



SOME FACTS

Of the world's 1.8 billion adolescents and youth, 90% live in developing countries (ages 10-24).

While they make up 16% of the global population, youth are 41% of the unemployed workforce (ages 15-24).

For young people, interpersonal violence and suicide are two leading causes of death; 37% of homicides are among adolescents and youth (ages 15-29).

There is a 10-fold return in health, social, and economic benefits for every dollar invested in adolescent health and well-being.

UNFPA Factsheets; ILO Employment Trends for Youth, 2022; WHO Youth Violence Factsheet 2023; PMNCH Adolescent Health and Well-Being Factsheet, 2023.

Why Positive Youth Development?

Millions of young people face alarming circumstances defined by social exclusion, violence, and a lack of opportunities for education, work, and meaningful participation in community life. They are in a critical life stage, facing complex challenges while forging their identities amidst intense physical, emotional, social, and cognitive growth.¹

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a conceptual framework for a multi-sectoral, assets-based approach to adolescent and youth development. In contrast to deficit-based approaches to development, which focus on correcting problems on behalf of young people as targets of development interventions, PYD focuses on empowering young people as positive agents of change. By strengthening their intellectual, physical, social, and emotional competence, PYD programs recognize the potential for young people to be a leading source of change in their own lives and communities. Investing in the world's 1.8 billion adolescents and youth is critical to increasing returns on early childhood gains and on the evolving capacities of young people.

World Vision's approach to PYD

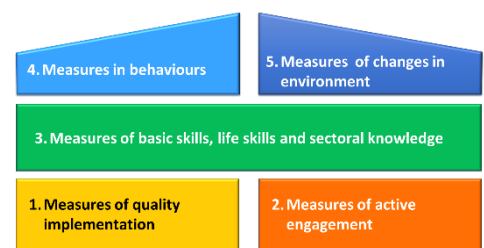
World Vision has 70 years of experience working directly with children and their families, taking a community-based and systems strengthening approach to child well-being. We address key issues faced by adolescents in development and humanitarian contexts, such as child marriage, forced labour, mental health, and forced school leaving and displacement.

We engage young people in meaningful participation through life skills programming, project design, M&E, and governance decision-making, and community contribution. Our PYD approach has four main components, outlined in the table below.

| Assets | Agency | Contribution | Enabling Environment |
|---|---|--|--|
| Gaining foundational, life, and employability skills through training and education, and social and emotional competencies and values, and character. | Employing assets to make decisions for their lives and achieve a desired future, stemming from positive identity and self-efficacy. | Engaging with opportunities to express shared vision, care for others, advance a greater good, and participate meaningfully. | Social, normative, structural, and physical conditions that support, protect, encourage, and strengthen empowerment. |

How World Vision's measures PYD

One of World Vision's priority objectives is adolescent well-being, including improved assets and life skills. We systematically listen to young people's opinions on the changes they are experiencing through our programs. We aim to see young people as healthy, productive, and fulfilled citizens, achieving what is also called "developmental success," which combines an increase in skills (intermediate outcome), with an increase in thriving behaviours, or a reduction of risk behaviours (long-term outcome).



The diagram above shows there are other measures in an adolescent programming M&E framework in order to ensure we are doing the right things in the right way with right people, to understand the changes experienced by adolescents, to listen to adolescent voices and

know they are participating meaningfully in decision-making, and to understand how their environment is changing to support their developmental success. Among other indicators, we measure improved self-efficacy, participation in local government

¹ World Vision defines "adolescents" as people between the ages of 12 and 18 and "youth" as people between the ages of 15 and 24. We acknowledge that adolescence may begin as early as 10 and youth may go beyond the age of 24. Adolescence is generally defined as the second decade of life, beginning at puberty and characterized as a period of transition from childhood towards adulthood. The period of major brain development slows in the mid-twenties. The term "young people" in this document includes both age ranges.



decision-making, developmental assets, adolescents' perceptions of changes they are experiencing, life skills completion, and group and community project participation. In humanitarian contexts, we also measure adolescents' access to learning opportunities, psychosocial well-being, and protective factors.

World Vision's institutional strengths

Integrated programming: World Vision's adolescent and youth programming seeks outcomes in child protection, education, health and nutrition, and livelihoods. Our approach to active citizenship facilitates PYD integration across sectors, ensuring young people are both targets as well as active participants in our interventions.

Community-based approach: We work in communities in over 80 countries, empowering young people to protect themselves and equipping their caregivers, families, and communities to provide a protective environment.

Systems strengthening: We work at all levels of a child's ecology, addressing root causes of issues and identifying assets available to enable PYD at all levels. Working with people at household, community, societal, and policy levels ensures we are not only training individuals but empowering them within their contexts.

Localization: We partner with private sector, government, churches, networks, and universities and are committed to capacity building and power sharing with grassroots, youth-led, and local organisations.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: Our GESI approach addressing access, decision-making, participation, systems, and well-being, is systematically integrated, recognizing adolescents are key participants in challenging norms and barriers to inclusion in their communities and globally.

NEXUS approach: Our programmes span all contexts, from development to humanitarian response and Fragile contexts. We emphasize the importance of deeper analysis of root causes of fragility and build flexibility into multi-sectoral, risk-informed programming that strengthens families, civil society, and systems to reinforce long term resilience, trust, safety, inclusion, peace, and hope.

Selected current and recent projects

Global: IMPACT+ Clubs

World Vision implements our flagship approach to PYD, IMPACT+, in 30 countries around the world, in Central America and the Caribbean, Southern and Eastern Africa, Middle East and Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. IMPACT+ is an integrated approach to adolescent engagement that fosters the skills, behaviors, and character values for participation in social, civic, and economic life. IMPACT clubs began in Armenia in 2016 and some of the clubs have since registered as youth-led civil society organizations. In Solomon Islands, starting in 2019, 1,660 young people engaged with an integrated IMPACT+ and savings and entrepreneurship program, and youth have become mobilizing stakeholders for community-based child protection reporting and referral. In its first two years, Sri Lanka has established 833 clubs in six regions with over 28,000 participating adolescents, and almost 2,000 adolescent-led service-learning projects.

Latin America: Vision for Vulnerable Youth

In Latin America, the Barret Family Foundation is working with World Vision Canada to implement Youth Ready, one of our key approaches to PYD with a goal of empowering youth to make healthy choices, to participate in economic opportunities and to contribute to the wider good and care for others. The program implemented Youth Ready in El Salvador and Honduras in its first phase and has now expanded to five other Latin American countries. Working with young women and men aged 14 to 29, both in and out of school, 11,000 youth completed the Youth Ready training curriculum, over 4,000 youth completed a technical vocational training program, and over 3,000 youth returned to complete their studies.

Zimbabwe: Improving Girls' Access through Transforming Education

Funded by the UK government from 2017-2021, World Vision's IGATE project aimed to identify and reduce the barriers that limit and hinder girls' educational access, retention, and learning outcomes. The project combined community-based education, whole school development, community engagement, and developing girls' leadership and life skills. Adolescent girls experienced significant improvements in literacy, positive coping mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic, leadership skills and peer support, vocational training opportunities for transitioning out of school, and participatory teaching methods.

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. Learn more at www.wvi.org/Education.

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