

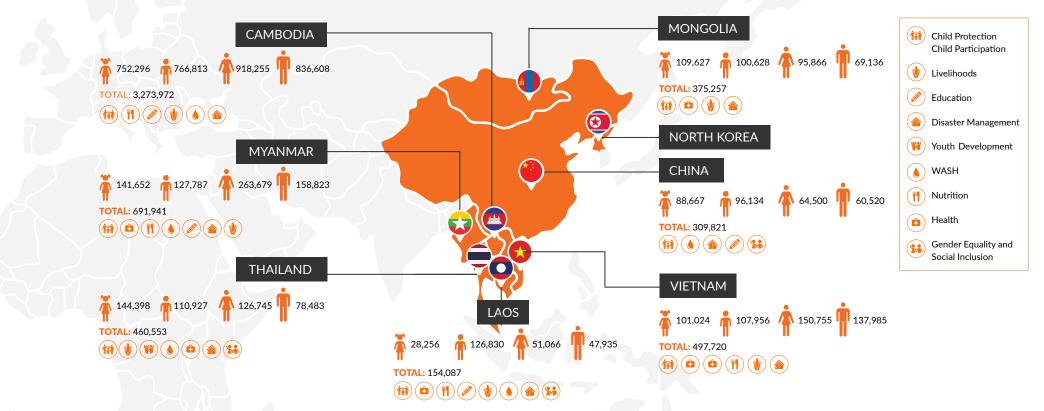
INTRODUCTION

An estimated 161 million people live in extreme poverty in Asia, surviving on USD 3.65 per day¹. The challenges faced by vulnerable families in meeting their basic needs and securing their livelihoods are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, disasters, conflict, and the rising cost of living.

World Vision has been a steadfast presence in East Asia since 1950, operating in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Our multi-sector programmes are tailored to the needs and priorities of local communities. With the support of over 2,200 staff, more than 99% of whom are local, we deliver impactful and sustainable solutions.

In support of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, our programmes impacted more than 5.7 million vulnerable children and families across East Asia in 2023.

Additionally, through our engagement with governments and advocacy networks, we contributed to 210 policy changes related to improved public service delivery, creating a more positive enabling environment for 47 million vulnerable children to access their rights, harness opportunities, and achieve their potential.



¹ https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/september-2023-global-poverty-update-world-bank-new-data-poverty-during-pandemic-asia

World Vision East Asia Strategic Priorities

PILLAR 1: EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO SURVIVAL

All children have the right to life, to be cared for, and to be protected. At World Vision, we work with families, communities, governments, and partners to ensure children are safe and access essential services like healthcare, nutrition, and clean water. In addition, we work alongside families to sustainably develop livelihood opportunities and access to financial services so they can continue to provide for their children.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Climate change and extreme weather events are exacerbating water scarcity in the East Asia Pacific region, reducing the amount of water available for essential purposes like drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning.

More than 140 million children in the region are exposed to water scarcity, and onethird of schools in the East Asia Pacific region lack access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services². Poor sanitation and hygiene, coupled with unsafe drinking water, are key factors contributing to high child mortality rates, diarrhoea and undernutrition (including stunting and anaemia).

World Vision's WASH programmes are designed to help communities have better access to dignified climate-resilient, safe, and reliable water and sanitation facilities and services.

² https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/14286/file/ WASH report 2022.pdf

Zooming In

World Vision's Safe Drinking Water for Cambodia Project, supported by Procter and Gamble, collaborated with the Provincial Department of Rural Development and the District of Education to train families in floating villages on hygiene and sanitation. Where safe drinking water was scarce, P&G water treatment purifier packages were provided. The impact was a rise in families that could access basic safe drinking water facilities, from 50% of households in 2021 to 60% in 2023, and improved sanitation facilities, from 81% in 2018 to 87% in 2023.

In China, World Vision works closely with the WASH partners, including the Chinese Centre for Disease Control, to support transformation of local health systems and improve environmentally-friendly hygiene systems. Latrine designs have been transformed in rural areas to suit changing weather patterns, drought and challenging topographies. As a result, 6,400 rural school children and 1,600 rural community members now have access to improved drinking water or household latrines.











Health and Nutrition

Malnutrition is a critical issue for children in the region, with levels of stunting and acute malnutrition stubbornly high. The number of children under five who are overweight is increasing, and maternal and newborn health outcomes remain poor.

World Vision uses proven approaches to address the root causes of malnutrition and poor maternal and newborn health and works to create lasting change by strengthening local health systems and structures through social accountability approaches. Through World Vision's Positive Deviance/Hearth (PDH) model, families with malnourished children are then supported to adopt positive practices through hands-on nutrition education and rehabilitation sessions to improve the nutritional and health outcomes of children under five.

🔎 Zooming In

In Viet Nam, the PD Hearth initiative found that, after three months of enrolment, 55% of underweight children had gained over 900 grams, with 44% reaching a safe normal weight within the period. These results were extended to other areas with World Vision advocacy efforts contributing to increased budget allocations by the Ministry of Health.

Throughout 2023, in Lao PDR, World Vision supported 106 villages to improve the services of local health clinics, including access to vitamin A, deworming and vaccination. Through timed and targeted counselling more than 3000 pregnant women and mothers of children under two years were supported to develop healthy behaviours during pregnancy and after childbirth.

Total number of people reached: 1,012,498

🕈 230, 507 🛉 223,759 🛉 330,695 👖 227,537 🌌 📲

Food Security

The prolonged conflict in Ukraine and the global food crisis severely impacts food security and nutrition in East Asia. In Myanmar, ongoing conflict, economic instability, and climate hazards have led to over 10 million people (19% of the population) experiencing acute food insecurity in 2023.

World Vision addresses food security issues in East Asia through a number of different programmes, including Integrated Nutrition, Livelihood and Resilience, Local Value Chain Development, Climate Change Adaptation, and Advocacy. We promote sustainable agricultural practices, natural resource management, and diversified livelihoods, empowering communities to develop climate-resilient farming practices and advocating for policies that support food security.

Zooming In

In Myanmar, the Kyangin Resilience and Livelihoods Programme supported families to improve food security and sustainably. Under the project, 129 savings groups were established, improving the ability of 12,205 people to access savings and loans for essential goods like food. Furthermore, business approaches have improved access to livestock, supporting households to have greater protein consumption and to sell for profit.

In Cambodia, World Vision's climate-smart agriculture support in Samrong Tong district has helped smallholder farmers overcome erratic rainfall patterns, extreme heat, depleting soil quality, and irrigational challenges to achieve better crop yields and higher incomes. Similar work is underway in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand to empower vulnerable smallholder farmers.





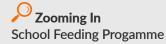
ENOUGH CAMPAIGN

Child hunger, in East Asia, is at its worst in generations, disproportionately impacting children due to an unequal food system disrupted by conflicts and climate change.

Southeast Asia's agricultural landscape faces significant challenges due to climate change, leading to an estimated USD 21 billion in production losses from extreme weather events between 2008 and 2018.

World Vision understands that hunger is not an isolated problem; it is deeply linked to food security, child health, and nutrition. Our "ENOUGH" campaign focuses on providing vulnerable communities with better access to nutritious food, addressing both immediate and long-term food security challenges. Our goal is to ensure that children can stay in school, receive adequate nutrition, and never go to bed hungry.

Through the ENOUGH campaign, World Vision works closely with national governments, regional intergovernmental bodies like ASEAN, UN agencies, civil society organisations, international financial institutions, donors, faith communities, and especially children and young people. Together, we aim to address hunger and malnutrition, ensuring that children are visible and heard in policies related to hunger, nutrition, and food security at national and regional levels.



The school meal programming, in Cambodia is integrated into a broader development approach and involves provision of meals or snacks to school-going children. The programme aims to reduce children's hunger during the school day and act as a magnet, bringing children to school and possibly retaining them, especially in the primary years. It supports retention and enables better learning outcomes.

World Vision is a key partner for the School Meals Coalition which sets the global agenda for SMP.

The agenda focuses on building safety nets for the most vulnerable children, working across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, gradual government ownership of school meals, as well as a deep investment in all sectors, including, improving educational outcomes (e.g. retention and literacy rates), food security and agriculture, health and nutrition, Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), Child Protection and Gender, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Localization (e.g. locally procured and appropriate foods and strengthened local food systems). Gradual government ownership, with technical support from organizations like World Vision, is a top priority for the School Meals Coalition and a shared goal for all actors working together in this sector.





Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

East Asia and the Pacific are the most disaster-prone regions in the world, with 65% of children exposed to multiple shocks such as heatwaves, flooding, tropical cyclones, various types of pollution, and climate-related diseases³. We are increasingly witnessing the impacts of climate change in the region, with 2023 the warmest year on record and temperature records broken in Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, Lao PDR and China⁴.

Children and families living in poverty are disproportionately impacted due to their limited means of protection and fewer resources to recover from climate shocks and events that affect children's health, education, and well-being.

In the face of these challenges, World Vision collaborates with partners to reduce the impacts of hazards before they occur or are felt to mitigate the vulnerability of children and communities to extreme weather events. In 2023, World Vision supported 705 communities in East Asia to update their disaster preparedness plans in addition to supporting 105 schools with participatory planning activities for risk management, risk reduction, and response preparedness.

- 4 https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/apr/27/endless-record-heat-asia-highest-april-temperature
- ⁵ https://www.undrr.org/understanding-disaster-risk/terminology/hips/mh0041

Zooming In

In Mongolia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam World Vision worked with communities and local authorities to establish Anticipatory Action protocols for relevant hazards. In 2023, these protocols were activated to prepare for incoming extreme and severe winter weather patterns in Mongolia known as Dzud⁵. Because of this proactive work, 12,436 vulnerable households received unconditional cash transfers, food, fodder, and hygiene kits.

In Thailand, World Vision collaborated on a local project to map school disaster risks with the Office of the Basic Education Commission and Kasetsart University. The website, launched in 2023, provides information on disaster risks and safety measures for over 20,000 schools, enhancing preparedness and safety for students and the broader school community.

In China, the newly established Ministry of Social Work provides training for social workers and sets up community workstations. In 2023, World Vision China shared disaster risk management knowledge with 15 social workers from six local NGOs, leading to community disaster risk reduction activities that benefited children.

A total of **287,326** people reached through various climate change & DRR initiatives.



116,333 children were reached though the climate change and DRR activities.





³ <u>https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/over-tipping-point</u>



Livelihoods

Record-high rise in prices for basic commodities and services coupled with the strike of numerous disasters and the economic fallout of COVID-19 has reduced the income of already vulnerable groups across East Asia. Families who recently graduated from poverty are losing these gains and at risk of falling back into poverty with declining purchasing power and difficulty paying for essentials like food.

World Vision's livelihood programs are founded on a holistic approach to empower households, especially women, to increase access to profitable, secure, and sustainable income earning and food production opportunities.

World Vision's livelihood interventions also involve facilitating access to microfinance and savings groups, improving financial literacy, enhancing agricultural productivity through sustainable and climate-smart techniques, and improving market access.

Zooming In

In Cambodia, with funding provided by USAID for the 2018-2023 Commercialisation of Aquaculture for Sustainable Trade project, World Vision has supported 28 Agricultural Cooperatives with over 4,000 members, to improve savings, investment, production and income. They now manage a capital fund of US\$1,274,377 and invest US\$6,500 in their communities through a social fund.

In Thailand, similar work has seen the proportion of families who feel they have strong economic resilience increase by more than 15%, from 39% household in 2021 to 54.54% in 2023. Similarly, the proportion of parents or caregivers able to provide well for their children has increased from 59% in 2021 to 68% in 2023.







PILLAR 2: EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION

All children have the right to be safe and live a life free from violence and abuse. World Vision uses a systems approach to address the root causes of violence against girls and boys by empowering key actors to work together to create a protective environment that cares for and supports all children, especially the most vulnerable.

Child Protection

Child protection in East Asia is a multifaceted challenge, marked by persistent issues such as violence against children, child marriage, and child trafficking. Despite efforts to address these concerns, significant gaps remain, leaving many children vulnerable to exploitation and harm.

Gender inequality exacerbates violence against girls, including trafficking and child marriage, with about 60% experiencing violence before the age of 18. Children with disabilities face even higher risks of neglect and abuse, and migrant children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

World Vision influences policies and regulations to promote greater protection and rights of all children. At a community level, the backbone of World Vision's approach are child protection and advocacy groups, consisting of formal and informal partners working together to prevent and respond to issues of abuse and

Zooming In

Through social accountability initiatives in Cambodia, World Vision has supported children and youth in 106 communes to engage local authorities to improve the performance of the local child protection system. As a result, action plans were agreed between citizens and local authorities to create change, and more than US\$248,000 of local resources mobilised to support their implementation. In the process, World Vision has built a stronger case management system together with government authorities to effectively manage and monitor child protection cases.

In China, World Vision is improving the well-being of migrant children through strengthening local organisations to provide improved quality of support services for migrant children and their caregivers. In 2023, 4,660 children participated in learning and protection activities, while parents and teachers reported an improved understanding of child protection and their responsibilities towards child development.

Total number of people reached: 1,084,862







PILLAR 3: EVERY CHILD HAS THE TO DEVELOP AND PARTICIPATE

All children have the right to reach their full potential, regardless of their gender, age, disability, or where they live. At World Vision, we are committed to ensuring all children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, can access education and learning and development opportunities.

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

In East Asia, rapid urbanisation and migration are changing family and community support networks and the resulting is often greater workload and exposure to risks for women and girls. People with intersecting vulnerabilities, such as those with disabilities, from migrant populations, and marginalised groups, experience more barriers to accessing equitable education and employment opportunities and are less likely to be in positions of influence.

World Vision East Asia works to transform harmful norms and beliefs that perpetuate discrimination and abuse against women, girls, and people with disabilities in the region.

Zooming In

In China, World Vision supported communities to establish rehabilitation services in rural areas, supporting 2,188 children with disabilities to access quality rehabilitation, education, and social work services. Through these services, a total of 845 social workers and caregivers have been trained in child protection and sex education for children with disabilities.

In Mongolia, World Vision supported the People with Disability (PWD) Association to host a disability conference in Tuv Province. More than 115 children and people with disabilities attended the conference which provided a platform for disability issues to be shared and raised to decision makers. World Vision also established the Happy Centre in cooperation with the provincial Ministry of Health and parents to provide rehabilitation and learning activities for 27 children with disabilities.





Education and Youth Development

Despite significant progress in education access across East Asia over the past two decades, ongoing geopolitical and economic challenges threaten these gains. Children with disabilities, from ethnic minorities, impacted by disasters, or affected by migration face larger barriers to obtaining quality education.

To address these challenges, World Vision is dedicated to transforming education for marginalised and vulnerable children. Our comprehensive approach includes enhancing school infrastructure to create conducive learning environments, bolstering teaching capacities for more effective education delivery, and promoting early childhood development to give young learners a strong start.

World Vision also has youth development programmes aimed to empower young people to overcome barriers to their participation in economic and educational opportunities, challenge harmful gender norms and roles, and increase understanding of the risks of unsafe migration.

Zooming In

In Myanmar, Vision supported 10,514 children from 216 Early Childhood Care and Development Centres to access better learning facilities and resources. As part of the early childhood education programming, World Vision trained 236 teachers and 408 management committee members in the administration, management, and monitoring of centres.

In Thailand, World Vision's Foundation supported 56,800 adolescents to develop life skills and vocational training and empowered them to advocate for issues addressing their community. This included supporting young people to participate in drafting key child protection policy recommendations to the government, specifically the: Child Protection Act, National Children and Youth Development Act, Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act and ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children.

Total number of people reached: 711,562





Child Participation

Across many parts of East Asia, children face barriers to participating equally and meaningfully in the things that matter most to their wellbeing. These include cultural attitudes that prioritise adult decision-making, limited resources for child participation initiatives, and a lack of awareness about the importance of listening to children's voices. Similarly, there remains a lack of investment in child development issues throughout the region as children bear the brunt of growing debts and diminishing social safety nets⁶.

Our programmes equip children with the skills that will enable them to be active citizens in their communities, who listen to each other and work together with adults to improve the well-being of their children. As a part of this effort, we use various project models and interventions, as well as groups and clubs for children and adolescents.

Zooming In

In 2023, World Vision in partnership with the Child Rights Coalition (CRC) Asia and Terre des Hommes Germany (TDH) in Southeast Asia, collaborated on the first official dialogue between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and children from Southeast Asian region. Discussions centred around creating a safer, healthier, and more sustainable environment for children.

In Viet Nam, 32,003 children participated in children's clubs, learning life skills and advocating for children's issues. More than 10,000 children's club members spearheaded advocacy action, including reporting protection incidents. In addition, World Vision has initiated 99 child-led advocacies, allowing children to dialogue with leaders and propose policies to curb child violence.

⁶ <u>https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/4081/file/UNICEF-Innocenti-Prospects-for-Children</u> Global-Outlook-Summary-2024.pdf-

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Empowering vulnerable children and families to thrive in challenging contexts

World Vision's Child Sponsorship programme addresses the root causes of poverty and creates long-lasting solutions so that children everywhere can have a chance at experiencing quality living. Here are some inspiring stories of former sponsor children whose lives have been transformed by this initiative.

Gankhuleg's Journey: From Shy Child to Vice-Minister

Growing up as a shy child with low selfconfidence, Gankhuleg struggled with severe stuttering. Simple tasks like answering the door left him feeling depressed and anxious. However, everything changed when he became part of World Vision's child development programmes. Through these programmes, Gankhuleg learned how to speak confidently, communicate effectively with others, and organize activities.

"Now we are all grown-ups who are succeeding in different sectors such as business and governance. I can confidently say the foundation of all my success is related to World Vision," says Gankhuleg. Today, he serves as the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry in the Mongolian government, a testament to the profound impact World Vision has had on his life and many others.

Zeer's Dream: From Poverty to Teaching in Thailand Zeer's parents worked as farmers and labourers, which meant their household income was often erratic and uncertain. Despite her dream of becoming a teacher, Zeer almost gave up due to her family's economic challenges. However, her enrolment in the sponsorship programme reignited her hopes.

"I received a lot of educational support, and I was grateful for the economic support given to my parents," says Zeer. Over ten years, her life transformed significantly. Inspired by her sponsor's constant encouragement, Zeer completed her university studies and now works as an administrative officer and a Grade 1 Mathematics teacher. She attributes her success and happiness to the sponsorship support she received.

Vithalin's Transformation: From Farmer's Daughter to Health Centre Staff

Living in Cambodia, Vithalin's family struggled as farmers. Affording school fees for her dream of studying medicine seemed impossible. World Vision's sponsorship programme changed her life and her community.

"Growing up, my family couldn't afford it as we were farmers; it was difficult," says Vithalin. Through World Vision's support, she participated in health, hygiene, and sanitation programmes. She also gained confidence through child club meetings and on-stage experiences. Vithalin now works at a health centre, providing vital health services and information to her community.

"My family gained more knowledge and awareness of health, living, and hygiene issues," she shares. Her mother also benefited from the Women's Savings programme. Vithalin is committed to improving her community's health, inspired by the support and knowledge she received from World Vision.

MIGRATION

Over the past two decades, labour migration has become a key driver of economic growth and development in the South-East Asian region⁷. The continual growth in migration has led to many 'children on the move,' creating complex policy challenges. Migrant children are vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking and are often denied basic rights such as access to education.

World Vision promotes a safe migration approach, supporting safe, orderly, and dignified migration that upholds migrants' rights and well-being. In addition, World Vision strengthens local child protection systems and provides care and support to victims of trafficking and those affected by migration including engaging in policy and legal advocacy to influence national policies and laws.

Cooming In

In Viet Nam, World Vision's Against Child Exploitation (ACE) project funded by the U.S. Department of Labour strengthens Government, Community, and service provider responses to the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) including online sexual exploitation of children and violations of acceptable conditions of work. The project is being jointly implemented in the Philippines, and to date, the project has supported 25 service providers with new or expanded assistance services for victims of WFCL, including OSEC, and trained 213 community stakeholders on identifying and reporting cases.

In Thailand, World Vision is supporting improved access to essential health services for migrant communities. Currently active in 11 provinces with a team of 80 staff members, this program focuses on addressing TB, HIV, and public health issues among migrants. The programme recruits migrant workers and community volunteers from migrant backgrounds to run the program. In 2023, 150,000 migrants, including 16,700 migrant children, were reached through nine interventions that supported health promotion, decent work and counter-trafficking in persons and advocated for women and children affected by human mobility.



https://eea.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl666/files/documents/Risks%20and%20Rewards%20 -%20Outcomes%20of%20Labour%20Migration%20in%20South-East%20Asia.pdf



Humanitarian Response

Climate change has increased the frequency of climate hazards in East Asia, including floods, cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, and severe winter weather (Dzud).

Cyclone Mocha impacted 5.4 million people in Myanmar, including 232,100 internally displaced people in Rakhine. Due to tropical depressions, heavy floods ravaged Cambodia, China, and Lao PDR. Additionally, Mongolia faced extreme climate conditions, experiencing Dzud for two consecutive years, 2022 and 2023, further stressing the region's humanitarian needs.

Against the backdrop of climatic hazards, conflict and political instability continues in Myanmar, where 18.6 million people are estimated to be in humanitarian need⁸. Conflict and disasters remain key drivers of internal displacement in the region.

World Vision delivered multi-sectoral programming to support children and their families with the tools and resources enabling them to be prepared to mitigate the risk of climate-induced disasters and ensure the long-term recovery and rehabilitation of their lives and livelihoods through WASH, livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, and child protection programming.

In 2023 World Vision responded to six disasters and protracted crisis in five countries, reaching almost 250,000 people, including 102,365 children. This includes the Mongolia Dzud, Myanmar Crisis, Floods in Cambodia, China, Laos and COVID-19 in China.

⁸ https://www.unocha.org/myanmar

HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION TRACKER

Country and Disaster Severity



Response Name	Total Target	Total Girls	Total Boys	Total Women	Total Men	Total Girls with Disability	Total Boys with Disability	Total Women with Disability
Mongolia Dzud Response 2023	57213	14693	12937	15800	13783	147	125	601
Myanmar Crisis Response	158983	29556	26672	48071	25525			
Cambodia Floods Response 2022	14899	3407	2902	7884	7015	0	0	0
China Flood Response 2022	39077	5407	5500	13963	14206	0	0	0
Laos Floods Response 2023	1810	326	218	593	673	0	0	85
China COVID-19 Response 2020	3000	367	380	36	27	0	0	0
Total	274982	53756	48609	86347	61229	147	125	686



Our research in East Asia is helping to build evidence on what works for whom, and to guide program direction as well as influence policy to enhance the impact of our work for and with vulnerable children. In 2023, we collaborated with academia, government institutions, international and local NGOs, and other experts in over 20 research studies, both published and ongoing.

Key research pieces included:

Child Protection: In Viet Nam, we partnered with the Viet Nam Institute for Families and Gender Studies to measure the impacts of child marriage. In China, we collaborated with Tong-Ren Social Work Agency to explore effective interventions for children exposed to domestic violence.

Climate Change: We worked with the Stockholm Environment Institute on a comprehensive study on climate change impacts on children in East Asia, including case studies in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. In Lao PDR, we partnered with World Wildlife Fund on the impacts of climate change on forest-harvested foods and with CARE on water access and gender issues. In Viet Nam, we collaborated with HUSCO on climate change resilience interventions.

Humanitarian Emergency Affairs: In Mongolia, we completed a rapid assessment on gender-based violence during Dzud with the Independent Research Institute.

Livelihoods: In China, we worked with the Yunnan Green Environmental Development Foundation on a feasibility analysis of carbon credit offsetting in bamboo forests, indicating potential economic benefits for villagers.

Our commitment to safeguarding and accountability

Safeguarding is mission-critical to our organisation, our vision, and every staff member. Our commitment to Do No Harm is central to our identity and everything we do.

World Vision

EAST ASIA

In addition, World Vision is committed across all programmes to providing information, consulting with communities, promoting participation, and collecting and acting on feedback and complaints from community members. These are implemented throughout our programming to empower communities, including the most vulnerable, and protect the rights of the children and their families.







CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

Terry Ferrari, Regional Leader, World Vision East Asia, <u>terry_ferrari@wvi.org</u> **Lindsey Ruffolo**, External Engagement Director, World Vision East Asia, <u>lindsey_ruffolo@wvi.org</u>



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