

# EDUCATION CAPACITY STATEMENT

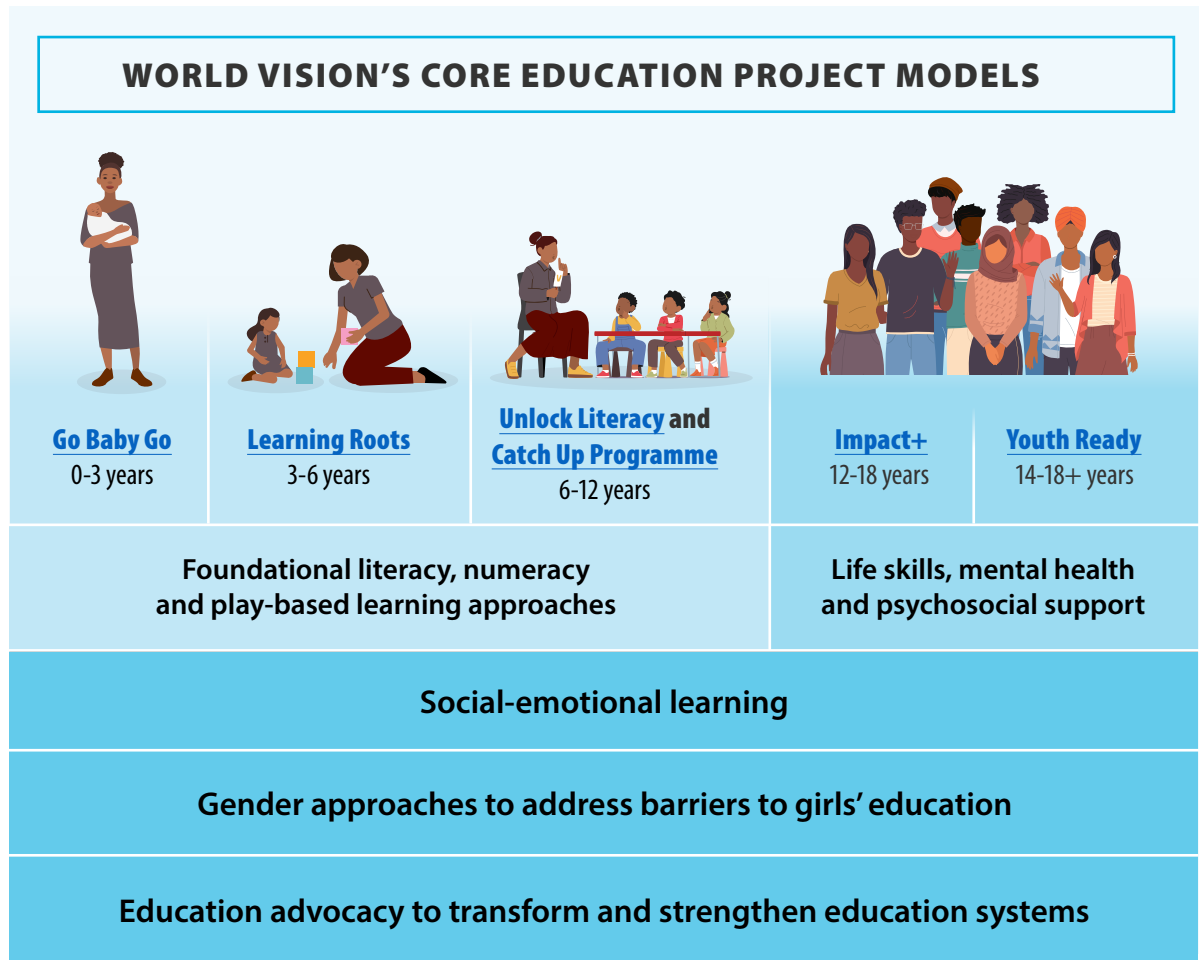


Educating girls and boys for life is at the heart of World Vision Canada's approach to transformational development. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5, we invest to ensure safe, equitable and inclusive learning environments for millions of girls, boys, adolescents and youth. Our approaches are rights-based and gender-responsive, and ensure high-quality education for those who are particularly vulnerable and challenging to reach, such as refugees, asylum seekers, displaced children and learners with disabilities.



## OUR APPROACH

World Vision Canada's education programming follows a life-cycle approach from infancy to young adulthood, supporting life-long learning and skills acquisition alongside psychosocial and cognitive development at each stage.



- We prioritize marginalized and vulnerable groups, applying an intersectional lens and responsive approaches to overcome distinct challenges faced by different learners. By integrating gender-responsive teaching and learning into our education work, we target barriers to education access, transition and completion that are embedded in unequal power dynamics and inequalities such as early marriage, household poverty and harmful traditional practices.
- We support vulnerable youth in gaining the confidence, critical thinking skills and technical and vocational training needed to succeed in the workforce and foster peace and security in their communities.
- To ensure sustainability and local ownership, we work closely with community and faith leaders, women's networks, families and local and national governments. Through community-led advocacy and targeted policy influence, we address gaps in governance and accountability in national education systems.
- We recognize the added challenges in fragile and humanitarian contexts, especially for girls and children with disabilities, and are engaged in programming across the Humanitarian, Development and Peacebuilding nexus (HDPN).<sup>1</sup> We engage with schools and communities before, during and after crises, protecting children from exploitation and abuse and addressing the challenge of learning continuity faced by displaced children in fragile contexts.



<sup>1</sup> World Vision Canada's approach to Fragile and Humanitarian programming spans the HDPN, and follows the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) [Development Assistance Committee Nexus recommendations](#).

# PROGRAMMING SPOTLIGHT

## EQUALITY FOR GIRLS' ACCESS TO LEARNING (EGAL):

**Location:** Kasai-Central province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

**Timeline:** January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023

**Project Reach:** 600,000 people (192,000 girls, 186,000 boys, 114,000 women and 108,000 men)

**Project Budget:** CAD 7,663,989

**Funded By:** Global Affairs Canada

**Partners:** World Vision Canada, Make Music Matter, academic research partners and local, provincial and national Education, Gender and Social Service Ministries

**Areas of Work:** Fragile contexts, gender-transformative education programming

Between 2016 and 2019, the humanitarian crisis in Kasai-Central province in the DRC forced 1.5 million Congolese to migrate to Angola, subsequently prompting the Angolan government to force over 650,000 Congolese nationals, who had been living there for years, to repatriate. The returnees faced destroyed education infrastructure and poor quality of education services, which undermined the reintegration of children into formal schooling. Entrenched harmful customs unfairly marginalized girls, constraining them to domestic duties instead of fostering their enrollment in schools.

World Vision and its partners implemented EGAL to support girls and boys in realizing their right to access quality education. The project sought to increase girls' resilience to stress in fragile contexts, address mental health issues and support their decision-making in accessing learning opportunities. This was accomplished by targeting the barriers preventing girls from accessing quality education and investing in coordinated, gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive teaching and learning approaches. Innovative solutions like Make Music Matter's Healing in Harmony addressed girls' psychosocial barriers by integrating support from local psychologists and music producers.



## RESULTS



**1,908 girls and 1,092 boys** were enrolled in 20 established reading clubs.



**Reading competency** for grade 3 and 5 students **increased from 27% to 58.1%** by end of project.



**188 teachers (100 women and 88 men)** were trained on Unlock Literacy, gender-responsive pedagogy, positive discipline and Teaching in Crisis Contexts.



**2,559 artists** completed the Healing in Harmony therapeutic music programme.



**240 MenCare participants** and **550 Channels of Hope faith leaders** became champions for girls' education and gender-responsive behaviour change practices.

## Education in Emergencies: IMAGINE Project in Mali

World Vision's participation in the Global Affairs Canada-funded **IMAGINE** project in Mali with Plan Canada International (lead) and Save the Children Canada, supported the learning needs of conflict-affected girls, boys and adolescent girls. Despite a worsening humanitarian context due to persistent conflict, insecurity, climate hazards and social and economic disruption, IMAGINE improved girls' and adolescents' realization of their right to quality, inclusive learning in the conflict-affected regions of Ségou and Mopti.

IMAGINE's gender-transformative, rights-based and conflict-sensitive approach to education resulted in:

- **Over 18,000 students, including 9,231 girls**, having **increased access** to alternative, non-formal and flexible education programming, reducing their risk of dropping out of school.
- **Over 5,000 teachers** learned how to adapt their teaching practices to the needs of girls, boys and adolescent girls in crisis-affected contexts. This led to **more teachers with increased knowledge and positive attitudes** for providing inclusive, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive learning experiences.
- Through existing relationships with the Ministry of Education, **210 community and regional education leaders** were coached in participatory education planning that is evidence-based, gender- and conflict-sensitive and geared to the needs of adolescents.



# PROGRAMMING SPOTLIGHT

## VISION FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH INITIATIVE (VVYI):

**Location:** Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Peru, Rwanda and Tanzania

**Timeline:** 2017-2026  
(end of phase three of the project)

**Project Reach:** From 2017 to 2023, VVYI directly reached 15,474 youths. Between 2024 -2026, we aim to reach an additional 17,822 youths.

**Project Budget:** CAD 23,765,235

**Funded By:** Barrett Family Foundation

**Areas of Work:** Youth, life skills, education



Before COVID, 60 per cent of Latin Americans aged 15-29 years were outside the school system. One in five neither studied nor worked (CAF, 2020)<sup>2</sup>. Economic vulnerability primarily affects adolescent girls and young women, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation, abuse and poverty.

Youth face multiple barriers to reaching their full potential as educated, skilled and productive citizens, including:

- Limited socio-emotional development because of violence/gangs, poverty, gender-based violence and discriminatory gender norms.
- Inability to meet the demand for skills in the labour market due to lack of experience and access to work.
- Limited agency, life skills and confidence to succeed.
- Institutional barriers between education and training and employment opportunities.

In response, World Vision Canada has scaled up Youth Ready, the foundational approach for the VVYI project, across the region. Youth Ready is a holistic, multi-sectoral approach that aims to increase the social agency, skills acquisition, economic empowerment and psychosocial well-being of in- and out-of-school adolescents and youth, living in vulnerable communities. Youth Ready integrates social-emotional learning with second-chance literacy and life skills training to facilitate youth empowerment and citizenship education. This program, guided by the Positive Youth Development (PYD) theoretical framework, supports vulnerable youth who are unemployed, functionally illiterate and at risk of violence. The PYD framework actively engages youth in building assets, agency, contribution and an enabling environment, vital to accessing education, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. The ultimate outcome is empowered youth equipped to be engaged, productive citizens.

<sup>2</sup> [Infrastructure and skills, key to improving education in Latin American youth \(caf.com\)](https://www.caf.com/en/infrastructure-and-skills-key-to-improving-education-in-latin-american-youth)



## Analysis of ALL Youth Exposed to YR Training

	Before Training	After Training
Importance placed on education	57.8%	74.6%*
Aspiration to complete high school	45.8%	73.6%
Positively influenced future outlook	51.1%	79.7%**

\*= $p$ -value<0.05, \*\*= $p$ -value <0.01

Changes in perceptions of YR trained youth in Ecuador and Guatemala (Johns Hopkins University, 2023)

Youth Ready has positively influenced educational and post-educational aspirations and activities, with significant shifts toward high school completion, better outcomes from program participation and self-employment. Specifically:

- The project has reached **15,474 direct beneficiaries** since 2017.
- **1,362 young people** secured employment opportunities, **2,078** resumed their education journeys and **4,789** embarked on entrepreneurship between 2019 and 2023.

Country-focused data also indicates positive results:

- In Bolivia, **61 per cent of adolescents and youth** showed greater confidence regarding their decision to continue and/or strengthen their education.
- In Ecuador, students who participated in Youth Ready showed an increase in their desire to finish high school, **going from 45.9 per cent to 72.4 per cent.**
- In Guatemala, everyone in the program believed it helped them improve in school, **going from 40.9 per cent to 100 per cent.**

## WORLD VISION'S LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY

World Vision Canada works alongside local partners, global advocates and political decision-makers to ensure that education policy and programming remain informed by those with lived experience. World Vision Canada hosts the Refugee Education Council, funded by the Government of Canada, a group of refugee and displaced youth advocates who work closely with Global Affairs Canada to shape global education decision-making. World Vision also provides global leadership through strategic engagement with education networks and coalitions such as the Canadian International Education Policy Working Group (CIEPWG) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

We also demonstrate thought leadership in the sector through research production, and engagement in global forums such as the Global Refugee Forum, the ECW High-Level Financing Conference, the Comparative International Education Society, the Commonwealth of Learning, the World Congress of Comparative Education and more.



### Education Research

World Vision Canada collaborates with respected academic partners to conduct research on youth life skills, community literacy networks, digital approaches for teaching early grade reading, nexus education programming, student mental health in crisis contexts, and gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive teacher professional development. [Access our most recent research on the World Vision Canada website.](#)



## ABOUT WORLD VISION CANADA

World Vision Canada is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organization. Our focus is on helping the world's most vulnerable girls and boys overcome poverty and experience fullness of life.

Grounded in more than 70 years of experience and expertise, World Vision works alongside communities, supporters, partners and governments to change the way the world works for children - impacting lives for generations to come. In every aspect of our work, World Vision is focused on a future where all children have what they need to live healthy lives that are full of promise: nutritious food, healthcare, education, protection from harm, clean water and economic opportunities.

World Vision serves all people—without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity or other status.



## CONTACTS

To learn more about World Vision Canada's Education Programming please contact:

**Nancy Del Col,**

Education Sector Lead at

[Nancy\\_DelCol@worldvision.ca](mailto:Nancy_DelCol@worldvision.ca)

**Vongaishe Changamire,**

Education Technical Specialist at

[Vongaishe\\_Changamire@worldvision.ca](mailto:Vongaishe_Changamire@worldvision.ca)