

CHILD PROTECTION & PARTICIPATION



CAPACITY STATEMENT

In Viet Nam, among the child population of 24.8 million, almost 7% are considered as the most vulnerable children (MVC)¹. World Vision Viet Nam identified 6 critical issues in child protection, including physical and sexual abuse, online violence, child trafficking, child labor, child marriage, and child injury.

- ✦ As of 2021, nearly three-quarters of all children aged 1-14 in Viet Nam have experienced at least one type of psychological aggression or physical punishment, accounting for 72.4% of the total surveyed children, which is even higher than the data in 2014 (68.4%)².
- ✦ 87% of children aged 12-17 are daily Internet users, and around 400,000 children are at risk of being sexually exploited and abused³.
- ✦ 7 in 10 trafficking victims are women and children⁴.
- ✦ Nearly 520,000 children in Viet Nam are engaged in hazardous child labor, or work which poses significant risks to a child's health, safety, or morals⁵.
- ✦ Underage marriage rate was reported to be 21.9% among ethnic minority groups⁶.
- ✦ 370,000 children get injured every year due to traffic accidents and falls. Child injury accounts for 35.5% of child deaths, with drowning as the leading cause⁷.

¹ Department of Child Affairs, Ministry of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs, 2020

² Multi Indicator Cluster Survey in 2014 and 2021, General Statistics Office

³ Disrupting Harm Report, UNICEF, 2021

⁴ Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Government, 2021

⁵ Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey, International Labour Organization, 2018

Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, Workshop on Reviewing 5 Years of Implementing the

⁶ Project on Child Marriage and Consanguineous Marriage, October 2020

⁷ Statistics by Health Environment Management Agency, Ministry of Health




PRIORITY FOCUS


Goal: Girls and boys are protected from all forms of violence and participate in decision-making


- Objectives:**
- ✦ Empower children to effectively protect themselves and their peers
 - ✦ Improve the capacity of families, caregivers, and the community to protect children
 - ✦ Promote the community-based Child Protection System and community services to prevent violence and protect all children, early intervention and protection services to at-risk and victim children
 - ✦ Enhance development and implementation of policies on child protection and child injury prevention

Approach: The program design employs a holistic system approach, bringing a greater focus on strengthening the critical roles and assets of the key actors, formal and informal, who are responsible for child protection through the coordination of the Child Protection System at all levels.

 **FY22 Expenditure**
USD 4.68 M

 **Children Impacted**
261,030 including
71,740 most
vulnerable children

 **Technical Staff**
3 Child Protection Experts
at national level
(Manager and 2
Specialists)
*1 Program Effectiveness
Specialist*
*4 Technical Officers at the
zonal level*
*30 Program staff at the
district level*

 **Technical Models**
Child Protection & Advocacy
Reporting and Referral for Child
Protection
Celebrating Families
Positive Discipline
Home Visiting
Young People as Agents of Change
Adolescent Programs (IMPACT+)
Dare to Discover
Smart Navigator Toolkit
Voice Up For Change

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

At the national level, World Vision Viet Nam has a full-time Child Protection & Participation Technical Program Manager and two full-time Child Protection Specialists who have profound experience in developing technical guidelines, building capacity for staff and partners, policy advocacy, and monitoring the implementation of child protection interventions.

At the field level, 4 Technical Program Officers and a network of development facilitators and project staff are efficiently carrying out child protection activities in 18 provinces/cities across Viet Nam.

Our strong network with governmental and non-governmental technical partners at all levels also allows us to constantly hone and share our expertise in Child Protection interventions and Child Participation practices.



ADVANTAGES & STRENGTHS

The presence of field staff at the grassroots level across 30 Area Programs in Viet Nam during a timeline of 10-15 years has enabled us to step into the people's shoes, understand their lives, identify the most vulnerable children and be responsive to communities whenever needed.

As child participation is considered as one of the core approaches, children and adolescents are empowered to take action to resolve their own issues and contribute to the decision making process in the child protection system through capacity building, child forums and children's clubs.

Transforming attitudes, norms and behaviors of parents and caregivers through positive parenting is another strength of World Vision Viet Nam's Child Protection & Participation Program which enhances the connection between care-givers and their children.

World Vision Viet Nam also focuses on building the capacity of Child Protection Committees to improve the formal and informal child protection coordination mechanism and strengthen the reporting and referral mechanism in schools to end school violence with village collaborators and community groups, enabling them to timely identify the risks and protect children in need. Importantly, World Vision Viet Nam supports Child Protection Committees to enhance child protection services for children at risk and victims of violence and abuse, including reporting, responding, and referral services.

Advocacy and networking for policy changes at national level and policy implementation at local level are our strategy to achieve long lasting impact. Our policy recommendations have been incorporated into strategic national policies and provincial policies on child protection issues.

PARTNERSHIPS

At the national level, World Vision Viet Nam worked with the **Ministry of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)** through the child protection program, child participation program, and child injury program period 2016-2020. Recently, we engaged with MOLISA to advocate for the National Action Program for Children in the 2021-2030 period. In 2019, World Vision Viet Nam advocated for MOLISA's guidance on child protection at the commune level and defined the roles and responsibilities of Child Protection Committees and Child Protection Task Forces. World Vision Viet Nam also collaborated with MOLISA, the **Ministry of Public Security (MPS)**, to implement projects on anti-human trafficking; with the **Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)** to implement programs and projects on ending violence in school. Since 2019, World Vision Viet Nam has started a new collaboration with the **Ministry of Information and Communication (MOIC)** in advocacy efforts to develop a national program on online child protection and effective use of the Internet. We are a Viet Nam Network for Child Online Protection member led by MOIC and MPS. In 2021, World Vision Viet Nam began a partnership with the Department of Families Affairs - **Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MOSCT)** on preventing domestic violence against children and women.

At the grassroots level, World Vision Viet Nam has established robust relationships with key local partners such as **the provincial/district Department of Labor Invalid and Social Affairs** to implement training on child protection system, case management, counseling skill, and support for the most vulnerable children to sustain programs' outcomes.

In 2021, we are implementing a joint action plan together with **Child Rights Working Groups** and **Child Rights Governance Group** including local NGOs, for advocacy efforts on child protection and participation.

In recent years, World Vision Viet Nam has expanded its partnership with the **private sector** as an increasingly important actor in child protection. For example, we implemented the 'Hope in Class' Project funded by Orion Food Vina Company, which is dedicated to ending violence against children at school.

TECHNICAL MODELS



Child Protection and Advocacy is a process of engaging with key community stakeholders to address the root causes of violence against children through building capacity, partnering, and collaborating between formal and informal child protection actors. These partners work together to create a protective environment that cares for and supports all children, especially the most vulnerable. The model consists of a range of comprehensive interventions that focus on improving laws and accountability, increasing social services and support, enabling behavior change, and strengthening household and child resilience. Interventions are designed based on participatory analysis and planning processes.

TECHNICAL MODELS



Celebrating Families seeks to ensure that families, especially the most vulnerable ones, enjoy positive and loving relationships and are able to have hope and vision for the future. The program equips parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to create a safe and nurturing environment for children's spiritual nurture in the family context.



Positive Discipline aims at training parents and caregivers on positive discipline in child-rearing. It covers techniques, case studies, and advice for alternative forms of discipline to educate children with love and non-violent methods.



Home Visiting creates social connections between communities and parents with most vulnerable children through home visitors who are trained to work with parents to develop action plans on protecting at-risk children when child protection issues are identified.



Young People as Agents of Change promotes high-level participation of children aged 10-16 through dialogues with their local authorities on issues affecting their lives and their recommendations to address child protection issues in their communities.



IMPACT+ is designed for adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, to transition well into adulthood as active citizens empowered with competencies, values, confidence, and social connectedness. IMPACT Clubs are groups of 10-25 adolescents who meet weekly to have fun, learn and serve their community together. Club members identify community problems, brainstorm possible solutions, identify community resources, and plan and implement community service-learning projects.



Dare to Discover seeks to support young people in their spiritual journey by creating a space and opportunity for young people to further understand and experience love and grace, deepen their sense of purpose in life, and affirm their hope and confidence about their future. It is a workshop module that serves as a supplementary resource and tool for Spiritual Nurture for Children programs.



Smart Navigator Toolkit enables youth aged 12-18 in remote ethnic, rural, and poor communities, who tend to migrate or who are exposed to trafficking risks, to learn knowledge and skills on safe migration and to protect themselves from the risks of being trafficked or abused.



Voice Up For Change provides instructions to youth who are involved in Smart Navigator youth clubs on how to create a successful campaign against human trafficking and unsafe migration.





Against Child Exploitation (2021 - 2024)

Budget: USD 2,471,857

Donor: U.S. Department of Labor

Goal: To strengthen the capacity of the Government of Viet Nam to address the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL), including Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) and violations of acceptable conditions of work (ACW).



Safer Internet, Safer Childhood (2022-2025)

Budget: USD 465,466

Donor: End Violence's Safe Online Initiative

Goal: To strengthen country-level capacity, cross-sector collaboration, and international cooperation based on existing frameworks and networks, and in alignment with the national efforts to tackle all forms of violence against children to enable more effective and coordinated prevention and response to OCSEA.



Human Trafficking Prevention for Women and Girls in Dien Bien Province (2020 - 2023)

Budget: USD 1,511,222

Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Goal: To reduce the number of trafficking and violence against women and girls aged 12 to 30.



Tackling Modern Slavery from Viet Nam (2019 - 2021)

Budget: USD 799,995

Donor: UK Home Office

Goal: To end modern slavery in Viet Nam through changing behavior, increasing prosecutions, and supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of potential and actual victims of human trafficking.



Tackling Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Viet Nam (2018 - 2021)

Budget: USD 680,951

Donor: End Violence's Safe Online Initiative

Goal: To reduce children's vulnerability to online violence; to provide survivors of online violence with better access to treatment and care; to enable communities to protect children from violence and respond to the needs of survivors; to advocate for higher standards in the ICT industry that prevent online violence among children; to reinforce child protection laws and perpetrator persecution while protecting survivors' rights.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO CHILD WELL-BEING IN 2018 - 2022

Proportion of adolescents who report having experienced physical violence in the past 12 months reduced from 33.2% in 2018 to **28%** in 2022.



32,003 children participated in **1,327** Children's Clubs on a monthly basis to learn life skills and carry out child-led initiatives to raise their voices on children's issues.



Proportion of parents or caregivers who used physical punishment or abuse as means of disciplining their children essentially reduced from 37.8% (2018) to **21.6%** (2022).



45,374 parents and caregivers from 35 Area Programs have been trained in positive parenting and spiritual nurturing for their children through two key models: **Celebrating Families** and **Positive Discipline**.



3,871 government staff of Child Protection Committees and village collaborators on child protection have been trained on child protection issues and how to prevent the issues, and supporting victims of abuse, violence, and at-risk children, contributing to enhancing local governments' capacity in the prevention of violence against children and support services to victims.



World Vision Viet Nam strengthened community groups' capacity in policy advocacy through a local level advocacy approach. As a result, **151 policy wins** have been issued by the local authorities with actions to address child protection issues which integrated policy recommendations from local communities.



World Vision Viet Nam **advocated** for **Decision 23 - National Action Plan for Children 2021-2030**; **Decision 830 - National program on protection and supporting children to engage healthily and creatively on online platform 2021-2025**; **Decision 2264 on the approval of the prevention and combating child online abuse program in 2021 at ministry level**; **Decision 716 - Establishment of Viet Nam Network for Child Online Protection/VN-COP** which World Vision Viet Nam is a member; and **Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Combat** issued in 2022.





ABOUT WORLD VISION VIET NAM

World Vision is a Christian relief and development humanitarian organization working to improve the quality of life of people, especially children, who are marginalized and living in poverty. World Vision helps all who are in need regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. World Vision started working in Viet Nam in 1988. Since then, World Vision has implemented many relief and development programs, partnering with the Vietnamese government, other NGOs, and communities. World Vision's long-term development programs are currently operated in 18 cities and provinces throughout Viet Nam.

For Children. For Change. For Life.



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