



# WORLD VISION SIERRA LEONE

## WHO we are

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision began operating in Sierra Leone in 1996 in the midst of a decade-long civil war, assisting children and their families in the poorest communities. Today, World Vision supports more than 58,000 children through 25 long-term area development programmes in four districts (Bo, Bonthe, Kono and Pujehun).

## our VISION

*for every child, life in all its fullness;  
our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.*

### Community Engagement

World Vision's approach is community-based, working closely with children, their families and communities. We ensure that communities lead their own development programmes and processes while empowering them with the required skills and resources that help create safe, nurturing environments for children. They decide their priorities and own responsibility for sustainable outcomes. Our multi-sectoral programmes address critical issues, such as health and nutrition, education, food security and resilience, economic development, advocacy, child protection and participation and disaster risk reduction.

## HOW we work

# WHAT we do

## Advocacy



World Vision raises the voices of children and their communities to influence policymakers and leaders at national, regional and global levels. We support them to know their rights and address the unjust systems that perpetuate poverty. Citizen Voice and Action is World Vision's primary approach to community-level advocacy. This social-accountability methodology aims to strengthen the dialogue between communities and government in order to improve services, such as health care and education, which impact the daily lives of children and their families.

## Disaster Risk Reduction



World Vision helps vulnerable communities to prepare for natural disasters and conflicts, and provides short-term relief, food, and shelter to people when they occur. Disaster risk management committees are established in communities as part of World Vision's strategy to build local resilience.

## Strategy Alignment with Government

World Vision aligns its work and collaborates closely with the Government of Sierra Leone, supporting its Agenda for Prosperity, the national development plan, as well as the post-Ebola Recovery and Transition Plan.

## Partnerships for Change



We build strong relationships with community and civic organizations, as well as local, national and international NGOs, to improve aid effectiveness for our targeted communities. World Vision is an active member of the Sierra Leone Association of Non-governmental Organisations (SLANGO) and the International Non-governmental Organisations (INGO) forum. We partner with more than 15 international government donors and United Nations agencies.

## Our Capacity

World Vision has 275 skilled staff members, who ensure that planned outcomes are effectively and efficiently achieved in all our programmes. Sector specialists include professionals in child protection, education, food security, health and livelihoods.

## Cross-cutting Themes



Community engagement, gender and disability awareness, child protection and interfaith collaboration are mainstreamed into all our programmes. For example, World Vision recently launched the Women Empowered for Leadership and Development project in seven districts, in partnership with USAID, which will benefit 10,000 people. Its goal is to increase women's social, political and economic rights in Sierra Leone.

## Health and Nutrition



The riskiest thing a woman can do in Sierra Leone is get pregnant; one in every 21 women is at risk of death in childbirth.<sup>1</sup> Sierra Leone also has among the highest rates of infant maternal mortality in the world. Most of these deaths are linked to preventable diseases, such as nutritional deficiencies, pneumonia, diarrhea diseases, anaemia, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. A reported 21 percent of children under one remain unvaccinated.<sup>2</sup>

World Vision's strategy focuses on evidence-based, cost-effective preventive practices that address the primary causes of maternal and child mortality and illness. Our core emphasis is on pregnant women, newborns and children under the age of five because the greatest burden of mortality, illness and under nutrition lies in these groups.

World Vision works with local health professionals to implement its 7-11 Strategy for Maternal and Child Health. This approach consists of seven interventions for mothers (e.g. adequate diet, iron supplements, malaria prevention) and 11 for children (e.g. essential newborn care, appropriate breastfeeding, full immunization). World Vision is also using mobile phone technology to compile and track life-saving maternal health information.

## Ebola Response

When the Ebola Virus Disease struck Sierra Leone in May 2014, World Vision responded quickly. We helped to contain the spread of the virus in four districts where we work. We provided medical supplies to hospitals and clinics. World Vision mobilized trusted faith leaders—both Muslims and Christians—to spread life-saving information about Ebola prevention. In consortium with partner NGOs, we conducted safe and dignified burials for more than 25,000 people (as of July 2015) in ten districts. We enabled communities to break the chain of transmission.

As a result of these efforts in part, none of the 58,000 children in World Vision's programmes contracted Ebola.

For its Ebola response, World Vision received numerous grants from international donors including Aktion Deutschland Hilft, Austria Aid, AusAID, European Union, DFID, Global Fund for Malaria, Irish Aid, UNICEF and USAID.

World Vision Ireland received a €15 million grant from Innovative Medicines Initiative to partner on the Ebola Vaccine Deployment, Acceptance and Compliance project (EBODAC) in Sierra Leone. World Vision will build trust among communities and dispel misconceptions about Ebola and about the vaccine. Implementation partners include Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V., Grameen Foundation and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

## Education



Currently, only 73 percent of all school-age children are enrolled; only 76 percent of those complete primary school.<sup>3</sup> Ensuring that children enrol in school and stay in school is a priority for World Vision. Our goal is that all children in communities where we work are functionally literate by age 11. To accomplish this, we support teacher training to enhance the quality of education; 40 percent of the teaching force is untrained and unqualified.<sup>4</sup> We also provide teaching and learning materials to schools, support classroom construction and ensure that schools have adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Health, World Vision led the development of psychosocial first aid training materials for teachers, equipping them to support students affected by the Ebola crisis. More than 1,000 teachers from World Vision programme areas participated in training seminars.

## Child Protection and Participation



Children are vulnerable to abuse, violence, exploitation and child labour in Sierra Leone. Almost 18 percent of girls are married by age 15 years, and almost 44 percent by 18 years. A reported 13 percent of girls undergo female genital mutilation, with 65 percent of Sierra Leoneans supporting the practice.<sup>5</sup> Although Sierra Leone enacted the Child Rights Act of 2007 and the Sexual Offences Act of 2012 to protect children against abuse, implementation and enforcement remains a challenge.

World Vision helps children learn about their rights and how to protect and promote them. As advocates, they lobby local leaders and councils concerning issues that affect them. The goal is to engage children in decision-making and strengthen child protection structures in their communities. World Vision also supports children's clubs and parliaments to promote youth participation in important issues. Two teenagers trained by World Vision have addressed the UN General Assembly and international conferences.

World Vision has equipped more than 900 mothers' clubs members to protect vulnerable children, especially Ebola orphans who are being integrated into the community. Working with Plan International and Save the Children,

World Vision surveyed more than 1,100 youth for the Children's Ebola Recovery Assessment report. They shared their concerns and recommendations for the future. World Vision's child protection work is supported by DFID.

## Livelihoods, Food Security and Resilience



Rapid population growth, urbanization and climate change negatively affect food production in Sierra Leone. However, agriculture remains the main source of livelihood for almost 60 percent of the population. World Vision works with communities and families to develop sustainable food production approaches by providing agricultural inputs and training, as well as enterprise and value-chain development. More than 550 saving groups are currently supported to enhance families' incomes and contribute to their children's well-being.

## Inter-faith Partnerships



For almost 20 years, World Vision Sierra Leone has partnered with faith leaders and their communities—both Christian and Muslim—to improve health, education, food security and protection for children. World Vision introduced Channels of Hope (CoH) in 2003. CoH is a catalyst that transforms and motivates faith leaders and their congregations to respond to tough development issues that affect their communities.

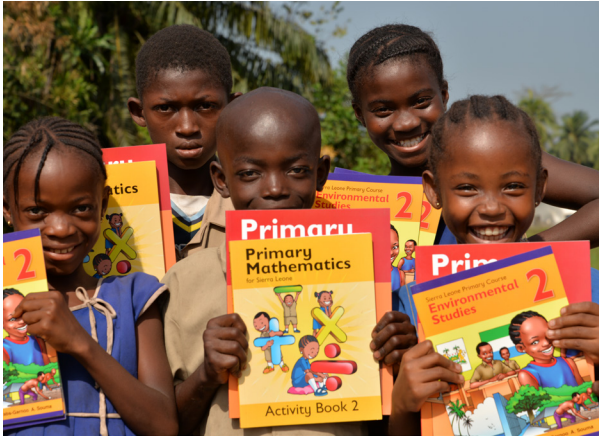
The CoH process directly addresses faith leaders' perceptions about especially volatile or taboo community issues. It mobilizes them to break down walls of stigma and discrimination and respond with compassion, particularly to issues related to children's well-being. Faith leaders trained through CoH have directly influenced their followers' knowledge, attitudes and practices about critical issues, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, cholera, child protection, gender, and most recently, Ebola prevention.

# WHERE we work

In 2014, we served more than 1.56 million people in Sierra Leone through 25 long-term area development programmes and other projects across six districts. The 2015 budget is USD\$30.6 million, including cash and gifts-in-kind.







Goal: All children are literate by age 11.



Goal: All children know their rights, are empowered.



Goal: All children play a role in community development.



Goal: All children have registered birth certificates.

## Our Partners

In addition to our collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone, World Vision joins hands with like-minded individuals and organizations to achieve the well-being of children. This includes, but is not limited to, the following partners.



<sup>1</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2000; Sierra Leone Demographic Health Survey 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Sierra Leone and ICF International (2014). Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey 2013.

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF, June 14 2015. <http://sl.one.un.org/2014/06/16/day-of-the-african-child-strengthening-education-in-sierra-leone/>

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2015.

## CONTACT:

World Vision Sierra Leone  
35 Wilkinson Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Tel: +232 33 421 062  
[www.wvi.org/Sierra Leone](http://www.wvi.org/Sierra Leone)