



CHILD PROTECTION MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

IMPLEMENTATION CASE STUDY

Learning from World Vision Nepal



World Vision's Child Protection Minimum Requirements (CPMR) is a core set of community-led child protection interventions that serves as a starting point for establishing and strengthening a protective environment for children in every Sponsorship-funded community where we work.

Beginning in 2020, all World Vision Area Programmes (APs) with child sponsorship across the world began rolling out the CPMR package. Within the first full year of CPMR implementation in 2021, 200 staff members representing each of our 51 field offices had been trained in CPMRs, passing on their training to local staff and community members serving as field facilitators. This work has impacted registered children around the world, as well as all the children and families within World Vision's programme areas.

For all APs with Sponsorship, the CPMR package includes:

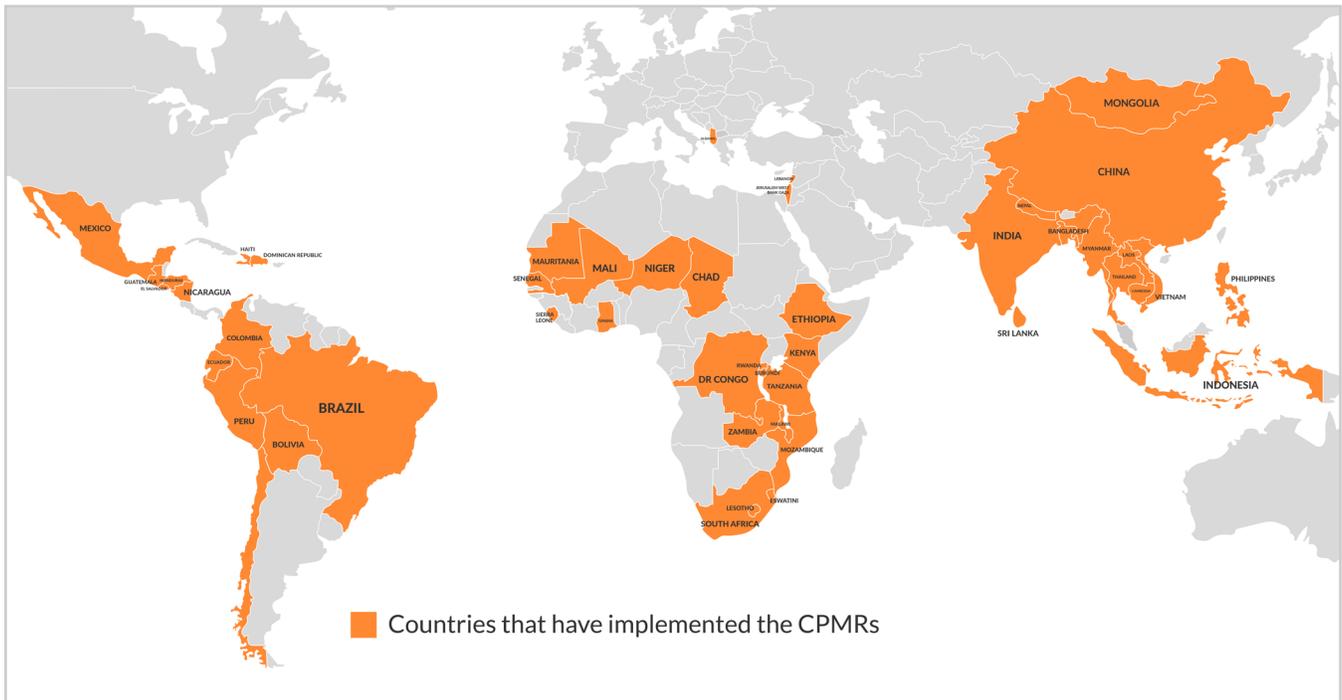
CPMR 1: Conducting a **local level context analysis** to understand and address the community child protection issues and their root causes

CPMR 2: Strengthening **reporting and referral mechanisms** that enables children, caregivers and others to report violations and receive help in addressing them

CPMR 3: All **adolescent RCs** (aged 12 to 18) are directly participating in interventions that directly strengthen their well-being. Interventions that strengthen life skills and protective skills are prioritised

Child Protection Minimum Requirements do not replace a full Child Protection technical programme designed to reduce violence against children. Rather, CPMRs begin to strengthen the community-led protective environment for girls and boys.

The CPMRs move World Vision closer towards achieving our global goal of increasing the scope and quality of child protection efforts everywhere we work by laying a foundation of capacitated local Child Protection (CP) partner groups, functional reporting and referral mechanisms and adolescents better equipped with life and protective skills.



FY22 — Global impact at a glance:

- **88%** of the 51 World Vision offices trained in CPMRs have supported the roll out a locally-led implementation.
- Globally, **83%** of community-based child protection groups across 24 World Vision field offices have implemented the local action plans they developed.
- **86%** of established reporting and referral mechanisms met the minimum standards.
- **77%** of known child protection cases in 22 FOs were followed up by community child protection committees.
- **75%** of Field Offices (42 FOs) reported implementing adolescent interventions for CPMR 3.

“Implementing the CPMRs across all of our Sponsorship-funded Area Programmes represents the largest global undertaking of a rollout of this type of community-driven, locally-led child protection work,” said Bill Forbes, World Vision International Global Child Protection and Participation Sector Lead. “More importantly this endeavour is making a tremendous difference in the lives of children around the world, and their families and local partners who support them.”

CPMR 2: REPORTING AND REFERRAL MECHANISMS

Spotlight on Nepal: A Multi-level Approach for Systems and Services

In CPMR 2, formal and informal actors work together to establish or strengthen a functional community-wide reporting and referral (R&R) mechanism to enable children, caregivers, and other community members to report child protection violations and receive the help they need to address them through a network of identified service providers.

This is different from World Vision Level One incidents, where a World Vision staff member or affiliate recognizes a Level One incident and reports it through the local CPMR 2 R&R mechanism.

In Nepal, both Child Protection Minimum Requirements (CPMR) 1 and 2 have been imbedded in all Sponsorship-funded APs and treated as a non-negotiable component. This prioritisation, alongside WVI Nepal's long-term advocacy for children and ongoing partnering relationship with the Government of Nepal (GON) on issues of child protection has enabled WVI Nepal to support the rapid development of Child Rights Committees (CRC) in 38 of Nepal's 45 municipalities (palika) where World Vision works. Building on the work of the Local-level Context Analyst (LCA) and action planning, all 38 of these CRC groups have also moved forward to establish community-wide Reporting and Referral (R&R) mechanisms.

Unique to Nepal, the timing of the rollout of CPMRs aligned with a national reframing of the government in 2017, and the new government's initiative to implement its Children's Act of 2018. One provision of the Children's Act called for the establishment of government-led, municipal-level CRCs. World Vision was able to influence the structuring of the new groups in alignment with CPMR 2 because of its ongoing relationships with the GON and now serves as partner/member of these groups.

Specific to CPMR 2, as part of the CRC, World Vision has supported the formal and non-formal actors of each municipal-level CRC to develop a functioning R&R mechanism for the purpose of managing child protection incidents related to abuse, neglect, exploitation and any forms of violence. World Vision also collaborated at a broader level, with partners and experts, to provide technical support to the local governments, provincial governments and national GON to review and formulate policies and guidelines, such as case management guidelines related to reporting and referrals.

IMPACT

- **100% palikas** with an existing CRC (38) in World Vision APs have established a functioning R&R mechanism.
- **86%** of reporting and referral mechanisms created by local governments across all of Nepal have met the minimum standard.
- **91.7%** of adolescents know of the presence and services and mechanisms to receive and respond to reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence against children (increased from 2020 baseline of 58.1%).
- **29 municipalities** have a Child Fund established and mobilised for the response and referral of CP incidents.
- The percentage of child protection services users who report increased responsiveness of child protection service providers towards communities increased to **93.3%** from the baseline of 41.4%.

To improve services available to children, World Vision has also helped strengthen the local capacity of actors/ service providers responsible for responding to CP incidents through partnerships with the National Child Rights Council (NCRC) and other expert organizations. World Vision, for example, has helped facilitate the appointment/nomination of Child Welfare Officer (CWOs) focal persons at the municipal level to help make the services/referral efficient at the local level. CWOs are also trained in the mobilisation of the Child Fund to be able to best respond the protection risks and respond the needs of the children through case management.

World Vision Nepal has also been instrumental in helping to put in place the Child Fund for responding to incidents and setting the foundation for the development of a national Child Protection Incident Management System used for tracking and managing reporting, referrals and follow ups.



“As parents, when we face any child protection risks for our children in the community, and the problem cannot be solved immediately at home, we are sure that the local CRC in the ward and municipality will provide necessary assistance to us.” Parent, Achham Area Programme

“If I feel insecure in my community or experience any violence, I know I can inform the local CRC, my Child Club, the Ward Office or the Women and Children’s Department. I can also take support from my guardian and teachers.” Child, Achham Area Programme

Promising Practices

Multi-level approach for systems change: The rollout of CPMRs across the country were well-aligned with the timing of the Government of Nepal's initiative to implement its Children's Act of 2018. The Act, designed to support and protect Nepali children and to safeguard their rights, established a National Child Rights Council (NCRC) to serve as a federal advisory board and made provision for CRCs at local and provincial levels. The GON also provisioned for designated service providers (child welfare officer, social worker and psycho-social counselor) and a Child Fund to support and protect children. Because of World Vision's long-term, and ongoing engagement at national, provincial and local levels it was 'a strategic' time to influence and support the restructuring of the country's child protection system at multiple levels during this transitional time. As a result, much of the CPMR work has influenced the new national and municipal systems, establishing standards, supporting the development of processes, and enabling a rapid rollout of a government-aligned R&R mechanism.

Sustainable financing of the R&R mechanism and services: World Vision Nepal played a role with the national and local government to get the nominal budget for the Child Fund established as provisioned through the Children's Act in 29 municipalities. The mandate of the fund is for children in need of support and protection. For example, if there was a report of a child who had experienced violence and needed emergency services, that child would be recommended to the CRC to receive financial support for the services through the local government from the Child Fund.

Creating and modeling a system for incident tracking: To address a gap in the capability to track CP incidents, World Vision in Nepal developed a Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) and dashboard that enabled tracking incident reporting and referrals and monitoring ongoing follow-up across its APs. World Vision uses this data to view incident reports at the AP level, for example, how many cases are open, closed or need to be followed up. Local implementing partners are also given access to this dashboard for tracking purposes. The CPIMS is also shared by World Vision with national and local government and has influenced the Government of Nepal to begin its own process to replicate a nation-wide system for broader use.

Ensuring ongoing case follow up: Beyond ongoing monitoring of data using the CPIMS, case workers and members of the CRC follow up the reported/referred cases with a meeting once every two months to review progress. The CRC use the collected data of at-risk children from all wards and provide support from the municipal level Child Fund.

Meaningful engagement of children: Children have a voice in the R&R mechanism of CPMR 2 through their inclusion as representatives in the CRC (at least one boy and one girl in each CRC) and are called on to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement in the R&R mechanism from the child perspective. Children in APs are also engaged through different programs, such as child rights and protection training, to identify and report any child rights violation incidents through the proper R&R mechanism/channels. Children are engaged in awareness raising of the reporting process within the community and among their peers. Children also have a voice through Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) initiative —one of the major approaches in Nepal to engage children through child congress, media, policy dialogue and advocacy to raise the issues of child rights and services at different government and community levels.



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