



# World Vision International 2023 Global Report on Child Participation in Decision-Making

Celebrating Children's Involvement in World Vision Decision-Making Processes





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# PREFACE

Welcome to the 2nd Global Report on Child Participation in World Vision (WV) Decision-Making, a celebration of the different ways girls and boys across the world have been meaningfully involved in decisions that WV makes to try and improve child well-being. Field Offices (FOs) have continued to implement stronger and more innovative ways of listening to children, including them in local and national decision-making spaces to ensure that programming and strategy decisions are informed by children's experiences, priorities, needs, and perspectives. We are pressing forward in our belief that children's participation is not only a right, but an essential element of our child-focus agenda.

This global report is part of our Operational Requirements for Child Participation in WV Decision-Making, which is an effort to institutionalise child participation within our organisation with clear lines of accountability. This year's report contains a section of child participation metrics, tracking yearly comparisons of children's involvement in local Area Programme (AP) community decision-making processes, as well as trends we have observed in the FO reports. But most inspiringly, this report highlights extraordinary practices of each region and FO. Every region is celebrated with its own section, offering "stand-out" highlights of when our staff have shared decision-making power with children and opened more spaces for them to contribute to and be involved in decisions to achieve greater impact for the most vulnerable.

Some themes can be seen across each FO and RO report. Firstly, FOs are adapting the Operational Requirements in ways that are meaningful to them, without compromising the essentials of child participation. Some offices are building a strong foundation of child participation practices at the local level, while others are scaling up or strengthening relationships with

children through collaborative intergenerational dialogue. Others are asking increasingly nuanced questions about child participation because of their context or previous experience with child rights programming. All of this is good and worthy of celebration.

Secondly, it is clear that listening to children is valuable no matter how big or small the decision is. From the day-to-day intricacies of project activities to the high-level strategy-shifting decisions at the national FO level, girls and boys are telling us that they want to be part of the conversation, and FOs are experiencing and demonstrating the value of children's contributions. May you be energized by this report and may the children's voices and the examples of how our staff are rising to the challenge of more meaningful child participation inspire you.

Sincerely,



**Bill Forbes,**  
Global Child Protection  
& Participation Sector Lead



**Jean Baptiste Kamate,**  
Chief Field Operations Officer





# CHILD PARTICIPATION QUANTITATIVE DATA AND TRENDS

The following are specific metrics on child participation in decision-making that will be tracked over time as an organisation. The numbers and data below are based on what was reported across several operational dashboards.

### Children’s Involvement in Area Programme ACRP Meetings

An AP’s Annual Community Review and Planning (ACRP) meeting is a chance for World Vision, local partners, and community members to review the year’s work in the community, give feedback and plan for the following year. The data shows an increase in the percentage of total APs that either meaningfully involved children or where children participated in some aspects of the ACRP meetings.

Figure 1. Yearly comparison of number and percentage of APs that involved children in ACRP meetings.

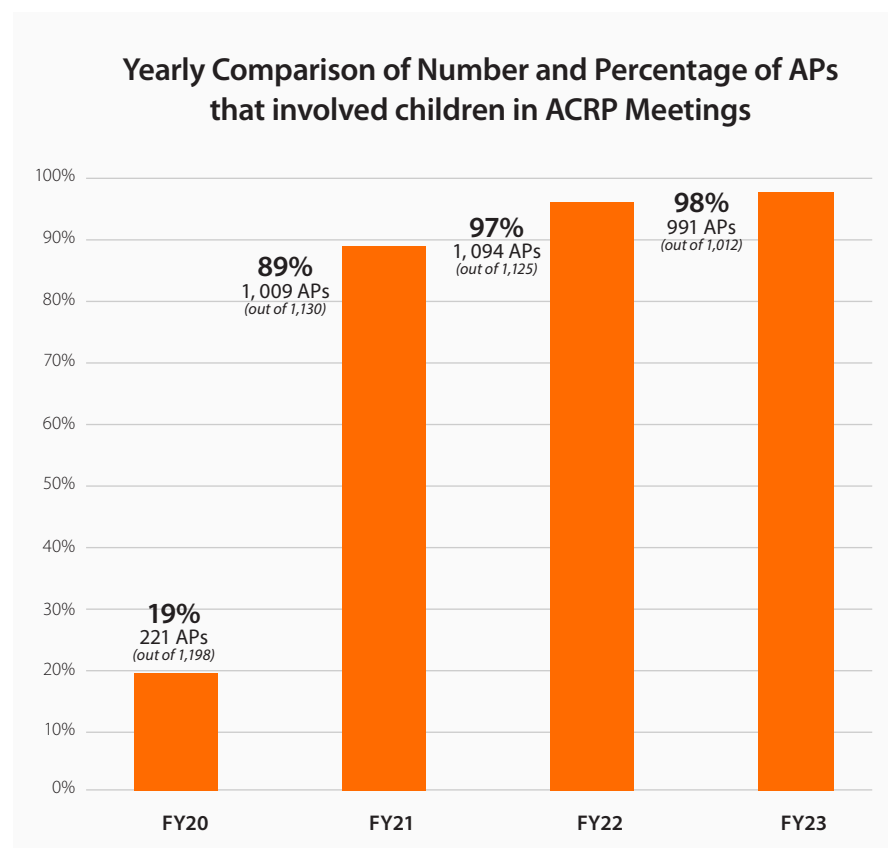
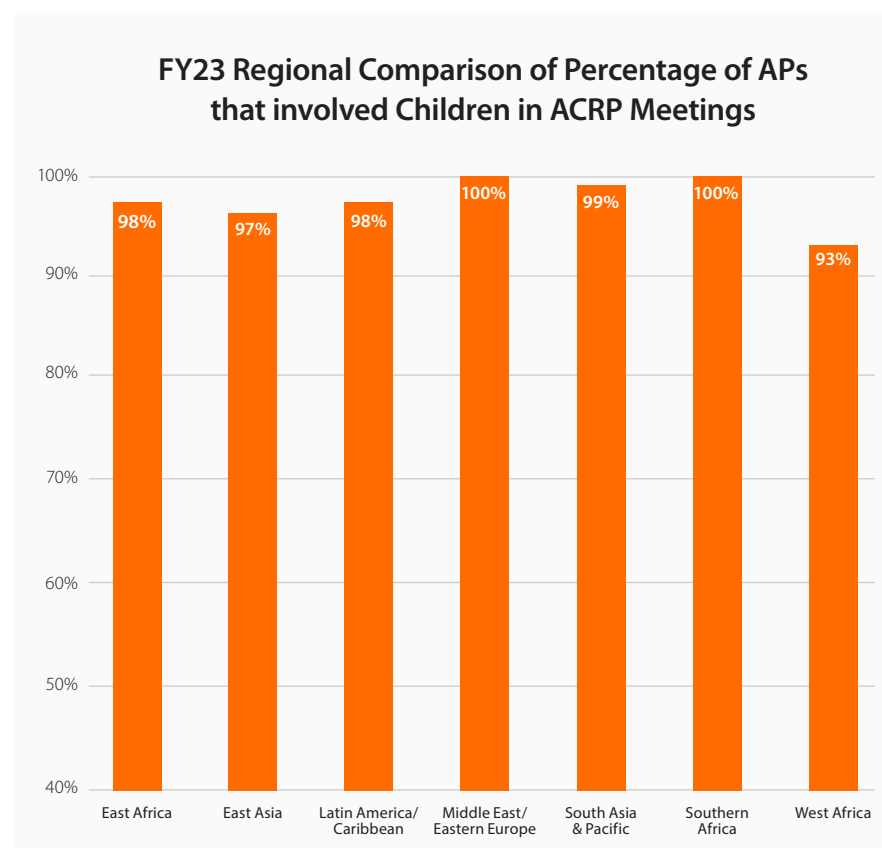


Figure 2. Regional comparison of percentage of APs that involved children in ACRP meetings.

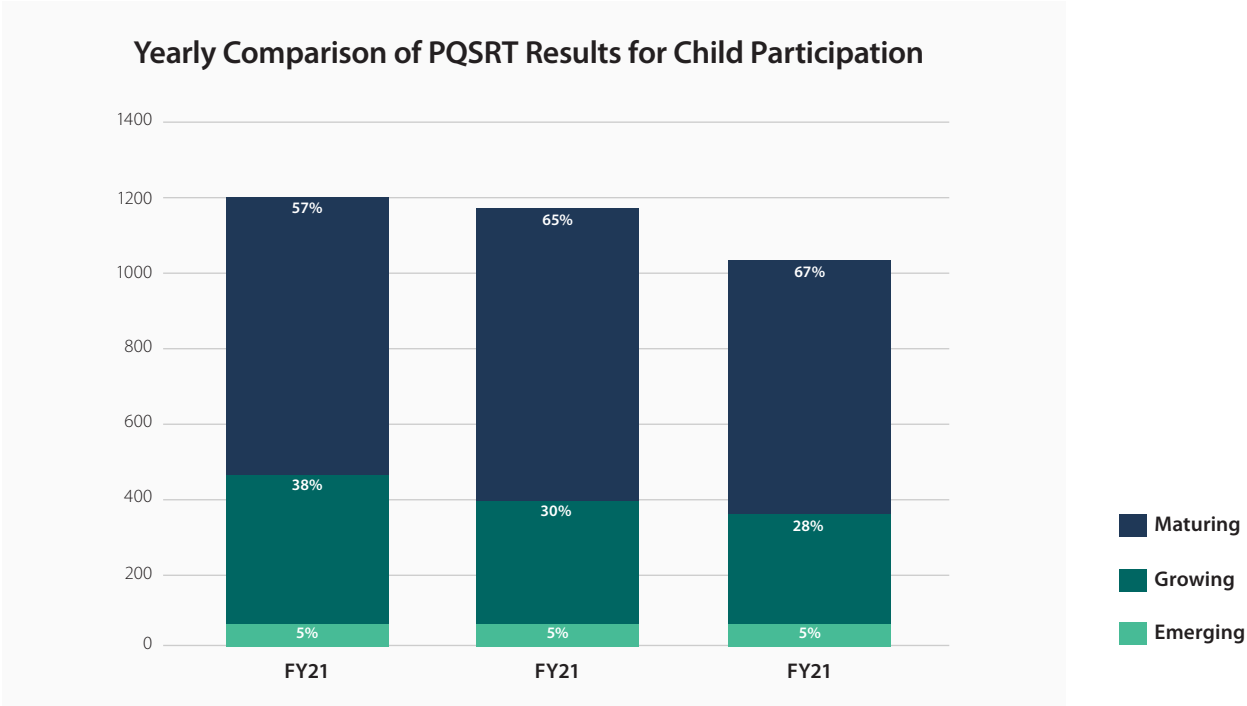


## Child Participation PQSRT Ratings

The child participation data from the FY23 Programme Quality Self Review Tool (PQSRT) revealed the following regarding the Child Participation Criteria (Figure 3):

- **50 APs (5%) are in the Emerging category:** Most children do not see themselves as agents of change and their opinions are not routinely sought by local, municipal, regional or national decision makers. The programme is beginning to empower and include children in decisions that affect their lives.
- **291 APs (28%) are in the Growing category:** Children from a few sections of society see themselves as agents of change and report that their opinions are sought by local, municipal, regional or national decision makers. Staff, community and partners occasionally, but not systematically, empower children, build their capacity and create opportunities for them to participate in age-appropriate ways in the design, implementation and monitoring of activities that affect their lives.
- **703 APs (67%) are in the Maturing category:** Children and adolescents from many sections of society see themselves as agents of change and report that their opinions are sought and incorporated by local, municipal, regional or national decision makers. Staff, community and partners routinely empower children, build their capacity and create opportunities for them to participate in age-appropriate ways in the design, implementation and monitoring of activities that affect their lives.

Figure 3. FY23 PQSRT Results for Child Participation out of 1,170 APs

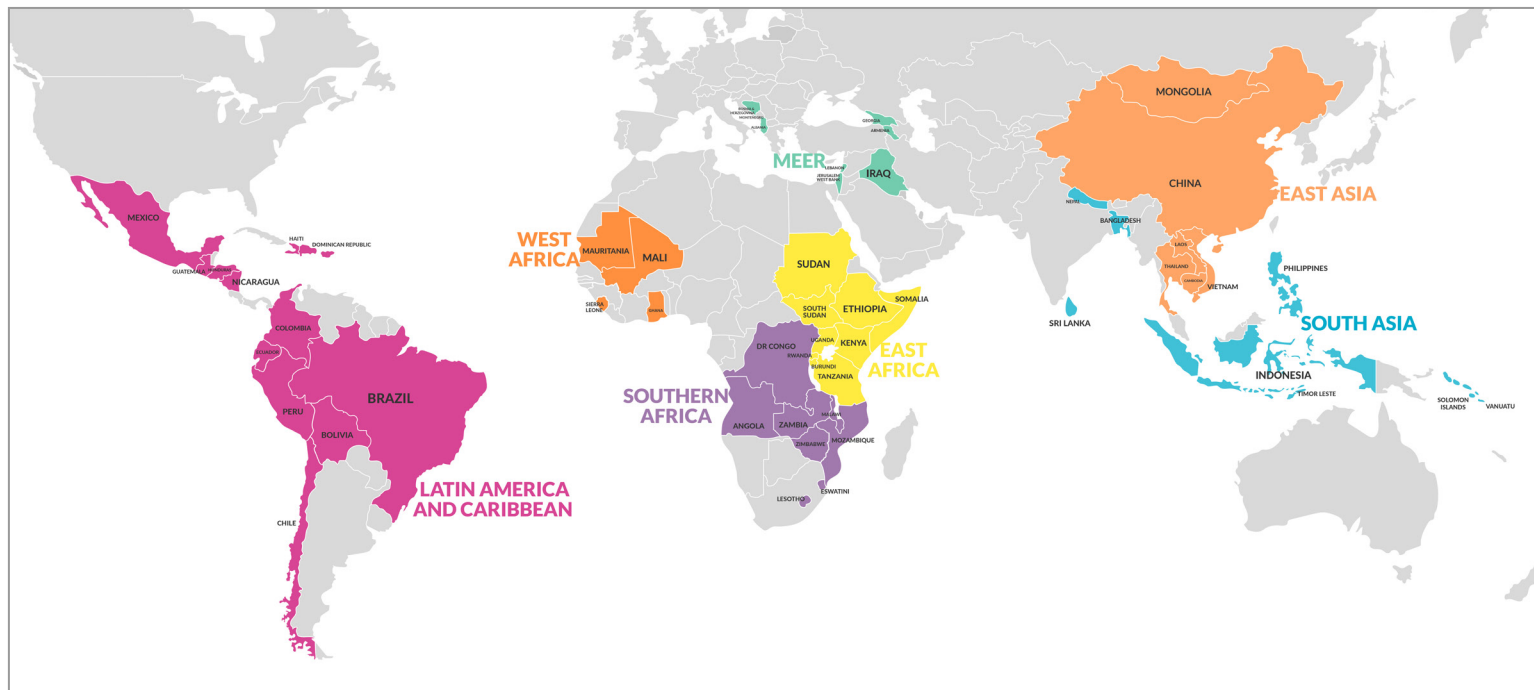


## Child Participation Trends

This year's FO child participation in decision-making reports reveal several noteworthy trends to consider as the organization continues on the path of improving child participation:

- **Inclusive child participation:** Several reports in every region mention the need to strengthen inclusive practices of child participation, especially for children with disabilities, indigenous minorities, girl children, and children of ethnic and racial minorities.
- **Closing the feedback loop with children who have participated:** While our offices are growing in their good practices of including children in decision-making spaces, a key gap is following-up with children who have participated, letting them know how their voices impacted those decisions and keeping ourselves accountable to them.
- **FO Children Advisory Groups:** Nine FOs reported that they have established (or are planning to establish in 2024) representative children's advisory groups/councils to advise the office's Senior Leadership Team on programming and advocacy strategy, direction, and priorities. These groups are comprised of child representatives from local children's groups, forming a network of representation and rotating leadership among children to advise FOs. Offices include: Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, Indonesia, Malawi, and Sri Lanka.

**Field Office Highlights: Click on the map below to see highlights from that region's FOs.**





## Highlights from East Asia

Overall, the region has shown tremendous efforts to expand and ensure local opportunities for children to be involved in decision-making that affects World Vision local programming, as well as decisions made by the community. Children's input affected overarching strategic decisions of the office as well as the scope, budget, implementation, and continuation/discontinuation of projects across FOs.

- **Cambodia:** World Vision Cambodia took time to strengthen the implementation of Programme Accountability at the programme level based on children's suggestions to have a child-friendly feedback mechanism. Because of these efforts, the office reports that "the rating for PQSR criteria 9.2 Accountability – community feedback mechanism has increased from 50% in FY21 to 72% in FY22 of programmes with maturing rating." Because of this success, the office intends to also to engage children's input on a child friendly safeguarding reporting mechanism (quote from WV Cambodia report).

- **China:** World Vision China is an example of an office that has set up a solid, systematic foundation of opportunities for children to be involved in local decision-making processes.

From involving children in programme design, implementation, and assessment, to participation in AP Annual Community Review and Planning (ACRP) meetings, to ensuring quality child-friendly accountability mechanisms for regular feedback, World Vision China ensures that listening to children is not simply a rote requirement, but rather a joyful and essential staff practice and value.



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**Quote from China:** “Children are not passive spectators in the unfolding drama of life; they are the protagonists, the storytellers, and the heroes. It is their right to be heard, and we have an obligation to create spaces where their voices resonate, where their dreams ignite, and where their talents flourish.”  
- *John Teng, World Vision China National Director*

- **Laos:** WV Laos demonstrates that children’s participation in small decisions can have a significant impact. In FY23, 100+ children gave substantial input into the process of deciding what “micro-projects” should be implemented in their communities with World Vision and local partners. “For example, in Xaybuathong AP, children participated in the micro project design workshop, along with the village authority, micro project team, of their respective villages. Children shared an issue which affects their education: There were not enough chairs and tables for them to sit and study. The community members put together a proposal to WV to repair the existing furniture and have additional chairs and tables for their classroom” (quote from WV Laos report).
- **Mongolia:** Advisory Council members demonstrated a strong intention to hear from vulnerable children in a very hard-to-reach, remote district. “6 members of the Advisory Council met with 28 boys and girls representing 1,300 children in the Bayangol Area Programme.” They heard from children from the remote ger district of Bayangol community who told them about the difficulty they face in attending kindergartens and schools located outside their district, often missing out on age-appropriate educational activities because of the distance.
- **Thailand:** WV Thailand implemented a step-by-step process to create a representative structure and ensure that voices of local children were cascaded up to the Senior Leadership Team meeting on April 27, 2023 during their Annual Strategy Review workshop. The recommendations from children are reflected in the office FY24 plans at national and local levels. They are also demonstrating an intentional effort to truly learn from Child Participation Measurement Tool (CPMT) data and adjust programming based on data provided by children.
- **Vietnam:** WV Vietnam has gone to great lengths to ensure the voices of the most vulnerable are being heard and acted on in WV decisions and in the wider society. For example, they supported child brides from different APs to participate in research on child marriage and held consultations with vulnerable children to amend protective measures for child victims of domestic violence in the Draft Law on Domestic Violence Prevention. Thanks to their voices, researchers were able to deliver significant insights and recommendations to government agencies and CSOs to address the root causes of child marriage and enhance child protection measures for child victims of domestic violence.

**Quote from Vietnam:** “I am grateful that we have received testimonials from children, confirming how their participation in decision-making processes has made them feel more empowered and more confident to share their opinions and take action for the well-being of themselves and their communities. We are also encouraged by the evidence of positive changes in our APs and how they have strived to do better by taking children’s input into consideration. This is the motivation for the whole WV team.”  
- *Doseba Sinay, National Director of World Vision Vietnam*

## Highlights from South Asia

In South Asia, children's participation in World Vision decision-making processes are making a difference in the fulfilment of child rights. Field Offices are not simply engaging children in an ad-hoc manner; many South Asia offices are embedding child participation within their overall strategy. In some cases, these efforts are being recognized externally, paving the way for government entities and other external coalitions to look to World Vision as an example of good practices in child participation.

- **Indonesia:** WV Indonesia has an intentional blend of engaging children in WV decision-making processes with community and national level processes, and on priority advocacy issues for WV - thus affecting WV's programming and strategy. Children supported by WV Indonesia contributed to the discussion on the Draft Law on Sexual Violence Crimes, and three children from the Jakarta AP were chosen to speak about environmental issues and climate change at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- **Nepal:** Intergenerational dialogues between children and adult decision-makers from World Vision Nepal and external partners have led to the prioritization of child-related issues and the development of mechanisms to prevent these issues from occurring. Initiatives such as safe houses, toll-free numbers, child helplines, school renovation works, and child registration are progressing in the community and municipalities.
- **Philippines:** World Vision Philippines routinely acts upon the inputs and recommendations from children at local and national levels. This has led to practical achievements such as the re-establishment of barangay (village) children's associations for children to self-initiate their own development activities. Over 1,500 children have also participated in the design and implementation of grant/private non-sponsorship projects, while over 500 children have influenced the office's child sponsorship improvement plan.



Ayush (right) and Bhagawati (left) recording an episode of a radio programme

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- **Bangladesh:** World Vision Bangladesh leadership at local and national levels are responding to children’s very specific suggestions to programming and incorporating adjustments into both day-to-day activities as well as the offices’ overall strategy based on children’s inputs. Their child forums and the national level Child and Youth Advisory Council help to facilitate children’s participation in these local and national spaces.
- **Sri Lanka:** This office focuses on creating an enabling environment for child participation to flourish by investing in capacity and skills building for adults and children alike. Their Children’s Federation model also enables the Senior Leadership Team to be confident that what is shared in intergenerational meetings is reflective of hundreds of children’s opinions, not just a few. These efforts paved the way for WV Sri Lanka to be the government’s principal partner to carry out children’s consultations for the country’s 7th State Report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

South Asia’s grant-funded offices face unique challenges in systematically listening to children. However, they are still finding effective ways to build a solid foundation for child participation efforts:

- **Timor Leste:** Local staff in this office have made it a regular practice to listen to children and validate their opinions on programming details, showing that children’s participation does not always need to take place in high-level forums to be meaningful. Continuous, everyday listening to children’s voices has led to piloting children’s focused savings and loan groups as a response to requests from children and their parents, as well as decisions to scale up IMPACT+ clubs to continually support adolescents year after year.
- **Vanuatu:** Children and young people’s perspectives about WASH programming influenced activity design and implementation of the final year of the offices’ Wai, Nui and Laetem Dak Kona projects, as well as the design of CHILD and the new Water for Women project. Additionally, in FY22, WV and partners finalised formative research with caregivers and young women with intellectual disabilities, including 10 girls under 18, to understand their experiences in managing menstruation during recent emergencies in Vanuatu.
- **Solomon Islands:** World Vision Solomon Islands has established a mechanism to ask for children’s feedback on project implementation, using their input to inform future programming iterations.



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## Highlights from Middle East and Eastern Europe

The Middle East and Eastern Europe Region (MEER) offices all face unique challenges and as such, approach their commitment to inclusive children's participation in a variety of ways. The region itself contains conflict, fragile, active emergency contexts, and offices transitioning from sponsorship funds to grant-funded programmes.

- **Albania:** WV Albania excels at creating networks of child representatives that are already involved in their local communities. In the past year, WV Albania established a Children Advisory Board comprised of 15 young people from different regions of Albania who care about social causes and are actively involved with their own respective groups. The representatives can speak to specific overarching issues that are affecting young people today such as mental health, youth employability, etc. Additionally, they advise on programme design across all sectors, give feedback to WV Albania's strategy implementation, interact with Advisory Council members, and give feedback to their peers at the local level based on their conversations with WV leadership.



- **Armenia:** WV Armenia focuses on an intergenerational and collaborative approach to child participation, intentionally bringing adults and children together to solve child well-being issues and find solutions. These partnerships emphasize mutual learning and understanding between children and adults, co-creation and ownership of programmes, and accountability to children. Their collaboration with children has yielded significant impact on the office's programme designs and strategy, especially around inclusivity: "Children's feedback has prompted World Vision Armenia to adopt more inclusive approaches in programming. Efforts have been made to address accessibility issues, ensure equal opportunities for children with disabilities, and create an inclusive environment for all children to participate and benefit" (quote from WV Armenia's annual report).
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** WV Bosnia and Herzegovina utilise a range of creative methods to engage children's voices in decision-making spaces. They have a Children and Youth Advisory Board and have worked to create an innovative digital platform for children to interface with government stakeholders and civil society organisations mandated with child protection. Additionally, they utilize traditional methods such as survey and in-person discussion groups at the local level to gather children's opinions. According to children themselves, "World Vision does not simply disregard children's views and asks, but takes them seriously, initiates actions with and for children and reverts back to children with information on progress" (quote from WV BiH report).



- **Georgia:** WV Georgia is taking solid steps to incorporate children’s voices in decision-making spaces such as AP evaluations, Annual Community Reviews, and research. Their SLT also listened to vulnerable children who are beneficiaries of an overnight shelter and day-care centre supported by World Vision, marking the first time beneficiaries had an opportunity to express their thoughts about the services provided. A 16-year-old boy from the shelter reflected, “I ran away from many centres. I thought I wouldn’t be able to get used to it here, but here I found a different kind of attitude. All the employees value me and take care of me. That’s why I’ve been with you for the third month. I have not lived anywhere for so long” (boy from overnight shelter supported by WV Georgia).

- **Iraq:** WV Iraq has a built a strong foundation of children’s participation, taking meaningful steps and scaling up what has been working, such as incorporating children’s voices into project design processes. Based on needs indicated by children and people with disabilities, WV was able to improve WASH facilities in the city of Kirkuk, allowing improved access and removal of specific barriers that hindered people with disabilities from benefiting from this resource. These meaningful interactions have paved the way for increased child participation at national level.



- **Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza (JWG):** Even in the midst of intense conflict in the region, WV JWG prioritizes listening to Palestinian children in ways that make a difference in children’s lives, in their communities, and in WV itself. Their approach encompasses two main approaches: 1) SLT members organising time to intentionally listen to children and hear their feedback on various types of WV-supported programmes, and 2) including boys and girls in the process of designing and budgeting for new APs. In response to children’s passion for child sponsorship and desire to grow their leadership skills, the National Director and Central Zone Manager piloted a Sponsorship Child Council, tasked with helping WV JWG shape sponsorship activities and communications.

- **Lebanon:** Staff from WV Lebanon systematically gathered feedback from 160 children across 20 focus groups in various types of projects such as Sponsorship-funded APs, grant-funded projects, and projects funded by private donors. They also asked children for their opinions on every programmatic sector that the office funded, providing a nuanced list of recommended commitments that the office will look into based on children’s recommendations by sector. These commitments range from local actions by staff who interact with children regularly, to high-level commitments regarding implementation of new education programming.

## Highlights from Southern Africa

The Southern Africa Region continues to be an example of setting a strong foundation of listening to children by doing the basics and doing them very well. Listening to children at the local AP level, brokering spaces for intergenerational dialogue within World Vision and externally with local and national partners, and engaged Senior Leadership Teams that actively respond to children's perspectives are some of their foundational good practices.

- **Angola:** This year, more Senior Leaders in the FO were engaged in listening to children compared to the previous year. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) travelled almost 900 km to the southern part of the country to engage with the most vulnerable children benefiting from the South Western Angola Emergency Response II (SWAER II) – a project that was refined due to children's engagement last year. As a result of children's engagement, WV Angola will be analysing the outcome of their interventions and campaigns with regards to ending violence against children.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** World Vision DRC boasts an impressive, detailed list of children's perspectives and the impact of children's participation across many sectors (Education, Child Protection, Faith & Development, Livelihoods, etc.). The leadership also does an excellent job at providing feedback to children on how young people's input is used, respecting their time and advice, not overpromising, but also taking children's opinions seriously. They have honest, respectful discussions about what is and is not within World Vision's control. They recognize the role of building the capacity in children to advocate for what they need from other entities if WV cannot or should not be the ones fulfilling a specific need.
- **Eswatini:** During children's engagement with the WV Eswatini SLT, staff invited key community leaders and government officials so that children had the opportunity to express their perspective to a wider audience. The leadership recognized children's participation as a sign of positive transformation, saying "Observing children actively engaging in issue identification, discussion and comprehension, proposing potential solutions, exhibiting confidence and courage, and assuming accountability for their



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future growth represents the primary indication of transformation within the Ministry of World Vision.” As a result of children’s engagement, APs have established support groups for children living with disabilities to promote peer-to-peer care and support.

- **Lesotho:** Children’s engagement with local and national WV Lesotho leadership has made a profound impact on the way children view World Vision and has strengthened their confidence in World Vision’s programming. Gift, a child participant who spoke with WV Lesotho’s national leadership is quoted saying, “This is the second year that we meet with WV Lesotho’s Leadership. Previously we could see World Vision coming to our communities and start implementing the projects. The children did not have a say in those projects, from planning stages until decision making stage. But recently, Management of World Vision is able to sit down with us and discuss the needs of children before projects can begin. . . We have developed leadership skills, and we are now responsible members of the community.”
- **Malawi:** WV Malawi have a clear understanding that the foundation of child participation should begin at the AP level - in children’s direct environment. They carefully layer on opportunities for children to be involved in decision-making spaces at the district level, then national level. They are tailoring their operations to reflect this through supporting children to attend child parliament at AP level, as well as conducting a yearly summit that brings together children from all regions to engage at the national level with WV leadership. This year, children’s input has been used to make some adjustments in programming, specifically about incorporating the boy child in project interventions.
- **Mozambique:** 675 children across WV Mozambique’s programming areas engaged in a process to contribute to the FO’s strategy review process through interactive activities and presentations. In total the exercise took place in four provinces. Leadership recognized a gap in adequately preparing children to join in strategic level decision-making processes and are actively working on improving this aspect in the coming year. Nevertheless, the office received children’s feedback on a variety of issues such as relevance and impact of WV programmes, preferred approaches, priority issues for focus, and integration of child participation into technical programmes.
- **Zambia:** WV Zambia is skilled in using data from the Child Participation Measurement Tool to analyse strengths and weaknesses of child participation and determine pathways of improvement. WV Zambia also invests in children’s clubs as an essential platform for children’s participation in community life and decision-making spaces. “Working closely with faith and traditional leaders, the adolescent clubs have further increased World Vision’s transformation agenda and impact on the most vulnerable children in the communities where World Vision operates, through the changing of cultural norms to ensure that they are child protection sensitive” (quote from the WV Zambia report).
- **Zimbabwe:** Leaders in WV Zimbabwe have reported that listening to children directly has given them deeper insights into children’s personal experiences and an understanding of the impact of various issues on children’s lives. They say: “Participation of children in annual strategy review, program quality self-review and annual community review meetings continues to provide evidence and generate commitment for child sensitive budgeting across sectors and programs” (quote from WV Zimbabwe report). These intentional efforts to listen to children have led to strategic changes such as adapting programming with a more intentional focus on adolescents and investing more in intergenerational dialogues targeting faith leaders and traditional leaders for the formulation of district level child protection by-laws.

## Highlights from West Africa

The West Africa region underpins their practice of child participation with a strong belief that participation is a child's right as well as an essential way for World Vision to achieve impact in children's lives. From their investment in children's groups to their usage of the Child Participation Measurement Tool (CPMT), offices in this region take strong steps to ensure that children's voices guide the work that they do.

- **Ghana:** WV Ghana has invested in children's groups as a mechanism for meaningful children's participation in organisational decision-making processes as well as decision-making at the community level. They have successfully trained 34 staff and club facilitators to gather children's feedback through feedback sessions in 48 communities and 24 district consultations, in which children assess the scope, quality, and outcomes of child participation. At the district level, a Child Parliament group was formed, serving as advocates on child rights issues and a communications link between adults and other groups of children.
- **Mali:** WV Mali took an honest and purposeful look at the scope, quality, and outcomes of child participation using the CPMT. Children were honest about where in the project cycle they are involved, and where they are not. According to their application of the CPMT, children recognized they are mostly involved in implementation, but would like to be more involved in monitoring and evaluation. In other areas, WV Mali celebrated children's participation in defining their own mechanisms for reporting child protection issues, drafting child-friendly Behaviour Protocols, and bringing to light taboo topics such as "child marriage" in an impactful way.
- **Mauritania:** WV Mauritania promotes child participation not only because it is a child's right, but because they recognize that Mauritanian children are so often left out of the decisions that affect their lives. The impact of this strategic choice can be seen at the community level where, children's engagement in the Programme Quality Self-Review Tool (PQRST) led to better investments in WASH initiatives, an expanded children's club network, and a nation-wide study on the worst forms of child labour among other achievements. At the national level, children's involvement led to infrastructure (that was originally intended strictly for government use) being re-designated as a mother and children's hospital which now excels in maternal and child health.
- **Sierra Leone:** Child participation is integral to WV Sierra Leone's theory of change and underpins their strategy from local to national level. At the AP level this year, two APs currently in design involved boys and girls to map partners that supported child well-being and understand the root causes of child vulnerability. At the national level, the office engaged 250 children across three districts to discuss strategies for ending violence against children. Finally, at the international level, children from Sierra Leone spoke with WVUK board members for the first time to inform Support Office decision-making.



## Highlights from East Africa

Field offices in the East Africa region have all found unique ways to strengthen children's participation that consider the varying contextual needs of each office. Each are building off the basics of child participation and have evolved to more complex processes and mechanisms for accountability to children, listening to children meaningfully in the midst of sudden violence, and tangible improvements in the lives of vulnerable boys and girls.

- **Burundi:** WV Burundi continues to build off a strong foundation of children's participation, integrating simple processes to collect children's feedback during programme design, implementation, and evaluation. They have implemented various levels of decisions that children can be part of, from day-to-day local programming adaptations and improvements to high level decisions around strategy and direction of WV Burundi's overall efforts. A highlight from this past year's listening processes resulted in incorporating spaces for play in project designs, which is a direct response to children's request for more public and open places for children's free play.
- **Ethiopia:** WV Ethiopia SLT and Advisory Council members made the extraordinary effort to travel and listen to children in the Tigray region, an active conflict and extremely fragile context. While there, children shared input and suggestions for programming improvement across every sector in the wake of the on-going war. Leadership allowed themselves to be challenged by children's opinions, not shying away from boys' and girls' critiques and requests of what World Vision can be doing to stem the distress and suffering caused by the conflict.
- **Kenya:** WV Kenya has implemented strong networks of "Children Assemblies" where children ages 7-17 can gather at local, county and national levels to participate in decision-making, policy formation, planning and implementation of activities geared toward children, and other issues affecting young people. These spaces allow children to engage both WV leadership and government leadership at various levels, resulting in small and big actions that have a profound impact on children's lives. For example, in the Angurai AP in Kenya's Busia County, 100 children participated through their assembly in the development of an MOU articulating issues affecting them, and shared this with the county government to be incorporated in the County budgeting process.
- **Rwanda:** WV Rwanda has created steady rhythms of engagement with boys and girls, with formal and informal spaces where children can interact with members of their SLT to ensure children's voices are considered in strategic planning. In the past year, children's voices have influenced programming decisions that have made a significant impact on children's lives, such as the construction of Health Centres that were previously requested and improvement of water supply that children noted as an essential need across many of WV Rwanda's programming regions.





- **Somalia:** WV Somalia excels at establishing multiple methods for children to give feedback on WV programming through a robust child-friendly accountability mechanism. Their Community Response Map is the primary accountability platform for receiving comments, in addition to other practices such as focus group discussions, suggestion boxes in schools, and interactive voice recording as part of the system. They report that 80% of the feedback specifically received from children receive a response within 7 days, and of those that receive a response, 85% are fully satisfied with the follow-up. Due to their investment in this accountability system, WV Somalia has a clear understanding of children’s perspectives and needs.
- **South Sudan:** WV South Sudan faced multiple challenging factors in their context the last two years, including inter-communal conflicts, increasing inflation, and an influx of refugees and returnees. Despite these issues, they say that “these vulnerabilities and risks, however, provided the very reason why listening to children’s voices made meaning in our continued pursuit of enhancing their well-being.” Listening to children’s perspectives resulted in tangible changes to WV South Sudan’s programming presence, such as integrating Child Friendly Spaces with Food & Nutrition, Health, and Education projects, strengthening of community child help desks, and continued School Feeding supporting in collaboration with World Food Programme.
- **Sudan:** WV Sudan experienced a sudden eruption of violence this past year which halted many of their child participation plans started in 2022. Despite these setbacks however, the staff and leadership of WV Sudan have found sustainable ways to create a strong foundation for listening to children’s voices that they plan to build upon and scale in the years to come. The office has been very strategic in hosting a series of intergenerational dialogues between children and adults (both WV staff and local government actors) in various regions of the country. One tangible result of children’s participation is children’s request that leadership invest more in the education sector which resulted in an increase in projects that have an education focus.
- **Tanzania:** WV Tanzania provides a balanced mix of opportunities for children to be involved in decision-making, from local AP opportunities to national opportunities like the Junior Council of the United Republic of Tanzania. Since the advent of their new five-year strategy, the office has been organizing forums where children from various APs can gather to reflect and share about issues that are important to them and how WV Tanzania’s programmes impact their well-being. Children’s input led to changes such as increased participation of adults in child safeguarding trainings across the country, resulting in increased reporting and awareness of community reporting mechanisms.
- **Uganda:** WV Uganda continues to excel in rolling out a strategic, office-wide child participation plan that aims to extend child participation in decision-making opportunities for children to engage at local, national, regional, continental and global spaces. Of note is how WV Uganda responded to children’s voices from 2022, when boys and girls emphasized the need to increase programming opportunities for children with disabilities (CwDs). The office’s current report details how they have prioritized including CwDs and refugee children in decision-making, and how inclusion of CwDs is improving. For example, the Child Protection technical programme has partnered with Motivation Charitable Trust to provide assistive devices for children with disabilities in specific communities, as well as built the capacity of parents, caregivers, and community leaders to support CwDs.

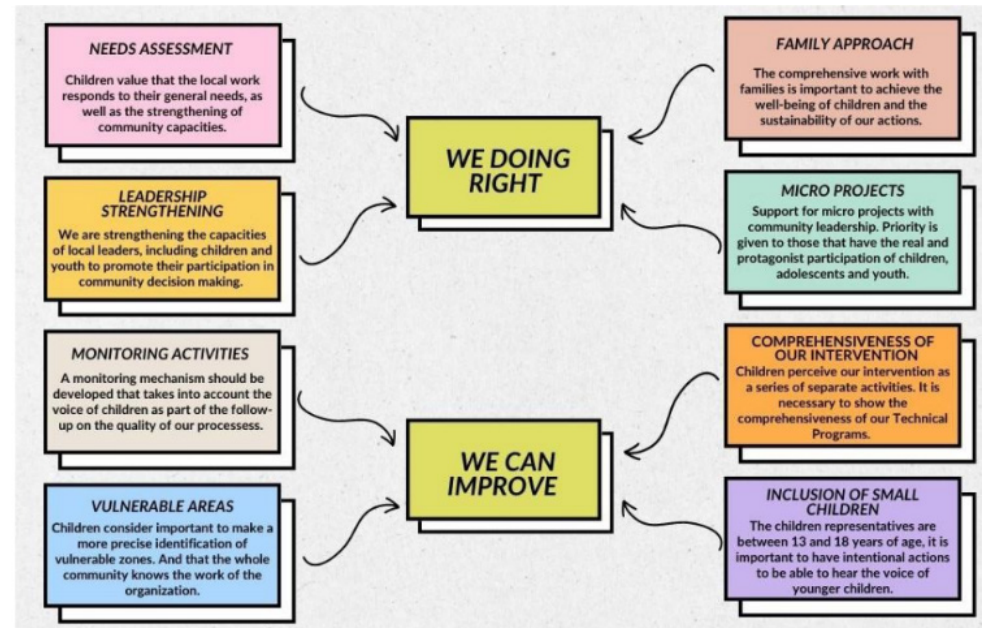


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## Highlights from Latin America and Caribbean

The Latin America and Caribbean region has always positioned their child participation efforts in the context of child rights, emphasizing that boys and girls have the right to participate and calling those in power (duty bearers) to fulfill these rights. Another strength is the region's focus on "children's protagonism," or the view that children should be the principal actors in their development and supported to become catalysts for change in their societies.

- Bolivia:** World Vision Bolivia excels in probing the latest trends and patterns of child participation in their organisation to discover the next steps to elevate their child participation efforts. With a solid foundation of "business-as usual" spaces where children already participate in decision-making, World Vision Bolivia is now focused on learning from their processes, identifying key challenges, and working with children to overcome them. Among the areas they have identified to look into are examining budgetary gaps to support local APs in their practice of child participation, improving the practice of including children under 13 in decision-making spaces, and strengthening children's participation in the family unit.
- Brazil:** In both World Vision Brazil's own decision-making spaces and in local/national community spaces, the priorities of children remain unchanged: young people want adults to work with them to solve issues related to lethal community violence, improve quality education and mental health services, and take action on climate change. World Vision Brazil is prepared to support children's recommendations through considerations in their own programming and advocacy choices, as well as to continue to strengthen children's participation in key methodologies like Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) to address these issues.
- Chile:** WV Chile is another office that has decided to start a Children's Advisory Council in 2024 that will advise the World Vision Chile Executive Committee. Additionally, they have used the input from boys and girls during the country's national "Pacto Niñez" project and World Vision's Global Changemakers initiative in their planning and design processes for various projects and programmes.



**Quote from Brazil:** "Promoting child and adolescent participation is to believe in the capacity of people and communities to change their reality of lack of access to public exclusion, lack of access to public services of any kind and lack of participation in the political decisions that affect their lives"  
 – **Thiago Cruciti, World Vision Brazil National Director**

- **Colombia:** WV Colombia is committed to recognizing children as subjects of rights, and therefore a large part of their role is to create the necessary conditions for meaningful participation, within the organisation as well as politically and socially in the wider Colombian society. They demonstrate a desire to move beyond implementing child participation for mere compliance, to position children’s participation as a key methodology for improving WV programmes as well as to fulfil children’s rights in Colombia. For example, their consistent cycle of documenting the needs and perspectives of children in their APs forms a “Children’s Agenda,” and when complemented with wider needs assessments, the office has a more holistic perspective of what issues need to be prioritized in every region of the country.



- **Dominican Republic:** WV Dominican Republic (WV DR) has invested in building a culture at the community and national levels regarding the relevance and impact of child participation. These efforts have borne fruit with community members, resulting in the creation of spaces for children and adolescents to raise their voices on issues that are important to them. As a result, WV DR staff have discovered children want more conversation about violence in schools. To address this, staff supported School Mediation Committees for conflict resolution and organized discussion on bullying and children’s rights.
- **Ecuador:** WV Ecuador is an extraordinary example of investing in local to national networks of children’s groups, prioritizing indigenous voices and the disproportionate suffering imposed on the most vulnerable children. Each local children’s network organizes local advocacy and projects to increase child well-being while their national children’s network has an overarching agenda of violence prevention, mental health, environmental protection, and leadership training. Representatives from this national network also advise the WV Ecuador Advisory Council on setting strategic objectives.
- **El Salvador:** This office expresses their value of listening to children by directly prioritizing projects and initiatives at local and national levels that correspond to specific recommendations from boys and girls. Young people’s concerns around economic livelihood, children with disabilities, and their own education have led senior leaders in this office to invest in economic livelihood programmes for vulnerable youth, cognitive stimulation activities for people with intellectual disabilities, and World Vision’s Catch Up Programme (CUP).
- **Guatemala:** WV Guatemala believes that for child participation to be genuine, it must happen within the context of healthy intergenerational relationships between children and adults, with a joint mindset of mutual learning. This office consistently promotes spaces for intergenerational dialogue between children and WV staff, as well as with local community partners and decision-makers. These spaces give children the opportunity to influence



programming and other community level decisions with their opinions.

- **Haiti:** As an office that deals with consistent gang violence that disrupts basic services and directly affects the lives of children, WV Haiti has still found sustainable ways to consult with children and incorporate their perspectives into organisational decisions. They have steadily scaled practices such as incorporating children into “Community Summit” meetings, investing in children’s clubs in APs, and applying learnings from the CPMT. They have built a good foundation of consultative participation and desire to move into more consistent collaborative participation between children and adults.



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- **Honduras:** The staff and leadership of WV Honduras are doing the hard work of raising awareness within the organisation and among local communities about the importance of providing spaces for meaningful child participation. They are also living up to their own words, especially when the leadership accepted an invitation by a children’s group to come and listen to children’s efforts to prevent violence in the Sula Valley. They have also responded very practically to children’s suggestions for more vocational training courses, increased support for vulnerable families, and campaigns to tackle violence against children.
- **Mexico:** WV Mexico has implemented a digital platform in partnership with the government where thousands of children are able to express their opinions and make proposals through art, surveys, poems, and other methodologies. These massive participation mechanisms allow WV Mexico leadership to obtain quantitative and qualitative data to analyse and present children’s perspectives to government leaders, the public, academia, and the media. It also allows them to understand how WV Mexico’s own programming can be improved to meet the needs of boys and girls.
- **Nicaragua:** WV Nicaragua sets a good example of implementing multiple methodologies and spaces for children’s participation, depending on the programming context of various APs. They do not have a singular model for participation, but rather have embedded multiple methodologies, models, and special processes into their programming. For example, some APs engage children in community consultation processes while other APs implement curricula such as Youth Ready or Peace Road. They organize special listening sessions like The Voice of Children in the Dry Corridor consultation and have set in stone an annual working session between children and the WV Nicaragua Advisory Council.
- **Peru:** WV Peru has connected many of their efforts to improve child participation to the suggestions made by children in previous Triennial Councils. The external partnerships they have made, their investments in extensive children’s networks, and their steady progression from consultative participation to more intense collaborative and child-led efforts are done in response to the collective voices of children from past Councils. Additionally, due to the influx of Venezuelan migrant families, WV Peru has also focused on increasing participation of Venezuelan children on the move to promote a space for cultural exchange and inclusive integration.

# CONCLUSION

Across the WV Partnership, FOs are developing their own contextualized approaches to strengthening child participation, navigating the complexities of their current programming needs, future goals for involving children in decision-making, and contextual opportunities and challenges. Staff are building a foundation of reliable, business-as-usual practices for child participation, and asking new questions to challenge themselves and to seek out innovations. Overall, WV staff are learning the realities, challenges, and joys of sharing power with boys and girls and truly valuing their perspectives as they make decisions that affect children everywhere.







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