

# Child Participation & Rights Community of Practice

Enabling  
environments

Empowerment

Social  
actors

## World Vision's Principles and Guidelines for Child Participation

Child participation is when children under 18 years of age contribute to decisions and take action on issues that affect their lives. This is best done through empowering children and nurturing positive relationships between children, adults, and communities based on mutual respect and partnership at familial, local, national, and international levels.

### Five Guiding Principles for Child Participation

1. Child Participation is a right and works to fulfil other child rights
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3. Child Participation is Meaningful and Sustainable
4. Child Participation strengthens familial, community, and societal relationships
5. Child Participation is a process and method across different sectors



### Guidelines for Child Participation

1. Adults, relevant partners, children, and youth in the community are continuously sensitised to the importance and value of child participation
2. WV staff, partners and volunteers who facilitate child participation have the capacity and training to work safely and effectively with children
3. Children and care-givers give informed consent for children to participate in WV or partner supported activities whilst recognising children's rights to freedom of association or peaceful assembly
4. WVI Child Protection Standards are in place and followed
5. Child participation involves children in issues and decisions that are relevant to their daily lives and concerns
6. Child participation is accessible, inclusive, and non-discriminatory
7. Child participation is facilitative, not manipulative, and values children's input
8. Child participation activities and methods are child-friendly
9. Child participation is conducted in ways that lead to empowerment of children, youth who are responsible citizens, and community transformation
10. WV staff, partners, and volunteers demonstrate accountability to children through a commitment to timely feedback, monitoring, evaluation, and learning cycles with children that improve the quality of child participation.