

Activity 2: Child Protection Information Guide

Background Information

- Children experience poverty differently than adults do because of their vulnerability and lack of legal and economic status in society. How children are doing, in all aspects of their lives, reflects the overall health and development of the family, community, and society they live in. A community where children are valued and defended is a community that will thrive.
- Children tell World Vision that violence is the biggest concern affecting them today across all regions, nations, and economic contexts.
- If we don't end violence against children, we risk jeopardizing the progress and losing the investments made in child survival, health, and education, as well as overall economic development.
- By 2030, the world has pledged to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- World Vision believes that a world without violence against children is possible. Preventing and addressing violence against children is an urgent and complex task, but it is possible.

The Global Need

- Violence is the world's worst crime against children. It affects more than 1.7 billion children every year in every country, city, and community
- These are the forms of violence that World Vision is responding to (and widespread they are in the world).
 - Bullying
 - Online, children are also exposed to exploitation by adults and bullying by other children.
 - Child Labor
 - Of the estimated 168 million children engaged in child labor today, 85 million are being subjected to 'hazardous labor' which endangers their health and well-being or prevents them from gaining the skills and knowledge they need to have the brightest future possible.
 - Child Soldier
 - For tens of thousands (and maybe hundreds of thousands) of children, there is no real choice when it comes to joining armed groups. It's kill or be killed. They are promised education,

protection, and a future. Once they are involved, escaping is difficult and fraught with danger.

- Child Marriage
 - In 2016, an estimated 5.6 million girls under the age of 18 became child brides.
- Corporal Punishment
 - Although children experience many forms of violence, in most countries around the world, the primary form of violence comes from within the family.
- Refugees / Vulnerable kids
 - Children are the most vulnerable victims of conflict due to many factors. Besides being among the many civilian casualties during an armed conflict, children may be orphaned or separated from their families and become heads of households which leaves them vulnerable to forced labor, sexual exploitation, or recruitment in armed forces.
- Abuse
 - Poverty, lack of education, poor gender relations, and dysfunctional families can make children vulnerable to trafficking and sexual abuse.

THE NEED STATS (for easy reference)

- Violence against children affects more than 1.7 billion children every year, in every community and every country.
- The impact of violence goes beyond the individual children, affecting families and communities, slowing economic development and eroding human and social capital.
- More than three quarters (76%) of people around the world know of a child victim of violence.
- Of the estimated 168 million children engaged in child labor today, 85 million are being subjected to 'hazardous labor' which endangers their health and well-being or prevents them from gaining the skills and knowledge
- An estimated 535 million children, a quarter of the world's children, live in countries affected by conflict or disasters. Nearly 50 million have been forcibly displaced from their homes, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and violence.
- More than 152 million children globally are involved in child labor, and over 70% of them work in agriculture, farming things like coffee, palm oil, and avocados.

The World Vision Response [How you can help]

- The solutions to end violence against children clearly exist; we know this because we see them in action.
- Violence against children is complex and so is the solution. Holistic approaches, which look at every aspect of a child's life and every sector that has an influence on their life, can address the diverse causes of violence and are key to ending it.
- We engage and work with everyone who has a responsibility to protect children, starting with families and faith communities and extending to teachers, schools, local and traditional leaders, hospitals, police, government agencies, and courts.
- We don't just help children out of dangerous situations, we work with and among communities to address the root causes of violence such as poverty and social stigma that often lead to abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and other forms of violence against children.
- World Vision is relentlessly advocating for an end to violence against children; highlighting it when it occurs and holding those responsible to account.
- We work to prevent violence wherever it occurs so no child has to experience it. We are working with survivors, strengthening the systems and services available to them to ensure they have the chance to heal and recover. We will amplify their stories and voices.
- Children's creativity and concrete actions can move the adult world to become more responsive to injustices in powerful and transformative ways.
- All of World Vision's successful experiences tell us that empowered children – who are involved, heard and equipped – are instrumental in triggering changes in attitudes and norms that ensure lasting solutions to violence against children.
- By campaigning and awareness-raising, children and young people can make significant changes in their own lives and the lives of millions children across the world.

THE RESPONSE STATS (for easy reference)

- 10.2 million children benefitted from World Vision's child protection work.
- We were a part of 157 policy changes to improve child wellbeing
- Over 200,000 adults (parents, caregivers) learned about child protection and prevention.

- In the Philippines, a World Vision-led project to reduce the use of children in the sugarcane industry resulted in child labor rates decreasing from 74% to 14% in three years.
- In Kenya, we've worked with communities to change attitudes and beliefs about child marriage, ensuring young girls go to school instead.
- A global effort across governments, organizations, and people has prevented about 25 million child marriages over the past 10 years.
- In Cambodia alone, we have provided more than 1,500 child survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse with shelter and recovery care to heal and return to family and community life.
- We're committed to supporting efforts to end all forms of child labor by 2025 in more 70 countries.