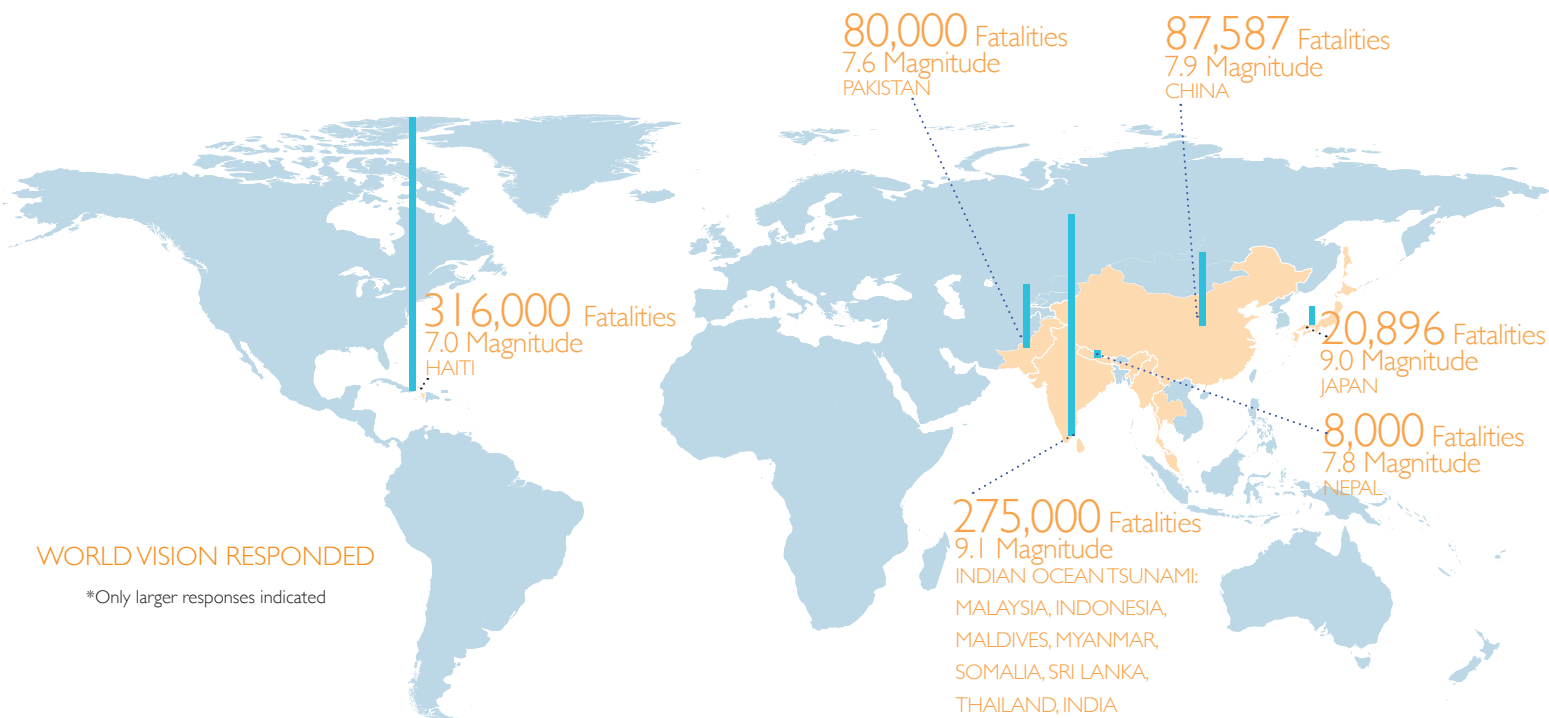


EARTHQUAKES

HOW WORLD VISION RESPONDS



Earthquakes strike without notice. The largest can be devastating, particularly for poor and ill prepared communities. Caused by the rupturing of geological faults, quakes not only cause tectonic turmoil but can bring about tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions. These can be just as devastating as the initial quake. Some regions of the world are especially at risk, such as the Ring of Fire – a series of fault lines around the Pacific Rim – South Asia and Latin America. World Vision responds, to help minimize the impact of such disaster on children and their communities. In recent years quakes have together killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Millions of people can be impacted by a single earthquake and the consequences are both immediate and long term. Getting to, treating and meeting the needs of earthquake survivors can be severely hampered by the destruction and chaos of a quake. Remote villages become cut off. City districts crumble, throwing hundreds of thousands of people out on the street and knocking out vital services and the ability of the government to effectively coordinate a response. Undersea tremors can even generate tsunamis with the power to lay waste to everything in their path.

Children, a primary focus of World Vision's humanitarian and development work, as well as women, the physically challenged and other marginalised groups typically suffer the most. Those with disabilities may not be able to outrun tsunamis or access



aid once roads are reduced to rubble. Children are especially vulnerable to disasters that may kill their parents, increase their isolation and force them to survive in ways that leave them open to exploitation and harm.

Children's damaged villages and urban communities need the range of support that World Vision can mobilise. Very often our existing long-term programmatic presence in country and within grassroots communities means that World Vision not only understands the context but has the key relationships in place to partner with locals to respond effectively.

In fact, earthquake responses are just part of a holistic approach that World Vision brings to protecting communities that starts with disaster mitigation and preparedness.



Dyana Marin Pedrito, 9, lost her brother and babysitter during the Colombia earthquake

- **Infrastructure:** Destruction and damage to homes, schools, health, public buildings, airports, transport hubs and roads; disrupts power, telecommunications, water and sewerage systems and supplies

CHILDREN ARE OUR FOCUS

World Vision's disaster management work seeks to protect lives, restore dignity and renew hope, especially in the world's toughest places where children need us most. With proper care and help children are resilient. Without it they risk suffering emotional and psychological consequences brought about by losing loved ones and having lives turned upside down. Getting physical aid to children quickly is key, but so is restoring a sense of safety, order and normalcy. World Vision responds through four core sectors.



World Vision Japan's Makiko Sasaki at work helping children recover from shocks, after the Japan 2011 earthquake and tsunami



But if quakes do strike we respond with relief, mobilising local, national and even international staff to assist, and private and grant money to fund the work. We stick with communities through their recovery and rehabilitation phases and partner with people to transition them to a place where they are on a better footing and more resilient. This approach works because World Vision is an humanitarian, community development and advocacy organisation and brings all these things to bear in addressing disaster management.

HOW EARTHQUAKES IMPACT PEOPLE & DAMAGE COMMUNITIES

Earthquakes damage people and fracture communities in ways that when combined have devastating consequences. These are some of them:

- **Medical:** Death, internal crush injuries, cuts, bruises, broken bones, fractures and spinal injuries, asphyxia and respiratory conditions, hypothermia, burns and electrocution, trauma and mental health issues. The secondary impacts of quakes can lead to diarrhoea and cholera outbreaks, hunger and psychosocial effects.

WHAT WE DO

PRIORITY ISSUES



Child
Protection



Education



WASH



Health



Nutrition



Food Aid



Shelter &
NFIs

1. CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

• CHILD PROTECTION

Identifying and protecting the most vulnerable children is vital in order to reduce the risks of child separation, exploitation or other forms of abuse. One way we do this is by setting up Child Friendly Spaces for girls and boys aged 3-17. These are often established within days of an earthquake and are somewhere where children can play, be with friends and escape their difficulties for a few hours. In this space staff can spot children who might need emotional, psychosocial, or medical care for appropriate referral. In many instances we help lead efforts to reunite separated children with their families.

• EDUCATION

World Vision works with schools and communities on preparedness planning, building disaster risk reduction into school education, helping vulnerable communities to plan for earthquakes, and advocating for quake-safe school buildings. When a disaster hits Child Friendly Spaces become learning and play centres. We then go on to encourage authorities to build back better. As an organisation with millions of children in child sponsorship we often have the ability to leverage relationships with schools and education authorities to make children safer.

2. WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Quakes often damage water supply and sewerage systems, increasing the risks of disease from unsafe water, limiting water supplies and causing drainage problems. A mix of response options may be adopted, including trucking in water; installing tank, piping and filtering solutions, distributing hygiene kits and fixing infrastructure often in partnership with the community.

Sewerage and refuse systems can also break down or become overwhelmed resulting in piles of garbage and unsafe defecation. World Vision may install latrines and work with communities to clear trash and manage solid waste.

We also promote personal hygiene practices to protect children from diseases like diarrhoea, cholera and other outbreaks. WASH activities are designed in consultation with communities to address hygiene problems that are contextually appropriate.

3. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

• HEALTH

Disasters often come to already vulnerable communities, making them more prone to ill health, disease, and common childhood sicknesses that should not normally kill. Disasters may increase the likelihood of communicable diseases. At the same time they make it harder to access what care there is since hospitals and health posts may be overwhelmed or out of action. World Vision's health programmes work to reduce mortality and illness by paying particular attention to mothers and children, educating them on how to stay healthy and helping them access essential health services, including childhood inoculations.

• NUTRITION

Malnutrition rates may rise in emergencies as access to proper nutrition becomes more difficult. This puts children at risk of stunting and long-term physical and mental impairment. When required World Vision promotes specialist infant and young child feeding, including feeding support in communities for children at risk of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency, as well as for pregnant and lactating mothers.



A Nepalese woman surveys the damage wrought by the 2015 earthquake

4. FOOD ASSISTANCE

Various assistance options are used, depending on context, including mixed food ration distributions, cash for food, food for work, and the use of vouchers to exchange for food in markets. Our relationship with the World Food Program makes World Vision one of the biggest food management agencies in the world, distributing in camps, settlements and within urban and rural environments. The aim is to restore food security and livelihoods, and ensure the most vulnerable children and their families are targeted.



Thai children enjoy lunch provided at a World Vision child friendly space following the Indian Ocean Earthquake

FAST FACTS

- On average **10,000** people die in earthquakes annually.
- Loss of life can be avoided through emergency planning, education, and the construction of buildings that sway rather than break under the stress of an earthquake.
- Scientists assign a magnitude rating to earthquakes based on the strength and duration of their seismic waves. A quake measuring **3** to **5** is considered minor or light; **5** to **7** is moderate to strong; **7** to **8** is major; and **8** or more is great.
- The most devastating earthquakes are not necessarily the largest. If they strike where building quality is poor - as in the **2010** Haiti earthquake - they can kill hundreds of thousands of people.
- Collapsing buildings claim by far the majority of lives, but the destruction is often compounded by mud slides, fires, floods, or tsunamis.



World Vision builds transitional housing in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake

OTHER - SUPPORT WITH SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Where specialised partners in this area are missing World Vision acts swiftly to provide shelter kits. These stem exposure to the elements, prevent overcrowding and provide more privacy for women and children, reducing risks they might face. Where people have lost everything, we distribute kits, such as pots, pans, bedding, mosquito nets, soap and other basic essentials. These help people survive the immediate aftermath of a quake, reduce illness, and the spread of disease and help communities get back on their feet.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP

World Vision partners with communities and utilises technology to find out what people need in the relief, recovery and rehabilitation phases of a response. We ask children too, and seek their feedback on how effectively programmes were implemented. Their views are incorporated into current and future disaster management planning. Partnering with children and youth groups like girl guides, boy scouts, children's clubs, the private sector, and

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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