

Investing Today for a Safer Tomorrow

World Vision®

World Vision's statement to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,
Fourth Session, Geneva, Switzerland, 2013



Children perform an evacuation drill. Pakistan.

The Issues at a Glance

Through World Vision's extensive experience working with vulnerable children and communities around the world we know that:

1. Long-term engagement with communities increases trust and accountability in development planning and implementation.
2. Children's resilience to disasters is built through an integrated approach to risk reduction education and learning at school and at home.
3. Vulnerable communities see risks in a completely integrated way. Whether social or natural, all hazards have the ability to interrupt life and undermine the safety and security of people, their families and their livelihoods.
4. Participatory methodologies such as community driven vulnerability and capacity assessments are ensuring delivery of services at the local level.
5. Collaborative partnerships with local government and other service providers create a pragmatic platform for integrated risk reduction planning at a local level.

World Vision's statement



Youth play active role in disaster risk reduction.

Children are particularly vulnerable to disasters; according to WHO, 30-50 % of fatalities in natural disasters are children. In 2012 in the Sahel region of West Africa alone, over one million children were estimated to be facing severe and life-threatening malnutrition during the drought and food crisis. However, with access to knowledge and skills development, children can contribute to DRR and build the resilience of their communities.

World Vision recognises the strength of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and its five pillars clarifying what needs to be done to reduce disaster risk and we urge a new focus by us and our colleagues on *How* to integrate disaster risk reduction into development processes. Together we can transform the systems and relations that keep vulnerable people at risk from the devastation of disasters.

With little progress on Pillar Four on Drivers of Risk as well as the missing link of engaging sub-national level government in disaster risk reduction, we see long term engagement and accountability models through partnerships at the local level as crucial to integrating disaster risk reduction into development plans.

We have seen real benefits to communities and children through long term participatory methodologies. For example, joint vulnerability and capacity assessments have identified a range of risks that communities want to tackle such as HIV and criminal gangs, alongside more familiar extensive risks such as droughts. This has led to risk sensitive programme development and has safeguarded investments.

World Vision's work demonstrates that by adopting long-term relationships with communities and participatory methodologies, the voices and energy of citizens can influence duty bearers through constructive dialogue for safer and more resilient livelihoods. Building on local knowledge and working together over the long-term, even the poorest communities are able to increase their resilience to changing hazards and transform the relations that keep them insecure.

Contact Richard Rumsey, Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Resilience (richard_rumsey@wvi.org)

World Vision calls for the Post-HFA framework to

1. Promote specific initiatives that build the disaster resilience of children through a comprehensive approach to risk reduction education, school disaster management systems and safe school facilities and environment.
2. Concentrate more on the *How* (and less on the *Why* and *What*) by supporting accountability measures that give voice and ownership to vulnerable people such as joint vulnerability and capacity assessments with plans that are implemented through collaborative partnerships at a local level.
3. Expand the scope of hazards to incorporate the impacts of climate change, conflict and other situations of violence in both rural and urban contexts.
4. Promote concrete changes in the Post HFA National reporting mechanisms that include peer-reviews and citizen round tables to enhance accountability and local ownership.
5. Develop a set of indicators that address HFA Priority 4 focussing on the reduction of underlying risk factors. This would include an explicit focus on:
 - a. Impact of disasters on education.
 - b. Community participation in DRR includes participation of girls and boys.
 - c. The rights of children to protection from the effects of disasters.

“The training sparked my mind...”

Helmenegilde Mduwimana



After DRR training, Helmenegilde Mduwimana started a eucalyptus nursery in Burundi. The trees can prevent soil erosion.

Child & Protection & Participation

World Vision believes that children should be cared for, protected and participating in decisions that affect their lives. Our projects and programmes are designed to address the underlying causes of vulnerabilities for children so that they are protected before, during and after a disaster.

Children are agents of resilience building in their communities. Policy, planning and implementation can support age-appropriate and child-centred approaches, addressing the specific risks faced by children, including those in fragile contexts.

Identifying and addressing infrastructure risks: DRR clubs

As part of its Children in Emergency Response and Disaster Mitigation project in Ghana, World Vision has established clubs for children to learn about DRR and environmental issues. In DRR clubs children look at all the things around them and identify potential risks. In the village of Akotoshie, children identified the bridge they cross from their houses to school as a risk. It often has been damaged or even washed away in the rainy season. Several children had been injured or even killed attempting to cross during floods. Children then encouraged adults in the village to repair and strengthen the bridge, which they did using local materials. Similar projects have occurred in other participating communities.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt widely across Ghana, with rainfall patterns changing and becoming less predictable. World Vision staff report that heavy rains now come when they are not expected and at other times, anticipated rains fail to come at all. Erosion of roads, bridges and houses has become a serious problem due to heavy rains. The government has constructed main roads connecting villages, but inside the villages there is little or no government intervention, so communities are forced to maintain their own infrastructure. Children have been involved in checking roads and bridges for signs of erosion and, with the support of adults, have used sandbags to protect and reinforce them. Children have also organised their communities to clean out boreholes so that their water is kept clean and safe throughout the year.

The DRR clubs have empowered children to lead the way and motivate the whole community to improve the safety and sustainability of their local infrastructure.



In a child-focused DRR training conducted by World Vision, children identified possible risk areas in an event of a tsunami.



DRR club members displaying messages on environmental protection/DRR issues during a route march in Pwalugu.

Child Protection & Participation

Take action with World Vision

World Vision works with other child focused agencies to ensure that children's views about disaster risk reduction are heard and incorporated into policy priorities.

To find out more about World Vision's mechanisms for effective children's participation in formulation of DRR policy and planning at global, national and local levels speak to Richard Rumsey, Director of Disaster Risk Reduction & Community Resilience (richard_rumsey@wvi.org).



Children create maps and tables that determine the hazards and risks in their areas and take part in thinking of ways to address these threats.

Paint-me-a-Picture

On 22–24 September 2012, an orientation about Child-Focused Disaster Risk Reduction was conducted for community residents of the village (barangay), Panalipan, Municipality of Catmon, Province of Cebu, Philippines. Participants (19 adults and 21 children) included people from the local government unit, teachers from the Department of Education, leaders from community-based organisations, community residents and children.

After the orientation, a Community Disaster Risk Assessment followed using processes and tools that have now become useful and popular in the World Vision area development programmes that embraced or implemented child-focused DRR, such as hazard and resource mapping, disaster timelines, seasonal calendars and Venn diagrams.

One of the tools that was newly introduced to children was the use of actual photos taken by them during the risk assessment activity. Children were asked to walk around their school and community grounds and identify areas that pose threats to them.

The photos shot by children did not only present the risks they face. They were also a medium which helped facilitators further explain to children what risks are; what hazards exist; how vulnerable they are and help them identify and suggest to adults what can be done to reduce their risks. Most importantly, the images and how children presented them, urged adults to consider suggestions of children and put them in their prevention, mitigation and preparedness plans.



Children present pictures of the hazards they identified while walking around their school.

Climate-Friendly Programming

For many people the productivity of their land makes the difference between having enough to eat and not having enough to eat. Unpredictable weather patterns coupled with deforestation and soil erosion compound the problems.

World Vision is safeguarding children's health and wellbeing by adapting programme strategies to the immediate and long-term effects of climate change. Strengthening adaptive capacity and enhancing the natural resource base of communities is central to building long term resilience.

Fuel Efficient Stoves: Ethiopia

The vast majority of cooking done in Ethiopia, particularly in rural areas where alternative fuel sources are unavailable or unaffordable, is over open wood fires. Such fires are extremely inefficient, wasting precious wood, creating health problems associated with high levels of indoor air pollution, especially for young children with lungs that are not well-developed, and degrading the environment significantly.

To remedy these related problems, World Vision has been introducing fuel-efficient stoves into Ethiopian communities. (The Ethiopian government has noted the need for nine million stoves by 2015.) Compliance and voluntary carbon markets make it possible for communities to generate revenue via Certified Emission Reduction units (CERs) and Voluntary Emission Reductions (VERs). With these funds communities are able to build infrastructure and ways to adapt to climate change. Improved health, safety and labour-saving benefits are realised also.

A successful, market-based pilot distributed 2,500 stoves in rural areas. World Vision is ready to scale up and undertake the distribution of a further 60,000 fuel-efficient stoves across three different regions. It is forecast that 900,000 Gold Standard CERs will be generated over 10 years through registration of the project with the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Gold Standard Foundation (based on a conservative analysis of carbon savings at approximately 1.4 tonnes CO₂e per stove per year). Larger scale implementation is planned for later.

World Vision is currently working on scaling up in Ethiopia with the Standard Bank of Africa and welcomes enquiries from other interested parties.

Additionally, World Vision is promoting use of fuel efficient stoves in Kenya and Latin America.



Halima cooking on the fuel saving stove that she received from World Vision.



Fuel-efficient stoves reduce the number of trips women need to make to collect firewood in the forest, where they are vulnerable to rape and sexual violence.

Climate-Friendly Programming



Take action with World Vision

World Vision has investment-ready project models for climate friendly programming and good capacity for implementation across East and West Africa and a range of other locations. Successful pilot sites are available for exchange visits.

For more information please contact Tim Morris, Food Security & Climate Change Unit Manager (tim.morris@worldvision.com.au).

Amadou Idi works in the vegetable garden. It provides food during lean times for his family, and also income as he sells the produce.

Farmer-managed natural regeneration

The soil in vast areas of Africa has become so degraded that it can no longer sustain agriculture. World Vision, along with national governments, the World Bank, the World Agroforestry Centre and local community groups, is implementing Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in the Sahel, the Horn and Uganda as a means to increase the number of trees in agricultural landscapes and make the soil fertile once again.

FMNR has transformed the lives of millions of rural families across the Sahel. Farmers practicing FMNR and other agro-ecological techniques have been able to stockpile food grains during good years, and harvest trees and use the income to buy additional food in bad years. FMNR sustains productivity by improving soil's fertility and water-holding capacity, reducing erosion and the effects of sun and wind on young crops. All this has strengthened farmer resilience in the face of cyclical droughts, ensuring that they are able to put food on the table for their children even then. Evidence from the Kantché department of Niger, where adoption of FMNR is widespread, shows overall grain surpluses both in the drought of 2009, and again in the most recent drought of 2011. During this most recent drought, families of farmers who used the FMNR approach in Aguié District of Niger did not experience one single death of a malnourished child – this without emergency assistance!¹



Example of a graft. The new tree will produce much larger, more nutritious fruit for farmers to sell, or give to their children.



Balta Minamo and his family. Their farm used to suffer from flooding and erosion but now things are changing.

¹ *'Ending the Everyday Emergency: Resilience and Children in the Sahel'*, commissioned by World Vision and Save the Children, authored by Peter Gubbels of Groundswell International, 2012, pp 16-17.

Preparedness & Early Warning

World Vision is working to understand the nature and potential impact of hazards and vulnerabilities to enhance early warning and early action.

Our long-term development programmes are designed to reduce risk factors and mitigate negative impacts of natural, socio-natural and social hazards, so that communities are well prepared to both predict and act early in the face of pending crises.

Emergency centres in local disasters – severe flooding in Jenin

Severe weather conditions across the Palestinian Territory in January 2013, including heavy rain, strong winds and freezing temperatures, caused widespread damage to the fragile infrastructure. Many roads were flooded or blocked by uprooted trees. More than 400 homes were flooded and many Palestinians sustained injuries. One hundred and seventy-two lives were saved but no one was reported to have died. The Office of Civil Defence attributed this to the presence of emergency response volunteers who provided advance warning and evacuation support.

The abnormal storm tested the community-based DRR mechanisms instituted by World Vision working in partnership with communities and Palestinian Civil Defence in South and West Jenin. Established long-term development programmes provided an ideal basis from which to empower the community to create its own disaster preparedness plan and save lives. Civil Defence provided training for free and World Vision equipped emergency centres with simple furniture and equipment necessary for handling a disaster situation.

Each community-based emergency centre serves remote communities in a radius of seven kilometres. When not needed for emergency response activities, the centres support other community needs and may mediate in household incidents. In an emergency, the centres can operate 24/7 with 30-40 volunteers working in shifts. The quality and sustainability of these centres are based on the fact that they are mainstreamed into Civil Defence with existing Civil Defence staff members (2-3 members per centre) who supervise volunteers and organise/supervise community DRR activities.



Emergency centre volunteers receive training.

Preparedness & Early Warning



Take action with World Vision

Read more about our proven models for community disaster early warning, preparedness and response planning at www.wvi.org

Further investment is needed to strengthen the consistent application of early action systems in countries that are susceptible to slow onset, drought-related food and livelihood crises. World Vision is ready to partner with other organisations in developing and extending the methods described here.

For more information please contact Isabel Gomes, Director of Humanitarian Strategy and Initiatives (isabel_gomes@wvi.org).

Fatma Seid, who was kept alive in a World Vision feeding centre as a 2-year-old.

Ethiopia: early warning/early action

Ethiopia is one of the most food insecure countries in the world, with a long history of dealing with disasters. Over the past decade World Vision has developed an Early Warning/Early Action Unit in its national office to provide quality information for decision making about slow-onset crises. The focus is on agriculture, health and nutrition and it is integrated across all of World Vision's long term development programmes in the country. Data is exchanged with other actors to support decision making about resource allocation at national, provincial and local levels.

The Early Warning/Early Action system enables World Vision to respond to evolving situations within its long-term development programmes, thus reducing emergencies. Early action can include advocacy or a minor change to planned projects such as seed distribution. Programme managers can reassign up to 10 per cent of their development project budgets to mitigation, preparedness or early response activities as a result of early warning information.

World Vision works in partnership with communities and the government so that information and analysis can flow in both directions. The community-focused primary data gathering system taps into local informal knowledge and involves the community both in gathering and interpreting the data. Over the years confidence has grown as experience evolves about what constitutes 'normal' seasonal fluctuations which can be righted with small interventions, and where higher levels of response are needed.

This type of programming is now being piloted in other countries which experience slow-onset emergencies.



The booming business at the weekly Mekoy town market, where farmers sell everything from fruit and sacks of coffee to camels and donkeys, is a clear indicator of the solid level of food security in Antsokia valley nowadays.

Resilient Livelihoods

World Vision takes a holistic approach to assuring resilient livelihoods for the families of the most vulnerable children in the communities with whom we partner.

Our commitment to strengthening community resilience is grounded in long-term development programmes. This enables us to undertake thorough and well-informed contextual analysis to understand the root causes of vulnerability before designing integrated responses to complex needs.

Managing farming risks through weather index insurance

Lack of adequate, affordable credit for smallholder farmers is one of the greatest barriers to their food security, financial resilience and success. At the same time, micro-finance institutions are often reluctant to provide loans to smallholder farmers as their default rate is generally high due to weather-related crop losses.

World Vision Tanzania, in partnership with VisionFund Tanzania, MicroEnsure and Farm Concern, provided smallholder farmers in the Same District of Tanzania with the means to improve their livelihoods. Begun in 2011, the project is three-fold, including:

- A loan and weather index insurance bundle (including mandatory, embedded flood insurance).
- The ability to obtain improved paddy rice seeds.
- Marketing assistance so farmers can sell their harvest as collective groups for a higher negotiated price.

Weather index insurance is a remarkable tool that limits risk for both smallholder farmers and lending institutions. By limiting risk to smallholder farmers, the insurance empowers them to increase the amount of land they plant, produce higher quality products and realise higher profit margins. By limiting risk for lending institutions, they too prosper and provide stability and resilience within the community.

Farmers of course were not required to purchase weather index insurance. However, for those that did in the Same Project, they were able to increase their amount of farm land by 79 per cent and their net income by 142 per cent. Further, they were protected from total loss of crops when flooding occurred in December 2011. In this case, farmers participating in weather indexed insurance received a pay-out to replant their seeds in time to yield a successful harvest. As a result, these farmers were comparatively much better off than others affected by the flooding, who were only able to replant small areas of their fields after the flood.



Farmers' income increased by 142% during the 2011-12 growing season.



Immanuel Mbwambo, a rice farmer from Makindube who has benefitted from the integrated insurance.

Resilient Livelihoods



Take action with World Vision

World Vision has identified smallholder farming as being key to sustainable economic development in many locations. Our interventions are designed to mitigate against climate change, ensuring stable family income and food security.

We work with local government, civil society and other service providers to assure effective risk reduction and adaptation planning.

For more information about opportunities for investment please contact Richard Rumsey, Director of Disaster Risk Reduction & Community Resilience (richard_rumsey@wvi.org).

The Elelea irrigation project is increasing land productivity in the Turkana region of Kenya.

Integrating resilience in development programming: Azerbaijan

One of the many places where World Vision has successfully integrated resilient livelihoods into its existing development programmes is the Aghjabadi district of Azerbaijan. Resilience programming is being implemented as a continuation of livelihood and food/economic security projects that were focused on economic and social transformation.

The project works with IDP farmers by providing business and agricultural training, marketing, and building infrastructure that encourages economic development (such as constructing irrigation and drainage systems, providing inputs for animal breeding, and building storage facilities). Floods along the Kur River, where IDPs are located, destroyed the assets and livelihoods of IDP farmers in 2010. To help prevent such damage in the future, World Vision built drainage channels and planted trees to reduce the impact of flooding and salination of the soil.

As the result of World Vision's interventions: each of the 22 IDP communities with which the organisation is working have representative boards to speak on their community's behalf; families have their own small plots of land to farm; 90 per cent of the families are able to meet the basic requirements for their children's nutrition, health and education without outside assistance; and 50 per cent of the communities are trained in DRR preparedness and resilience.



Irrigation and drainage mitigate against flood risk and improve productivity of farmland.



World Vision is supporting farmers to diversify into bee keeping.

Schools, & Knowledge & Education

World Vision believes that all children should be educated for life. Our projects and programmes use knowledge and education about risks to build a culture of resilience at individual, household and community levels.

Working in partnership with others we ensure that children have access to basic information about how to identify and manage risks and that schools provide a safe learning environment for children.

DRR integration into school curriculum: the case of Lesotho

World Vision's child-focused approach to DRR has been adopted by schools in a number of countries. Following a successful pilot programme and advocacy in Lesotho, the Ministry of Education is introducing disaster risk reduction into the school curriculum at all primary and basic education levels and has given the directive that each school and education sector should have a preparedness plan based on local risk assessments.

New curricula have already begun implementation in grades one and two of primary schools, with the other grades to follow. DRR school activities have been included on school calendars, such as DRR Day. World Vision trained teachers and Ministry of Education officials supported the formation of DRR clubs in schools and supported the participation of school children in such things as tree planting exercises, activities addressing traffic and river crossing risks, vegetable production in school gardens and school safety drills.

The project demonstrated to local authorities and communities that children are aware of what happens around them. They have a lot of information that can be mobilised, and, if taken seriously, they can often provide 'easy-to-achieve' solutions. Children themselves can be active DRR actors and a good entrance point into the community for wider DRR efforts.

At the inception of the programme, facilitators included staff from UNISDR and UNESCO who provided invaluable help based on their experiences in working with children and youth in DRR.



School children from Sefikaneng community helped to plant 3,842 trees in an effort to control and prevent soil erosion and to protect the environment.



Children from the community of Mapoteng marched on the road to sensitize the community about the importance of protecting children against road accidents.

Schools, Knowledge and Education

Take action with World Vision

World Vision has proven expertise in promoting safe school construction and development of school disaster management systems. Our work with schools in over 90 countries forms a core element of our commitment to building long-term resilience of children, households and communities.

We are working with ministries of education in several countries to pioneer risk reduction as a component of the national curriculum.

For more information about this work please contact Christy Davis (christy_davis@wvi.org).



Children from Morrelganj, Bagherhat, community affected by the Cyclone Sidr, attending classes in the new school building constructed by World Vision Bangladesh.

Child-Focused DRR

A magnitude 7.9 earthquake hit the Leyte and Samar areas of the Philippines on 31 August 2012. People in the area were alarmed by the earthquake since their village is along the coastline and a tsunami was possible. During the earthquake, Rowena Cajeda, a child who had attended World Vision's previously held child-focused DRR training (CFDRR), quickly gathered her thoughts and remembered the things she had learned during the training. She said, 'My family and I covered our heads and hid ourselves under the table.' She added that after the earthquake they packed their things due to the tsunami alert raised by the authorities. Some people went to higher places as advised. 'I've learned a lot in the CFDRR training, especially not to panic in times of emergencies', Rowena stated.

In September 2012, World Vision also held a first aid training. The training was conducted for two different groups: one of children and one of adults. The children's training was focused more on the basic questions children asked and what they should know if they are to provide rudimentary first aid. Of course the training for adults included higher-level learning and more advanced discussion on the essentials of first aid. Both children and adults had their own simulations and practicum as the last part of the training. The activity was actively supported and attended by the village council, volunteers and children.



School students share DRR information with other pupils.

Urban Development Risk Reduction

Children in some cities live constantly frightened – of violence, of traffic chaos, of environmental degradation and exposure to pollution, of displacement or loss of possessions. These everyday risks are as important as the calamities of natural disaster.

All disasters have an economic impact for households and for governments. However, the majority of those affected by urban disasters are the poor and marginalised and as such they bear a disproportionate burden of economic losses. Often such losses go unrecorded.

Bolivia

People living in unplanned settlements on the steep hillsides of La Paz are under constant threat of landslides. Street violence is another major concern for families and children.

World Vision's Community Resilience Programme is training young people and their parents to be more aware of risks and to act upon that acquired knowledge by constructing their own risk maps and emergency plans. Neighbourhood risk management committees are starting to recognise the valuable perspective that children and youth can bring to community decision making processes.

World Vision is working with the National Centre for Emergencies and the Ministry of Education to develop a school safety programme focusing on disaster prevention and preparation. Landslides leave children fearful of heavy rain storms so emergency response drills with classmates have helped calm their fears.

World Vision's *Resiliencero* youth network is introducing a new way of thinking among children, adolescents and young people to help them find alternatives to being victims or perpetrators of street violence. Sports and recreational activities support creation of a culture of prevention and safety while simultaneously keeping them from being idle.

An overall change in attitude is being witnessed both among young people and people in the community more generally. They are broadening their focus from an individual perspective (focusing mainly on themselves, their family and immediate neighbourhood) to a broader community perspective. People are now conscious about the need to take actions that would benefit all communities exposed to threats, whereas up until now they had not taken such actions.



Parents and children in La Paz are concerned about street violence.



World Vision staff at the site of a landslide.

World Vision has made it a strategic organisational priority to work with vulnerable urban communities to both mitigate and be ready for urban disasters.

Building on our depth of contextual knowledge arising from long-term community engagement, World Vision is working in partnership with multiple actors to anticipate and respond to urban risk scenarios.

For more information about this work please contact Isabel Gomes, Director of Humanitarian Strategy and Initiatives (isabel_gomes@wvi.org).



Child-centred DRR in an urban context – Ethiopia

World Vision began working on community-based DRR projects in Ethiopia's urban areas in 2008. There were, and continue to be, significant numbers of vulnerable people living in urban areas of Ethiopia that were not being reached by DRR initiatives.

It took a great deal of time and effort to persuade other key actors in the country to include DRR in the urban context. Most policies and programmes considered DRR only for rural areas. Once an understanding was reached, World Vision targeted a large urban market and slum area called Merkato in Addis Ababa. One challenge was to obtain community participation in this project as people were working long hours to earn a living. However, since World Vision had been present in this community for over 10 years we could use our connections with community leaders to persuade them of the importance of getting involved in DRR activities. We also worked through schools' parent teachers associations, persuading them that the time invested would be worthwhile.

Knowledge of risk reduction has improved significantly. Children have learnt when and how they are vulnerable to risks, also how to protect themselves against those risks. A culture of regular risk assessment has become the norm, whereby children together with their parents and teacher identify the prevailing risks at the beginning of the academic year and tailor their annual work on the identified risks. The education authorities have integrated DRR into the curricula for grades one through eight.



Children in DRR clubs presenting different hazards by drawing on their school wall at 'Metebaber' school in Addis Ababa.

Many of the school structures in Merkato used to be vulnerable especially to fire and flood. Now that children are well equipped with the skills to identify risks, they are able to advocate to the school administration and local government to take immediate actions. There used to be a high rate of accidents involving vehicles which claimed the lives of children and this is now reducing as children learn how to cross roads safely, provide first aid and work closely with the traffic police. World Vision has also capitalised on the media to increase coverage of DRR messages to wider geographic areas.