekegn's father has begun contracting plots of land from others and producing sufficient harvest to feed his family all year round.

"The project not only changed my attitude on child labour, but it changed my livelihood for good. Now I am able to feed my family three times a day. I do not allow my children to work as before. I will do everything possible not only to not expose my children to child labour but also to teach other people not to expose their children to child labour." **Meleko**, Tarekegn's father



Tarekegn is now a very happy child, and his school performance has greatly improved. *"I am now attending school without any worry. Before, I stood 22 or so from my class, but now I stand second and was awarded a dictionary."*

“ We owe our children—the most vulnerable citizens in any society—a life free from violence and fear. In order to ensure this, we must be tireless in our efforts not only to attain peace, justice and prosperity for countries, but also for communities and members of the same family. ”

Nelson Mandela

World Report on Violence and Health
(2002)

It takes a world to end violence against children

The time to end violence against children is now. We are part of a growing movement to do just that, pursuing the global targets agreed by every country. Ending violence against children is central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In fact, until violence against children is dealt with as a local and global priority, with the urgency, political will and resources to meet the challenge, many of the world's collective goals for sustainable development will remain out of reach.

We know more than ever before about the prevalence and impact of violence against children. We know the most effective solutions to help put an end to it. Taking actions and making choices that put implementation of those solutions at the top of everybody's to-do list is the remaining challenge for all of us. To see an end to violence against children, we will need to see greater collaboration, partnership and investment from leaders, businesses, governments, communities, organisations and faith groups than we have seen before.

It is possible but it isn't going to be easy. We have a historic opportunity to build on the current momentum and prioritise efforts and investments to eliminate violence against children. Small acts when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world. It takes a commitment to change. It takes recognising the signs and symptoms of violence. It takes faith leaders challenging the hidden and damaging beliefs of their congregations. It takes politicians standing up for what is right, not just what is popular. It takes calling out behaviour and practices that harm children. It takes new ideas and technologies, from different and unusual partners. It takes heart, courage and faith.

It takes every parent and every child. Every community member and every partner. Every policymaker and every minister. Every law-enforcement officer and every educator. Every business and every business leader. Every celebrity and every journalist. Every faith leader and every congregation. It takes every one of us, standing up to say the time to end violence against children is now.

World Vision's global campaign to end violence against children will run from the smallest community to the largest world stage and will inspire the minds and win the hearts of those who hold power, leaders and people everywhere. It will compel them to take a stand alongside the children and young people who are already calling out for change. Everyone, everywhere, has a role to play. That is what it takes.



It takes a world
to end violence against children

LEARN



GIVE



SHARE



PRAY



PLEDGE



"The message we want to send to other children is wherever you are, we need to unite ourselves to fight against violence like exploitation, verbal and sexual abuses, forced marriages and child labour."

Fatou, 17 | Senegal

"Let's cooperate with one another to stop violence on children."

Helmi, 15 | Indonesia

"If every concerned person spread awareness on the issue, people around will join with willing hearts and hands. Communities will be free from those who do bad things. Violence will then decrease or not happen at all."

Keng, young person | Thailand

"Since I became a child rights advocate, I have used my personal experience to teach community members and leaders, government officials and civil society about the negative impact of child marriage for girls."

Agnes, 23 | Uganda

"Change is possible, say NO to violence against children."

Children's group member | Colombia



It takes a world
to end violence against children

World Vision

wvi.org/ittakesaworld

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

