



# Global Annual Report 2021

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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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



Children from the El Cerron community  
in Yamaranguila, Honduras.  
Photo: Jon Warren/World Vision

# President's Foreword

2021 has been a truly challenging and historic year, with the onslaught of COVID-19 and so many crises converging at once. Almost nine out of ten of the world's children were out of school because of the pandemic. A global hunger crisis put 45 million people on the brink of famine across 43 countries. At the same time, earthquakes, flooding, drought and typhoons keep on coming.

We have been there throughout, keeping hope alive. Our staff across 100 countries have empowered girls and boys to press for change in their own communities, amplifying their voices on the world stage. Our Christian faith demands we work to ensure each girl and boy achieves their truly unique and God-given potential in life.

The achievements against this challenging backdrop have been remarkable. Even in the midst of COVID-19, we reached more than four million children through our education programmes. Two million of you

have continued to sponsor children, bringing untold benefits to families and entire communities.

I am honoured to take up the role of Chair of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, an alliance of nine of the world's leading humanitarian agencies that come together to support quality, accountability and learning. As a result of this, I have a seat at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee - the top table of the UN humanitarian decision-making body. This brings with it influence for child rights across the entire humanitarian sector.

Ninety-nine percent of our staff are nationals of the country in which they are employed, and understand the local and ever-evolving context they work in. As we enter this 'next normal', we must continue to be agile and ready to adapt. Motivated by our Christian faith, we are called to serve the most vulnerable in the toughest places to be a child – like Afghanistan, Central African Republic,

Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan or Syria. We have stood alongside children in these countries for decades already – and our unwavering support will continue for many more decades to come.

We cannot do this alone, and partnerships remain key to our work. From our incredible volunteers and faith partners in communities around the world, to child sponsors, our peers and the UN system, the spectacular results we have achieved together are plain to see in this report. The amazing work done by our World Vision family is truly inspirational and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.



**Andrew Morley**

World Vision International President  
and Chief Executive Officer



Syrian children chat with Andrew Morley, World Vision International President and Chief Executive Officer, at a community-based psychosocial support session in Lebanon. Photo: Chris Weeks/World Vision (taken pre-COVID-19).

# Introduction

We stand at a precipice. For the first time in two decades extreme poverty has risen globally due to the impacts of conflict and climate change compounded by COVID-19. To step back from the precipice and halt the decline, nations must come together with an effective agenda to reduce inequality, poverty and climate change.

This is what we do. World Vision tackles root causes to end poverty and other violence against children in the most fragile places in the world. In the past year we scaled up to go further than ever before. We supported more than 200 million children. We reached 30 million people with humanitarian emergency assistance in 52 countries. Our VisionFund microfinance subsidiary disbursed 1.1 million loans and our COVID-19 response supported 72 million people.

Our safeguarding practices continue to be strengthened. Our global programming footprint is being adapted to mitigate the effects of conflict and climate change in the communities where we work. Environmental stewardship approaches are changing how

we work. We are improving social inclusion and gender equality and being recognised for our quality, accountability and financial standards.

The platform for these efforts has been our global organisational strategy. We are driving innovation through cooperation, supporting teams to adapt and improve, employing both proven and new approaches to achieve greater impact.

The World Vision International Board is profoundly grateful for the contributions of our partners, sponsors, 55 national boards and advisory councils, national office teams, Global Centre teams, President Andrew Morley and his executive leadership team. Our collective commitment is ensuring that communities are rebuilding in the world's most fragile countries to support life in all its fullness for every child today and in generations to come.



**Donna Shepherd**  
World Vision International Board Chair



Donna Shepherd, World Vision International Board Chair, visiting Pyin Daung Dwin village Early Childhood Care and Development Centre in Myanmar. Photo: Nigel Marsh/World Vision.

# We are **World Vision**

Our focus is on helping the most vulnerable girls and boys overcome poverty so they can experience fullness of life now and in the future. Inspired by our Christian faith, our work reaches children no matter their background or the dangerous places in which they live.

We are driven by our desire to ensure that every girl and boy has what they need to grow in mind, body, and spirit. Every day, our nearly 35,000 staff work hard to empower children to live lives filled with joy, become all that Jesus created them to be, and go further than they could ever have imagined.

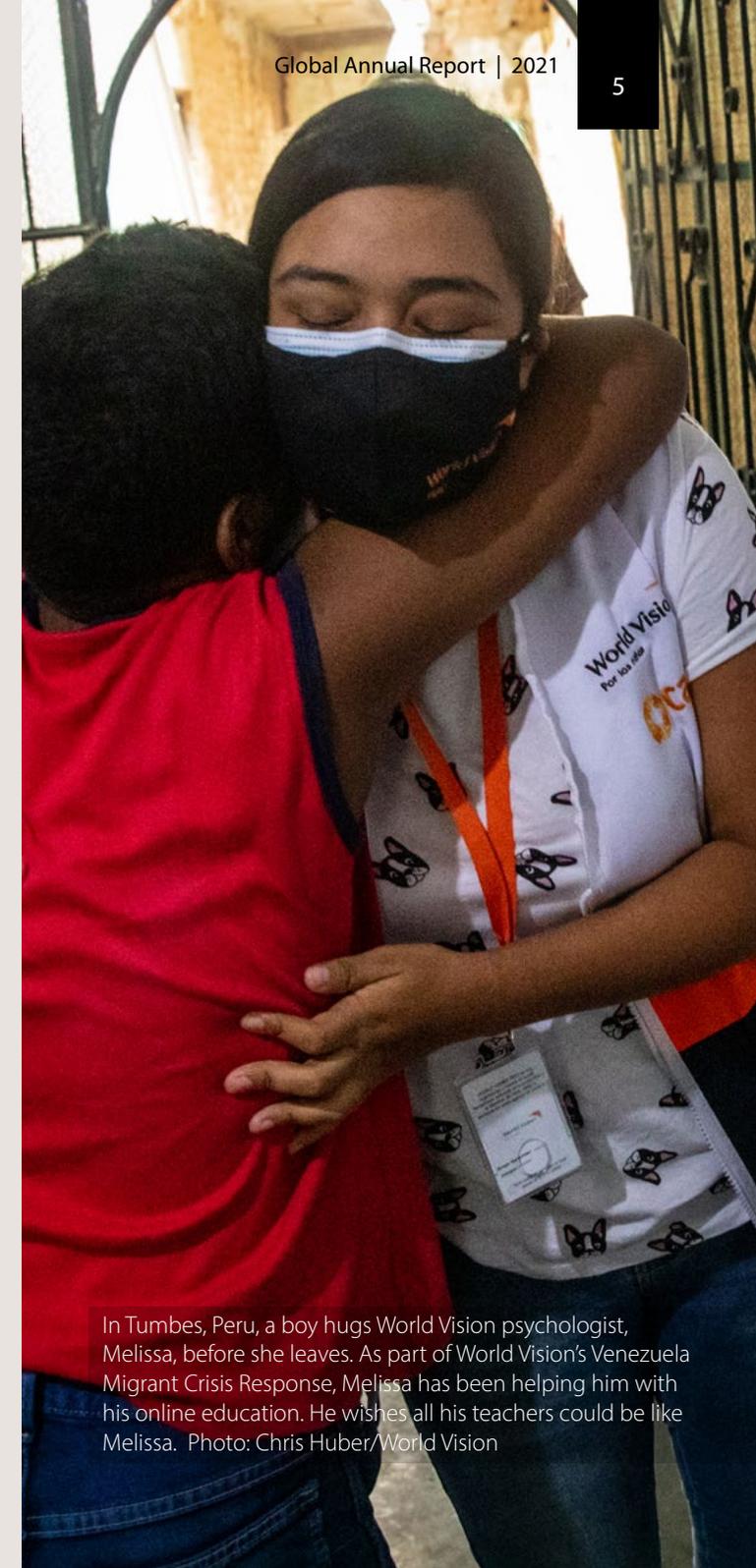
Guided by more than 70 years of experience and expertise, our dedicated staff employ proven and effective development and relief practices to empower communities to become self-sufficient and bring real, lasting change.

As a leading global partner, we labour alongside supporters, stakeholders, families, and communities to transform lives and offer hope. As a result, all our lives are enriched. Together, with our partners, we have

positively impacted the lives of more than 200 million vulnerable children around the world in 2020-2021.

We are privileged to serve and work to see relationships restored and communities transformed, all as a reflection of God's unconditional love. We humbly acknowledge that without the goodness of God and the generosity of donors, we would not be able to do what we do.

**Our work reaches children  
no matter their background  
or the dangerous places in  
which they live.**



In Tumbes, Peru, a boy hugs World Vision psychologist, Melissa, before she leaves. As part of World Vision's Venezuela Migrant Crisis Response, Melissa has been helping him with his online education. He wishes all his teachers could be like Melissa. Photo: Chris Huber/World Vision

# Our Promise **Going Further**

In 2021, our Partnership-wide strategy called *Our Promise* had a renewed sense of urgency. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the inequalities of our world and the suffering this has caused, especially to the most vulnerable children and their families.

Our strategy is a promise to the world's most vulnerable girls and boys that we will relentlessly pursue our vision for them – life in all its fullness. We keep this promise through the following areas of urgent action:



## **Living out our faith and calling with boldness and humility.**

With Christ at the centre of all we do, we demonstrate God's unconditional love for children by mobilising staff and communities to address the deep, spiritual root causes of child vulnerability. We have built credibility as a strong Christian partner, capable of galvanising a diverse mix of faith leaders and communities in support of collective action for children.



## **Deepening our commitment to the world's most vulnerable girls and boys.**

Putting the most vulnerable girls and boys first, we continue to realign our focus and footprint to reduce extreme vulnerability; develop effective, relevant programming; deploy the right leadership and capabilities; and allocate funds for greatest impact. We continue to stand with children in some of the most dangerous places.



## **Focusing our ministry for greater results.**

We are impact-driven, with a culture and practice of maximising impact for vulnerable children with every decision and action we take. We focus on key sectors of work using evidence-based approaches that show a difference in children's well-being. At the same time, we strengthen factors that support sustained impact over time, such as household and community resilience.



Children enjoying reading and writing sessions, part of the education programmes implemented by World Vision in Puntland, Somalia. Photo: Lambert Coleman/World Vision.



### Collaborating and advocating for broader impact.

Raising the voices of girls and boys, we advocate for systemic change across global, national, and local levels; and partner with others so that together we can achieve more for children than we could on our own. Since 2017, 431 million children are better protected through stronger government policies addressing violence against children as a result of our *It takes a world to end violence against children* advocacy campaign in 87 countries.



### Delivering high quality, sustainable funding to the field.

We are changing from a funding mix that no longer serves us well, to raising the right funds with the right donors for the right programmes in the right places. We are unlocking the power of our Partnership's global scale and Christian distinctiveness to prioritise private funding – especially for fragile contexts – and grow grants across all relevant markets to support ministry priorities.

Our progress during 2021, shown in the pages of this report, tells us that we are heading in the right direction. Now we need to go further.

We celebrate and make best use of the four things that make World Vision distinctive: our Christian faith, our focus on children, our community-empowering approach, and our ability to achieve impact on child well-being at scale. Together, these set us apart and provide World Vision with a unique opportunity to keep its promise to the world's most vulnerable girls and boys.

To learn more about our global strategy, go to: [www.wvi.org/our-promise](http://www.wvi.org/our-promise)

# Our Work, **reaching the most vulnerable**



**Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)** gives children and their families a chance to flourish and is particularly important in emergency situations. In 2021, we reached 3 million people with access to clean water and 2.3 million people with access to household sanitation. We also reached 3.5 million people with access to handwashing facilities (including 1.8 million children in schools), 440,000 people with emergency drinking water and 838,000 people with emergency hygiene supplies.



Our microfinance subsidiary, VisionFund, offers **financial solutions that empower families and communities** to develop a reliable source of income and livelihoods to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. In 2021, VisionFund supported one million borrowers, created 1.6 million jobs, and disbursed loans worth US\$613 million. Through our microfinance programmes, we have impacted the lives of more than 4.3 million children.



World Vision works with parents in sponsorship communities to **increase and diversify their income sources**. Over the years, we have worked with many parents in sponsorship communities so that they are better prepared to recover from a shock like this pandemic. In 2021 alone, approximately 293,800 parents or caregivers in sponsorship communities were trained in how to increase their food security and livelihoods resilience and 80,300 completed training to strengthen financial inclusion and income-generating skills.



**Empowering children and amplifying their voices** is at the centre of World Vision's work in communities. In 2021, more than 804,000 children and youth in our sponsorship communities courageously took action to help **end violence against children**. Furthermore, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, communities in 665 area programmes across 42 countries continued to advocate with duty-bearers for improved public services using Citizen Voice and Action, a social accountability approach.





In 2021, World Vision took significant action to move forward in our commitment to **environmental stewardship and reducing our negative impact on the environment**. We finalised policies on Environmental Stewardship and on Climate Action, which set in place an organisation-wide commitment to increase programmes that promote positive environmental benefits for children, monitor, and take action to reduce our carbon footprint, and advocate for climate justice for children.



Mothers prepare food at a nutrition club in Lesotho. The club was established with the help of World Vision in response to the growing incidence of malnutrition among children in Lesotho. Photo: Makopano Semakale/World Vision



Children at an outdoor community football court in Huaquillas, Ecuador, where dozens of Venezuelan refugee families have settled. Photo: Chris Huber/World Vision



Good health and nutrition empower children. Our work promotes positive child development and well-being, **prevents child death, reduces illness, and improves nutrition.** We support over 184,000 Community Health Workers in 46 countries, providing timely counselling on healthy behaviours and building bridges to improved health and nutrition services. Our integrated approach enables caregivers, service providers, and over 300,000 faith leaders, to protect, advocate for, and improve the health and nutrition of children where we work.



# Our Work, **reaching the most vulnerable**



World Vision works with local child protection groups **to strengthen the protection of girls and boys** from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of violence like child marriage and child labour. Our signature Child Protection and Advocacy model addresses the root cause of violence against children in communities. We work with local people to improve laws, strengthen protective services, transform harmful attitudes and behaviours, and empower children as agents of change.



World Vision believes that **all children should receive a safe, quality, inclusive education**, from early childhood through to completing secondary school. Even in the midst of COVID-19, where more than 90% of the world's students were out of school, World Vision reached 4.1 million children through its education programmes – providing support to teachers and parents and distributing educational materials in print and digital formats, as well as over the radio, on TV, and through SMS.



**Vulnerable children are increasingly found in towns and cities, and World Vision is increasing its work in those environments.** 46 field offices implemented programmes in cities and their surrounding areas in FY21. We launched COVID-19 responses in 298 cities and 12.5% of the money we spent was in urban programmes. We strengthened this work by releasing an Urban Ministry Model toolkit.



World Vision partners with families, faith leaders and communities **to ensure children thrive emotionally, physically and spiritually.** Our faith-based approaches are designed to address the physical as well as spiritual root causes of child vulnerability. In FY21, we worked with over 82,000 parents and 26,000 faith leaders across 31 countries to build more supportive and loving families and communities where children can thrive.



# Child Sponsorship

In 2021, World Vision child sponsorship touched the lives of more than 16 million children and their communities, empowering them to break free from poverty for good. As the shockwaves of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to break around the world, more than 1.9 million sponsors partnered with a child and their community to stand against its devastating effects.

Subsequent waves of the virus continued to trigger lockdowns, school disruptions, and economic hardship in 2021, making our long-term, locally-run work in the world's hardest places more important than ever.

Helping communities to rebuild their livelihoods and strengthen child protection were an important focus in child sponsorship programming throughout the year.

- We reached 1.6 million children and 207,000 parents and caregivers in 54 countries with child protection programmes through child sponsorship, helping to keep children safe when their usual community networks were disrupted by the pandemic. These programmes also help communities become safer places for children.
- More than 1.3 million people and 272,000 households in 36 countries built stronger livelihoods with support from child sponsorship, including help for parents and caregivers to learn new work skills and set up savings groups so they can access capital when they need it.

We also innovated, using mobile phones and other technology to find new ways to connect, despite COVID-19 restrictions. Almost all children and sponsors worldwide can now exchange letters digitally, while sponsors in 11 countries went on a virtual field visit to their sponsored child's community to see their impact first-hand.

Chosen<sup>®</sup>, World Vision's new invitation into sponsorship, allowing children to choose their own sponsor, has continued to expand and is now available for children in 34 countries and sponsors in 22 countries.

Thank you to all our sponsors whose continued care, support, and partnership are empowering children and communities to tackle the root causes of poverty and build a strong future.



Through Chosen®, children choose a sponsor instead of the other way round, reflecting the way that sponsorship empowers children to take the lead in transforming their own futures.



 **5,770 schools** and **1,533 healthcare facilities** were equipped with **handwashing facilities**, as well as **904 schools** and **478 healthcare facilities** with **sanitation services**

**3 million** people  **gained access to clean water**, including **570,000 children** who received **safe drinking water** at school

**3.2 million**  **children** were part of **child sponsorship** in 1,268 area programmes around the world

We contributed to **603**  **policy changes** that address the root causes of vulnerability for children

**Humanitarian assistance** reached over **30.1 million**  **people** in response to 72 natural and human-made disasters across 52 countries

**16 million**  **children** in 54 countries benefitted from **child sponsorship programmes**

**Over 2 million**  **advocacy actions** taken by World Vision supporters who **campaign for vulnerable children** in 42 countries

We reached **7.9 million**  **people** with **food assistance programming** and another **6.7 million** people across 44 countries with **cash and voucher programming**

Our Global Impact,  
**reaching the most vulnerable**

248,781 children

under five were

**treated for wasting**

(or severe malnutrition)

in 14 countries, and more

than 85% recovered



World Vision's  
award-winning  
approach, **Farmer**



**Managed Natural Regeneration**, is  
being scaled up globally and has been  
recognised amongst the UN's top 500  
practices that contribute to 12 of the 17  
Sustainable Development Goals

**1.75 million**

**boys and girls** took part in  
activities designed to deepen  
their **understanding of**  
**God's love for them** and  
strengthen their relationship  
with others and with nature



46,230 pregnant and  
breastfeeding women

in 5 countries received

support through **targeted**  
**supplementary feeding**  
**programmes**



Over **40,000 farmers**

who participated in our training  
groups **implemented new**  
**agricultural methods**,  
helping them produce more  
and increase their family  
incomes



Over **4.5 million**

**children** directly  
benefitted through **child**  
**protection activities** to  
**reduce violence against**  
**children**



VisionFund 

**disbursed**

**1.1 million** loans

with a value of

**US\$613 million.**

**69% of borrowers are women**

More than **293,800**

**parents** in sponsorship  
communities **received**  
**training to increase**  
**food security and**  
**livelihoods resilience**



Over **1.5 million**

**educational materials** to enable  
or support remote learning, and  
training and support to

**64,594 teachers**





# COVID-19 global response

World Vision's  
US\$350 million  
response has reached over  
**72 million people**  
in more than 70 countries



On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Within hours, World Vision launched one of the largest global emergency responses in our 70-year history.

Two years later, our **US\$350 million response** has had a significant impact. We have surpassed our goal by reaching **over 72 million people, including more than 30 million children**. Our focus remains on reaching as many children as possible, especially the most vulnerable. Children may not be the most at risk from the virus, but hundreds of millions of children have become significantly more vulnerable due to the pandemic's indirect impacts.



\*Please note: all figures related to the COVID-19 response are cumulative (i.e. totals from beginning of response that include FY20 and FY21 data).

nearly **45 million**

**people reached** with **health interventions** and information to increase understanding, including vaccine messaging



**250,000**

**facilities established or rehabilitated** to help limit the spread of COVID-19, including community handwashing stations and school toilets



**706,910**

**people** in 34 countries **reached with vaccine uptake activities** during 2021



**42 million**

**items distributed,** including face masks, glove sets and disinfectant kits



more than

**250 million**

**vulnerable children** affected by new or amended policies achieved through **8,406 advocacy actions taken** by World Vision globally



**300,000**

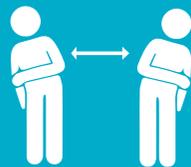
**COVID-19 'recovery' loans** valued at **US\$174.5 million** disbursed globally by VisionFund teams during 2021



more than

**38 million**

**people reached** through promotion of **preventative behaviours**



nearly **400,000**

**faith leaders and frontline/community health workers trained and supported** to provide COVID-19 and vaccine-related community-based services



**1.6 million**

**children reached with child protection activities** to address the many indirect impacts of the pandemic, such as rising domestic and sexual violence, child marriage, and child labour



(All figures are cumulative, i.e. FY20 and FY21 combined).

# Financial summary\*

## Strengthening our commitment to children living in fragile places.

From 2016 to 2021, we increased the amount spent in fragile and conflict-affected areas by 68%.

### Total revenue (in US\$ billion):

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
\$2.72	\$2.76	\$2.76	\$2.90	\$3.01	\$3.15



## 86% Yield to programming

(The proportion of revenue spent on programming work that has a direct impact on vulnerable children's lives, including advocacy, campaigning, and technical support)

\* For a detailed financial report, go to: <https://www.wvi.org/accountability>, which includes a link to our most recent financial statements.

## Total expenditure by category

(all amounts in US dollars)

 Development programmes  
**\$1,634 million (55%)**

 Relief and rehabilitation programmes  
**\$909 million (30%)**

 Community education and advocacy  
**\$23 million (1%)**

 Fundraising  
**\$249 million (8%)**

 Administration  
**\$181 million (6%)**

## Programme expenditure by region



- Fiscal Year 2021 data is subject to audit adjustment (World Vision's fiscal year runs from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021).
- In 2021, World Vision reduced the overall amount spent on administration (excluding foreign exchange) and fundraising by \$4 million compared to 2020.
- The difference between the Yield to Programming figure and programming expenditures in region is due to the implementation timing of some projects.

Because of our community-focused solutions, for every child you help, four more children benefit too



World Vision is reaching one  
new person with clean water  
every 10 seconds



Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



Every 60 seconds a family receives  
the tools to overcome poverty

After a sponsorship event in Mozambique, boys gather  
for a bit of sunset soccer. Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision

[wvi.org](http://wvi.org)