



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Saving lives, protecting dignity, renewing hope

In Northwest Syria, World Vision leads the FAST consortium, an \$80 million two-year project funded by USAID/OFDA to respond to emergency health, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), and shelter needs. As prime of the Facilitating Assistance to Syria Together (FAST) project, World Vision leads a consortium of partners comprised of CARE, Mercy Corps, Syrian American Medical Society, Relief International, and several local Syrian organizations. Through the end of 2019, the FAST consortium supported over 1.5 million people, primarily through support of hospitals and clinics and provision of WASH and shelter services.

World Vision's global reach

In every corner of the world, there are fragile contexts. Countries and/or parts of countries are subjected to instability of all kinds. Natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes can strike without warning, claiming thousands of lives in seconds. Man-made crises such as war and political instability simmer and progress over time, putting millions at risk over the long term. Whatever the cause, wherever the place, a humanitarian crisis always delivers the heaviest blow to the poor—especially children—in the most fragile and underdeveloped parts of the world. World Vision stands ready to reach the most vulnerable wherever they are in the world.

Our approach

World Vision is distinctively capable of responding to virtually any fragile context or rapid onset disasters quickly, collaboratively, and holistically. Our Global Disaster Management Team continually monitors global developments so we're ready to respond to the greatest needs—including disasters that get little U.S. news coverage.



In 2019, World Vision responded to **76 disaster and humanitarian emergencies** in **57 countries**, providing humanitarian aid to **more than 20 million people**.



"Yemen continues to be the greatest humanitarian crisis in the past decade. The needs are the greatest, the conflict is the most severe, the global attention is low, and the most vulnerable – mainly women and children – continue to suffer. We need a stronger international response."

—Mark Smith, Senior Director, Humanitarian
Emergency Affairs, World Vision

AN UNSUNG BENEFIT OF PRIVATE FUNDING

World Vision works to leverage private resources strategically for greater impact in the field, using smaller or closed-ended donations to attract additional partners and funds, both public and private. In FY19, World Vision used \$20 million in private gifts to mobilize almost \$172 million in HEA-related grants.

GLOBAL PRE-POSITIONING World Vision's trained emergency teams, including 600 international disaster experts, work around the world in areas prone to crisis and conflict. We have a global network of pre-positioned equipment, relief supplies, and stand-by agreements with suppliers—so we can respond within 24 to 72 hours of a disaster. We aim to reach 20 percent of affected children in every emergency response.

EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS We collaborate closely with the United Nations, USAID, the World Food Programme, local governments, and other key partners. These relationships, our established infrastructure, and our long-standing presence in thousands of communities around the world equip us to respond efficiently when crises strike.

A TRUSTED PARTNER World Vision partners with the U.S. government and other large institutions to administer 42 grant-funded emergency relief projects. A leading distributor of emergency food globally, we're the largest implementing partner of the World Food Programme.

COMPREHENSIVE World Vision is an industry leader in clean water, health and nutrition, economic empowerment, child protection, and education. With this comprehensive experience, we provide tailored emergency services and long-term, sustainable solutions.

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE: REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE, WHEREVER THEY ARE

Between January and October 2019, 4.5 million refugees and migrants left Venezuela. Many fleeing the country were unaccompanied minors, a particularly vulnerable group. In these situations, children are incredibly vulnerable to incidents of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and exploitation.

World Vision's Child Friendly Spaces in Cucuta, Colombia allow kids to be kids again, while also offering services for their parents through cash assistance provided through the World Food Programme and the USAID – Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.



Fragile contexts

While not all fragile contexts require humanitarian assistance, the vast majority do. Places like Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Sahel require intensive humanitarian assistance. World Vision works in all these places, providing assistance to the most vulnerable.

World Vision is piloting the industry's first Fragile Context Programming Approach that ensures families Survive, Adapt, and Thrive — whether that be in their continuously fragile environment or one of rapid change. World Vision is able to do this because of our reputation and programming expertise using innovative and scalable cash programming. In FY19, we reached 2.5 million disaster-affected people with CVP interventions— 59 percent of them in fragile contexts.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTION

Continue to champion multi-purpose cash alongside other types of assistance, prioritizing over vouchers wherever appropriate.

Foster greater transparency as donors encourage humanitarian actors to share relevant data and registry management, while protecting families' data—and their ownership of it.

Children need to be protected

Children bear the brunt of disasters and crises. They face abuse, exploitation, and violence as social protection structures and basic services collapse. They may face separation from their families, recruitment into armed groups, child labor, or child marriage. **Despite the overwhelming need to ensure kids' safety, child protection in emergencies is often deprioritized or underfunded.**

RECOMMENDATION FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTION

Show diplomatic and financial leadership by classifying child protection and education as “life-saving.” This will ensure child protection funding is released as quickly as possible in emergency responses, to acknowledge and mitigate violence against children in humanitarian settings.





EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION TO OWN THEIR FUTURE



When 11-year-old Yacob and his family first arrived at the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, he mostly stayed inside because there wasn't much for him to do.

But then World Vision

opened its first Child-Friendly Space in the camp—a safe place to learn, play, and be with other kids. He's hardly missed a day since then, driven by a passion for learning. "The whole struggle of leaving our home in Myanmar affected him and my other children, but I see them getting better now," his mom says. "[The center] has helped them overcome their worries."

Promote and protect humanitarian principles

Humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence are the foundational principles of humanitarian action, central to maintaining access to affected people in an emergency. The widely accepted definitions are:

- » **Humanity:** Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.
- » **Neutrality:** Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious, or ideological nature.
- » **Impartiality:** Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no adverse distinction on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class, or political opinion.
- » **Independence:** Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military, or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

These principles help all of us protect the well-being of people and their communities in times of crisis. World Vision calls on all humanitarian actors, including NGOs, U.N. agencies, and donors, to adhere to these principles and support life-saving assistance for those in greatest need—wherever they're found. World Vision also calls on Congress to renew the U.S.'s commitment to humanitarian principles.



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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