

EMPOWERING LOCAL RESPONDERS

Background

Achieving sustained child well-being, especially for the most vulnerable, presents complex challenges. To address these challenges effectively, World Vision is dedicated to equitable partnerships to identify shared solutions at all levels.

Adopting an “as local as possible, as international as necessary” approach, this promise has been fulfilled in Ukraine and Moldova, where World Vision has vetted 40 local and national civil society organisations and delivered 82% of its programmes through partners.

Partnership in action: Lessons from Ukraine and Moldova

To measure how a partnering approach enables greater sustainability and quality in humanitarian response, World Vision conducted an evaluation on transforming partnerships in Ukraine and Moldova. Applying the Network for Empowered Aid Response’s (NEAR) localisation performance measurement framework, World Vision analysed key documents and collected data and insights from 40 World Vision staff in Ukraine and Moldova and 15 partner organizations (10 in Ukraine and 5 in Moldova), resulting in the publishing of the report [Transforming partnerships in Ukraine and Moldova](#).

Localisation pillars



Equitable, complementary partnerships



Involvement in coordination



Sufficient, quality funding



Policy influence, advocacy and visibility



Sustainable capacity strengthening



Voice and participation of affected communities

Adapted from [NEAR’s localisation performance measurement framework](#)

In alignment with this analysis, World Vision implemented the following key activities to enhance local partnerships and capacity:

- 1 Facilitated an exchange visit between Ukrainian and Moldovan partners for crossborder learning and networking
- 2 Complemented existing expertise by engaging a mature national organisation to provide mentoring services to six local and national partners
- 3 Ensured minimum standards were understood through orientation sessions on safeguarding (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse), data protection, risk management, and the Core Humanitarian Standard
- 4 Strengthened local advocacy capacity on child rights
- 5 Trained partners on a survey management and analysis platform, SMAP, for greater accountability to affected populations
- 6 Developed a grant toolkit and provided grant acquisition and management training to improve partner funding sustainability and reduce partner staff turnover
- 7 Supported partner staff participation in major international events such as the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action's annual meeting and the UNHCR Global Meeting
- 8 Piloted a small grants mechanism to enable local partners to access funding rapidly for emergency response

Driving greater impact

With strong roots in community mobilisation and active humanitarian operations in more than 62 countries, World Vision is uniquely placed to broker and strengthen local partner involvement in humanitarian response around the world based on its experience and learning in Ukraine and Moldova.

World Vision is exploring opportunities to:

- Continue capacity strengthening of partners on quality response and risk minimisation for affected populations, including to protect from sexual exploitation and abuse and prevent improper use and storage of sensitive data
- Scale up mentoring and cross-partner/cross-sector learning exchange programmes
- Support local partner involvement in national and international coordination mechanisms and advocacy fora
- Establish small grants mechanisms to enable rapid response by local partners aligned with operational capacities and risk



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World Vision completed a Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Independent Verification in 2021. Following this process and to strengthen its adherence to CHS an improvement plan was developed by World Vision and funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) with pilots completed in Ukraine, Moldova, Sudan and Somalia from 2022 to 2024.