



World Vision®



CHILD
PROTECTION

KENYA » BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES AND
QUALITY SCHOOLS IN NORTHWEST KENYA

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Girls and boys in northwest Kenya—like children around the world—have great promise and big dreams. But their potential often is cut short by harmful practices and lack of attention and resources for their safety and education. Many girls painfully undergo female genital mutilation (FGM), then become child brides and child mothers. Communities are ill-equipped to prevent child abuse or help child survivors. Girls and boys are denied the education they need to build promising futures because they do not have quality, child-friendly schools.

The problems are significant, but we are deeply committed to help solve them. With the Kenya Child Protection Project, we are tackling FGM, child marriage, and school needs—creating opportunities for girls and boys to reach their potential and live out their dreams.

The Kenya Child Protection Program operated for more than three years, ending in September 2015. In October 2015, a new phase of work began. In essence, it continues the core activities that helped to transform lives and give children opportunities they would not otherwise have had.

The earlier Kenya program increased access to high-quality girls secondary education and encouraged community advocacy that has sparked a cultural change in attitudes toward girls in a part of West Pokot county in northwest Kenya. Some parents no longer force their daughters to undergo FGM and now support their ongoing education so they can realize their potential and have a brighter future than their own. The program also has expanded primary school classroom capacity for boys and girls, thus enabling younger girls to continue with school and avoid FGM.

It is this powerful combination of access to quality education and advocacy that World Vision is working to expand and deepen through the current project—thus changing lives forever. With funding of about \$5.5 million over four years, we can help continue this transformation and benefit more than 200,00 children and adults. Our work will improve schools, inspire hope, and create safer communities for children.

Kenya Child Protection Program

June 2012-September 2015 Achievements

- 1,873 children learned life skills, including personal safety and healthy behaviors.
- 615 police officers were trained to handle abuse cases with sensitivity toward the children involved.
- 1,152 girls participated in alternative rites of passage into adulthood without being forced to endure FGM. Sixty boys took part in concurrent retreats, receiving messages about the importance of school and respecting women and girls.
- 223 volunteer children's officers (who help respond to child protection issues at the community level) were trained.
- 102 youth benefited from vocational training, acquiring skills to earn an income.
- 160 members of school management committees received training in child protection.

THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

What Is FGM?

Female genital mutilation or FGM—which girls typically go through just before puberty or during early adolescence—involves removal of part or the whole of the external female genitalia. In many cultures, it symbolizes the transition from girlhood to womanhood and is a valued traditional practice.

But it has devastating physical and psychological effects on girls, some short-term and some life-long. These include recurring infections that can affect the bladder and kidneys, chronic pelvic and back pain, incontinence, obstetrical complications, and emotional suffering.

Globally, 125 million girls and women have experienced FGM.

(UN Women press release, 1/31/14, <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/1/ed-message-for-zero-tolerance-for-fgm-day>)

In Kenya, 27 percent of women ages 15 to 49 have undergone FGM.

(The State of the World's Children 2015)

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the second cause of death for 15- to 19-year-old girls globally.

(www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/, updated September 2014)

Traditional cultural practices are deeply rooted in the communities of northwest Kenya. FGM and child marriage, especially, pose serious risks to children and their futures. World Vision considers FGM and child marriage to be significant violations of a child's rights. Although both practices are illegal in Kenya, they continue—with some communities unaware of the laws against them. In rural areas, informal justice structures frequently carry more weight than formal legal structures, meaning tribal and community leaders often are responsible for overseeing how practices are governed. It is important for us to work with these leaders to change views and behavior.

Child marriage To marry legally in Kenya, both males and females must be 18 or older. But 26 percent of women ages 18 to 24 were first married by age 18 (The State of the World's Children, 2015). Given the prevalence of underage marriage, local police can be hesitant to enforce the law against it. When birth registration is lacking, even if police attempt to hold parents accountable for brokering a child marriage, there may be no legal documentation confirming the child is underage.

FGM and marriage FGM can expedite marriage because once a girl has undergone the cutting, her family may force her to marry. It also can be a prerequisite to marrying, with the husband's family wanting the girl to undergo FGM to make her "marriageable." For this reason, it is important that entire communities have changed attitudes—not only the parents of girls. A daughter marrying can lessen a household's economic burden and provide an immediate benefit in the form of gifts, such as cattle, that the family receives in exchange for the girl. This contributes to parents—especially those immersed in poverty—marrying off their daughters at a young age.

Benefits of educating girls Many girls leave school after undergoing FGM, and those who return often do not stay to finish. Girls are far less likely to continue in school once married, because additional education typically is seen as an unnecessary investment of both a girl's life and a family's financial resources. Girls who marry leave school to tend to household tasks. But the consequences of quitting school are significant, because the girls and their families are denied the benefits of an education.

- Mothers who have had some education are more than twice as likely to send their own children to school as are mothers with no education (www.unicef.org/mdg/index_genderequality.htm, accessed August 24, 2015).
- For girls, the return on a year of secondary education correlates with as high as a 25 percent increase in wages later in life (UNICEF webpage dated 5/5/15, http://www.unicef.org/education/bege_61625.html).
- If all women in sub-Saharan Africa completed primary education, there would be 70 percent fewer maternal deaths (UNESCO, Education for All Global Monitoring Report, 2013-14, p. 15).
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50 percent more likely to survive past age 5 (Key Messages and Data on Girls' and Women's Education and Literacy, UNESCO, April 2012).
- If all girls had secondary education in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and West Asia, child marriage would fall by 64 percent (UNESCO, Education for All Global Monitoring Report, 2013-14, p. 181).

THE CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT

What constitutes violence against children?

Violence includes all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

This definition is based on Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and General comment No. 13 (2011) on the CRC.

GOAL

The project's goal is to protect children, especially the most vulnerable, from all forms of violence, including FGM, and to increase access to quality, child-friendly schools.

Through the project, we will work to raise the visibility of violence against children and change attitudes and behaviors so children are protected from FGM, child marriage, domestic violence, trafficking, rape, and other harm.

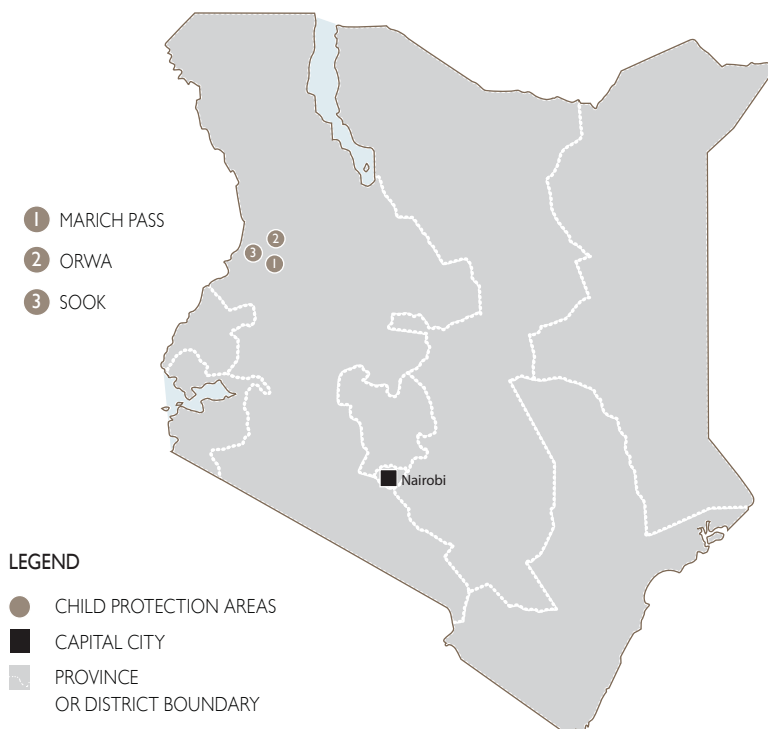
Equally important are our plans to build classrooms, train teachers, and make other school improvements to give children an education. This includes girls who have undergone FGM as well as girls who are likely to undergo the rite and marry if they are not able to continue their education. The opportunity to attend school empowers girls to acquire knowledge, skills, and confidence to chart their own futures and achieve their dreams. With the completion of this project, attendance in the five targeted schools—three girls secondary schools and two primary schools—is expected to reach 1,559 children (1,243 girls, 316 boys).

KEY INFORMATION

The Kenya Child Protection Project will operate for four years—from October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2019. The four-year funding need is \$5,525,853.

Our plans are to benefit 200,982 people (120,579 children and youth; 80,403 adults). Of this total, nearly 170,000 will be reached through radio broadcasts about children's right to protection from FGM, child marriage, and other forms of abuse, exploitation, and violence. Other project activities will benefit more than 31,000 children and adults.

The project will be conducted in three areas in West Pokot county in northwest Kenya, as shown on the map below. These are: Marich Pass, Orwa, and Sook.





Meetings focused on raising community awareness have provided thousands of Kenyans with information about a child's right to health services, education, and protection from abuse and mistreatment.

PROJECT APPROACHES

We are integrating the following approaches into the project to help us achieve our goal and outcomes, while also laying a foundation for sustainability after the project ends.

Channels of Hope for Child Protection In Channels of Hope training, faith leaders wrestle with Scripture to better understand their role as followers of Christ to combat deeply held cultural beliefs that negatively impact their communities. Channels of Hope for Child Protection reaches the root causes and deepest convictions that maintain harmful attitudes and practices, with messages emphasizing the importance of protecting children. By sensitizing faith leaders in our project areas, there is potential to change these communities to better honor, protect, and care for children.

Citizen Voice and Action This local-level approach to advocacy works by educating citizens about their rights and equipping them with a simple set of tools designed to empower them to hold government accountable to fulfill its obligations. First, communities learn about basic human rights and how these rights are articulated under local law. Next, communities collaborate with the government and service providers to compare what is happening against the government's own commitments. Finally, communities work with other stakeholders to influence decision-makers to improve services and hold government accountable to their commitments. This is an important aspect of the Kenya project because access to and delivery of mandated services are essential to helping child survivors of violence heal from their trauma and seek justice in appropriate venues.

Community Change This is a long-term process (up to two years), which uses facilitated conversations among community members—usually 40 to 60 participants—over 20 or more sessions. Through dialogue, community members explore the beliefs, norms, and traditional practices that support or challenge their community's progress in improving the well-being of children. As the process progresses, participants are empowered to develop their own solutions and plans for social change. Community Change will be implemented in each of our three project areas.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Kenya ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990. It was among the first 20 countries to do so. The CRC is the most widely endorsed human rights treaty in history, with more than 190 states approving it.

It outlines the universal standards of care for all people under the age of 18. These include the rights to:

- Survival
- Develop to the fullest
- Protection from harmful influences, abuse, and exploitation
- Participate fully in family, cultural, and social life

While the CRC has transformed the way children are viewed, children around the world still face challenges to their rights, dignity, and lives.

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

This section discusses the outcomes the project will work toward and provides examples of specific activities that are part of our project plans.

OUTCOME 1: Communities, families, and children are educated about violence against children, including FGM, to help prevent it, and targeted schools are upgraded to child-friendly schools.

We will work in two significant, related areas to achieve this outcome: child protection and education improvements.

Child protection Community members will learn that abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence are gross violations of a child's right to protection from harm. Trainings and awareness-raising activities will focus on child protection issues prevalent in the project areas, such as FGM, child marriage, and other illegal acts against children.

We will empower children to understand how they are at risk of violence and how to protect themselves from harm through children’s clubs and life-skills training in schools. Radio talk shows and dramas highlighting child protection concerns will reach adults and children in our project areas.

Vulnerable children and youth, including youth with disabilities, will be able to attend school because the project will provide scholarships for formal education.

Youth and families facing severe economic hardship will receive assistance in producing income. Vocational training and business resources—such as animals, farming tools, seeds, and sewing machines—will be provided to youth who are at risk including youth with disabilities, impoverished families, and reformed circumcisers.

This range of support will allow the project to respond directly to specific needs in helping vulnerable children attend school and keeping girls and boys safe. Also, circumcisers who no longer perform FGM and thereby relinquish their livelihoods will be helped to find alternative sources of income.

Child-Friendly Schools

The end goal of the construction work is to ensure child-friendly schools. A child-friendly school is a structurally sound one with desks and chairs, separate latrines for girls and boys, and basic teaching and learning materials, including chalkboards, textbooks, and visual aids (such as posters, diagrams, and pictures.).

Administrators, teachers, and/or parents receive training on school management to ensure a gender-sensitive, inclusive school that welcomes girls and boys. Environmentally friendly investments—such as gardens or tree planting on school grounds—enhance the learning atmosphere.



Students at Tiptet Primary School learn in classrooms constructed by the Kenya Child Protection Program.

Education facility improvements and improved learning We are committed to providing quality facilities for children in five targeted schools. These modern structures will signify the value of education as something worthy of investment, time, and attention and will be a source of pride for the community. We also will help children in our targeted schools improve their reading, writing, and math skills.

Activities planned include the following.

Child protection

- Involve 212 chiefs, county assembly members, faith leaders, village elders, and community members in Community Change groups.
- Educate key community members about child protection laws, including the FGM Prohibition Act.
- Use radio talk shows and dramatic presentations in public settings to highlight child protection concerns identified by the communities, share information about psychosocial support services for child survivors, and publicize the toll-free number (116) for reporting violence against children.
- Establish or strengthen children’s assemblies, school-based children’s clubs, and ADP-based children’s committees so these groups can provide venues for children to develop life skills, learn risks, and become aware of how to stay safe and seek help.
- Train 60 World Vision staff members, government of Kenya children’s officers, and teachers to lead children’s assemblies, clubs, and committees.
- Empower children to build their confidence, public speaking abilities, and leadership skills through participation in national-level events such as Day of the African Child, the Kenya Children’s Assembly, and the biannual Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) reporting process. The CRC process gives youth opportunities to speak with government officials about child protection laws and policies—their effectiveness as well as ways they have failed to offer protection. Children also can recommend changes.



The girls above are shown taking part in an alternative rite of passage to FGM. World Vision supports girls' participation in alternative rites as well as teaching boys about their responsibilities as they grow into adulthood, which include respecting women and girls.

Girls' alternative rites consist of trainings and a celebratory ceremony. In the trainings, male and female speakers coach the girls on how to say no to FGM and emphasize the importance of focusing on their education.

Boys' alternative rites teach about the dangers of early marriage for boys and girls and the dangers of FGM for girls. They also encourage boys to stand up against family and cultural pressures to marry girls who have undergone FGM.

- Use the Ministry of Education curriculum to conduct school-based life-skills education—teaching children about their rights, child protection, child marriage, FGM, and HIV and AIDS.
- Host participation of 1,600 girls and boys in sex-segregated alternative rites of passage.
- Fund formal education scholarships for children who are vulnerable to FGM, other violence, or child marriage, or children with disabilities.
- Provide income-generation assistance such as business resources for families whose children are vulnerable to FGM, other violence, or child marriage, or who have children with disabilities.
- Fund vocational training scholarships for youth who are vulnerable to FGM, other violence, or child marriage, or youth who have disabilities.
- Provide income-generation assistance, such as business resources, to youth who are vulnerable to FGM, other violence, or child marriage, or youth with disabilities.
- Fund vocational training scholarships and income opportunities for reformed circumcisers.

Education

- Build 65 school structures
- Support participation of 60 teachers in training on literacy curriculum development and delivery, provided by Kenya's Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology
- Facilitate school visits from government of Kenya quality assurance officers to ensure effective teaching, learning, and management in the schools
- Arrange for teachers, school officials, parents, and students to make learning visits to better-performing schools
- Host inter-school writing and debate competitions for 240 students
- Conduct community reading camps in rural areas for 310 children

School construction details New school facilities will afford children a safe environment and quality learning spaces and encourage them in their education. Private, gender-segregated latrines will give girls an extra incentive to remain in school after they begin menstruation. Dormitories will offer sound, dignified, school-based housing, which provides protection and contributes to improved retention and graduation rates. At the targeted girls' schools, this means safe access to school for those highly vulnerable to abuse in their home environment. At Morpus Primary, a new dormitory for boys will replace the current temporary metal structure that has no bathroom facilities. Keeping boys in school prevents them from being inducted into the typical male profession of nomadic cattle herding, which often embroils boys in illegal cattle rustling and clashes over stolen cattle.

The improvements will help ensure quality staff as well. Modern, clean buildings are known to attract qualified administrators and teachers who desire to focus their energies on school management and student development, rather than failing infrastructure. New staff housing will be an added incentive for teachers to come to the schools and stay.

The 65 planned structures will be built at five schools, as shown below:

Area	School	Admin. Wing	Staff Housing Unit	VIP Latrine	Water Tank	Septic Tank	Solar Panels	Classroom	Dormitory	Science Laboratory	Total Structures Per School
Marich Pass	Morpus Primary								1		1
Marich Pass	St. Elizabeth Girls Secondary		12		1				2		15
Orwa	Mtelo Girls Secondary	1	6	8	1	1	1	4	1	1	24
Sook	St. Catherine Girls Secondary		6		1			5		2	14
Sook	Tipet Primary		6		1	1	1	1	1		11
Total Per Structure Type		1	30	8	4	2	2	10	5	3	65

OUTCOME 2: Communities, churches, and government protect children from violence, including FGM, and provide services to child survivors.

Reporting crimes and accessing services for children In working toward this outcome, we will focus on people and structures mandated by government and the laws of Kenya to protect the rights and welfare of children. We also will raise awareness of child protection issues among local leaders, faith leaders, and the broader community so they help ensure that children are protected and that child survivors of violence receive assistance.

Through project activities, people will learn how to report incidents of violence against children, including FGM. They also will be empowered to advocate for delivery of mandated government services, including education, counseling, medical care, and legal assistance for child survivors and their families.

Our efforts will reach Area Advisory Councils (which are responsible for children’s welfare programs and for promoting awareness of child rights), faith leaders (especially those participating in Channels of Hope for Child Protection), and others in the community.

Birth registration Because birth registration is foundational to protecting children, we will partner with government agencies to increase public awareness and to assist in registering more children.

Activities planned include the following.

- Assess the reporting and referral skills of police officers, healthcare professionals, and other social service providers
- Conduct capacity-building activities, including lessons in Citizen Voice and Action, for 90 people responsible for protecting children (police officers, healthcare professionals, and social service providers)
- Convene meetings of community leaders, local government staff, and other child protection stakeholders to identify gaps in reporting incidents of violence against children and the delivery of education and social services
- Revise the government of Kenya’s guidelines and training manual for Area Advisory Councils
- Establish 36 thematic committees within Area Advisory Councils to focus on specific topics such as advocacy and legal issues

Birth Registration: Why It’s a Priority

World Vision recognizes that it is a fundamental human right that every child should be registered at birth. Birth registration is essential for providing a child with a legal identity and serves as a gateway to accessing services and providing legal protection from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Registration means proof—not only of identity, but of existence. A birth certificate is confirmation of a child’s nationality, place of birth, parentage, and age.

World Vision believes that every child should have her or his birth registered immediately or as soon as possible after birth.

- Hold Channels of Hope for Child Protection workshops for 300 pastors and key congregation representatives, who can then lead their congregations in child protection activities
- Train child protection volunteers from church congregations to report incidents of violence against children, including FGM, and refer child victims for services
- Launch a birth registration strategy focusing on home births
- Train child protection and health volunteers on the importance of birth registration and raise public awareness about birth registration
- Conduct 48 mobile birth registration clinics

OUTCOME 3: Child and youth survivors of violence, including FGM, receive counseling and education support, and families of survivors and youth survivors receive livelihood assistance.

Children recovering from abuse or violence will receive counseling support and help returning to school. To address the financial hardships facing survivors and their families, the project will provide livelihood assistance to youth survivors and the families of child and youth survivors in the form of vocational training and materials to start businesses.

Activities planned include the following:

- Fund formal education scholarships for child and youth survivors of FGM or other violence
- Provide income-generation assistance, such as business resources, to families whose children or youth are survivors of FGM or other violence
- Fund vocational training scholarships for youth survivors of FGM or other violence
- Provide income-generation assistance, such as business resources, to youth survivors of FGM or other violence
- Train caregivers (including health workers, volunteer children’s officers, teachers, and pastors) to provide crisis counseling to child and youth victims of violence, including FGM
- Train caregivers (including health workers, volunteer children’s officers, teachers, and pastors) to provide mid- and long-term counseling to child survivors
- Provide 160 child survivors with crisis counseling and 160 child survivors with mid- to long-term counseling

Child Protection System

A child protection system is a set of coordinated formal and informal elements working together to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and all forms of violence against children.

The Kenya Child Protection Project—like the prior Kenya program—will ensure the well-being of children, including their safety, by strengthening the systems designed to protect them. This approach addresses child protection holistically, emphasizes prevention, and reinforces the roles of those responsible for protecting children.

This includes families, churches, local leaders, schools, hospitals, police, courts, and government agencies, which World Vision equips and mobilizes to fill their roles more effectively. All children need a strong child protection system, but this is especially true of the most vulnerable.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Baseline and evaluations A baseline study will be conducted at the beginning of the project to determine current conditions against which future changes will be measured. World Vision will use focus groups, interviews, surveys, and other research methodologies to gather data for quantitative indicators that will be tracked throughout the life of the project.

The baseline data will be compared to data gathered during midterm and final evaluations to help determine progress toward the project’s goal and objectives. An external research agency will conduct the baseline study as well as the midterm and final evaluations.

Indicators We will measure changes (increase or decrease) in key indicators to assess the project's success. These include the following:

- Girls and boys who report living free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence over the past year
- Parents and caregivers who approve of FGM
- Parents and caregivers who report that one or more daughter(s) has undergone FGM
- Children and adolescents (ages 6 to 18) graduating from an alternative rite of passage
- Adults who would report a case of child abuse
- Adolescents who know how to report a case of violence against a child
- Children currently registered in a structured learning institution
- Mean scores in the government of Kenya's Certificate of Primary Education and Certificate of Secondary Education tests
- Functional Area Advisory Councils
- Faith leaders participating in Channels of Hope for Child Protection training workshops

CHRISTIAN COMMITMENTS

Proclaiming or witnessing to the good news of Christ is central to World Vision's identity and the purpose upon which the organization was founded. Because our Christian faith is the essence of who we are, we look to Christ for guidance in our work to see life in all its fullness become a reality for children, families, and communities. We seek to follow Christ's example by being the active, tangible expression of God's love to those we serve.

As Christians, we believe in the inherent dignity of all human beings. From its foundation to the plans for implementation, this project recognizes and upholds the value of every child as a child of God and deserving of safety and protection.

World Vision aspires for children to experience the love of God and their neighbors. Through Channels of Hope for Child Protection, faith leaders will be equipped to help families and communities celebrate children for who they are and become who God created them to be. By strengthening family and community awareness of children's vulnerability and need for protection, we will help children experience the love of their neighbors.

Local Churches Partner With Schools

Every government-supported school in Kenya has a local church providing its students with spiritual nurture. This includes the schools covered by the Kenya Child Protection Project.

Church-sponsored activities may include Bible studies; catechism, baptism, and confirmation classes; worship services; and activities led by volunteers such as ministers and Sunday school teachers.

World Vision is grateful for the role undertaken by local churches. It is important to note that their involvement is separate from the work of the Kenya Child Protection Project, and therefore World Vision does not receive any reporting from the churches on their activities.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Poverty, abuse, and lack of opportunity keep far too many Kenyan children from reaching their potential. We can do something about this.

The Kenya Child Protection Project builds on an earlier program in northwest Kenya that empowered families and communities to give children paths to a better life, particularly through increased access to school and changed attitudes toward girls. The current project continues to prioritize education by creating school environments that are safe and promote learning. We also are equipping government ministries, faith leaders, parents, service providers, local leaders, and community members to protect children from violence, including FGM, now and in the future.

At its heart, our project is about giving girls and boys the chance to flourish—at home, in school, and in their communities—and to reach their God-given potential.

We would be privileged to have you join us.

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

Vision Statement of the
World Vision Partnership



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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.