

# WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA NEWSLETTER

Empowering & Transforming Lives

World Vision



## BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

### Opening Note

*Reflections on the past quarter from our Regional Leader*



#### Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to share another edition of our World Vision West & Central Africa Regional Newsletter. In this issue themed 'Building Resilience for Future Generations', we spotlight strategies and initiatives aimed at supporting children and communities to access the resources, skills and tools that they need to adapt and thrive in a complex and ever-changing context.

With our new segments, 'Young Perspectives' and 'Vision Voices', we spotlight children's experiences as well as share reflections from our dedicated teams who share insights and experiences from the frontlines of our programmes. Additionally, we celebrate the power of collaboration and innovation in driving broader impact with our segments, 'Impact Horizons' and 'Partnership Spotlight', showcasing innovative solutions that are transforming communities and impacting lives. From local to global levels, these powerful examples remind us of the limitless potential that we possess when we come together with vision and determination.

I invite you to explore these stories, engage with our community, and join us in our ongoing journey to make a lasting impact for children and their communities.

With warm regards,

**Carla Denizard – Regional Leader**

# Milestones

Key celebrations and flagship events from the past quarter



**Environmental Restoration through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration:** The European Union-funded Regreening Africa project – of which World Vision is a key implementing partner – has been named as one of seven United Nations World Restoration Flagships.

[Learn Why>>](#)



**Food Security:** World Vision has committed US \$1.7 billion towards its ENOUGH campaign which aims to end child hunger and address the escalating hunger crisis across the African continent.

[Learn More>>](#)



**Water for Peace:** In line with this year's World Water Day theme, World Vision works with governments, local partners, faith leaders and communities to prevent conflicts over water resources.

[Discover How>>](#)

## Humanitarian Crisis Response

Supporting children, families and communities when disaster strikes



### Central African Republic & Chad: A year on from the start of the conflict in Sudan

As the conflict in Sudan, reaches its one-year milestone, tens of millions of children and women continue to endure the worst violence imaginable. Over 24.8 million people, which is half of Sudan's population, requires humanitarian assistance after what has become the world's worst displacement crisis. The number of people fleeing the conflict is alarming and children face extreme hunger. World Vision is responding across five countries including Central African Republic and Chad, the latter of which has received more than 700,000 people fleeing conflict.

[Learn More>>](#)

## Did You Know?

**Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)** are a diverse set of 20 diseases and disease groups that maim, disfigure and kill millions of people each year. Even when they are not fatal, they can cause life-changing disabilities and social stigma. World Vision is supporting national efforts in Senegal to fight NTDs.

# Inclusive & Transformative Programming

Collaborating and advocating to leave no one behind



## Localisation and gender equality for sustainable peace

The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act (2022) enacted in Sierra Leone provides the space for at least 30% representation of women in all leadership positions in government and private institutions. Thanks to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, World Vision is working in coalition with other agencies on a project aiming to promote peace and security for women in Sierra Leone before, during, and after elections and equip them with the necessary skills for leadership.

[Learn More>>](#)



## Supporting parents to care for children with disabilities

Children and young people with disabilities are at heightened risk of physical and sexual violence and neglect compared to those without. In Niger, World Vision is advocating for children with disabilities through disability inclusive programming models and approaches. These involve working closely with parents and equipping them with essential tools to care for their disabled children. This support has proven vital for Rahanatou Souley, a mother of three.

[Learn How>>](#)



## When a community calls out violence against children

When she was only 15 years old, Germaine's parents decided to marry her off. She was in 8th grade at the time. Heartbroken, she confided in one of her friends. Thankfully, Germaine's friend had received training in the identification, referral and management of incident cases, and knowing the mechanisms for protection. Today, a grateful Germaine aspires for a brighter future and is thankful to the community that saved her from a devastating outcome.

[Read Her Story>>](#)



## Capacity-building for comprehensive disability inclusion in programming

Driven by our desire to intentionally integrate disability inclusion into our programmes, World Vision organised training and data collection activities in Mauritania throughout the month of March. The objective of these activities was to build on existing research in order to ensure that children and adults with disabilities can participate in the development of their communities, including leadership and decision-making roles.

[Learn More>>](#)

# Impact Horizons

Exploring innovative approaches to achieve broader impact



## Promoting fairer, more inclusive cities for children

On 14th February, World Vision and its partners officially launched an urban programming approach in Burkina Faso to promote fairer, more inclusive cities where children thrive. Over the next two years, World Vision aims to impact the lives of 500,000 people (51% of whom children) by addressing water, hygiene and sanitation issues (in schools, health centres and homes in remote areas) and improving the sustainable livelihoods and life skills of 20,000 people in urban areas.

[Learn more>>](#)



## Leveraging solar power for enhanced water resource management

With support from sponsors and donors, World Vision has introduced a solar-powered multi-purpose pole to five communities in the Agotime-Ziope District in the Volta Region of Ghana. The purpose of this innovation is to provide reliable first-hand information, facilitate community mobilisation and sensitisation, and bridge the information gap between community members regarding the operation and management of water systems, spiritual nurturing of children, advocacy, and community education on project interventions.

# Partnership Spotlight

Working together to end child vulnerability for good

No organisation or government working alone can solve child vulnerability. World Vision's partners include governments, civil society organisations, faith communities, faith-based organisations, businesses, academia, and more. In this edition, discover some of the impact that World Vision is making through our collaboration with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in communities across West and Central Africa.



## Burkina Faso

World Vision's Global Hunger Response aims to reduce acute food insecurity and improve the resilience of 30 million of the most vulnerable people in 28 countries experiencing growing hunger and the threat of famine. In Burkina Faso, World Vision is collaborating with WFP to implement a nutrition project aimed at responding to the most pressing needs of displaced children and families.



## Central African Republic

World Vision is partnering with WFP on a school meals programme that is making tremendous impact on the lives of children in Central African Republic. In the lead-up to Africa School Feeding Day on 1st March, a World Vision team embarked on a journey to the town of Bouar to witness the power of school meals in action.

[Read More>>](#)

# Young Perspectives

Contributions from children and youth in our region



*My experience of participating in the 5th session of the National Child Parliament was transformative. I built my confidence by believing in myself. I am grateful for the support that World Vision has given me.*

**Princess (12) from Ghana (on the left).** Princess is leading the way in advocating for policy interventions to transform children's rights.

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*I come here regularly, and I love dancing at the beat of the tam-tam (percussion). During these moments, I forget all the difficult times we've had in the past. I even forget the current when I am with the other children.*

**Salamata (16)** on attending a child-friendly space in her community in Burkina Faso.

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## Vision Voices

Insights on life at World Vision from our dedicated teams



*After spending over seven years in various humanitarian organisations, I made the decision to join World Vision in 2018. World Vision is a Christian organisation committed to helping children, families and their communities overcome the root causes of poverty and injustice and realize their full potential. For me, this mission, which aims to promote a fulfilled life for every child, is more than just a job: it's a vocation. Working at World Vision allows me to combine my faith with my work.*

**Stephane Zaboth, WASH Manager, Central African Republic**

# Join us to serve children!



Visit our [careers page](#) for the latest vacancies and discover how you can play a part in making a lasting impact for children and their communities.

## Latest Publications

*Click on each publication to learn more*

[West & Central Africa Impact Sheet 2023](#) (English)

[Burkina Faso Annual Report 2023](#) (English)

[Central African Republic Annual Report](#) (French)

[Mali Annual Report 2023](#) (English)

[Mali Annual Report 2023](#) (French)

[Mauritania Annual Report](#) (French)

[Senegal Annual Report 2023](#) (English)

[Sierra Leone Annual Report 2023](#) (English)

[Statement on Repeal of Anti-FGM/C Law in The Gambia](#) (English)



## Upcoming Events



**6K Run, Walk or Roll for Water (Senegal and Global):** Did you know that the average person in rural parts of a developing country has to walk more than six kilometres per day to get the water they need to survive? On 11th May 2024, participate in an initiative to bring life-changing clean water and fullness of life to children in Senegal. For the first time ever in Dakar, the 6K for Water will be part of a global moment to change lives through a 6-kilometre run, walk or roll. Wherever you are in the world, you can join other advocates to raise awareness on the global water crisis and contribute to clean water for all. [Learn more or register here.](#)

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