



It takes a world
to end violence against children

World Vision 



**Advocacy for Child Rights and Protection in Latin American and the Caribbean
Contributions to Ending Violence against Children**

2014 – 2016

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. In nearly 100 countries, World Vision staff is committed to working with the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

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INTRODUCTION

Every year violence affects more than one billion children, in every country and every community. Violence against children takes a disastrous toll on the physical, mental and social development of these one billion children.¹ It can have life-long effects, not only for the child, but also for their family, community and society. The most vulnerable children are at greatest risk of suffering violence and its devastating effects.

World Vision has a long history of standing with and for children in tough places. We strive for the world's most vulnerable and marginalised to experience childhood in a protective environment where they can flourish. Child protection, an essential foundation for all other development work, is our number one priority in Latin America and the Caribbean in our efforts to end violence against children.

Advocacy is an essential approach of World Vision's efforts to strengthen child protection in Latin America and the Caribbean and eradicate violence against children. Advocacy is a means by which we challenge and seek to improve policies, systems, structures, practices and norms and attitudes, with partners including children, adolescents and youth, which make it difficult for children, especially the most vulnerable, to experience life in all its fullness. With this strong emphasis on advocacy and child protection, 14 World Vision national offices² and thousands of communities have successfully influenced the development, passage, implementation and monitoring of public policies affecting children and adolescents, and their families, schools and communities. This report attempts to summarize and highlight key achievements in this area in the period of 2014-2016 relying on the annual Partnership Strategic Measures reports, an externally validated and audited reporting process.



- 1 S. Hillis, J. Mercy, A. Amobi, et al., 'Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates', *Pediatrics* 137/3 (2016): e20154079.
- 2 Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru.

WORLD VISION'S APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH ADVOCACY

World Vision defines violence against children as all forms of physical, sexual, and mental violence, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, harm or abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour, harmful practices, such as child marriage.

In order to protect children from violence, World Vision uses a systemic approach to strengthening child protection systems, and those elements and actors, formal and non-formal that influence directly and indirectly in the life of children and adolescents and their well-being. World Vision defines child protection as all means that are taken to prevent and respond to exploitation, neglect, abuse and all other forms of violence that affect children and adolescents.

In this systems approach to strengthening child protection and ending violence against children, one key actor is the State; the national government responsible to uphold international standards and laws to protect children and adolescents within their territory, as well as regional, municipal and/or local governments. Our advocacy efforts allow us to influence the State, through sharing best practices and emerging evidence, providing technical support, and by mobilizing and lobbying with citizens, including children, adolescents and youth.

Figure 1. Protection of girls and boys



Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31: 8-9

The data presented in this report was derived from the annual Partnership Strategic Measure reports presented by the 14 National Offices from 2014 – 2016. These reports were subsequently validated and audited by external consultants to ensure integrity and consistency. National Offices provided information on changes to government policies, laws and budgets, the number and description of children and adolescents affected by the changes, communities’ advocacy efforts and contributions to achieving changes, and evidence of World Vision’s contribution to achieving the changes.

For the purposes of this report, the Partnership Strategic Measure reports were analyzed according to new laws and policies, improved enforcement of pre-existing laws and policies, and budget changes at local and national levels, communities advocating for change, and policy and legislation changes related to complex issues affecting the most vulnerable children. During the analysis, a guiding principle of conservatism was applied to ensure underestimating rather than overestimating. Attention was given to the numbers of children and adolescents affected and the specific geographic areas where the changes occurred in order to avoid duplication or double counting. Regardless, it is important to note that there may be some duplications due to overlap between children and adolescents benefiting from changes at local and national levels and over several consecutive years.

Table 1. Number of children and adolescents for whom World Vision contributed to policy change or improved policy enforcement for child protection between 2013 and 2016

Country	Number of children 0 to 18 and adolescents impacted
Bolivia	4,849,480
Brasil	66,266,842
Chile	43,939
Colombia	15,493,017
Costa Rica	1,310,983
Dominican Republic	4,164,795
Ecuador	6,174,342
El Salvador	2,547,532
Guatemala	8,168,715
Haiti	4,728,097
Honduras	3,722,798
Mexico	16,847,804
Nicaragua	2,717,816
Peru	10,404,271
Total	147,440,431

Table 2. Percentage of total population of children and adolescents for whom World Vision contributed to policy change or improved policy enforcement between 2013 and 2016

Country	%
Bolivia	100%
Brasil	100%
Chile	1%
Colombia	100%
Costa Rica	100%
Dominican Republic	100%
Ecuador	100%
El Salvador	100%
Guatemala	100%
Haiti	100%
Honduras	100%
Mexico	100%
Nicaragua	100%
Peru	100%
Total	93%



INFLUENCING NATIONAL POLICY TO PROTECT CHILDREN

While every country in Latin America and the Caribbean has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and a vast majority of them have codified the CRC into their constitutions or legislative frameworks, most countries are just beginning to operationalize this in policy, which involves establishing or adapting national programmes, boosting investment in social sectors, especially those that reach the greatest number of vulnerable children, including child participation in decision-making processes and changing attitudes on how to address violence against children. Most States in the region lack data collection systems and information to enable them to appropriately plan and modify strategies, as well as monitoring mechanisms and evaluation of commitments made and programmes in the process of being developed.

World Vision influences national policy to protect children through a variety of tactics and strategies including conducting original research, developing public policy and legislation reforms, lobbying of decision makers, engaging and leading coalitions, sensitization and media outreach, and mobilizations of civil society. Between 2014 and 2016, World Vision's advocacy work affected millions of children and adolescents successfully by contributing to new and amended national policies that address the root causes of vulnerability.

Table 3. Total number of children by country for whom World Vision contributed to policy change or improved policy enforcement

Country	2014	2015	2016
Bolivia	3,460,545	4,849,480	3,460,545
Brasil	66,266,842	-	7,500,000
Chile	-	-	-
Colombia	15,493,017	15,493,017	-
Costa Rica	1,310,983	416,459	1,310,983
Dominican Republic	1,091,737	2,157,167	2,800,000
Ecuador	-	-	-
El Salvador	82,476	2,547,532	2,201,807
Guatemala	200,728	-	8,168,715
Haiti	2,432,950	4,261,900	3,600,000
Honduras	3,659,424	3,722,798	3,722,798
Mexico	9,671,897	-	9,957,686
Nicaragua	1,627,480	2,717,816	-
Peru	689,252	-	10,404,271
TOTAL	105,987,331	36,166,169	53,126,805

Highlights of national policy changes to which World Vision had a significant contribution

Prohibiting corporal punishment: PERU

Corporal punishment is a common practice for raising children and adolescents in Peru. World Vision Peru, in consultation with children and adolescents and in partnership with other civil society organizations, successfully lead advocacy efforts for the approval of the legislation against the use of corporal punishment. In December 2015, Peru was the ninth country in the Americas to approve legislation, Law 30403, to prohibit the use of physical and humiliating punishment against children and adolescents. Following the law's approval, World Vision Peru continues to work in partnership with both civil society and the government authorities to bring increased awareness to the law and strategize on its implementation and monitoring.

10,404,271

Barring child marriage: GUATEMALA

Research revealed that marriage in Guatemala between the ages of 14 and 16 occurred between girls and older adult, without the girls' consent, as part of debt payment among families or the girl's family's intention to receive some remuneration. Poverty had caused families to engage in this practice for generations. In 2015, World Vision worked in collaboration with key civil society organizations to successfully advocate for the passage of a law (Decree-law 8-2015) which increases the legal minimum age of marriage to 18 years old for both girls and boys and eliminates parental power to authorize the marriage of daughters and sons, thereby prohibiting child/forced marriage.

1,776,352

Creating schools free from bullying³: HONDURAS

Forty percent of children and adolescents report having been victims of bullying according to a study by UNICEF. World Vision increased awareness of the draft legal proposal to gain support among civil society and key coalitions. World Vision leveraged this support when advocating before Congress and the Legislative Committee on Education. These efforts supported the approval of the law against bullying was approved by Congress in November 2014. This legislation establishes mechanisms within the education system to respond to bullying and violence against children. It also defines strategies for preventing and responding to violence in schools.

2,134,820

Promoting rights-based adoption: HAITI

Haiti represents 6.5 % of international adoptions. World Vision supported the national government in modernizing the national child protection system and reforming the adoption laws to take into account child rights and protection. World Vision advocated for consideration of children and adolescents and their rights, especially to family. The reformed law was initially published in 2013 and then finalized in 2015. World Vision worked in coalition with UNICEF, IOM and the leading governmental agency to make recommendations to the parliamentarians on the legislation for rights based adoption and advocate for its passage by Senate. Following the legislation's approval, World Vision has provided technical input and supported the validation of mechanisms to enforce the legislation.

32,000

3 The anti-bullying campaign, "Stop Bullying, Speak up!" which ran Latin America and the Caribbean since 2012 was led by the Cartoon Network, World Vision and Plan International. The campaign has helped raise awareness and provide practical tools to prevent and reduce this complex problem. World Vision has been working in Honduras and across the region through all 14 national offices, and with children, parents, and child protection specialists, and with ministries of education and local school districts.

Protecting children and adolescents from human trafficking: BOLIVIA

The majority of human trafficking victims are children and adolescents. World Vision Bolivia together with other NGOs, advocated for the successful passage of the Comprehensive Law 263 to Combat Human Trafficking in 2014. World Vision was one of two civil society organizations selected to participate in the national task force for developing and implementing the legislation. World Vision provided technical support in the proposal and has facilitated its dissemination and implementation in coordination with national and local governments and civil society organizations.

4,849,480

Building a system that protects children and adolescents: MEXICO

Mexico needed to improve and expand its child protection system. Representing more than 40 civil society organizations and working in coalition of Legal Departments including the Interior Ministry and the National System for Comprehensive Family Development, World Vision provided critical information and data to inform the legislation's creation during 2014- 2015. World Vision successfully advocated during the legislative process and presented recommendations, ensuring the passage of Child Right's Protection Law which mandates the installation and monitoring of a national child protection system and the guarantee the rights of children and adolescents. As the government has begun the installation and operationalization of the system, World Vision has provided technical support especially at the local level.

9,957,686

As national and regional studies have identified⁴, national governments in the region often have strong legislation and even policies approved, but their effective implementation sometimes lags behind. As a part of World Vision's system approach, there is increased attention given to developing strategic partnerships to strengthen child protection and the child protection system's implementation and coordination.

Table 4. Number of children and adolescents for whom World Vision contributed to policy enforcement

Country	2014	2015	2016
Bolivia	4,169,332	-	-
Brasil	-	-	7,500,000
Chile	4,664,198	-	-
Colombia	4,325,774	3,392,971	3,300,000
Costa Rica	1,310,983	-	1,310,983
Dominican Republic	1,082,426	255,606	-
Ecuador	152,000	6,174,342	-
El Salvador	2,547,532	2,547,532	2,201,807
Guatemala	-	-	1,776,352
Haiti	4,261,900	32,000	3,600,000
Honduras	2,500,000	-	-
Mexico	730,026	-	-
Nicaragua	1,627,480	2,717,816	2,672,634
Peru	-	-	-
TOTAL	27,371,651	15,120,267	22,361,776

4 World Vision Latin America and the Caribbean, Child Protection Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean A National and Community Level Study across 10 Countries (2014). <http://www.wvi.org/ChildProtectionLAC>.

Highlights of national policy changes related to the child protection system to which World Vision had a significant contribution

Country	National Policy, Code, etc.	World Vision Contribution	Number of CA affected
Bolivia	Code for the Rights of Children and Adolescents	In consultation with children and adolescents, World Vision provided technical guidance and support to guarantee that the Code supports the minimum conditions for children and adolescents and the realization of their rights. World Vision Bolivia has worked with the Ministry of Justice to develop a plan to support the implementation revised code.	4,849,480
Dominican Republic	National Roadmap	In coalition with civil society organizations and government, World Vision monitored the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and provided critical information for the development of the national roadmap for preventing and responding to violence against children. World Vision advocated before external political stakeholders for the adoption of this public policy and continues to work in coalition and coordination with communities to monitor and enforce the policy.	4,164,795
El Salvador	Law for Integrated Protection for Children and Adolescents	In collaboration with civil society and government, World Vision contributed to the improved enforcement of the Law for Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents by advocating for and supporting the design, implementation and monitoring local policies that mandate the installation of local child protection systems. World Vision also advocated for the prioritization of resources to successfully install and enforce the policy. World Vision continues to provide technical guidance to Local Rights Committees and actively participates in the National Technical Roundtable that establishes, coordinates and monitors the municipal committees at national level.	2,547,532
Honduras	Direction for Children, Adolescents and Family (Entity responsible for Child Protection System)	In 2014, the existing child protection system was dismantled by an Executive Decree that created the Direction for Infants, Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF). World Vision advocated and provided close accompaniment to the federal government in structuring and establishing mechanisms for coordination for the new child protection system and for the integration of the new Direction for child protection.	3,659,424

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS LOCALLY

In many countries in the region, child protection systems fail to reach the most vulnerable children at the local level. Indeed, consultations with communities and partners demonstrate that despite the number and strength of national laws and policies, many are not applied at the local level or fail to respond to the local needs and realities. There is often a lack of awareness of the existing laws and policies. Children and adolescents, their partners and community actors are often unaware of laws that should protect and benefit them. At the local level community members play a critical

role in strengthening the safety and protection of children and adolescents, but they do not always coordinate and collaborate with government authorities or representatives or have the ability to influence decision-makers. World Vision supports communities, children, adolescents and youth, in engaging in local level advocacy by incorporating approaches in multi-sectoral programming. Models such as Citizen Voice and Action, and Child Protection Advocacy allow community members including children, adolescents and youth to evaluate public services, engage with decision makers, and impact local decisions that affect their lives. Programming and local advocacy efforts also inform national advocacy work to ensure that national public policies, programs, and public investment benefit the most vulnerable.

Table 5. Total number of children and adolescents for whom World Vision contributed to policy change at the local level

Country	2014	2015	2016
Bolivia	75,060	1,150,883	110,974
Brasil	280,958	-	-
Chile	-	43,939	-
Colombia	-	2,470,769	3,300,000
Costa Rica	-	19,356	19,891
Dominican Republic	239,536	-	-
Ecuador	-	109,690	860,805
El Salvador	52,618	-	1,400,000
Guatemala	262,683	126,100	-
Haiti	-	-	54,932
Honduras	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-
Nicaragua	-	23,692	250,239
Peru	1,150,153	1,088,025	-
TOTAL	2,061,008	5,032,454	5,996,841

Table 6. Number of children and adolescents whom World Vision contributed to improved policy enforcement at the local level

Country	2014	2015	2016
Bolivia	-	3,363	125,478
Brasil	88,275	296,448	211,006
Chile	29,992	-	-
Colombia	29,000	264,772	12,570
Costa Rica	-	-	9,591
Dominican Republic	24,731	-	-
Ecuador	-	26,950	34,726
El Salvador	-	169,591	-
Guatemala	644,508	-	-
Haiti	-	-	-
Honduras	-	-	-
Mexico	-	1,169	16,847,804
Nicaragua	-	-	-
Peru	-	349,461	-
TOTAL	816,506	1,111,754	17,241,175

Highlights of World Vision’s contributions to local level policy changes

Country	National Policy, Code, etc.	World Vision Contribution	Number of children and adolescents affected
Dominican Republic	Municipal Directories and Local Boards for Child Protection and Rights Restoration	World Vision worked closely with the governmental entity responsible for implementing and coordinating the child protection system, the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI), to strengthen and expand the child protection system’s installation and coordination at the local level. World Vision’s support and collaboration with communities was critical in expanding the installation of local structures that make up the child protection system. Municipal Directories and Local Boards were established to support the protection and restoration of rights for children and adolescents. This collaboration provides the installation of local protection structures throughout the 158 municipalities of the country. World Vision has worked with civil society and government to establish structures in more than 34 municipalities and continues to make progress in new communities.	255,606
El Salvador	Municipal Policies	World Vision led the technical design process for local child protection policies that involved a participatory assessment, including children and adolescents. This guarantees that the policies respond to the needs or gaps that exist for children and adolescent and the fulfillment of their rights.	52,618
Guatemala	Municipal Offices for Child and Adolescent Protection	World Vision worked in close collaboration with UNICEF to collect data on children and adolescents and the protection system. The information was used to influence municipal governments to establish policies for child protection and ensure their implementation with the support of World Vision and the investment of resources.	907,191

COMMUNITIES ADVOCATING FOR CHILD PROTECTION

World Vision empowers communities, including children, adolescents and youth, to directly address the policies and practices that perpetuate violence against children in the places where they live.

World Vision local level advocacy efforts are driven by communities. World Vision's leading approaches to local advocacy include: Citizen Voice and Action, Child Protection and Advocacy, and organized groups and networks of children, adolescents and youth.

Citizen Voice and Action helps communities identify the promises that the government has made to them, and empowers them to ensure government fulfills those promises. Communities monitor government performance and improve the institutions and services which children and adolescents depend on for their well-being.

Child Protection and Advocacy helps communities ensure that children and adolescents are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and all forms of violence against children. Specifically, World Vision works to enhance both the formal and non-formal elements of the child protection system at the community level. This approach strengthens the protective environment for children and adolescents, including developing children and adolescents' resilience and life skills through participation. Together, these approaches help all children improve their well-being and fulfill their rights to protection.

Table 7. Percentage of communities where World Vision operates⁵ advocating children and adolescents

Country	%
Bolivia	100%
Brasil	88%
Chile	81%
Colombia	94%
Costa Rica	100%
Dominican Republic	84%
Ecuador	81%
El Salvador	100%
Guatemala	94%
Haiti	20%
Honduras	79%
Mexico	83%
Nicaragua	91%
Peru	93%
Total	78%

Communities against the Criminalization of Youth: **BRASIL**

In partnership with civil society, World Vision successfully mobilized communities to refuse the bill proposing the reduction of the age of criminal responsibility to 16 years old. World Vision and the youth movement, MJPOP, increased awareness about the bill and mobilized communities, especially churches and faith leaders and networks to advocate before Parliament and present a petition against the criminalization of youth through the reduced age of criminal responsibility in 2014.

5 For the purposes of data collection and analysis, each "community" is actually World Vision's operational model known as an Area Development Programme. These are distinct geographical areas made up of many communities, typically where beneficiaries live and work, varying in size, context and population, where World Vision partners with local stakeholders to improve the well-being of children through multiple-sector projects aimed at the root causes of issues that negatively impact children. Therefore each Area Development Programme actually represent many communities.

INCREASING INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN'S PROTECTION

In order for policies and legislation to be effective in protecting children and adolescents, adequate long-term and predictable investment in child protection system strengthening must be made by governments as well as civil society organizations. For several years, World Vision has campaigned and advocated for increases in budgetary allocations and expenditures in key sectors and programmes that impact children and adolescents.

World Vision has successfully contributed to increase budgeting for the implementation and enforcement of policies and legislation that support children and adolescents. Between 2014 and 2016, World Vision has contributed to increase budgetary allocation to ensure the fulfillment of the rights and protection of children and adolescents in all 14 countries. Two highlights of successful efforts to increase investment include:



National Investment in Child Protection: **COLOMBIA**

In 2014, World Vision collaborated with civil society to advocate for a National Development Plan that considered children and adolescents and allocated sufficient budget to support it. World Vision advocated with the Alliance for Children based on the recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review in regards to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This ensured the inclusion of child protection themes in the plan, such as violence against the children and early childhood, and allowed for significant investment in children and adolescents, especially through education.

Local Investments in Child Protection: **GUATEMALA**

Between 2014 and 2016, World Vision successfully advocated for child protection groups to be officially mandated in more than 30 municipalities throughout the country. World Vision Guatemala provided the technical training plus educational and promotional materials, while the municipalities provide the physical space, funding and coordination of Municipal Office for the Protection of Children and Adolescents. On average, municipalities invested approximately \$20,000 for the establishment of the office. These offices promote awareness of child rights and carry out preventative and response actions in network with other key actors and organizations. World Vision continues to provide guidance and support.

COMPLEX ISSUES AFFECTING MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND WORLD VISION'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELATED LEGISLATION AND POLICY

A range of factors including social, economic, climatic, etc. have a profound effect on children and adolescents and the realization of their rights. Complex issues such as child labour, human trafficking, migration, corporal punishment, natural disasters, structural violence and school violence affect children and adolescents, families and communities throughout the region. World Vision National Offices are advocating on these issues to establish and enforce policies and practices that support the protection and well-being of children and adolescents, especially those most vulnerable to these complex issues.

Child Labour

HONDURAS

World Vision worked with the media to collect information on the worst forms of child labour and bring awareness and pressure for the reactivation of the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor which is responsible for the prevention and response to child labour among children and adolescents most vulnerable.

BOLIVIA

In accordance with the Ombudsman, World Vision supported the Municipal Government of Camiri in developing a proposal for a law to eliminate child labour and protect children and young workers by implementing plans, programs and projects for those most vulnerable to violent work situations

BRASIL

In dialogue with government and civil society organisations, World Vision provided information and technical guidance for the development and implementation of the Child Labor Eradication Program.

ECUADOR

In consultation with communities, World Vision provided support to develop a roadmap proposal according to the Ordinance for the Eradication of Child Labor in the Riobamba municipalities.

Corporal Punishment

BRASIL

After 4 years of advocacy in network with others, World Vision influenced the Brazilian Parliament to enact the law called Child Bernardo which forbids the degrading or cruel ill-treatment of children and promotes other means for positive childrearing.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

As part of the national coalition, World Vision Dominican Republic asked the state to adopt a comprehensive law that addressed all forms of violence children and adolescents, including the prohibition of corporal or physical punishment in all contexts. Mobilization led to the prohibition of corporal punishment as a mandate within the Dominican Republic's National Roadmap for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children. World Vision continues to advocate with partners for the explicit prohibition of corporal punishment.

MEXICO

In consultation, World Vision diagnosed local laws relevant to the prohibition of corporal punishment to urge Senate members from 16 states to prohibit corporal punishment and protect children and adolescents vulnerable to the domestic violence.

NICARAGUA

World Vision provided special training to judges and local justice facilitators on the prohibition of physical punishment as part Article 280 which prohibits corporal punishment according to the Family Code, Law 870.

PERU

Law 30403 prohibits the use of physical and humiliating punishment against children (See page 6.)

Gender

- ECUADOR** World Vision supported the socialization and validation of the draft proposal for the law for the Eradication of Violence against Women, Girls and Adolescents.
- GUATEMALA** World Vision coordinated with communities to successfully advocate for the municipal security pact for gender equity, guaranteeing that women and girls are valued and their rights are protected.
- NICARAGUA** In consultation, World Vision provided technical expertise for the development of Law 779, the integral law against violence against women, which establishes procedures to protect and respond to victims of gender based violence.
- HAITI** With the Ministry for Women, World Vision contributed to the validation process of the draft law on violence against women and children.

Human Trafficking

- BOLIVIA** Comprehensive Law 263 to Combat Human Trafficking (See page 7)
- HAITI** World Vision worked in coalition with UNICEF, IOM and the responsible government agency to provide recommendations and advocate before parliamentarians for the successful passage of legislation against human trafficking. World Vision also influenced the government to allocate funds to the National Committee against human Trafficking.
- ECUADOR** In collaboration with communities, World Vision monitored the Trafficking Cantonal Ordinance of Colta and has promoted the continuity and coordination of the ordinance's implementation.
- NICARAGUA** World Vision was part of the commission that drafted the law against human trafficking. World Vision ensured that a child rights approach was included in the approved draft. After the successful approval of the legislation, World Vision worked in consultation with children and adolescents as well as legislators and judges to develop friendly version to support laws implementation and enforcement.

Migration

- EL SALVADOR** In collaboration with civil society organizations, World Vision conducted an exploratory study on reasons for migration among children and youth in 27 municipalities. The information collected was used to influence governments in developing a response for returning children and adolescents. World Vision ensured a mechanisms for coordination among key child protection actors and organizations and agencies was included in the response plan.
- GUATEMALA** World Vision has supported coordination among local actors and authorities in the Western Highlands to develop a response to the unaccompanied migration of children and youth. With the local governments and communities, a departmental board for unaccompanied migrant children was established in Huehuetenango.
- HONDURAS** World Vision conducted advocacy before the President of the Republic and First Lady and the Direction for Children, Adolescents and Families (DINAF) to define guidelines to respond to unaccompanied migration and reunite children and youth with their families. World Vision supported a media campaign in which children and young members of the National Network for Children and Youth advocated for policy change.

Disability

- EL SALVADOR** World Vision advocated before the national institute for rehabilitation to adopt the minimum standards and protocols for distributing wheelchairs to children and adolescents.
- HAITI** World Vision advocated for the enforcement of national legislation on the right of people living with handicaps. World Vision consulted with child and youth volunteers to develop a child friendly version of the law to support its socialization and implementation among children and youth.

Natural Disasters

- COLOMBIA** World Vision actively participates in networks and roundtable groups and discussions and advocated for plans and programs to protect and support the well-being of children in situations of disaster.
-
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** World Vision supported the coalition to advocate for a response to the flood at Lake Enriquillo, demanding an emergency response from the government to relocate the affected families.
-
- ECUADOR** World Vision led the National Table of Volunteering, bringing together 22 public and private organizations including United Nations Volunteers. World Vision coordinated the development of the Volunteer Regulation Proposal with 92 organizations, which was later presented to public institutions for approval.
-
- HONDURAS** In consultation with communities, World Vision collected information to advocate before municipalities on the crop loss.
- In communities and the need to prioritize vulnerable communities for assistance. An executive decree was approved which sought to improve outcomes in the drought areas through improving nutrition of children, education, local agricultural production, and food access.

School violence, including bullying

- BOLIVIA** World Vision supported the Municipal Government in Tiraque in developing an anti-bullying law that was approved.
-
- BRASIL** In consultation with communities, World Vision advocated before the State Department of Education and the Education Council for the approval of the plan for child protection commissions in 50 public schools in Fortaleza.
-
- COLOMBIA** World Vision participated in the review and revision of the National Law against school harassment and violence. World Vision contributed to the plan for its implementation.
-
- ECUADOR** World Vision worked as a convener, linking key child protection actors to analyze bullying and the child protection route.
- In coordination with actors, World Vision supported improvements to the route and its implementation along with the National Department of Justice.
-
- HONDURAS** Law against bullying (See page 6.)

Criminalization of CAY

- GUATEMALA** World Vision worked with civil society partners to advocate against the draft bill 4740 which sought to increase the penalties for children and adolescents in conflict with the law. World Vision supported a legal analysis of this initiative as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child in to order to successfully advocate against the bill.
-
- BRASIL** World Vision successfully mobilized communities to refuse a bill proposing to reduce the age of criminal responsibility to 16 years old. (See page 12.)

CONCLUSION

World Vision is proud of our contributions to the advancement of children's rights and protection in the three year period reviewed in this report. We have found advocacy to be an essential approach in our efforts to eradicate violence against children and strengthen child protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. We have contributed to improved policies, systems, structures and public investment along with countless partners and communities including children, adolescents and youth to have a real impact on child well-being.

Yet there is so much more to be done. The following recommendations are presented for World Vision's reflection as well as a call to action to our partners and communities:



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Utilise a broad-based approach to monitoring violence against children.**

Despite the quality programming by World Vision and others, violence against children remains a significant challenge. A long-term approach needs to be adopted. The cornerstone of an effective long-term approach is a nationwide system of surveillance that monitors violence against children. We must continue to partner with civil society and the international development community to advocate for and implement a national and regional system to monitor violence against children.

2. **Encourage the participation of children and adolescents in child protection system strengthening.**

Through World Vision and other organizations, children, adolescents and youth have contributed to reducing and preventing violence against children. The meaningful participation of children, adolescents and youth should be expanded in partnership with others to prevent violence against children and also monitor the effectiveness of such approaches using more robust designs.

3. **Increase investment in child protection.**

Governments, and child-focused or family-focused civil society organisations must allocate adequate long-term and predictable funding for child protection system strengthening. Efforts should be made to increase budgetary allocation and expenditure in key sectors and programmes that affect children and adolescents. Transparency and accountability of funds used for child protection system strengthening should be a shared priority between governments and civil society organisations.

4. **Support the improved implementation, coordination and monitoring of child protection policies and legal frameworks especially at the local level.**

There continues to be a gap between existent legislation and its implementation, especially in more rural or disenfranchised communities. Governments at national and subnational levels as well as civil society organisations should take steps to improve the quality and effectiveness of the child protection system in responding to the needs of children and adolescents at the community level. Increased involvement of national governments and regional bodies in the monitoring and management of the child protection system's functioning in accordance with the law is needed. This is most effective when conducted in coordination with communities and child-focused organisations and benchmarks are established and monitored.

5. **Improve access to and quality of support services.**

Efforts to end violence against children must include access to quality programs, service, and supports for children and adolescents who suffer violations or have perpetrated them. Civil society organisations as well as governments should collectively assess and monitor the adequacy of existing programs and services. If these supports are inadequate or not widely accessible, steps must be taken to fill these gaps. As World Vision demonstrated, there are opportunities for potential civil society–government collaborations to provide and coordinate services and resources.

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to end violence against children

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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.