Poverty should never be a life sentence

Most of the world’s extremely poor are smallholder farmers, vulnerable to weather and economic uncertainties. Many have never been able to save, or get loans to build their businesses, or even learn better farming practices. We’re focused on equipping and empowering these hardworking families to climb the ladder from poverty to prosperity.

OUR COMMITMENT

Through the Economic Empowerment Signature Initiative, World Vision commits to expand livelihood and resilience programs that will equip 4 million people\(^1\) to dramatically raise their incomes.

OUR APPROACH

World Vision’s livelihoods model, Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE), is a comprehensive approach to tackling the underlying causes of vulnerability in farming and how to overcome them in practical and sustainable ways.

EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW

After decades or even generations in poverty, many of the world’s poor have become trapped in a mindset of disempowerment and dependency—believing their only help will come from the local strongman, charities, or the government.

Understanding that lasting change happens in the mind and heart, THRIVE begins by helping smallholder farmers and their families develop an empowered worldview.

Through a powerful curriculum, we teach, discuss, and practice that all people are accountable to love, respect, and care for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and those in need. This shift in mindset alone has helped change thousands of life stories.

“\(\text{The key to ending extreme poverty is to enable the poorest of the poor to get their foot on the ladder of development.}\)”

—Jeffrey D. Sachs, world-renowned professor of economics and leader in sustainable development

\(^1\)Beneficiary numbers for Signature Initiatives are preliminary and represent a portion of World Vision’s total expected beneficiary reach in fiscal years 2016 – 2022

Global highlight

In Malawi, in 2016, 80% of smallholder farmers reported incomes of $1.25 per day or less. In 2019, the average farmer generates income of $3.10 per day.
Four key components

1. ORGANIZATION and TRAINING
   In World Vision’s Savings Groups, farmers learn how to manage money and start saving—some for the first time ever. And with our agriculture and business training, they can increase their productivity, profitability, as well as their market power by buying and selling in groups.

2. FINANCIAL SERVICES
   Our microfinance institutions provide loans to families for seeds, tools, and equipment. Through mobile data technology, we have a cost-effective way for rural clients to easily access credit, savings, and insurance services.

3. MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
   Improving soil quality and water use makes farms more productive and weather-resilient. And by caring for surrounding ecosystems, families can keep their environments sustainable.

4. AWARENESS and READINESS
   With access to information about weather, animal and plant diseases, and market fluctuations, we help families stay abreast of changes. Managing risks and taking timely action keeps them thriving—not sliding back into poverty.

A FULL SOLUTION TO POVERTY

We work in thousands of communities worldwide to help people address not only their economic challenges but a variety of needs, including water, health, education, and child protection—partnering with them to deliver a full solution capable of breaking the cycle of poverty.

HIGH-IMPACT PARTNERS

World Vision is able to reach more people because of our local and global partnerships within the public and private sectors—and from supporters like you.

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration is a simple and highly effective method for farmers to increase the number of trees on grazing or deforested land by using living tree stumps or self-sown seeds. This leads to dramatic improvements in soil carbon content and water retention, resulting in greater plant and animal diversity.

In the last two years, our microfinance subsidiary, VisionFund, disbursed 2.8 million microloans totaling $1.5 billion; 71 percent of the clients were women.

HELP HARDWORKING FAMILIES BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY.
Contact your World Vision representative or visit worldvision.org/corp.