

CHILD PROTECTION



How this narrative is to be used?

This narrative is meant to be contextualized by the presenter/World Vision representative to their primary target audience. This document contains the key messages for each component of the graphic in a way that links to World Vision's wider programming framework.

Protection of girls and boys: World Vision's System's Approach



This graphic represents World Vision's Systems approach to the protection of girls and boys, which:

- uses **three foundational principles** (outer circle)
- works with **5 main actors** (arrow layer)
- emphasizes strengthening the **continuum of care** (prevention, response/protection, and restoration)

So that girls and boys are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence.

The **Graphic** summarizes and reinforces World Vision's

Theory of Change for Child Protection.

The **three foundational principles** in the outer circle highlight the key processes that World Vision uses to partner with the actors to reach the goal. Meaning, in all of our work to strengthen child protection with various actors, we:

- **BUILD CAPACITY** of actors and partners at all levels to perform their child protection responsibilities
- **STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION** between formal and informal actors to take action to strengthen child protection
Formal refers to statutory mandated systems and mechanisms to prevent and protect children from violence (e.g. government services). Informal refers to any protection or prevention mechanisms either mandated by the customary laws and norms or resulting out of civic actions (e.g. grass roots groups, traditional leadership structures, churches, faith communities, schools, youth/children’s groups, private sector and other civil society structures).
- **ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES** of violence against children such as poverty, migration, chronic illness in the family, combined with attraction of quick income opportunities (e.g. mining, garment factories).

To do this, World Vision works at **all levels of the ecological model** of the child or protective environment of the child. Beginning with children themselves, World Vision:

- ✚ **EMPOWERS GIRLS and BOYS** through positive youth development & asset building
to be influential protection actors in their environment
- ✚ **STRENGTHENS FAMILIES** through parenting supports and services
so that families respect, nurture and protect all girls and boys
- ✚ **PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITIES** through sustained dialogue & collective action
to promote positive norms and protective behavior toward girls and boys
- ✚ **CATALYZES FAITH COMMUNITIES** through mobilization and capacity building
to be safe for boys and girls, and transform social norms that cause harm to them
- ✚ **INFLUENCES GOVERNMENTS** through social accountability at all levels
to take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of girls and boys

At all these levels, there is a **focus on the most vulnerable children** and their families.

We want to work with all these actors to address Violence Against Children issues across the continuum of care so that there are interventions that:

- **Prevent** the issues from happening
- **Respond** to issues and protect children when they occur
- Help **Restore** children who are affected by such issues to a state of well-being

While there is a focused result for each actor, in reality, it is important that all actors are empowered to work together the following **DOMAINS OF CHANGE** to impact child protection issues:

- **Improved governance / accountability**
This may include changes to laws or policy or improving accountability mechanisms.
- **Functioning services and support mechanisms**
This refers to both the formal and informal systems and the interaction between the two. It also refers to ensuring that the systems support across the continuum of care to address prevention, protection and restoration of children. Key interventions include reporting and referral mechanism as well as support to the most vulnerable families
- **Changing harmful attitudes, beliefs, values, behaviors, practices and norms**
This also includes promoting positive attitudes, values, behaviors, etc. that can support the protection of children.
- **Building children’s resilience, life skills and voice**
This refers to strengthening the ability of children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, to protect themselves and their peers and to be active advocates for addressing violence issues that affect them.
- **Addressing other multi-sectoral root causes**

At the centre, WV’s Child Protection programming seeks **to protect girls and boys from all forms of violence** (as defined by Convention on the Rights of the Child¹) as a critical contribution to child well-being.

¹ General Comment 13, on Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: **“Definition of violence.** For the purposes of the present general comment, “violence” is understood to mean “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse” as listed in article 19, paragraph 1, of the Convention.”