



Quick Guide Emergency Health and Nutrition

What is the Emergency Health and Nutrition Strategy?

The Emergency Health and Nutrition Strategy is a strategic approach to improving and protecting the health and nutrition of women and children during humanitarian responses. It clarifies World Vision’s priority focus for interventions during large- and small-scale emergencies and is aligned with the Global Health and Nutrition Strategy.

As a relief and development organisation, World Vision’s response in the area of health and nutrition is based on recognised international standards and best practices. The response is also focused in its expertise in health and is complementary to and coordinated with governments and partner agencies.

What are the components of the Emergency Health and Nutrition Strategy?

The strategy follows World Vision’s Do/Assure/Don’t Do framework, which includes a core focus on maternal and child health and nutrition and facilitating access to primary health care. It also details what World Vision will not do, either because it contravenes policy or is outside the organisation’s strategic choices.

	Global Health and Nutrition	Emergency Health and Nutrition
Core focus (Do)	Promote the well-being of women and children through Community-based Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN), the public health/preventive approach	<p>Prevent common causes of maternal and child morbidity and mortality by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying health promotion and disease prevention strategies • Controlling communicable diseases • Supporting evidence-based reproductive health services (safe delivery, essential newborn care and family planning) • Encouraging optimal infant and young child feeding practices • Addressing malnutrition using the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition approach <p>Save lives in sudden onset emergencies by providing health services to prevent and reduce avoidable morbidity and mortality, and control diseases of epidemic potential.</p>
Core focus (Assure)	Promote and facilitate equitable access to quality primary clinical care for families and communities through effective partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and facilitate outreach activities • Ensure availability of essential medicines and supplies • Encourage referral links between community health services and health facilities
Don’t do	Provide health benefits only to sponsored children to the exclusion of children of similar status, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a centralised Therapeutic Feeding Centre (in the absence of Outpatient Therapeutic Care)

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	support reproductive health interventions that are abortive in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide secondary and tertiary health care • Offer specialised psychiatric care • Provide health benefits only to sponsored children to the exclusion of children of similar status • Support reproductive health interventions that are abortive in nature
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Two other specific components to the framework provide guidance on interventions for areas that are: new and of high health risk (Add-Ons) and require justification and consideration in the appropriate context analysis (Exceptions).

	Global Health and Nutrition	Emergency Health and Nutrition
Add-Ons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent injury and chronic disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide community-based mental health and psychosocial support • Ensure basic trauma care for victims following acute onset natural disasters
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake school feeding for health outcomes • Offer annual medical check-ups • Contribute to health infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide health infrastructure construction (for the delivery of primary health care) • Invest in medical teams for clinical care (acute onset emergencies, where major damage to the health infrastructure and human workforce is a serious set back for delivery of health care) • Offer medical supplies for chronic diseases that are life-threatening

Why is the Emergency Health and Nutrition Strategy needed?

Addressing the health and nutrition needs of populations affected by disasters has always been a priority focus for World Vision. The Emergency and Nutrition Strategy is integral to World Vision's work during an emergency response because it leads to improved health outcomes for children and communities affected by disasters. It also helps to ensure consistent, quality results.

How will World Vision improve the effectiveness of its emergency response?

Redirecting and aligning the focus of World Vision's emergency health and nutrition programming with the Emergency Health and Nutrition Strategy will be an ongoing process. It will involve:

- improving the capacity of World Vision for the collection and analysis of health and nutrition information that ensures sufficient emergency preparedness and response
- improving skills, procedures and rapid response capacity of World Vision for emergency health and nutrition
- improving organisational learning by promoting evidence-based practices and undertaking relevant research on emergency health and nutrition
- strengthening engagement and partnership with external partners on matters of emergency health and nutrition

For more information, please contact Mesfin Teklu, Emergency Health Technical Director

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