

The East Asia region is home to an estimated 155.2 million people living in extreme poverty. The challenges faced by families in meeting their basic needs and securing their livelihoods are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, conflict, and rising costs of living.

In the midst of these challenges, World Vision has been a steadfast presence in East Asia for over seven decades, since its founding in 1950. Operating in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam, World Vision delivers multi-sector programming grounded in the fundamental rights of children, focusing on their survival, protection, development, and participation. Our initiatives are supported by over 2,200 staff members, more than 99% of whom are local, ensuring culturally relevant and effective interventions.

In 2023, World Vision positively impacted the lives of 5.7 million vulnerable children and families through comprehensive programmes that uphold children’s rights, build more sustainable and inclusive systems, and create a more positive enabling environment for children’s well-being, development and participation within their communities.



EAST ASIA 2023 AT A GLANCE

OUR REACH

Priority Areas

Child Protection & Participation:
over 1 million vulnerable children and families reached.

Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation:
287,326 vulnerable children and families impacted.

Safe Migration:
204,143 vulnerable children and families supported.

Nutrition and Food Security:
608,749 vulnerable children and families benefitted.

Other Sectors



Community Engagement for Child Well-being
1,218,602



Livelihood
680,442



WASH
80,026



Education
690,732



Health
490,211



Youth Development
20,830



Faith and Development
259,263

SDGs Supported



Source: ADB

PRIORITY AREA NO. 2: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Climate change and environmental degradation in the region have intensified challenges in human development and sustenance, impacting vulnerable communities and children. In 2023, the region experienced its warmest year on record, with temperatures reaching 1.45 ± 0.12 °C above the pre-industrial average. Additionally, 98.4 million children in East Asia & Pacific face high or extremely high-water scarcity. Over the last six years, 43.1 million children have been internally displaced due to weather-related disasters.

World Vision's collaborative climate actions through smart agriculture, water management, clean energy, and community awareness have significantly helped communities adapt to climate change. These efforts reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and promote sustainable resource management. Children actively engage in climate dialogue and lead community actions for low-carbon development, including a Mongolian child leader who represented World Vision at COP28, advocating for climate action. Impact data shows that these initiatives reached 196,677 people, including 68,981 children, with equal representation of boys (33,735) and girls (35,246).

PRIORITY AREA NO. 1: CHILD PARTICIPATION

Children and adolescents in East Asia face numerous challenges, including gender inequality, violence, trafficking, adolescent pregnancy, and child marriage. Children with disabilities and those affected by migration are at higher risk of neglect, abuse, and exploitation. World Vision's Child Protection programmes build robust systems with local authorities, civil society, multi-faith groups, and communities, creating a more positive enabling environment for young people to lead change and for their voices to be heard.

In 2023, World Vision supported over 3,800 children's groups, empowering a network of 110,500 child leaders:

- More than 8,700 children (5,449 girls, 3,275 boys) participated in research initiatives.
- Approximately 25,000 young people (14,143 girls, 11,725 boys) contributed to key decision-making processes.
- 10,817 children with disabilities (5,413 girls, 5,404 boys) were actively engaged.



PRIORITY AREA NO. 4: NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

The prolonged conflict in Ukraine and the global food crisis are significantly impacting food security and nutrition in the Asia Pacific region, with millions falling into severe food insecurity. In Myanmar, 10.7 million people and in Laos, 1.4 million faced high levels of acute food insecurity. An additional 7 million people in the region faced acute food insecurity in 2022 due to various conflicts and climate-related shocks, bringing the total to 69.1 million acutely food-insecure individuals.

In East Asia, World Vision is tackling food security through integrated nutrition, livelihoods, climate change adaptation, and resilience programmes, while engaging with governments to shape policies. Our efforts promote sustainable agriculture, efficient natural resource management, and diverse livelihood options.

In Cambodia, World Vision is implementing the School Feeding Programme (SFP) in partnership with provincial and district education departments, covering 295 primary schools in 10 districts. The project collaborates with local authorities to implement both the School Meal Programme (SMP) and the Home-Grown School Feeding Hybrid (HGSF-H) models.

In Thailand, the proportion of households in World Vision's target areas facing moderate or severe food insecurity, according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale Global Standard Scale (FIES-GSS), decreased by 9.84 percentage points, from 27% in FY21 to 17.16% in FY23.

PRIORITY AREA NO. 3: SAFE MIGRATION

Southeast and East Asia host around 18 million migrants, with 10.1 million international migrants in Southeast Asia in 2019 and 1.27 million children on the move across international borders. This mixed migration includes irregular labour migrants and forced migrants, and survivors of trafficking. Migrant children, often viewed as victims, are subject to the criminal justice system - which can involve detention, prosecution, or other legal actions - instead of receiving protection or support.

World Vision advocates for safe migration, prioritising migrants' rights and well-being, especially for children, while promoting development and social unity. Safe migration ensures safety, well-being, and human rights for all migrants, with a focus on protecting children's rights during their journey, whether domestic or international.

In China, World Vision has supported the protection of migrant children by strengthening local NGOs to improve protection services, reaching more than 14,150 people. 7,123 children have participated in quality development and self-protection activities. Parents and teachers in the project area reported improved understanding of child protection and their roles in child development.

Source: WFP



INNOVATION

Our organisation faces complex challenges and limited resources, driving us to develop more effective and efficient ways to serve children and communities. Innovation plays a crucial role in our approach to tackle various complex child well-being issues, enhance the well-being of the most vulnerable children (MVCs), alleviate burdens on our field office staff, meet donor requirements, and expand our reach and impact in collaboration with partners. Our innovation is evident in initiatives like sanitation facilities in Mongolia, which use clean energy technologies to provide rural children with essential sanitation facilities. This works in both on-grid and off-grid conditions, using renewable energy to draw water from deep wells to meet the basic needs for water at schools. The motors operate on-grid on sunny days and off-grid on foggy days, using auto cut-off weather sensor.



ENOUGH

CAMPAIGN

World Vision East Asia has launched ENOUGH, a five-year global campaign to end hunger and malnutrition. The campaign was introduced in East Asia at the 11th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in February 2024, in collaboration with WFP, Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, and other regional partners. The ENOUGH campaign tackles hunger and malnutrition amidst challenges from climate change, conflicts, economic downturns, poverty, and inequality. It aims to improve child health, enhance community resilience, and form strategic partnerships, measuring success through reduced childhood malnutrition, increased healthcare access, and sustainable food resource management.

Our field staff work tirelessly to find impactful solutions for children and communities, whether by introducing new programming methods, leveraging new technologies, or making daily improvements that accumulate into meaningful changes over time. For example, the Grandmother Inclusive Approach addresses the challenge of children left behind in Cambodia and Viet Nam due to migration trends by empowering grandmothers with knowledge, skills, and behaviours related to children's well-being. Similarly, our Home Visit Initiatives for Children with Disabilities support families through caregiver networks, positive parenting skills, and referral to comprehensive services, increasing parents' awareness of best practices for caring for children with disabilities. Through these innovative approaches, we strive to improve the lives of children and communities with limited resources.

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