

WV Policy response to the Zero Draft: Getting to Zero requires putting people first

World Vision welcomes the zero draft of ‘Transforming our World by 2030 – A new Agenda for Global Action.’ It is in many respects an encouraging attempt to communicate the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to focus attention on some essential elements needed for success: inclusive approaches to accountability and multistakeholder partnerships, and the need for robust and diverse financing.

However the draft fails to convince that it is truly committed to assuring that “no one will be left behind”. Although the Sustainable Development Goals themselves – largely unchanged from those proposed by the Open Working Group – contain many targets that aim to reach the most vulnerable people, the text of the zero draft statement is not people centred, let alone child centred. It persists in articulating a top-down view of development, speaking in terms of global absolutes, rather than adopting the perspective of the world’s most vulnerable people. In calling for a world free from poverty, the document risks once again missing those people who are most vulnerable: the world’s uncounted, unheard and unreached children and communities who live with extreme poverty and violence.

The globally focused approach taken in the draft document is to some extent at odds with the proposed goals and targets. Many of the targets aim to ‘get to zero’ in the belief that we can indeed be the generation that ends extreme poverty. The proposed revisions to some targets in fact go even further than the Open Working Group’s original proposed list. However, the document’s rhetoric aimed at the global level does not do enough to support this intent. It does not put the first priority on concerted action to reach the most vulnerable people, including children, without whom the goal of getting to zero will not be achieved.

This can be remedied. In addition to a number of points of specific detail, World Vision suggests adjustments in tone and phrasing will result in a more compelling people-centred document, one that could stand as a landmark alongside the UDHR and the Millennium Declaration. As it is, the document says that if we save the world, we will save our most vulnerable children. World Vision believes this is the wrong way around. We must intentionally start with those children. The rest will flow out from that.

Finally, World Vision is concerned that in suggesting that the global targets are ‘aspirational’ (Paragraph 2 of the Sustainable Goals and Targets Section), the draft gives states too much leeway in translating the targets to the national level. This framework is already designed to be adapted to national level implementation without this extra caveat.

The following sections cover World Vision’s detailed comments on the draft and suggestions for change, including strong affirmations, critical gaps, a proposal for reframing the document from a child and people centred perspective and a summary of other proposed adjustments.

Strong Affirmations

World Vision especially commends the drafting committee for the following aspects of the draft

- Commitment to **universal health coverage and to ending the preventable deaths** of newborns, children and pregnant mothers, recognising the factors that cause this.
- Commitment to **end hunger**, including the importance of access to safe and nutritious food all year round, recognising that this requires both a focus on increasing agricultural productivity **and** incomes for smallholder farmers who produce the bulk of the world's food as well as make up the 75% of the world's food insecure.
- Commitment to implement national social protection systems for the poor and the vulnerable under Goal 1, given the overwhelming evidence of the key role of social protection in improving access to food for these populations.
- Commitment to **peace, security and justice** as integral to development.
- Commitment to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children, recognizing the universal character of **violence against children**
- Commitment to **early warning and disaster risk reduction and management**, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- Strong recognition, exemplified in paragraph 18 (New Agenda), of the importance of **gender equality** and removing the barriers to development for women and girls, including the role that boys and men have to play in this.
- Commitment to **universal achievement of quality education**.
- Some examples of people centred language, for instance reference to people centred economic growth in paragraph 24 (New Agenda) the potential for this approach to be taken consistently throughout the draft.
- Inclusion of reference to **multistakeholder partnerships for implementation**.

Critical gaps

- No recognition or intention to address the special needs of children who flee conflict or disaster to live as **refugees or internally displaced persons**. These are truly the world's most vulnerable people, and they are invisible in this document. They were failed by the Millennium Development Goals, and look set to be equally failed by the Sustainable Development Goals. As the number of displaced people has soared past 50 million, the SDGs and this declaration must renew global commitment to their protection and determination to confront the factors that drive them from their homes. A new target under Goal 16 is required.
- The **spectrum of development from conflict to stability**, incorporating post-conflict situations and commonly referred to as fragility, is not well represented, undermining the ambition captured in Goal 16. For example paragraph 20 (New Agenda) and paragraph 32 (Implementation) could add reference to "countries experiencing or recovering from conflict" to their list of most vulnerable contexts.

- The discussion of the New Agenda does not address the need to **end hunger, achieve food security and eliminate malnutrition**, even though they are prominent in the SDGs themselves. Ending hunger and malnutrition is not only an outcome of poverty reduction but investments in food security and good nutrition are key drivers are the very foundation upon which sustainable development and national economic growth are built. Hunger, food security and nutrition must feature prominently at the centre of the New Agenda and require a specific, additional paragraph
- reflecting this. (text is proposed below)
- There is commitment to end all forms of **violence against children**, but the draft does not articulate how central this is to a child’s chance to survive and thrive.
- There is very limited recognition that children and their communities know better than anyone the key to ensuring leaders are accountable, but they need to be empowered to do so.

Reframing the document from a child and people centred perspective

The following identifies a number of places where a child and people centred perspective could be introduced into the text to better support the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals to get to zero. Sample language is included in most cases.

Paragraph and proposed language	Justification
<p>Note: Newly proposed language is marked in red. Existing language proposals that should be protected are marked in green.</p>	
<p><i>Preamble</i></p>	
<p>This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. All countries acting in collaborative partnership will implement the Agenda. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet for present and future generations. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps needed to ensure that every child and every family can live their lives on a sustainable, poverty-free path.</p>	<p>The preamble can set the tone for the paper. At present, it focuses on the Agenda and what it aims to achieve. Instead, it can focus on the most vulnerable people and what the Agenda will bring. The dot points that lay out the agenda could be reframed similarly, and filled out into a more inspiring first statement of the new Global Agenda.</p>
<p><i>Introduction</i></p>	
<p>Para 3: Billions of people continue to experience poverty. We intend, between now and 2030, to ensure that no child and no adult need live in poverty and hunger ; to combat inequalities within and between countries; to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its resources; and to create conditions for</p>	<p>This para sets the overall tone and demonstrates the zero draft’s emphasis on the global rather than the human face of poverty.</p>

<p>sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and shared prosperity.</p>	
<p>Para 4: <i>As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that nobody will be left behind. We wish to see the goals and targets met for all economic and social groupings. Today's most vulnerable children need not live their whole lives in poverty, violence and a degraded environment. Tomorrow's children need not even be born into such conditions.</i></p>	<p>This strong statement could go further with additional text.</p>
<p><i>Our Vision</i></p>	
<p>Para 15: In the goals and targets which we have agreed, we are setting out a supremely ambitious vision. We envisage a world <i>in which every child and adult lives their lives</i> free of poverty, hunger, disease <i>violence</i> and want. A world <i>in which they can enjoy</i>, for example, of safe and nutritious food; of affordable drinking water; of universal access to basic education; of physical, mental and social well-being. A world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity; of <i>peace</i>, justice and equality; of respect for race and ethnicity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential while promoting shared prosperity. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all barriers to their empowerment in our societies have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant and inclusive world. And one in which humanity lives in complete harmony with nature.</p>	<p>This is another opportunity to emphasise the personal within the universal. In addition, the importance of peace can be recognised here.</p>
<p><i>The New Agenda</i></p>	
<p>Para 16: We are announcing today 17 Goals with 169 associated targets. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavour across such a broad policy agenda. We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of “win-win” cooperation which can <i>make huge differences in the lives of all people, in</i> all countries and all parts of the world. We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under international law.</p>	<p>This is another opportunity to create balance between the imperative to achieve national progress with assuring change in the lives of the most vulnerable people.</p>

<p>Para 17: This is an Agenda which encompasses all human rights and will promote dignity for all human beings. It will work to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, culture, migratory status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or disability.</p>	
<p>Para 21: Vulnerable sections of the population whose needs are reflected in the goals and targets include children, youth, people living with disability and older people; the needs of others who are vulnerable, such as migrants and indigenous peoples, are also reflected. People living in areas affected by conflict, terrorism and complex humanitarian emergencies are also experiencing an extra layer of challenges in addition to the poverty, economic and environmental challenges experienced elsewhere.</p>	<p>This is a welcome, but weak, reference to people experiencing conflict, terrorism and humanitarian emergencies.</p>
<p>Para 23: To extend life expectancy for all, we must achieve universal health coverage. No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality by ending all preventable deaths of newborns, children and expectant mothers by 2030. We shall ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education. We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases and epidemics. At the same time we shall devote greater effort to tackling non-communicable diseases.</p>	<p>The distinction is important. Newborn refers to children within the first month of life and infant within the first year of life. Newborn mortality is measured widely and reported alongside under-five child mortality in national and global reports.</p>
<p>Para 23bis: Ending hunger, achieving food security and eliminating malnutrition is not only an outcome of poverty reduction but investments in food security and good nutrition are key drivers are the very foundation upon which sustainable development and national economic growth are built. We commit to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and assure food security for all people, and especially children. We will adopt policies that assure sustainable access to nutritious food for the most vulnerable people, especially those living in conflict and disaster prone settings.</p>	
<p>Para 28: Neither sustainable development of peace can be realized without the other. The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, free</p>	<p>We affirm the clarity of the statement that sustainable development cannot be realised without peace. However we</p>

<p>from all forms of violence and oppression, based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), the rule of law and effective and accountable institutions. These are fundamental requirements for the achievement of sustainable development. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption and poor governance, are addressed in the Agenda. We commit to prevent and end all forms of violence against children to create a basis for long term human progress and stability. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support countries emerging from conflict situations so as to lay the foundations for sustainable development. We commit to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.</p>	<p>suggest it can be strengthened.</p>
<p><i>Implementation</i></p>	
<p>Para 30: The new Agenda deals also with the means required for implementation of the goals and targets. We recognize that these will require the mobilization of significantly increased financial resources from a wide variety of sources (both public and private, domestic and international) as well as capacity-building, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and a wide range of other supportive policies and measures. Business, the private sector and philanthropic organizations will feature prominently in relation to resource mobilization and implementation of the Agenda.</p>	<p>We affirm the recognition that a variety of financing approaches and sources will be needed. However the text does not acknowledge the significant increase in volume that will be required.</p>
<p>Para 36: The scale and ambition of the new Agenda calls for a renewed and strengthened Global Partnership to implement it. This Partnership will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and the vulnerable. It will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of the goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources. Inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels will be needed to support specific priorities under the Agenda</p>	<p>Reference to multi-stakeholder partnerships could be further strengthened.</p>

<p>and to mobilize the requisite resources and innovation.</p>	
<p>Para 37: We emphasize more generally the critical importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring strategies and programs under the new Agenda. Governments and public institutions will work closely in this regard with national parliaments, local authorities, international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropic organizations, voluntary groups and others.</p>	<p>There is a risk that ‘implementation’ misses the opportunity for multi-stakeholder involvement at all stages.</p>
<p>Para 39: We look forward to the development of indicators to assist this work. Quality disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly least developed countries and other countries in special situations. We also commit to promoting processes that enable women, men, children and young people to participate in follow-up and review, and to scaling up substantially public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, in supporting and tracking progress.</p>	<p>The visibility of ordinary people in monitoring is weak. This can be strengthened by adding additional text.</p>
<p><i>Sustainable Goals and Targets</i></p>	
<p>Para 2: The SDGs and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances.</p>	<p>As stated earlier, World Vision disagrees with the assertion that the targets are “aspirational”. They are global targets that need to be translated into local context. “Aspirational” creates too much room for compromise and should be deleted.</p>
<p>Suggested adjustments to <i>Annex 1: Proposed Target Revisions</i></p>	
<p>3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age</p>	<p>We strongly affirm the proposed revision to this target to reflect numerical targets for newborn and under-five mortality.</p>
<p>8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and; by 2025, end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of</p>	<p>We strongly affirm commitment to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour and end it in all its forms including the recruitment of child soldiers by 2025.</p>

child soldiers	
17.2: Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including to provide 0.7 per cent of gross national income in official development assistance to developing countries, of which 0.15 to 0.20 percent should be provided to least developed countries	We affirm the proposed revision.
<i>Follow-up and Review</i>	
Para 1: A robust, effective, inclusive, participatory and transparent follow-up and review framework, operating at the national, regional and global levels, will promote effective implementation of this Agenda and accountability to our citizens.	We affirm this para with one suggested edit.
<p>Para 3: Follow-up and review processes shall be guided by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. They will address progress in implementing the goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in a manner which respects their integrated and inter-related nature. b. They will maintain a longer-term orientation, identify achievements and critical success factors, support countries in making informed policy choices and mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships; c. They will be open, transparent, participatory and inclusive, supported by an enabling environment for the participation of all people and stakeholders at local, sub national and national levels/or all levels. d. As much as possible they will build on existing platforms and processes, evolve over time and minimize the reporting burden on national administrations. e. They will be rigorous and evidence-based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Support for developing countries, particularly LDCs, to strengthen national data systems is critical. 	We affirm having principles for follow up and review. We suggest some edits to 3.c and 3.d.
National level	
Para 4: Building on existing reporting and planning instruments, such as national sustainable development strategies, we encourage all member states in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to develop robust and inclusive ambitious national responses to the SDGs and targets as soon as possible.	

<p>Para 5: Each member state could, at least once every 3 years for 5 reviews every 15 years, conduct robust and inclusive reviews of progress, based on a publicly available government progress report and complemented by contributions from civil society, academia, local government, the UN system, private sector and other actors. National Parliaments can play an important role in review processes as well as other national institutions such as National Sustainable Development Councils and local authorities.</p>	<p>We affirm the ‘robust and inclusive’ approach taken here but would like to change reviews from every 4 years to a minimum of every 3 years for 5 reviews over 15 years.</p>
<p>Global level</p>	
<p>Para 9: We reaffirm that the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, shall carry out regular reviews of progress in line with Resolution 67/290. Reviews will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant UN entities. They shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants. They shall focus on assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries, and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>We suggest adding links to Human Rights reporting processes.</p>
<p>Para 14: In line with Resolution 67/290, the HLPF will support meaningful participation in follow up and review processes by civil society, the major groups, the UN System, relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships, the private sector and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>We affirm the intent of meaningful participation in follow up and review processes by civil society.</p>
<p>Illustrative follow up and review framework</p>	
<p>Diagram: “Building blocks for a voluntary, universal, periodic, state-led, participatory, multi-tiered Post-2015 review process” We suggest that opportunity for citizen’s voices, civil society and other stakeholder engagement (eg reference to civil society platforms) should be included in the ‘building on’ fields for regional and global levels.</p>	<p>We affirm that citizen reviews and participatory monitoring is captured under the National component of the illustration.</p>