



**WORLD VISION FINLAND CHILD RIGHTS  
PROGRAMME: “Every Child Counts”  
Annual Report 2020**



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland

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## Acronyms

AAC	Area Advisory Council
ANC	Antenatal Care
AP	Area Program
AWC	Anganwadi Centre
BDF	Business Development Fund
CBO	Community Based Organization
CP	Child Protection
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
DILT	Disability Inclusion Leadership Team (of World Vision)
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
HEAA	Household Engagement and Accountability Approach
HH	Household
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ISAF	Social Accountability Framework
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (of Finland)
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIRA	National Identification and Registration Authority (in Uganda)
PWD	People with Disabilities
RPO	Rural Producer Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region ( <i>ethnic division; Ethiopia</i> )
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TTC	Timed and Targeted Counselling
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
VHSG	Village Health Support Group
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WVF	World Vision Finland
WVI-C	World Vision International Cambodia
WV	World Vision

## I. Overview

World Vision Finland's (WVF) Child Rights Programme's goal is the *Sustained well-being of children within families and communities, especially the most vulnerable*. The Programme approaches this goal through six Outcomes that focus on households' economic well-being and adequate provision for children, disability inclusion, child protection and participation, health (including WASH), quality education and Finnish citizens' understanding of development policy and their positive attitude towards development cooperation.

The Programme is implemented in seven countries through seven Area Programs (AP) and five special thematic projects. The special thematic projects reflect WVF's areas of expertise (child protection, youth employment, disability inclusion) and cross-cutting themes (gender equality and disability inclusion). Geographically, the Programme is implemented in East Africa, East Asia and Southeast Asia. Five out of seven implementation countries are considered belonging to the Least Developed Countries (Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia, Cambodia). 48% of the total programme spending in 2020 was used in these countries, while in two countries categorized as lower-middle income i.e., Kenya and India, WVF's programmes take place in the poorest areas of the countries.

In 2020 the Child Rights Programme directly benefitted 307,814 people (91,615 women, 85,958 men, 68,216 girls and 62,025 boys, of which 2,475 were persons with disabilities). The Programme targets the most vulnerable households in its implementation areas. All work is built upon the better realization of children's rights. The Programme also enhances the realization of gender equality and disability inclusion, promotes active civil society and strengthens resilience of individuals, families and communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions challenged implementation and limited the collection and reporting of the Programme's Outcome and Output level indicators. The overall number of programmes or projects which were able to report was smaller in 2020 than in 2019 and not necessarily the same programmes and projects reported on same Outcomes and Outputs in both years. Unfortunately, therefore drawing conclusions on the progress of the Programme based on those indicators must be done very carefully. Some trends in the indicators may still be elaborated based on the available data.

Regarding the very unusual and challenging nature on year 2020 due to the COVID-19, it can be concluded that the Programme's progress in 2020 was satisfactory. Three out of six Outcomes mainly advanced as expected, three Outcomes witnessed both progress and decline and one Outcome mainly some decline.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, drastic weather conditions have impacted the progress of many indicators. It is important that households are supported to be economically resilient and that communities are prepared for and can mitigate different natural disasters and challenges. Extreme weather conditions remain a challenge also at country level and require more continued work on disaster preparedness in collaboration with the local governments. Another challenge are harmful gender stereotypes. The existing gender stereotypes limit for example women's employment and men's involvement in child rearing and protection activities.

All WV's programme countries are fragile in one way or another or have pockets of fragility within them, and the space for civil society actors is limited. The political situation in the seven Programme implementation countries varied in 2020 as varied the impact of national level/general political situation

on project areas. In Ethiopia, the positive developments of previous years took some negative turns already in 2019 with the onset of largely ethnopolitical conflict and breakdown, resulting in heightened instability in 2020 which however only modestly affected implementation of WV's project. While the security and political situation remained mainly stable in Kenya in 2020, security is always affected by the situation in neighbouring Somalia as well as violence related to cattle rustling in some Northern parts of the country including areas where WV works. The January/February 2021 Presidential and General elections caused a lot of anxiety and uncertainty in Uganda, but violence was not experienced in WV's programme areas. In Somalia, in February 2020 legislation was signed giving all citizens the right to vote in parliamentary elections, but soon after it was confirmed that the elections were to be held in early 2021. Unfortunately, the situation is still unstable. Currently the civic space has narrowed, and there are arbitrary arrests, threats and confiscation of equipment of journalists by government forces. In Rwanda, the political and social situation of the country and project implementation area have been stable in 2020 and have not affected the project implementation.

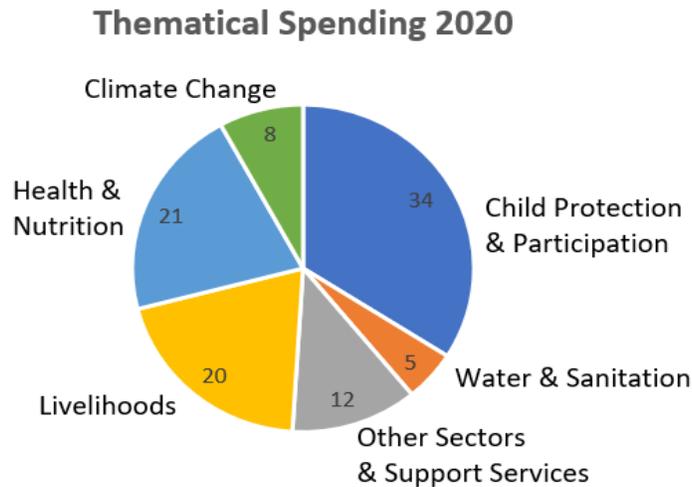
In Cambodia, the political environment is restricted, and despite the overall peace that persisted in the country, noticeable tension has been building up between the government and opposition, leading to heightened instability and human rights violations. In India, the political environment varies from state. Despite the rising Hindu nationalism, the political and social situation in the areas where our programmes have operated have been stable.

WV's main approach to strengthening civil society has been to develop the capacity of grassroots, community-based organizations and educate citizen about their rights and thereby enable them to demand for example services they are entitled to from the duty-bearers. A typical example of this is the Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) approach. In 2020 WV managed to successfully improve local service delivery, and to strengthen child protection mechanisms in different implementation countries through our CVA and advocacy work. A case study on CVA in Uganda done as part of the review of the Child Rights Programme confirms the positive impact that the CVA approach can have.

While in 2019 reporting witnessed good progress in programmes and projects providing data disaggregated by sex and disability on Output and Outcome levels in comparison to the first year of implementation, the year 2020 was more challenging in this regard. In general, challenges as regards quality (in some cases in terms of reliability as well) of information and data provided by the projects and programmes was clearly linked to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions which made information gathering much more difficult, in some cases even impossible.

The COVID-19 also affected the ways how WVF Programme staff was able to support the international partner staff's implementation, program management and reporting capacity. The last monitoring field visits were possible to carry out in March 2020 after which the team has communicated particularly through regular virtual meetings. WVF aims to arrange yearly face-to-face Impact Seminars in Helsinki for representatives from each partnering country for sharing and learning and for enlightening them about WVF's priorities and Donor requirements. In 2020 it was not possible to arrange the seminar face-to-face, instead it was arranged virtually in early December.

Figure 1: Programme thematical spending 2020



As Figure 1 shows, in 2020 the Programme invested budget-wise most on Child Protection & Participation (34 % of total spending) on Health & Nutrition (21%) and on Livelihoods support (20%). It is to be noted that Disability Inclusion has been integrated into the sectors in the figure and does not pose as a separate section.

## 2. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

WVF's International Programmes Team has continued to monitor and to provide technical support to the Area Programs and projects implemented under the Child Rights Programme. The year was of course very exceptional in this sense, since the last monitoring field visits were possible to carry out in March 2020 after which the team has communicated particularly through regular virtual meetings and frequent e-mail correspondence. The main responsibility for implementation remains with the local World Vision teams.

Three AP evaluations were conducted in 2020:

- Impact Evaluation. Hoshangabad Area Development Program. January 2021. World Vision India & 4th Wheel Social Impact.
- Technical Programme and CESP AP Evaluation Report. Mogotio AP. July 2020. World Vision Kenya.
- Technical Programme and CESP AP Evaluation Report. Ng'oswet AP. July 2020. World Vision Kenya.

In addition, a review of the current Programme was carried out during 2020, although reported in 2021:

- Review of the World Vision Finland's Child Rights Programme 2018-2021. March 2021, Appraisal Consulting Ky.

Due to the COVID-19 the review was conducted as a desk study, and no field visits were possible. The review and the management response by WVF are attached to this report.

In 2020, WVF carried out and reported a *Youth Employment Capacity Mapping among Programmes and Projects Supported by World Vision Finland*. The 15 projects/programmes that responded self-evaluated their own capacities for youth employment related programming as 'average' (3), 'rather strong' (7) or 'very strong' (5). Basic skills, work readiness skills and soft skills for life and work had been the most prevalent components/areas of youth employment support implemented. 87% responded that they have been using World Vision's Project Models for youth employment. Lack of budget and competing priorities were the most common obstacles that the respondents had faced while promoting youth employment.

WVF aims to arrange yearly face-to-face Impact Seminars in Helsinki for representatives from each partner country WV representatives for sharing and learning and for enlightening them about WVF's priorities and Donor requirements. In 2020 it was not possible to arrange the seminar face-to-face, but it was arranged virtually in early December. It lasted for one afternoon and focused on Programme narrative and financial reporting issues. A positive side of this was that around 80 people were able to participate in this way, whereas in the face-to-face gatherings the number of participants from partner countries has been limited to some 10-12.

To support the Area Program and project reporting and monitoring and improve its quality WVF introduced a modified report template in 2020. The template was formed based on the challenges and needs identified in indicator data monitoring and reporting in 2018 and 2019. A few indicator definitions were also revisited to support the reporting of intended data. The Programme also went through the current data source requirements to make sure that only relevant APs and projects are included for each indicator. WVF has identified some continuing challenges on data monitoring at AP and project levels that are related to the reliability of shared AP and project-level data as well as on the staff's understanding on the role of data monitoring in program implementation.

## Main Impacts of COVID-19 onto Programme Implementation in 2020

From March 2020 onwards, the Global COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the implementation of the Child Rights Programme. The biggest impact was seen in early Spring when many of the partner countries launched broad internal restrictions and closed borders. World Vision's strength in the situation was that most staff is local. In addition, World Vision is known as a humanitarian and development organization with strong relationships with local governance. By ensuring safety, World Vision was able to return back to implementation also in WVF supported projects and programmes. One common change was that different trainings were conducted with smaller groups and by using masks and other safety measures.

In Kenya, some delays took place in the construction of WASH infrastructure and a safe house, but these challenges were overcome. The same applied to WASH constructions in Cambodia. In Uganda, work in the health sector is central anyway, hence it was easy to shift some implementation towards COVID-19 prevention and for the support of health officials. Although anticipated, the restrictions did not affect agriculture activities and food security was not threatened. In Somalia, only few activities, like maturation rites were postponed until next year, other meetings and trainings were conducted with smaller groups. In Ethiopia some changes were made onto the implementation plan, and activities were carried out in close consultation with the local Government. The youth employment projects in Rwanda and Kenya were affected since schools have been closed and in-workplace practice has not been possible for some time.

India was probably the hardest hit by the pandemic and restrictions. Work on health and nutrition is mainly based on trainings, but gatherings have been forbidden. Early childhood development centers and centers for the rehabilitation of malnourished children have been closed. Pregnant and lactating mothers have faced major difficulties in access to basic health services. WVF programmes in India have reprogrammed some budget for the help of the most vulnerable families for example in cash assistance for the procurement of essential food items.

### 3. Results reporting

World Vision's Child Rights Programme has continued its implementation in seven Area Programs (AP) and five special thematical projects. In addition, integrated into the Busia AP in Uganda the process of *Action Research on Children with Disabilities (2018-2021)* continued with follow-up activities of the recommendations of the research which was conducted in 2018-2019.

Area Programs:

- Kenya: Mogotio Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2007-2022)
- Kenya: Ng'oswet Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2014-2030)
- Uganda: Kirewa-Nabuyoga Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2004-2023)
- Uganda: Busia Municipal Council Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2009-2021)
- Cambodia: Santuk Area Program 2017-2022 (total duration 2017-2032)
- India: Hoshangabad Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration: 2007- 2025)
- India: Rajnandgaon Area Program 2018-2020 (total duration: 2004 - 2020)

### Special Projects:

- Ethiopia: Assisted Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) for Sustainable Land Management and Livelihood Project 2019-2021 (total duration 2019-2023)
- Kenya: Roysambu Youth Livelihood Project 2018-2021
- Kenya: Sook Anti-FGM and reproductive health project 2018-2021
- Rwanda: Buliza Youth Empowerment Partnership Project 2018-2021
- Somalia: Acceleration of FGM/Cutting Abandonment Project 2019-2021 (total duration 2019-2021)

In 2020 the Child Rights Programme directly benefitted 307,814 people (91,615 women, 85,958 men, 68,216 girls and 62,025 boys, of which 2,475 were persons with disabilities).

In year 2019 reporting a good progress was witnessed in programs and projects providing data disaggregated by sex and disability on Output and Outcome levels in comparison to the first year of implementation. Year 2020 was more challenging in this regard since the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions which made information gathering much more difficult. Based on the data that was available three out of six Outcomes mainly advanced as expected, three Outcomes witnessed both progress and decline and one Outcome mainly some decline, as follows:

#### Mainly progress:

Outcome 1: Parents and caregivers provide well for their children and adolescents are ready for economic opportunity

Outcome 2: People living with disabilities enjoy equal rights and opportunities to participate in a society free from discrimination

Outcome 3: Children are cared for, protected and participating

#### Both progress and decline:

Outcome 4: Children enjoy the right to good health

Outcome 5: Children enjoy the right to quality education

#### Mainly decline:

Outcome 6: Finnish citizens understanding of current issues in development policy and positive attitude towards development cooperation has increased

There is still much work to be done to increase gender and disability disaggregated Output and Outcome data provision. The lack of universal reporting of the indicators is a challenge for analysing their progress accurately at Programme level.

The Outcomes' 1-5 progress has been analysed based on the average change that took place in the Area Programs and projects for each indicator during 2020. Traffic lights are used to present the change at outcome level; green marking reaching of the yearly targets, yellow showing some progress compared to baseline, and red indicating decline compared to baseline. However, due to the fact that APs and projects were not able to bring in Outcome level data as much as during the previous years these traffic lights should also be studied with caution.

In addition to the Outcome indicators the analysis is supported by 21 Programme Output indicators (please, see Annex 2). 8 Output indicators are showing progress but are below the yearly targets. 6 Output indicators met their yearly targets. Also 6 Output indicators were below baseline value, and out of these 2 indicators were also below last year's level. Although not all Outputs were able to meet their annual targets, the overall progress reflects the APs' and projects' continuing good working relationships with the communities in difficult times. Data on Finland's aggregate indicators is presented as Annex 7.

### 3.1. Outcome I: Parents and caregivers provide well for their children and adolescents are ready for economic opportunity

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2017	Status 2020	Target 2021	Projects reported
% of parents able to provide well for their children	34%	43%	70%	2/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> </ul>
% of trained youth and young adults employed	40%	55%	80%	4/6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> <li>• Roysambu</li> <li>• Buliza</li> </ul>
% of households food secure for the past 12 months	50%	52%	69%	2/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> </ul>

Table 1: Outcome I status

#### Introduction to the Outcome

WVF's Child Rights Programme's first Outcome is "Parents and caregivers provide well for their children, and that adolescents are ready for economic opportunity". Progress towards this Outcome is followed through three Outcome and three Output indicators that are meant to be measured in six to seven projects in India, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia. World Vision's work on improving the livelihood situation of poor families and youth focuses on improving youth employment and empowering parents and caregivers economically. These targets are realized through activities such as providing vocational and life skills training, training on sustainable agricultural methods and on business management, improving the access and use of resources such as market knowledge, market linkages and farming equipment, value chain development and providing start-up kits as well as enhancing the access to financial services through savings groups and village banks, improved financial literacy and partnerships with financial institutions. WV also encourages and supports families in livelihood diversification for increased economic resilience. Most of WV's programs are implemented in rural areas where agriculture is the main source of income.

## Progress in 2020

In 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic had a mixed impact on the Outcome's progress. Due to the pandemic, the collection of data on projects in Kenya and India was impossible, causing that this year's Outcome result not to be comparable to the previous year. Overall, the reported Outcome's progress has been varied in 2020. However, almost all Outputs have progressed well or satisfactorily. Additionally, the number of programs that disaggregated data by sex and disability is still very low although this is already a positive development.

### *Households' economic wellbeing*

In 2020 World Vision Finland supported 1,108 (1,105 households in year 2019) households (HH) to start a small business. COVID-19 affected small businesses projects but despite this, the results improved slightly compared to the previous year. Small businesses were important for both off-farm and agricultural households in securing additional sources of income. Although the Programme was successful in supporting the establishment of more businesses, it also saw a slight decrease in the percentage of families that were able to provide for their children from 52% in 2019 to 43% in 2020. This decrease is due to the low share of projects reporting and challenging conditions in our project countries due to COVID-19. The majority of the households in these APs are engaged in agriculture and are dependent on weather conditions. In Mogotio AP, a semi-arid area, the indicator dropped from 96% to 64%. This is attributed to COVID-19, but also to the drought in 2019 from which the community had not yet recovered. To mitigate the situation the Mogotio AP provided 646 households (including 50 HHs with people living with disability) cash transfer of about 35 EUR to support them to cope with effects of COVID-19.

In Ng'oswet, another rural project, the indicator for economic wellbeing improved from 51% to 76% which can be explained by work done to establish community structures that support food production at the household level. As most of the project participants depend on agriculture for their income the performance of this indicator is susceptible to vary from one year to another due to changes in weather conditions despite efforts to increase climate resilience. In Sook anti-FGM project area, activities had to be redesigned to be in line with COVID-19 protocols restricting gatherings to discuss FGM-related issues and more focus was put on improving the livelihoods of people. Hence, significantly more households (119) than in previous year (27) were supported with training and start up kits to start small business and income generating activities. Due to the COVID-19 situation 303 families were supported with a one-off cash transfer (about 50 EUR) to enable them to cope with the shocks caused by the pandemic.

WV will continue supporting more households to start additional income-generating activities as well as continue to train communities in disaster risk management and climate-smart agricultural methods to make sure that a larger number of households are more resilient to external stress factors. During the previous year, it was identified that the core activities that positively contribute to the realization of this Outcome indicator target are establishing and supporting the running of different saving and loans groups, enhancing the access to financial services, individual and household level empowerment (using, for example, World Vision's own Empowered World View model) and different climate change adaptation and mitigation measures such as FMNR and better access to water and irrigation. For poor households, savings groups are extremely important because the groups enable household access to loans and the creation and development of small businesses which provide financial security for families. For this reason, the formation of different types of savings and loans groups will be continuing to be supported in all our APs.

### *Food security*

In 2020, 1,473 new farmers used improved and sustainable agricultural techniques. The results improved compared to the previous year, although progress towards the 2021 target for 3,000 farmers still requires a lot of work. Farmers and farming groups are trained on high value crops and encouraged to test new techniques and crop varieties by providing them initial seeds to plant. Additionally, World Vision's training helps to make farmers less vulnerable to changes in the market and more capable to use those changes to their advantage. The percentage of households that have been food secure for the past 12 months increased in 2020 by three percentage points from 2019 (from 49% to 52%). Due to the COVID-19, the collection of data on projects in Kenya and India was impossible, causing this year's result not to be comparable to the previous year. While there is no indicator data to measure the actual development in Kenya and India projects in 2020, in previous year the food security had improved steadily, and one can assume that the positive trend continued in 2020.

In Uganda, the good rainfall resulted in good harvest and during the COVID-19 lockdown there was free labor at households since movement of people and gatherings were prohibited. This led to increased food production and consequently improved food security in rural areas. In Kirewa-Nabuyoga, the percentage of households with year-round access to sufficient food for the families was 53% compared to 38% in 2019. On the other hand, inadequate market for agricultural produce i.e., no markets to sell off the surplus or engage in other business ventures caused low-income among the households. In Busia town, less than 30% of the residents grow their own food but acquire food through the market. The closure of business for almost half of the year had far reaching effects on the caregivers' income resilience and most caregivers experienced challenges in accessing food and only about 50% reported having been food secure compared to 68% in the previous year. In Kirewa-Nabuyoga, the improved food security situation is attributed to WV's good cooperation with the government as 1,200 farmers were receiving extension services (agricultural and veterinary) and capacity building, as well as with the private sector i.e. agro-input dealers from whom farmers bought improved seeds and material for food storage and received technical support. The 1,200 farmers in the AP area were utilizing improved storage facilities and accessing agro-processing technologies and were organized in eight producer groups to market and sell their products. Three value chain networks and two value chain enterprises were established.

### *Youth employment*

In 2020, World Vision supported 749 adolescents and young adults to access upper secondary or tertiary school, vocational or skills training or apprenticeship. Five out of seven programs were able to provide disaggregation by sex on this data and one out of seven programs provided disability disaggregation. The annual achievement is below the 2020 target (1,425 youth) but show increasing progress towards reaching our 2021 target of 1,900 trained youth. The challenges posed by the COVID-19 have slowed development.

Livelihood work empowers adolescents and youth to become active citizens and equips them to successfully transition into adulthood. Business skills training, apprenticeships, and employability and marketable life skills trainings increases the youth's likelihood for decent work. 55% of the youth trained through World Vision were employed at the end of 2020. According to the sex disaggregation received from five out of the eight programs, 51% of the young women and 49% of young men trained through WV were in employment showing a slight difference between the sexes for the benefit of women. This result is particularly delighting in rural APs where women's employment is usually still somewhat restricted by gender norms. The annual result is an improvement of eight percentages from 2019 (47%) and fifteen from the baseline (40%).

The employment situation of the youth trained in 2020 in Roysambu has progressed steadily. The project was able to train 104 youth on life skills, entrepreneurship, business and marketing skills. Due to the pandemic, the youth with small businesses establishments, especially food businesses were most affected, but the pandemic saw youth expand on online marketing and businesses. The youth are reporting improved business and marketing knowledge and 45% of the youth have demonstrated improved business skills.

In Kirewa-Nabuyoha AP, WV and local partners provided training for 260 youth in skills such as welding and metal fabrication, hair dressing, motorcycle mechanics, jewelry, bookmaking and craft shoe making aimed at making the youth become self-reliant. Likewise, in Busia, WV supported 80 (44 male, 36 female) youths by providing them with business start-up and management skills and some of the target youths were supported with seed capital from livelihood recovery interventions such as cash for work. Despite the challenging circumstances in 2020, at 44%, the proportion of youths engaged in productive employment was kept slightly above the 2019 achievement (38%) and above the baseline value of 23%. With more youths starting up and engaging in productive employment amidst the COVID-19 economic impact, the proportion of households where one or more adults were earning an income from selected enterprise remained at 56%.

### Lessons learned

Despite some positive achievements in 2020, the work to improve families' and youths' livelihoods still needs more efforts. Strengthening work is needed in building families' and communities' resilience to disasters, caused by both environmental and personal reasons, supporting gender equality and especially women's access to employment as well as teaching on proper financial management is still required. Livelihoods development is closely linked to child protection. In Sook anti-FGM project, for example, is supporting households and groups with income generation is critical in protecting children from harmful traditional practices of FGM, early pregnancies, child marriage and moranism (boys being recruited to warriors) as with HH's improved income children are more likely to be given an opportunity to stay in school. Likewise, providing income generation skills for reformed circumcisers is important to seal the economic gap related to the abandonment of FGM.

## 3.2. Outcome 2: People living with disabilities enjoy equal rights and opportunities to participate in a society free from discrimination

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2017	Status 2020	Target 2021	Projects reported
% of PWD who have equal participation opportunities	12%	45%	70%	1/12 • Busia AP

Table 2: Outcome 2 status

## **Introduction to the Outcome**

WVF's Child Rights Program's second Outcome is that people living with disabilities (PWD) enjoy equal rights and opportunities to participate in a society free from discrimination. The Programme aims to monitor the progress towards this Outcome through one Outcome and four Output indicators in all APs and projects. The Programme seeks to improve Area Program and project level disability inclusion through improving WV staff's capacity and knowledge on disability-inclusive programming and through empowering PWD both socially and economically. World Vision applies *the social model* into disability. This means that disability is perceived as the Outcome of societal attitudes and structures to a person's impairment.

The activities enhancing inclusion focus on identifying and removing attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers that prevent those with impairments equal inclusion in development programmes and in societies. Disability inclusion is a cross-cutting theme in all our Area Programs and projects. Disability inclusion includes partnering with and supporting disabled persons organizations, promoting accessibility in infrastructure (e.g. WASH) facilities and advocacy for the reduction of stigma and discrimination. People living with disabilities and their families are also often prioritized as the participants of livelihoods and other activities since they are typically amongst the poorest and most vulnerable members of the communities WV works with.

## **Progress in 2020**

The narrative sections of the Area Programs' and projects' annual reports 2020 reflect increasing efforts to involve persons with disabilities. Reporting on the number of PWD benefiting from the Programme has improved in the sense that, in 2019 report, a total of 1,848 persons with disabilities were reported as direct beneficiaries and none as indirect beneficiaries. In 2020, a total of 2,475 persons were already reported as direct and 3,201 indirect beneficiaries.

A study on the situation of children with disabilities carried out in 2018 and 2019 in the Uganda project areas in collaboration with the Disability Partnership Finland spawned several actions during 2020. 681 families with a disabled child in the area have been raised as a priority in income generating and livelihoods support activities. Children's schooling has been consciously supported and they have participated in the projects' lifeskills activities. Children in need of medical or rehabilitative attention have been referred to these services.

The Ethiopian FMNR project has involved 251 people with various disabilities, 175 of whom have already benefited from the animal husbandry and plant breeding activities of the project cooperatives. The Santuk programme in Cambodia reports that 522 children or adults with disabilities participated in activities such as hygiene, nutrition and child protection. In Roysambu, Kenya, 40 children with disabilities have been referred to rehabilitation services and their parents to savings groups. The Buliza project in Rwanda has been inclusive, its vocational training has involved young people with physical and sensory disabilities and short stature. For the FGM project in Somalia, the focus has been on building a collaborative relationship with a local network of disability organizations and strengthening staff capacity in relation to inclusion.

In India, COVID-19 also had a major impact on the lives and livelihoods of people with disabilities and their families. In Rajnandgaon, 485 and in Hoshangabad, 275 families with a disabled family member were assisted by additional financial support.

However, receiving reliable data for this Outcome indicator was extremely challenging, as Table 2 indicates. It is possible that the meaning of the indicator has still remained unclear. The COVID-19 has, in

general, posed extra challenges for all indicator data collection, but this is not likely to completely explain the missing data.

At the Output level, the data received reflect increased WV staff capacity on inclusion.

### Lessons learned

Promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Programme and the capacity to report it requires closer and continuous attention and guidance from World Vision Finland for the Programme implementing staff. World Vision Finland has technical capacity for that since it has had a member in World Vision International's Disability Inclusion Leadership Team (DILT) for more than a decade and has been involved in the development of WV's key guidelines on inclusion. Field staff and their supervisors need regular training and refresher trainings on inclusion. One bottleneck has been a small number of qualified trainers to use WV's inclusion training package 'Traveling Together'. This situation is currently improving, since the DILT is in the process of developing an online training version of the Traveling Together. The proper identification of persons living with different kinds of disabilities, preferably by using the Washington Group methodology also needs improvement, since it is very likely that PWD other than those with physical and sensory disabilities are undercounted in the implementation areas.

### 3.3. Outcome 3: Children are cared for, protected and participating

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2017	Status 2020	Target 2021	Projects reported
Communities can identify, understand and respond adequately to violations of child rights, in coordination with local justice mechanisms	48%	76%	83%	4/11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Hoshangabad AP</li> <li>• Santuk AP</li> </ul>
% of adolescents who know of the presence of child protection services and mechanisms	68%	72%	90%	3/11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> <li>• Somalia Anti-FGM</li> </ul>
% of children who feel that their community is a safe place	60%	76%	74%	3/8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> <li>• Somalia Anti-FGM</li> </ul>
% of adolescents whose views are sought and incorporated into the decision making of local government	30%	70%	45%	2/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> </ul>

Table 3: Outcome 3 status

## **Introduction to the Outcome**

WVF's Child Rights Programme's third Outcome is that "Children are cared for, protected and participating". The progress towards this Outcome is monitored through four Outcome level indicators and four Output level indicators. WV uses a systems approach to child protection. This means that World Vision works to improve child protection by empowering children and by working with different partners to create a safe and protective environment around children. WV's work focuses both on addressing the root causes as well as responding to existing child protection violations.

The activities under this Outcome include strengthening a child-friendly culture within families through teaching on parenting and child development, partnering with communities to create child-friendly communities through supporting child protection units, catalysing faith communities to transform social norms that are harmful to children, influencing governments to ensure the protection of children, and by empowering children to be influential child protection actors through teaching on children's rights. WV partners with teachers, faith and traditional leaders, local and national government officials including police and different civil society groups and networks to build their awareness on children's rights as well as their capacity on reporting and responding to child rights violations. Children are actively supported to participate in decision-making within their families and communities at age-appropriate ways, as well as to participate in WV project planning and monitoring activities.

## **Progress in 2020**

The Outcome indicators have progressed satisfactory in 2020. Due to COVID-19, reporting Outcome data on projects in Kenya and India is missing. As a result, the 2020 results are not fully comparable to the 2019 results. However, at the Output level, reporting by projects has remained almost the same as in 2019. Only data from India and Cambodia was not available. The number of programs that have reported data disaggregated by sex have almost remained same compared to previous year.

### *Community level child protection efforts*

In 2020, 5,447 community members were engaged in advocacy and/or CVA community gatherings on child protection issues. Four out of eight programs and projects were able to provide data disaggregation by sex on the data (1,283 women and 1,771 men, 1,088 boys and 829 girls), as well as two programs were able to provide disability disaggregation (88 disabled persons). Men's engagement in advocacy and/or CVA community gatherings on child protection issues has increased based on the data obtained although fathers' involvement in child protection is usually not viewed as part of the traditional male role in the areas where the projects are implemented.

The Programme is on the way to its 2021 target, 10,000 community members having participated in CVA actions. In order to reach the goal, strengthening advocacy and/or CVA community gatherings on child protection issues needs to be continued. The community-level advocacy and CVA gatherings indicate the communities' improved knowledge of children's rights as well as their motivation towards improved child protection. This same trend is reflected in the increase in the percentage of communities that can identify, understand and respond adequately to violations on child rights in coordination with local justice mechanisms. This Outcome indicator progressed negatively by -5 percentage points (to 76% in 2020 from 81% in 2019) but is well above its 2017 baseline (48%). It should, however, be noted that only four out of eleven required programs reported their progress towards this indicator. In India (Hoshangabad, 94%) and Uganda (Busia 89% , and Kirewa-Nabuyoga 95%) project reported good results. However, in Cambodia (Santuk) result was well below baseline (24%) and will require stronger support from us.

In Kenya, the COVID-19 had a serious impact on girls' life in certain areas as the economic constraints brought about by the pandemic pushed some parents to procure FGM on their girls so they could marry off their girls and get dowry. This made the anti-FGM project in Sook, sub county of West Pokot, even more important. WVF was able to carry out activities to empower the community with information on how to identify a FGM case, steps on referral mechanisms and prosecution procedure for such cases. This information was shared widely through a 14-day road caravan, radio broadcastings and community meetings and reached over 500 men, 500 women and 1,500 children. The campaign was likely to have contributed to community reporting three FGM execution plans targeting 19 girls to the authorities through the referral pathways thereby helping to stop the FGM acts before they were carried out.

In Somalia, the community child protection committees have been instituted in the community and played vital role in the protection of children. These committees exist in all districts of the project area and are 21 in total. They are a group of volunteers who conduct awareness raising on CP and GBV prevention and response mechanisms to mitigate all kinds of violence against women and children.

#### *Adolescents' and children's child protection capacity*

World Vision has organized trainings for children and youth on child rights and rights violation reporting mechanisms and engage community members to participate in advocacy and CVA activities on child protection. Usually, trainings take place in children's clubs, children's parliaments or during life skills trainings. In 2020, 7,273 children and youth were trained on child rights. In the five out of nine programs that reported disaggregated data by sex 1,283 of the trained children were girls and 1,657 were boys. In addition, the Somalian Anti-FGM project trained 815 women and 602 men on child rights. In two programs 13 children and 38 adults with disabilities were reported to have participated in the trainings. The annual results are reasonable because the training work has been extremely difficult to carry out during the COVID-19 year. Traditional trainings and children clubs have been impossible or extremely difficult to implement. Partly because of the COVID-19 induced challenges to participate in trainings, the percentage of adolescents who know of the presence of child protection services and mechanisms decreased in 2020 by - 17 percentage points (from 89% in 2019 to 72%). One out of eight programs were able to disaggregate their indicator data by sex. In this program (Busia) on average 62% of girls and 55 % of boys were aware of the child protection systems and mechanisms. WVF will continue training work and strengthening children knowledge on child rights to achieve the set target (90 % in 2021).

#### *Adolescents' participation to decision making*

The children's clubs and parliaments support children and youth to voice their own concerns and opinions and to participate in community-level decision-making in accordance with Article 12 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children's and adolescents' right to opinion and full consideration of their opinions can be a controversial matter for adults who also control the access to those forums where important decisions are made. It is therefore important to also work with adults to educate them on children's rights and abilities for decision-making.

The proportion of youth who report that their views are sought and incorporated into the local government's decision making increased in 2020 by 25 percentage points (from 45% in 2019 to 70% in 2020). The sharp increase in the result is due to the low reporting of projects and the reported projects have performed well for this indicator. One out of the five programs that reported this indicator were able to provide data disaggregated by sex. Within this program, 71% of the girls and 77% of the boys reported to have been included in local government's decision making.

### *Child-friendly communities*

World Vision Finland has promoted child-friendly communities which are committed to improving the lives of children within their jurisdiction by realizing their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The number of functional child protection systems within the program and project areas is progressing well to reach the target of 190 functional child protection systems by 2021.

In 2020, World Vision's area program locations had 159 functional child protection systems. As with other institutions and systems, it is important that the Area Programs and projects also focus on making sure that the achievements are maintained after World Vision's support to the institutions and systems end. The existence of functional child protection units enhances children's experience on how safe their communities are as the units have an important role in advocating for children's rights as well as monitoring, preventing, and reporting any child protection violations. In 2020, there was an increase of 2 percentage points (from 74% in 2019 to 76%) in the percentage of children that felt that their communities are safe. The indicator has almost achieved the 2021 target of 77%. Child protection remains one of the most important aspects of APs, and the work to achieve the set targets and universal level of reporting of child right violations will continue. It is also to be noted that usually the increase in advocacy and information sharing on rights also leads to the increase in number of reported rights violations.

Due to its importance as a crucial child right that is important for child protection as well WV works in many APs to promote and increase the birth registration of children. Birth registration is a proof of legal identity. For example, a birth certificate is required to access social service systems including health, education, and justice. Birth registration usually depends on the combination of parents' and caregivers' awareness of its importance, families' financial ability to pay for the registration and the availability of registration places. 7,570 children under the age of five were registered in four APs in 2020. Disaggregated data was not available.

### **Lessons learned**

Some of the existing challenges under Outcome 3 are the sustainability of child protection measures in the face of economic and other distresses and men's involvement in child protection advocacy work. The Programme does not directly monitor the prevalence of child rights violations in the implementation areas. The indicators should reflect the wider child right's situation in implementation areas through the children's own feeling of security and the community's perspective on children's rights and roles.

In Kenya, collaboration with community-based child protection structures and authorities is crucial for strengthening child protection in AP area. Furthermore, during the COVID-19 the role of faith leaders in child protection became even more important in communities. In Ng'oswet, for instance, WV trained 4 faith leaders on psychosocial support to reach out to children with messages of hope amidst the COVID-19 outbreak.

While the main goal of the anti-FGM work in West Pokot County is to save girls from cutting and child, early and forced marriage, it's important to note that boys are also threatened by number of child rights violations. Consequently, boys are currently utilising 16% of the capacity of the safe houses built by communities with WV's support. Safe houses protect boys from being recruited into Moranism (Pokot warriors) or being forced into marry early by the community. As boys do not feel left out by the various project activities, they have come up to immensely support End FGM and child marriage campaigns.

WV's work in Uganda to develop child protection structures and to tackle the root causes of violence and abuse against children seems to be bearing fruit. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has impacted children's feeling of security. Focus group discussions with children in Busia over WV's survey findings

revealed that some children no longer felt safe because they were exposed to the risk of acquiring COVID-19 due to their location close to the border with Kenya with a lot of unchecked cross-border engagements/movements. Some children especially girls feared they may not back to school and their parents might give them away for marriage during the period when schools were temporarily closed down. On a positive note, the majority of the parents and caregivers (81%) felt that even amidst the current challenges brought about by COVID-19 outbreak, the community remains relatively safe and child safety has improved. This is further indicated by the fact that the proportion of parents/caregivers who feel that harmful practices in community are reducing increased from 55% to 60%.

### 3.4. Outcome 4: Children enjoy the right to good health

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2017	Status 2020	Target 2021	Projects reported
% of safe births	74 %	92%	95 %	3/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> <li>• Santuk AP</li> </ul>
% of underweight children	19 %	14%	15 %	2/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Santuk AP</li> </ul>
% coverage of essential vaccines	83 %	82%	98 %	3/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP</li> <li>• Santuk AP</li> </ul>

Table 4: Outcome 4 status

#### Introduction to the Outcome

WVF's Child Rights Programme's fourth Outcome is that "Children enjoy the right to good health". Families' and children's better health is promoted in all seven WVF supported APs. However, because of exceptional year monitoring on Outcome level data was conducted in only 2-3 APs, which obviously affects the overall significance of the conclusions presented below. The progress towards the Outcome is monitored through three Outcome (table 4) and three Output indicators.

The focus of World Vision's health work is on improving the access to quality health services and on protection against injuries, infections and deceases. The activities under this Outcome include improving local health service provision and the quality of services through the CVA method and partnerships with local government, awareness-raising and teaching on nutrition, hygiene and health matters, rehabilitating malnourished children, constructing and supporting the rehabilitation of improved sanitation facilities as well as supporting the access to clean water for households, schools and health facilities. Community health volunteers and community health committees play an important role in monitoring the health situation of children and providing information to primary caregivers on nutrition, health and children's development. In addition, anti-FGM work is closely related to health work. This includes e.g. building the capacity of health service providers in FGM case management at various health facilities

and organizing various awareness sessions and trainings aimed to increase community knowledge and understanding on FGM consequences to girls' and women's and their children's health.

### **Progress in 2020**

The annual Outcome monitoring was not conducted in majority of the APs due to challenges posed by COVID-19. Therefore, Program level analysis is challenging, and Output data is brought in to describe the annual progress. In general, during the previous programme years the Outcome has showed progress towards reaching its end of Programme targets in 2021 despite some AP specific challenges. The limited data from 2020 shows that there are positive trends in the prevalence of safe births and nourished children. However, the coverage of essential vaccines has been rather stagnant during the whole programme period and shows slight decrease. The COVID-19 situation affected the delivery of health services and people's willingness to access these services, such as vaccinations, and organising of some of the bigger trainings. The overall challenges under this Outcome have during normal years dealt mainly with reducing the impacts of extreme weather conditions on access to water as well as children's malnutrition. However, it can be concluded that the pandemic drastically started to impact the enabling environment to deliver health services and is assumed to have begun to influence the overall health status of children, families and communities.

There are also some differences between rural and urban context and some of these are related to COVID-19 which are described below under each indicator. It is also important to note that WV is contributing only partly to the progress as especially in rural areas in East Africa. For example, campaigns organized by authorities in Uganda significantly increased the use of health services.

It can be concluded that CVA work plays an import role in improvement of heath service provision. Health sector has been the focus of WV's CVA work in Busia, Uganda, and has contributed to improvement of health services in the Municipality as the CVA study done in 2020 as part of the WVF's Programme review shows. In 2020, for example, the CVA team engaged other health development actors within the district to form a health coalition with the aim of amplifying the advocacy voice within the district. WV facilitated a meeting between the health coalition and the district leaders to present the duty bearers key issues and challenges such as the non-functional medical equipment, inadequate supply of essential drugs, inexistent youth friendly services at health facilities, inaccessibility to ambulance services especially during transport lockdown in the district and unfriendly medical equipment such as delivery beds for women with disabilities. In total, 181 stakeholders participated in various dialogues held during the year. In Ng'oswet AP, Kenya, the CVA group and advocacy forums facilitated by WV managed to petition the County government of Elgeyo Marakwet to implement Community Health Strategy policy that provides communities the right to elect and create community health volunteers, representing each village and attached to the nearest health facility. Through this process one new community health unit was established which improved service delivery to the community as mothers no longer walk 10km down the valley to attend ante-natal care services. The CVA managed to secure budget allocation for community health volunteers and 10 volunteers were trained on how to monitor health and sanitation interventions at household level.

Access to safe water is critical to health and CVA work is important way of addressing this. In Mogotio, Kenya, as a result of building community capacity on resource mobilization, the CVA group was able to actively engage in Sub County public participation meetings which further led them to develop two successful proposals on access to safe water leading to reduced distances to water points earlier ranging from average 3-5 km to 0.5-0.8 km. The CVA group was also sensitizing community leadership especially members of Sub County assembly to develop and present a bill on management of water resources to the County assembly.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Area Programmes and Special Projects were quickly adjusted to incorporate measures to protect the communities from the spread of the disease. This included for example the following adjustments: In India Hoshangabad AP was able to deliver cash transfers, masks and hygienic kits for 2,350 most vulnerable children's families in order to meet their daily needs because during the lockdown situation there were no options to earn money for their families. In the other Indian AP, Rajnandgaon AP, hygiene kits sanitizers, masks and liquid hand wash were delivered to Block & District health department, Primary Health Centers, Community Health Centers, health Sub-centers and Anganwadi Centers. Food was distributed to 317 poorest of the poor families. In addition, cash transfers were made to 2,821 families. The project in Somalia also integrated COVID-19 prevention and control messages during this period, where 800 posters were printed on prevention messages and reporting mechanisms for the response to COVID-19. In addition, WV in collaboration with the Ministry of Health conducted radio broadcast on COVID-19 prevention and response messages to reach a large community audience and include those who cannot read and write. This contributed to a reduced spread of COVID-19 within the target communities as well as improved the hygiene and sanitation situation.

In general, projects and APs reported that water and hygiene related behavior change targets were overachieved when combined with COVID-19 sensitization. It can be estimated that the urgency of the pandemic made the change more urgently needed. For example, in APs in India pregnant women and mothers were sensitized for WASH and diarrhoea management while mainstreaming these with COVID-19 sensitization.

#### *Child mortality*

In 2020, 2,156 mothers in the AP areas attended at least four antenatal care (ANC) visits before the birth of their youngest child. This shows decrease from the year 2019 when 3,879 mothers attended the required amount of ANC visits. However, the lack of data from one of the India APs partly explains the slight decrease and therefore indicates a rather good progress towards reaching the end of Programme targets. ANC visits are a significant part of the realization of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Antenatal visits are important for the health of the mother and the foetus and diminish the likelihood of maternal and child mortality. In AP areas health volunteers together with health care workers also encourage families to practise family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights is mainstreamed in projects not focusing on health.

In Busia the number of mothers who reported having had four or more antenatal visits while they were pregnant with their youngest child reduced 10 percentage points from previous year to as low as 36%. Focus groups discussions with mothers revealed that fewer pregnant women were willing to complete their ANC schedules because of a number of existing challenges including difficulty in reaching the health facilities during the time of total transport lockdown and the limited space at Busia maternity ward, thus posing an exposure risk for contracting COVID-19. In recent years WV has supported expansion and refurbishment of the maternity ward and more and more women want to give birth there. Number of persons receiving sexuality education or SRH-services doubled from 2019 which is attributed to the introduction of child friendly spaces offering child friendly services at health facilities in addition to introduction of SRH education through community peer educators.

Attending antenatal care in local health facilities can also increase the probability of mothers seeking professional help for childbirth. Now as high as 92% of mothers report that a skilled birth attendant was present at the birth of their youngest child. The indicator is slightly above its 2021 target (91%). This positive progress should be considered with caution as only 3 APs were able to provide data. For example, data from both APs in India was not available and previously the data from these APs has shown close to full coverage of safe births and the COVID-19 situation in India was not yet

influencing safe births during 2020. Conversely, the APs in Kenya that were not able to provide data this time have shown significantly lower percentages during previous years. Due to the pandemic, there was no Outcome level data collection carried out in APs in Kenya, but an evaluation conducted few months before restriction reveals some trends. According to the evaluation in Mogotio AP, basically all births (98 %) were attended by a skilled birth attendant. However, in previous year the Ministry of Health records showed a much lower percentage (33%), which might be explained by different methods in data collection and sample. In Ng'oswet, the indicator was at the same level in 2019/2020. This high level could be attributed to the strong partnership with the County department of health services and community outreach sessions, but also to the provision of Finnish Baby Aid Kits in 2019 and early 2020 to mothers who delivered in the health facilities thus encouraging mothers to seek to have a safe birth. However, not yet all mothers (77%) in Ng'oswet reported having had recommended four antenatal visits, which is another requirement for receiving a kit. The Finnish Baby Aid Kit Weconomy-project has been implemented with private and Finnpartnership funds together with Logonet Oy.

In Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP in Uganda, the percentage of infants whose birth were attended by a skilled birth attendant rose by 4% to 89%. However, this this cannot be attributed to WV, but to countrywide campaign by Ministry of Health on the need to give birth from health facilities to avert high rates of maternal death, which increased the number of women giving birth at health facilities. The campaign also doubled the number of mothers who report that they have had four or more antenatal visits while they were pregnant with their youngest child to 77%.

In another AP in Uganda, Busia, even with the national-wide challenge of transport lockdown in the earlier stages of COVID-19 outbreak, the percentage of infants whose birth were attended by a skilled birth attendant remained at high level 94%. This achievement was made possible by World Vision recognizing the challenge in the district and negotiating with the Busia Local Government to map out all pregnant women in the district and providing stand-by ambulance services to enable women who are due for delivery to reach the health facilities in time. With health facility accessibility options made available even during the COVID-19 lockdown, more pregnant women (94%) were also able to access counselling and testing for sexually transmitted infections which potentially reduces the risk of transmission infections from the mother to the child thus leading to reduction in new cases of infection especially among infants. This is higher than in 2019 (87%) and 74% registered in 2016 (baseline).

#### *Children's vaccinations*

It has been crucial part of our work to promote that health workers and health volunteers actively encourage caregivers to vaccinate their children to prevent the spread of diseases and infections. Also mother-in-laws' and mothers' of pregnant or newly mothers were targeted. In 2020, 82% of 12-59-month-old children had received all the essential vaccinations. This Outcome indicator has essentially remained at the baseline for the past three years (baseline 83%). The stagnant state of this indicator can be partly contributed to the already high baseline figure. False beliefs and lack of knowledge on the real impacts of vaccination are also some of the remaining challenges in the APs. The indicator definition can also contribute to the stagnation of the indicator as vaccination cover is verified through vaccination cards and caregiver's recall. Caregivers have been reported to be unable to locate vaccination cards or not be able to recall which vaccinations their children have received.

In Busia's urban context the coverage of essential vaccines among children (85%) remained the same as in 2019, and hence, was not affected by COVID-19. However, in rural Kirewa-Nabuyoga the access to essential vaccines from health facilities was tampered with by COVID-19 movements restrictions and possibly the fear of contracting the virus leading to decline in percentage from 95% in 2019 to 77%. In Kenya, during the past reporting years (2018-2019) in the AP areas the coverage of essential vaccines among children have remained rather stable or even declined in some parts. The coverage is usually

strongly linked to campaigns conducted by the Government. It is estimated that in 2020 many parents were not able to take their children for immunization due to the same movement restrictions also affecting programme monitoring.

#### *Underweight children*

Better sanitation facilities and access to clean water together with good nutritional practices and access to quality health services all contribute to children's good nutritional situation. In 2020, 14% of the 0-59-month-old children were underweight. This is an improvement both in comparison to last year's situation (18%) and to the baseline (19%) and actually has reached its target (16%). However, only two of the APs were included in the analysis this time. WVF has already witnessed in its previous development programme cycles that the reduction of children's malnutrition and underweight happens slowly and there can be set backs. Underweight is a complex issue that is associated not only with diet and eating habits but other social factors as well such as gender equality, women's excessive workload in agriculture and at home and the distribution of scarce family resources within the family. For example, in Santuk AP in Cambodia cooking demonstrations are organised but the cooking habits of mothers don't change easily. To address the under achievement, WV will increase cooperation with health centres to conduct awareness session of nutritious food with mothers who have underweight children. Therefore, the project will support home visit counselling and encourage mothers/caregivers to produce or cooking nutritious food for their children. In general, it can be stated that in many places community members still demonstrate a poor understanding towards the health benefits promoted by messages and services related to nutrition and on the ill-effects of childhood malnutrition. The work to reduce malnutrition and underweight will continue to tackle all these underlying issues.

However, there is also good progress as in Busia's operation areas in Uganda the prevalence of underweight in children under five years of age continued declining, being now 7% (baseline 14%). These significant positive changes in child nutrition are largely associated to increased adoption of positive nutrition behaviors especially among pregnant and lactating women as recommended under WV's timed and targeted counselling project model. For example, the proportion of mothers who exclusively breastfed their infants in the first 6 months increased from 53% reported in 2019 to 59%, and this is much higher than the baseline figure of 16%. Related to this is the proportion of mothers who initiated their children early to breast milk which remained as high as 85% when compared to the baseline (67%), which indicated the same trend as with other operating areas were work related to increased breast feeding can be considered effective. In the same way, 83% of the pregnant women reportedly eat balanced is also much higher than only 11% documented at baseline.

Improving household's and communities' access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities as well as promoting hygiene practices all support children's protection from diseases and impact their development. In 2020, 62% of households reported that they were able to access water from improved sources within 30 minutes distance. This Output indicator is witnessing positive progress in comparison to 2019 (51%) and the baseline (52%) but is somewhat behind its 2021 target (78%). This indicator is heavily affected by weather conditions which affect the availability of water from different sources but the APs feeding in data into this analysis this year were not affected. During the previous reporting period two out of seven APs, both in India, saw a marked drop to this indicator caused by the drought in 2019. Due to the drought, some water sources established through WV interventions dried up and in some, the water levels dropped causing lack of water in the areas. The indicator measures the access to safe water specifically during dry periods. Although the Area Programs in India have conducted many activities to improve water resilience and access to safe water, dry seasons are very demanding to the communities when they affect the level of ground water. To address this water reserving ponds were developed.

Use of good sanitation facilities, such as improved latrines or toilets is another important indicator that affects children’s health. In 2020 75 % of households were using improved sanitation facilities which is the same as the last year’s figure. As a result of WV’s efforts, the Mogotio area has witnessed an overall decline in total annual reported cases of typhoid and diarrhea among children over five years old. In 2020, WV for example conducted training on community led total sanitation in Mogotio Kenya targeting 35 public health officers and community health extension workers in order to equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills to enhance follow up of households and attainment of open defecation free status across Mogotio. Follow up showed good results as of the total of 25 villages were targeted with over 5,150 households constructing and using latrines and other sanitation facilities about half had attained over 90% coverage. This is a significant improvement considering that previously no village have been declared open defecation free. It is hoped that the villages will be certified and declared open defecation free by the Ministry of Health which would be a major milestone to household improvement in hygiene and sanitation and reduction in the prevalence of diarrhea.

### Lessons learned

In 2020, in addition to the challenges on monitoring posed by pandemic some challenges from previous years continued to prevail. The APs were not able to provide programme level data disaggregation by sex or disability. The impact of climate change and variability still pose threats to access to water in some AP areas although there has been some developments. The APs need to continue looking into different ways of supporting access to safe water also during extreme weather conditions together with the local governments. In APs in Asia especially, the families’ poverty is still a challenge for children’s nutrition. Although families are aware of the importance of nutrition all do not have access to nutritional food items. Therefore, the conclusion included in the previous results reporting is still valid and continues to be addressed that nutrition work needs to be combined with increased efforts to support the families’ livelihoods in these programs.

Despite the lack of Outcome level data to feed into our programme analysis the work in India shows signs of transformed relationships. The adopted TTC module has a component for the caregivers to take proper care of the pregnant, lactating and under 2 children. It is observed that husbands and grandmothers are actively participating in these sessions and are taking proper care of these targeted groups. Also because of Men care volunteers the husbands of children are able to connect better with their wives and are able to share their views before them.

### 3.5. Outcome 5: Children enjoy the right to quality education

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2017	Status 2020	Target 2021	Projects reported
% functional literacy	55 %	79 %	72 %	2/6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Somalia</li> </ul>
% basic education	63 %	54 %	85 %	3/6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busia AP</li> <li>• Santuk AP</li> <li>• Somalia</li> </ul>

Table 5: Outcome 5 status

## **Introduction to the Outcome**

WVF's Child Rights Program's fifth Outcome is that "Children enjoy the right to quality education". WVF does not implement any stand-alone projects on education within the APs or none of the special projects is solely focusing on education. However, activities enhancing education are included in the child protection and community engagement and sponsorship projects of 5 APs and one special project. Progress towards the Outcome target is monitored through two Outcome (table 5) and three Output indicators. WVF's efforts under this Outcome focus on improved access to and completion rate of basic education, and on improved reading, writing and numeracy skills which reflect the quality of the education. WVF supports the access to education and the quality of education for example through advocating for the importance of education and supporting children's learning, supporting the renovation and construction of safe school facilities including WASH and promoting better learning conditions through CVA, providing teacher training as well as supporting the culture of reading at community and household levels. Programs also provide remedial education and help school dropouts to re-enter their education.

In Sook Sub County of West-Pokot, Kenya, WV's work on child protection and SRHR, especially to eradicate FGM, is closely linked to access to education. In 2020, WV supported construction of two safe houses for two secondary schools that provide a safe space for total of 80 girls and boys who are at risk of being subjected through FGM, other SGBV and child marriage. From 2016 to 2018 the FGM prevalence in Sook decreased from 75% to 59%, while the enrolment of girls increased from 7,940 in 2015 to 11,234 in 2019. An end of programme evaluation is planned in 2021 to receive the most recent figures on the FGM prevalence and school enrolment rates. Due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, these figures are not available for 2020. Currently there are over 100 girls who have gone up to university level, and approximately 90% of them have gone through alternative rites of passage as a female initiation into womanhood without FGM. Another issue affecting girls' education is reproductive health. In Sook, for example, 40 teachers, 80 parents and 250 girls and 50 boys were trained on reproductive health and making of reusable sanitary towels. Furthermore, parents lobbied the County government to provide sanitary towels as required by the Ministry of Education to all resulting in 5,600 girls receiving sanitary towels during COVID-19 period.

## **Progress in 2020**

The annual Outcome monitoring was not conducted in majority of the APs due to challenges posed by COVID-19. Therefore, Program level analysis is challenging, and we bring in Output data to describe the annual progress.

Overall, the Outcome 5 progressed satisfactorily in 2020. Two out of six projects reported Outcome level. Two out of three Output indicators showed progress as planned but the low level of project reporting affected results, must also be taken into account. However, there has been some development on Outcome 5 in comparison to 2019 but still more work needs to be done.

### *Functional literacy*

In 2020, 3,505 parents or guardians actively participated in supporting their children's literacy development. This is an excellent improvement from 2019 (1,621 parents) but the indicator seems to be behind achieving its 2021 target (41,000 parents/guardians). It should, however, be noted that the Output indicator was only reported by two out of five Area Programs in 2020 (two in 2019) which affects the slow progress of the indicator towards its end goal. This indicator is not embedded into any of the Area Program's logical frameworks, and it has been noticed that the programs have difficulties in monitoring and reporting indicators that are outside their own results frameworks. Discussion will continue with the

remaining three Area Programs in 2021 on their challenges on and possibilities for monitoring this indicator.

Parent's support to their children's literacy development is important as it improves children's own views and motivation towards literacy learning and education, as well as reflects the value for education in the communities. According to the 2020 results, 79% of the children in Grade 6 or equivalent could read with comprehension. This indicator was reported only by two Area Programs and shows increase from 2019 (60%) and achieved the 2021 target 72% (Table 5).

In APs in Kenya, education is not a focus of technical projects, but many child rights activities are school based. Schools were closed from mid-March 2020 and due to restriction indicator data collection was not possible. In both APs WV distributed some learning materials and encouraged peer learning. In Mogotio, to confirm whether children in the programme area were adjusting and participating in the new learning modes and guide them on available options, WV conducted virtual monitoring of children reaching 1,050 children (531 Girls and 519 Boys), which revealed that at least 85 % had access to virtual lessons conducted over the radio and television and accessed learning materials through their parents' mobile phones. However, access (in theory) is not the same as learning. The rest had difficulties accessing through the mentioned modes due to poor communication networks in their areas of residence and were supported through mentorship linkage with peers at the village level where they congregated and learned together in small groups.

#### *Primary school graduation*

As is evident, supporting communities is important to improve education. WV uses Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) model to strengthens relationships of direct accountability among citizens, policymakers and service providers. By 2020 altogether 114 schools within six Area Programs had been improved through the CVA process. Of these, 22 schools had been improved in 2020 within two APs and one special project. On the basis of the Outcomes and Output indicators, it can be stated that the development has been positive and in the right direction.

WV continued supporting children's enrolment into early childhood education as this supports children's overall development, prepares them for primary education and enhances child protection as children have a safe place where to stay when parents are working. Establishing and rehabilitating early childhood development (ECD centers) in the communities also enhance women's opportunities for income generation and thus support gender equality. In 2020, 19 ECD centers in two Area Programs were established or rehabilitated through World Vision's support. Altogether 145 ECD centers have now been rehabilitated or established in the Area Program areas which is a good progress towards achieving the 2021 target of 200 ECD centres in five Area Program areas.

#### **Lessons learned**

The biggest challenges on this Outcome in 2020 are the low level of program reporting on parental involvement in children's literacy development and lack of gender and disability disaggregated data for most regional programs. In addition, the challenging COVID-19 year has brought its own additional challenges.

### 3.6. Outcome 6: Finnish citizens understanding of current issues in development policy and positive attitude towards development cooperation has increased

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2017	Status 2020	Target 2021
Percentage of Finns who think that development cooperation and development policy is important	84%	78%	Remains at least at the baseline level
Percentage of World Vision Finland supporters who are well informed of global development policy objectives	31%	69%	Annual growth of 2%

Table 6: Outcome 6 status

#### Introduction to the Outcome

The sixth Outcome of World Vision Finland's Child Rights Programme is that *Finnish citizens understanding of current issues in development policy and positive attitude towards development cooperation has increased*. This Outcome consists of World Vision Finland's communication and advocacy actions. The progress towards the Outcome is monitored through two Outcome and four Output indicators.

#### Progress in 2020

WVF was able to start operational year 2020 as planned but in March COVID-19 changed the focus of communications to the direct and secondary effects of the pandemic on children's rights. Teams shifted to work remotely, and WV was forced to either postpone or change some activities such as live events and content gathering trips. However, this made WVF put even more emphasis on producing engaging and informative communications material together with the partner countries. By strengthening existing cooperation with WV International and national offices communications teams were able to deliver stories and information through social media channels (FB, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn), electronic newsletter (31,700 recipients per issue) and World Vision magazine (two issues, total circulation for each 21,217). All WVF published 33 web news articles and 13 press releases, produced and edited video stories and organised one virtual press event. According to the 2020 WV magazine readership survey 31% of the subscribers said that they were *very well* and 62% said they were *well* informed of the results of development cooperation through the magazine's content.

WVF's media work resulted in coverage focusing mostly on the pandemic. In total WVF's work generated 278 media hits in 2020 (potential reach of over 274 million). WVF's experts were interviewed among others twice on MTV3 channel's news programme Viiden jälkeen (on FGM and on the secondary impacts of COVID-19) as well as on Finnish Broadcasting Company's (YLE) Ykkösaamu morning show. Also, stories of WVF's work and global issues were published or our ambassadors/spokespeople were interviewed in national radio, magazines and websites e.g., in MTV3 news, Yle.fi, Ilta-Sanomat, mtv.fi, Apu and in radio Yle Ykkönen, radio Aalto and radio

Aito Iskelmä. WVF was able to organize two media and content gathering trips to Kenya and to Somalia right before the pandemic.

The main themes in 2020 were *child protection, youth employment and disability*. Within child protection, the focus was on FGM and other issues related to violence against children. With the additional funding, WVF produced as planned a World Vision Magazine issue focusing on violence against children and children's rights, including work against FGM and a video production focusing on FGM (filmed in Kenya).

WVF produced a steady flow of engaging material in social media that emphasized results and children's own voices. The number of followers in our social media channels grew by 6% (21,446 followers at the end of 2020). This is a satisfying and anticipated growth rate but comes slightly short of our target of 10%. However, the number of impressions surpassed our target with 35% growth (target 10% annual growth). In addition, our social media posts received 350 824 engagements in all channels combined. This is significantly more than in 2019 (153,835 engagements). This indicates a change in algorithms that emphasize engagement more than before. Also, more article content tackling e.g., frequently asked questions that generated more likes, comments and shares was produced and shared. The social media platforms change their algorithms and reporting metrics constantly which makes target-setting quite challenging. However, they work sufficiently well when measuring the effectiveness of our communication.

Our supporter survey revealed that the percentage of our supporters who are well informed of global development objectives has stayed almost at the same level decreasing from 71% to 69%. The 2020 figure can be considered a very satisfying result taking into consideration the unusual year with COVID-19 concerns dominating both the media as well as the personal lives of supporters. And WVF covered global development objectives steadily throughout the year – especially in relation to the pandemic and its effects in developing countries. The number of World Vision supporters who are informed of the results of WVF's development cooperation has stayed rather close to the baseline figure (86%) being now at 81%. In addition, a total of 78 % of Finns (ministry survey 2020) think that development cooperation and development policy is important. Thus, the public support has decreased some percentages from the baseline figure of 84%. However, this is still a good result taking again into consideration the pandemic and its effect on people's lives.

In order to contribute to these objectives, WVF has been emphasizing *results* in all its communications. WVF has also focused on the pandemic and its secondary impacts in developing countries and its effects on SDGs and children's rights. While it was a challenge to get media space for global issues last year with COVID-19 and especially the national situation dominating the news, finding various angles tied to the pandemic helped WVF get coverage for children's rights in developing countries.

## 4. Partner Countries

### 4.1. AFRICA

In 2020, the Programme was implemented in four Area Programs and five special thematical projects in five countries in Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Somalia. Ethiopia and Somalia were included in the WVF Programme portfolio only in 2019.

#### 4.1.1. Ethiopia

- *Assisted Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) for Sustainable Land Management and Livelihood Project 2019-2021 (total duration 2019-2023)*

#### Implementation context

With a population of nearly 110 million people, the country has suffered from long-term deforestation and degradation since the 1950s due to unsustainable management coupled with population pressure and extreme weather events. Over 80% of the population is dependent on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihood. The Government of Ethiopia aims to reach lower-middle-income status by 2025 and government is implementing a Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy. The strategy aims to protect Ethiopia from the adverse effects of climate change and to build a green economy that enables the country to reach its development objectives. World Vision's method of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), which this project is built on, is aligned with the government strategies by restoring carbon, biodiversity, and other ecosystem services that provide sustainable livelihoods for the local communities.

The favorable reforms have been coupled with negative turns resulting in heightened instability. Tigray crisis and other grievances over access to land and ethnicity fueled by masses of internally displaced people remain serious concerns. In the project areas outbreaks of conflict have only modestly affected implementation. Compared to the previous year the security measures in the Wolaita zone where the project is partly located were eased but COVID-19 caused moderate disturbances to the project. During 2020 additional funding was received to include two new project areas, namely Shashemene in Oromia state and Offa in SNNPR state, leading to a total over 8 thousand hectares to be re- or afforested by 16 communities.

#### Partnerships and civil society

The era of the new prime minister has brought a series of reforms aimed at opening the civic space in the country. WVF Ethiopia considers it as a facilitator of the project and the role of the government officials and the cooperatives is central in the actual implementation of the project. The good working relationship with the different levels and sectors of the government has been integral especially during 2020 as two new project areas were included spreading the project into 2 states. When the two project areas were included in mid-2020 the remaining year was spent largely on setting up the necessary structures, including legal registration of the cooperatives in Shashemene and Offa while in the area of Kindo Koyisha reforestation and trainings were continuing.

In Kindo Koyisha, Offa and Shashemene project areas, all 16 forest cooperatives have now been granted cooperative and land user certificates for rehabilitating and managing 8 thousand ha of degraded forest land. It was estimated as part of extensive forest inventory started in late 2020 that approx. 90% of the

areas can be rehabilitated applying FMNR technique. During 2020 124 hectares were thinned and pruned and 13 km of life fence and 3km of firebreak undertaken in Kindo Koyisha area. The remaining areas are afforested through standard enrichment planting using seedlings produced in set up cooperative run nurseries. During 2020 5 nurseries were set up. According to Kindo Koyisha Climate Change & Environment Office's forest assessment report, the project operational area is considered now being revegetated and 94% success rate has been achieved with the planted seedlings.

Establishing strong partnerships with the local governments and the chief district administrators was pivotal, as the land areas allocated for the regeneration is legally owned by the government. The project is similarly reliant on the local communities, who were given legal user rights to the land through the cooperatives, which are supported by WV through capacity building and training on various issues related to sustainable forest management, alternative livelihoods and energy sources and other aspects related to socially inclusive climate change adaptation and mitigation. The capacity building trainings included targeted actions for women, most vulnerable and forest dependant families (including e.g. women-led households, charcoal makers, families with PWDs), cooperative leaders and government officials. Targeted actions for women included energy efficient stoves, homestead agroforestry and woodlots development to enhance family nutrition and income and reduce pressure on forests. Accordingly, adoption and implementation of bylaws, management of documentation, conflict resolution and saving and credit management were among the trainings to government officials and cooperative committees.

Many of the families are considered to be particularly vulnerable to climate change, including families with PWDs and rely on remaining forests as their safety nets or even more profoundly for their daily needs. Thus, the project began implementing strategies to mitigate the impacts that the protection of the areas to be regenerated is likely to cause to them by providing alternative livelihoods. Improved chicken, oxen for fattening, and cassava cuttings for vegetable production and goat support for rearing were among the targeted actions. Kindo Koyisha project area, 13 oxen for fattening, 40 goats for rearing, 700 pullets and 30,000 cassava cuttings were distributed for 619 households dependent on forest for their livelihoods. As a result, communities have been able to generate income of more than ETB 255,565 from money saving in the cooperative and cassava sales, oxen fattening & related businesses and cooperatives are also progressing well in carrying out other businesses related to seedling production. Besides, 72 vulnerable cooperative members were employed in nursery sites.

As part of emergency activities associated with prevention of COVID-19 pandemic virus in Kindo Koyisha operational area, the project supported COVID-19 prevention materials.

The table below details some of the key partners and their achievements WV has contributed to in 2020.

Name of partner	Role in the project	Main achievement in 2020
Forest management Cooperatives	Practice the FMRN method on the allocated forest land, manage the seedling nurseries, prepare firebreaks and sisal fences, guard the areas.	A total of 8 new cooperatives established registered. All 16 now granted legal user rights for the full project area to be protected and regenerated constituting of 6922 households (50% of total HHs of the areas) with 251 PWDs as head of household. 5 nurseries established and running with nearly 600,000 seedlings for protected areas, homestead agroforestry and woodlots development.

Cooperative Development Offices	One of the key stakeholders in the project, in charge of oversight of cooperatives and their administrative and operational duties	Participating in project launch of the additional sites. Increased capacity through trainings.
District level line departments (Environment and Climate Change, Agricultural and Natural Resources, and Administrative offices)	Assist in forming the cooperatives into a Forestry Union to increase their bargaining power. Regularly monitor the carbon stock measurements. Act in a supervisory role.	Have taken the leading role in monitoring, evaluating, organizing and capacitating communities in collaboration with World Vision Ethiopia.
District project Steering Committees	For the annual community review and planning process, the project has formed committee in all project operational areas, which entails the chairmen of all organized FMNR cooperatives and head of all district relevant sector offices including respective local administrators of all 16 project operational Kebeles. The role of WV is to facilitate the review meeting to transparently discuss and identify project weakness & strengths.	Steering committees formed in the new areas of Shashemene and Offa, consisting of all key stakeholders.

Table 7: Main achievements with project partners in 2020

### Sustainability and risks

Community ownership and active leadership in the cooperatives are integral to the sustainability of the project. Having witnessed the positive Outcomes in other areas facilitated by Word Vision Ethiopia, the community members are eagerly joining cooperatives, and contributing to project implementation. Continuous training of the cooperatives and the local government line departments and officials has been done to ensure the sufficient capacity and skills exist to carry out the silvicultural measures and monitor and support the forest management and benefit sharing. For example, key stakeholders were trained on climate change impacts and trainings were provided to build the community resilience, including conflict resolution.

Increasing disability inclusion aspects and women's participation in consultations and in the cooperatives is still considered to be challenging due to the taboos related to disabilities and traditional gender roles typically present in the Ethiopian society. There is a risk of unequal power dynamics and benefit-sharing between men and women and consequently men and women-headed households, which is why WV is actively encouraging women-headed households to join the cooperatives and take up leadership positions as members of the forestry cooperative committees. During 2020 26 women hold position as members of cooperative leadership committees. Trainings were also provided to key stakeholders to ensure gender is mainstreamed throughout all project activities and SRHR trainings were included. Despite challenges with increasing the active role of women having 38% of the cooperative members as women can be seen as an achievement in the context of rural Ethiopia.

## 4.1.2 Kenya

- *Mogotio Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2007-2022)*
- *Ng'oswet Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2014-2030)*
- *Roysambu Youth Livelihood Project 2018-2021*
- *Sook Anti-FGM and reproductive health project 2018-2021*

### Implementation context

While the security and political situation remained mainly stable in Kenya in 2020 security in always a factor due to situation in neighbouring Somalia as well as violence related to cattle rustling in some Northern parts of the country. The upcoming presidential elections in 2022 (August) continued having impact on national politics thereby drawing attention away from national development agenda, but naturally the COVID-19 had the biggest impact on Kenya's development in 2020 hitting Kenya's economy hard as manufacturing and many services subsectors e.g., tourism and education that are important for Kenya's economy were severely disrupted.

The results of the latest population census (2019) were published in 2020 and confirm that Kenya has a very young population as 75% (35.7 million) Kenyans (are below 35 years of age, while estimates of the youth aged between 18-34 years is 21%. The census further reveals that out of all unemployed Kenyan, 80% are under 35 years, and that among young men the unemployment rate is 30% and young women 50%. It is estimated that annually 800,000-1,000,000 youth enter labour market in Kenya. Kenya is still very rural country as 69% of the population live in rural areas relying on subsistence farming. The urban population makes up 31% of the total population, the annual urbanisation rate being 4%. Most of the urban population is between 20-34 years and live in informal settlements such as Roysambu in Nairobi where WVF has a youth employment project.

In recent years Kenya has been increasingly experiencing low irregular rainfall, prolonged droughts, frequent floods, mud slides and invasive species and that are continuously threatening the lives and livelihoods of communities while destabilising ecosystem services. In 2020, approximately 800,000 people in Kenya were affected by floods with over 237 deaths and 161,000 displaced in less than 6 months of the year while the locust infestation was the worst in decades. Except Nairobi, all three Counties were WVF works suffered from some type of natural hazards.

Kenya has a vivid civil society that plays a vital role in promoting development, human rights, peace and security including relating to inter-tribal relations, but the civic space has continued being obstructed typically by disruptions to peaceful assembly, harassment and brutality by police force e.g., during the enforcement of curfew due to COVID-19 regulations. On the other hand, there has been progress in the rule of law and accountability as was demonstrated by a landmark decision reached by a Kenyan court in July 2020 on compensation to victims of violations of the right to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

WVF's work continued contributing to the Impact Areas of Finland's Country Strategy for Development Cooperation in Kenya, namely Impact 1 (Accountable devolved governance), Outcome 1.1: Increased accountability in county-level governance and Outcome 1.2: Improved access to water and sanitation services in selected counties, Impact 2 (Improved access to jobs and livelihoods), Outcome 2.1: Increased productivity and economic opportunities in forestry and agriculture, and Impact 3 (Women's and girl's rights), Outcome 3.2: Sexual and gender-based violence addressed in selected counties.

## Partnerships and civil society

Partnerships with local government and other stakeholders that is at the core of World Vision's mode of operation became even more critical in 2020 with COVID-19 as resources were re-purposed and activities re-directed towards response to the pandemic in coordinators with other actors, in particular with authorities. While some material support was provided to government health centres.

In COVID-19 response WV's close cooperation with community-based groups (CBO) that often are implementing partners as well proved its importance as CBOs has direct access to communities and community members. Moreover, this access was in crucial in regard to child protection as right violations increased during pandemic. In monitoring rights violation, World Vision supported Area Coordination Committees at different administrative levels consisting of authorities and civil society representative that work in child protection and contribute to enhanced community-led childcare and protection had important role during COVID-19, and in particular in Sook were child marriage and violence against girls including FGM are big problems. In Mogotio, WV in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy County Commissioner, Sub County Children Office and Sub County Education Office engaged community health volunteers, chiefs and their assistants throughout the programme area to conduct detailed monitoring of children to check on their welfare during the period leading to vulnerable households to be identified for emergency cash transfer support and thereby saving them from starvation due to scarcity of food.

In Mogotio AP, the close cooperation with authorities continued as the AP was improving water infrastructure together in joint projects with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation thereby sharing risks and well as costs of expensive investments. As a token of good partnership in Mogotio, WV is represented in Baringo County Development Advisory Council. Collaborating with authorities to assist children to acquire birth certificates is another area where a partnership with authorities was critical in 2020 as well.

The table below details some of the key partners and their achievements that WV has contributed to in 2020.

Name of partner	Role in the project	Main achievement in 2020
Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Coordination and cooperation at a technical level	In Mogotio, completion and commissioning of Kamar and Magoi community water supply projects.
County Governments (Baringo, Elgeyo-Marakwet, West Pokot) and their departments	Project planning and monitoring	In Mogotio, completion of Kamar and Magoi community water supply projects, and further support to installation of 10,000 litres water tank for rainwater harvesting in Kenet Primary schools, directly benefitting 4,507 (2,118 male and 2,389 female) people, out of whom 1,239 were children (594 boys and 645 girls) distributed in 4 schools within the program area. The County department of water also has crucial role in building capacities of Water management committees through training and facilitating exchange visits for effective management of the water supply systems.
Sub-county offices (health, children, education, registrar of person etc.)	Coordination and cooperation at a technical level	In Mogotio, monitoring of children to check on their welfare during the COVID-19 resulting

		646 vulnerable households being identified for emergency cash transfer support.
Area Advisory Councils (AAC)	Coordination frameworks for child protection	In Mogotio, in working through partnership with sub-county AAC, the program identified and facilitated support of school fees and medical attention to 87 orphaned and vulnerable children.
Community based organizations	Implementing partners	In Mogotio, Dandelion Africa CBO partnered with WV in training of 225 (111 female, 111 male PWD 3) persons to sensitize community members to protect themselves and their families against COVID-19.
Citizen Voice and Action groups in Mogotio and Ng'oswet	Community mobilization for advocacy	In Ng'oswet, the CVA group conducted sensitization forums on the importance of registering children for birth certificates and vulnerable households were linked up by the local administration to the Office of civil registration to access birth registration without having to travel to the county headquarters.

Table 8: Main achievements with program partners in 2020

## Sustainability and risks

As part of development of WV Kenya's new strategy, Mogotio AP was evaluated in 2020. The evaluation report further revealed that efforts by WV's, community groups empowered by WV, CVA groups trained by WV as well Mogotio CVA members and various water project management committees had greatly contributed to community members' participation and self-efficacy in community child wellbeing activities, including child participation. For example, through the efforts of Water management committees, communities are encouraged to enhance use of water for multiple uses for economic development e.g., in establishing kitchen gardens where children can get involved in planting of vegetables for home consumption and utilizing their skills obtained in school, especially through the newly introduced competency-based curriculum, to promote household hand washing by developing simple hand washing containers. Role of community groups is an important indicator for sustainability. In Mogotio, all water supply systems have management committees in place facilitating day to day running of the water supply systems on behalf of the community and beneficiaries. The program has continuously built the capacities of the management teams to effectively run the systems while at the same time ensuring that communities directly participate in day-to-day affairs of the projects by deciding who leads from time to time through elections.

Furthermore, the Mogotio evaluation revealed as concrete result of water projects that an increased proportion of households (54%) are using improved water source indicating an improvement as compared to baseline of 32% in 2016. This can be attributed to WV's and partners' continued investment in development of water supply infrastructure to facilitate enhanced access to safe water in the community. The evaluation further reports an increase in proportion of households practicing recommended household water treatment from 8% in 2016 to 33% in 2020 which can be attributed to the continued engagement of community health volunteers to conduct community training and sensitization on appropriate water treatment technologies. In addition to conducting training and sensitization of communities on various water treatment technologies.

### **4.1.3. Rwanda**

- *Buliza Youth Empowerment Partnership Project 2018-2021*

#### **Implementation context**

The Buliza Youth Empowerment Partnership Project supports the Government of Rwanda Vision 2020 goals in many ways. In general, Rwanda has made great improvement in reducing the percentage of the population without education especially among the youth and in promoting job creation in both rural and urban areas. A key challenge remains the high number of school dropouts including in the area where WVF works and many children leave primary schools without solid literacy and numeracy skills, as well as without the capacity to use their knowledge effectively to secure their livelihoods for future wellbeing.

In 2020, the Buliza project supported the realization of its goal by facilitating vocational, financial and business training to 180 youth (76 women, 54 men, 50 persons with disabilities). Persons with disabilities have been deliberately targeted resulting in high number of them participating the project. The trained youth are empowered with enterprise and business development to undertake economic ventures and earn income derived from on and off farm activities such as farming and animal rearing practices carried at household level. Also, activities include supporting the creation of savings groups and cooperatives and supporting youth to start other income-generating activities both off-farm and within agriculture or animal husbandry. The number of saving groups have grown to 52 with a total membership of 1,505 members in Mbogo Sector. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected most of the business undertakings leading to losses and poor performances.

The project also focuses on providing psychosocial support, capacity building and trainings of youth school dropouts and those who completed the twelve years of basic education who are classified in category one and two of Ubudehe wealth ranking system i.e the socio-economic stratification system used by the Government in which poor Rwandans are supported with social protection schemes.

The political and social situation of the country and project implementation area have been stable in 2020 and have not affected the project implementation in the past year. Only COVID-19 lockdowns delayed the opening of the suspended academic year and more especially tertiary institutions and polytechnics, but students were supported through use of radio and TV telecasting of educational materials. However, it should be noted that in poor rural communities children of families without radios missed out these efforts of the Government.

The project is implemented in Rulindo District which is prone to natural disasters as it has stipe hills and deep valleys. During heavy rainfall mudslides often destroy homes and farms affecting food production and causing heavy losses for households growing vegetables and flowers in the valley areas. In 2020, WVF provided support to train 47 youth representatives from the four cells of Mbogo Sector on disaster preparedness and mitigation.

#### **Partnerships and civil society**

The project collaborates closely with different government and other local entities such as Rulindo District and Mbogo Sector staff, Business Development Fund, police and vocational training schools. The project does not work directly with civil society actors, but it focuses on strengthening the youth and communities through individual economic empowerment. Due to the nature of the project, it has a low risk of being affected by any potential human rights or civil society restrictions in the

country. The government of Rwanda have continued developing policies and plans to address the human rights of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, children and IDPs successfully. The project is and has been gender and disability inclusive in providing support to youth that completed secondary education and mainly school dropouts in providing capacity building in entrepreneurship business development, financial literacy, life skills and reproductive health through it partners such as government actors and vocational training schools. The project also aims to improve the financial and educational support provided to the vulnerable youth through its partnerships with the local technical vocational training schools and financial institutions.

In 2020 the project continued partnership with local leaders providing youth volunteer training and passed on messages and awareness against drugs use amongst the youth. The youth were mobilized and sensitized to form anti-drug use clubs in their settlements and these clubs are instrumental in reaching over to the youth through open gathering meetings that attract clouds of people and pass on message. The participants included 26 able youth (12 males, 14 females) and 4 youth with disability (2 males, 2 females).

The main achievements of the project in 2020 with its partners are listed in table below.

Name of partner	Role in the project	Main achievement in 2020
Technical Vocational Training Schools	Providing vocational training to selected beneficiaries	Providing vocational training to 50 youth. The project, hand in hand with the National Office communication department staff Charity supervised the making of a documentary on youth empowerment youth beneficiaries doing businesses after completing vocational skills training in Tvets in Rulindo District
Business Development Fund and other MFIs-micro finance institutions		25 youth (15 women, 10 men including 4 persons with disabilities) were trained as mentors for savings groups and cooperative members on income generation, business development, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

Table 9: Main achievements with project partners in 2020

## Sustainability and risks

Sustainability is created mainly through partnerships with local government, financial institutions and training facilities and improving household and community resilience to financial and environmental shocks. Partnership with community leaders and Government stakeholders has been strengthened systematically and sustainability improved through working together at all levels of the implementation process while adhering government issued COVID-19 measures during meetings, trainings and workshops and joint monitoring.

The business community in the project area was hit hard by the pandemic and the measures and restriction to curb it have not favoured business entities. Those with small loan have not been able to pay back and those in need of loans to grow their capital again have been constrained by lack of collateral security. WV has provided support and advocacy to re-open the different businesses and support to access banks for loans and more funding where the Business Development Fund is supporting youth with start-up kit loans for established businesses in rural communities.

#### 4.1.4. Somalia

- *Acceleration of FGM/Cutting Abandonment Project 2019-2021 (total duration 2019-2021)*

##### **Implementation context**

An internationally backed government and one-person-one vote elections was planned in 2020. Unfortunately delays to the elections occurred due to a variety of factors, including famine due to desert locusts, pestilence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, war with Al Shabaab insurgents, and the potential for deadly civil unrest within the country. In February 2020 legislation was signed giving all citizens the right to vote in parliamentary elections, but soon after it was confirmed that the elections were to be held in early 2021. The civic space has narrowed, and there have been arbitrary arrests, threats and confiscation of equipment of journalists by government forces. The future success of stabilization and peaceful elections will depend on the Federal Government, Federal Member States and other stakeholders embracing dialogue to tackle its many challenges, including the persistent threat posed by the Al-Shabaab.

The project is implemented in Puntland, one of the autonomous regions within Somalia. The independent cabinet position has meant that civil servants' tasks in this region have largely been handled without federal input. The project supports the Puntland Government's efforts to end female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM) in the area. While the constitution of Somalia has articles that are geared to protecting the dignity and equality of girls and prohibit FGM as degrading, it has been interpreted as not to cover the *sunna*-type of cutting leading to the continuance of the tradition. The Sexual Offences Act addressing the harmful practices was enacted by the Puntland Government in 2016, but this has not explicitly addressed FGM, and its implementation has been questionable.

With the absence of provisions of the current laws governing the elimination of FGM, the Puntland government has developed anti-FGM legislation that is awaiting parliamentary approvals. Through advocacy efforts from the FGM/cutting abandonment project, the anti-FGM legislation of Puntland will have a zero-tolerance approach, clearly forbidding all types of FGM, including *sunna*. The bill was anticipated to have been passed already in 2020, but although it has been discussed and received approval within the cabinet meetings, it is yet to be passed to the parliament for final approval. The delay on approval has frustrated partners and communities and brought back into discussion the interpretation of zero tolerance, and whether the *sunna* type should be included or left out as it has been in the Federal legislation of Somalia. The project has thus continued to support and advocate to all parties to ensure the already agreed zero tolerance approach will be held.

##### **Partnerships and civil society**

The project's goal is to reduce FGM through public engagement and provision of alternative livelihoods opportunities for women and girls in the Puntland State of Somalia. To reach this goal, World Vision is working closely with authorities as well as with civil society actors, especially CBOs. In 2020, WV continued the training of various child protection committees and provision of skills in order to help them to manage issues on protecting women and children through community dialogue and conversations. Village leaders were oriented on policies and laws supporting the prevention of FGM. The impact of them standing in front of the community as respected leaders openly agreeing to fight against FGM in collaboration with police and other government institutions has been significant. The project further partnered to treat and give appropriate services physically and emotionally through trauma healing sessions for victims of FGM.

The project partners with two-line ministries, the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs, with whom MoUs have been drawn. In addition, focus has been put on fostering a good working relationship with the local police, community health workers and religious leaders, to improve and strengthen the prevention and response of FGM cases in the community. Further, the training of faith and religious leaders has created a team of sheikhs who are doing advocacy for children in local courts and on matters that affect women and children in their congregational teams.

The main achievements of the project in 2020 with its partners are listed in table below.

Name of partner	Role in the project	Main achievement in 2020
Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs	Government representative and policy changers	Anti-FGM legislation that is awaiting parliamentary approval. The Ministry has drawn a road map of passing FGM bill that consists and involves different stakeholders including community, civil society, faith community, doctors and government institutions. Ministry of Justice Religious Affairs and Rehabilitation with support from World Vision conducted two consultation forums for religious scholars, medical doctors, midwives, youth, and anti-FGM women champions in the Nugal region to review and discuss current FGM bill before submitting it to the parliament for discussion and approval. 51 (35M, 16F) members from project target villages participated in these forums.
Ministry of Women and Family Affairs	Government representative and policy changers	Agreement on collaboration to work against GBV especially FGM. The Ministry of Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health conducted a coordination workshop for FGM partners to update them with FGM messages and use the same voice during advocacy. Ministry of Women Development and Family affairs with the support from WV organized a protection sub-cluster working group in Eyl district that was established to link protection actors and engage each other to improve information sharing and strengthen referral pathway. The working group coordinates GBV, CP, and FGM partners who are running protection projects and activities. COVID-19 restrictions affected the cluster meetings during the latter part of the year.

Religious and Village leaders	Opinion changers and advocacy agents	Training of faith and religious leaders has created a team of sheikhs who are doing advocacy for children in local courts and on matters that affect women and children in the congregational teams.
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Table 10: Main achievements with project partners in 2020

## Sustainability and challenges

The main ways the project creates sustainability is through partnerships with local government, religious and local leaders including former cutters. Further improving household and community knowledge on the negative impacts of FGM and supporting their resilience to financial shocks will support the sustainability by ensuring that girls do not need to be married off early to receive a dowry, but can be given the chance for education. Having the religious leaders as active partners is crucial, as most community members do not want to give up the *sunna* cut as they believe it is required by the religion.

COVID-19 negatively affected acceleration efforts against FGM/C because of the lockdowns and school disruptions which unfortunately presented opportunities for girls to be subjected to FGM with ample healing time. World Vision’s so-called Community Hope Action Teams together with Protection Committees were able to deliver community awareness on prevention and response on COVID-19 pandemic during period. This was significant since the awareness sessions were conducted by faith leaders who are influential in setting the stage for attitude and behavior change on matters to do with deep-rooted cultural practices that affect child well-being such as FGM. Mega-phones were used to ensure physical distancing could be kept. While the originally planned sessions were fewer, by integrating the message of anti-FGM work into the COVID-19 response more people were in the end reached than what had been planned for and consequently 2,054 (579 men, 694 women, 384 boys, 397 girls) community members benefited from the sessions against a target of 700. To support sustainability, further focus has been given on attitude change of men and boys. The project Outcome monitoring reveals that 36% of the men have changed their minds on putting through their daughters on FGM/C. This is a good step in the right direction.

### 4.1.5. Uganda

- Kirewa-Nabuyoga Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2004-2023)
- Busia Municipal Council Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration 2009-2021)
- Action Research on Children with Disabilities (2018-2021)

### Implementation context

In recent years Uganda has been politically stable and its economy has grown steadily with an annual growth of around 7%. However, in 2020, according to World Bank, Uganda’s real GDP grew only 3% due to the effects of the COVID-19. At the same time, Uganda also experienced a number of changes in the political atmosphere as contestants for various elected positions in government engaged their constituencies in preparation for the January/February 2021 Presidential and General elections that culminated in sometimes violent demonstrations from a section of opposition in urban centres. The new political atmosphere caused a lot of anxiety and uncertainty among people especially in light of the pandemic and associated restrictions on movement and public gatherings. With anticipation of

insecurity during election period, some families from urban centres temporarily moved to the villages with no guaranteed source of income to sustain themselves there.

The presidential elections were won by Yoveri Museveni, who has ruled Uganda without interruption since seizing power in 1986. Under Museveni's rule the situation of the civil society in Uganda has been repressed and civic space restricted. Human rights CSOs are regularly harassed by authorities, and in particular, the situation of organisations representing sexual minorities has been very difficult and they are not allowed to register and are denied official status as CSOs.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 WV's AP witnessed contextual changes that impacted the political, social-cultural and spiritual set up of the society and ultimately the child vulnerability and poverty. Kirewa-Nabuyoga and Busia APs are located close to border to Kenya that started registering cases earlier than Uganda, and Busia as a busy border town with lot of cross-border traffic was among communities in Uganda that were at a high risk of infection and exposure. To prevent further spread of COVID-19 Uganda was put on a total country lockdown in which education, business and religious institutions and organisations were closed down, while gatherings were temporarily banned, and people asked to stay home.

The situation created a gap in community engagement over development issues since it became difficult to hold community meetings, dialogues, mass sensitisations, and health outreaches among others. The lockdown also curtailed caregivers' ability to meet their household needs, with most of businesses except those dealing in food items and essential health services, closed. As much as the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown restrictions didn't directly affect the farming sector especially in villages including within Kirewa-Nabuyoga AP, the impact was strongly felt in urban areas like Busia Municipality, where over 80% of households depend on food bought from villages yet transport was suspended for quite some time. Thus, at times it was almost impossible for food to reach the marketplaces in the urban which brought economic depression to both the formal and informal economic sectors. Most caregivers (either formally employed or self-employed) lost means of sustaining their families and the majority were forced to live on their savings and seed capital during the lockdown.

### **Partnerships and civil society**

Collaboration with local government (political leadership and technical staff), civil society actors (other NGOs, CBOs, faith-based organizations) and private sector and TVET -institution in regard to child protection, health, agriculture and skills training continued be a cornerstone of WV's implementation strategy. To align WV's technical projects as much as possible with local governments' development plans WV engages district and municipal representatives always in APs' annual planning and review meetings where projects' performance against set benchmarks are assessed jointly with communities. These processes are essential for WV's accountability towards project participants/beneficiaries and buy-in to programme interventions by the local government whose support is needed for effective and smooth implementation. In 2020, engaging and training of local authorities in Kirewa-Nabuyoga was particularly important as the Government created new administrative structured in the Tororo districted affecting WV's programme area.

In Busia, WV's long and close cooperation with local government in supporting Village Health Teams, and in Busia the local hospital, provided strong foundation for collaboration in COVID-19 response. Particularly, within the Municipality and District of in Busia WV was very active force in the COVID-19 response collaborating with the Busia District COVID-19 Response team to establish a Port Health unit at Busia border to aid screening of people both leaving and entering the country. The health

unit was equipped with medical supplies such as sanitizers, face masks, gloves, thermometer guns; and a waiting tent (more especially for truck drivers as they await their results after being tested for COVID-19), and WV facilitated the opening of a quarantine centre at a school in Busia.

The table below details some of the key partners and their achievements that WV has contributed to in 2020.

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Role in the project</b>	<b>Main achievement in 2020</b>
Kirewa and Nabuyoga sub-counties' Child Protection Committees (CPC), Child and Family Protection Unit of Police, Faith leaders.	Coordination frameworks and partners in child protection and child rights promotion	Capacity building of 30 CPCs members, 112 members of local council committees, and 14 local government technical team members in child protection in areas of identification, reporting and referral.
Youth Ambassadors for Rural Development	Community engagement	900 (457 female; 443 male) community members were reached during the campaign "it takes a world" (End Child Marriage, End Child Sacrifice and Ending Violence Against Children in Schools and Community)
Tororo District Department of Production	Provision of training and advise to farmers	Building the capacity of 300 farmers in use of recommended agronomic practices to improve production.
Kirewa Farmers Development Association, Agribusiness company NECOFAM, Area Cooperative Enterprise (created at sub-county level to act as smaller cooperative unions for the RPOs (Rural Producer Organizations)	Provision of training and services in farming; collective bulking and marketing of farmers produce.	9 RPOs with over 600 farmers linked to agricultural service providers to access quality planting and post-harvest handling materials and storage facilities (seeds, pics bags, silos) to increased production at household level.
Tororo District Department of Meteorology	Disseminating quarterly weather focus information.	Disseminating information to Disaster Risk Recovery Committees is part of integrated early warning system which helps farmers plan well during farming season (timely planting, early land preparation, use of proper post harvesting practices to avoid yield losses and planting of leafy vegetables to fight prolonged drought).
Kirewa-Nabuyoga CVA group	Advocacy and community mobilization	The CVA working team advocated for female Child and Family officer at the sub county police resulting in posting of female officer at the two sub counties making investigations of female and family related cases of violence easier as women talk more freely to other women.

Busia CVA group	Advocacy and community mobilization	The CVA group for example contributed to securing PHC (Primary Health Care) funds for Naburola Community Health Centre so that more children could be reached with various health services especially immunisation through community outreaches.
National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA)	Issuance of birth certificates	NIRA was facilitated to bring their services closer to the people. The percentage of children (0-18 years) with birth certificates significantly increased during 2020 to 74% from 40% in 2015 (baseline) and 61% in 2019. In child abuse cases, the birth certificate is the most important document facilitating case management.
TVET institutions and artisans	Provision of skills training and apprenticeships	150 youth provided training in hair dressing, motorcycle mechanics and repair, welding and metal fabrication, and carpentry.

Table 11: Main achievements with program partners in 2020

## Sustainability and risks

World Vision continued working closely with local government as this kind of partnership is one of the key drivers of sustainability in WV's development approach. Partnerships are critical for achieving results and making impact. At the same time CVA work continued as empowering the citizens to advocate and demand their rights from duty bearers is another important element for sustainability. The CVA study done as part of the review of the WVF's Child Rights Programme focus on Busia and confirm the achievements of CVA work in regard to improvement of quality of health services.

Another sustainability driver is household and family resilience which is perhaps the most critical one as it's directly related to livelihoods and survival of the poor and vulnerable people. As one of the key tools for working with and supporting households, WV in Uganda is utilizing an approach called Household Engagement and Accountability Approach (HEAA) which is based on clustering of households. In Busia, for example, around 60 household clusters consisting of average 15 neighbour households and 40 people been formed by World Vision through the community household cluster facilitators. In Kirewa-Nabuyoga there are about 300 HH clusters. HH clusters are considered as centres of engagement per parish/community for example in planning and review processes and WV works closely with the facilitators/community resource persons selected from various household clusters to facilitate community conversations and consultations with HH cluster leaders. Through household clusters, for instance, community members have been encouraged to join savings groups where members contribute to welfare fund which strictly addresses emergencies. This was crucial in regard to family resilience during COVID-19 pandemic. Clusters have also been used as a structure to train clusters leaders to support cluster HH to establish, for example kitchen gardens (critical during lockdown), or to monitor and backstop cluster's progress as per the goal of the clusters. A review done by WV Uganda shows that development results are significantly better in AP's where HEAA is used.

## 4.2. ASIA

The Programme was implemented in 2020 through three Area Programs in two countries in Asia, Cambodia and India.

### 4.2.1. Cambodia

- *Santuk Area Program 2017-2022 (total duration 2017-2032)*

#### Implementation context

Cambodia's economy has continued to grow steadily, primarily due to foreign, mainly Chinese investment. Despite the impressive GDP growth, hindrances in various areas of development persist, including health and education. Stunting and malnutrition of children under five also remain a serious issue, in which Cambodia is falling short of its SDG targets. There are also gender and income equality challenges, affecting the rural poor disproportionately compared to urban populations. Climate change further exacerbates the challenges in tackling poverty, as the country is considered highly vulnerable to external shocks such as floods and droughts.

Cambodia's development is guided by the National Strategic Development Plan (2019-2023), which in addition to its heavy emphasis on boosting the private sector and economic diversification, has set the following priorities that closely align with World Vision's work: quality of education, public health and nutrition, gender equality and social protection, as well as inclusive and environmentally sustainable development. World Vision International – Cambodia's (WVI-C) national strategy currently focuses on four key areas: nutrition, education, child protection and youth. These priorities are also reflected in work implemented in Santuk, where the Area Program is built around thematic programs focused on nutrition, child protection and education. For example, during the reporting year, 840 parents were trained in courses or workshops that tackle positive discipline and other child protection issues) and 1,552 children were given age-specific health education.

The political environment in Cambodia is restricted, and despite the overall peace that persisted in the country, noticeable tension has been building up between the government and opposition, leading to heightened instability and human rights violations. These increased restrictions are often evident in the local government's presence during community gatherings in WVF's program area. It seems that some government representatives surveil what information is being disseminated by WV staff. The staff on both the national and local levels need to practice extreme caution in discussing about/with the government or anything that might be seen as politically toned.

#### Partnerships and Civil Society

The space in which civil society operates in Cambodia is restricted, mainly due to the political climate, limiting the ways organizations can affect change in the areas related to civil and democratic participation and accountability. WVI-C's work in the communities relies heavily on the government's endorsement and support, so partnerships with various government agencies have also been pivotal in Santuk AP. World Vision has been one of the key partners in implementing the Social Accountability Framework (ISAF), a nationwide project that promotes dialogue between community members and local service providers to improve the quality and accessibility of health and education services. ISAF and various other interventions in Santuk AP and elsewhere in Cambodia are implemented

in close collaboration with other international and local NGOs. WV also collaborates closely with schools, health centers, community groups, including children and youth and other partners at local, regional, and national levels. For example, during the reporting year, 312 caregivers were engaged in a parents' support group.

Nearly all program activities in Santuk are done through local partnerships, primarily focused on various community groups formed to monitor and manage certain public services, such as health centres and schools. The groups are organised into committees consisting of community members elected to serve in different leadership and member positions. WV provides regular training and support to build the capacity of these groups, whether it is School Support Committees, Child Protection Committees or Disaster Management Committees. WV aims to focus and address child protection issues, gender considerations and disability inclusion among its partners. In 2020 nearly 300 children were trained in child protection-related life skills.

The program staff works closely with local authorities and local government, including the police, churches, village leaders and directors of various facilities, who ensure the communities' trust.

The table below details some of the key partners and achievements that WV has contributed to in 2020.

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Role in the project</b>	<b>Main achievement in 2020</b>
Commune Committee on Women and Children	Raise awareness and monitor the realisation of children's rights and protection in the communities.	The action plan was developed to promote the understanding of the importance of non-violence discipline on children. In 2020, this intervention benefited 4,326 children (2,083 girls, 2,243 boys) and 776 MVCs.
Village Health Support Group (VHSG)	Provide training and raise awareness on women's health and child health in communities	The programme collaborated with 60 VHSGs to promote healthy nutrition through capacitation sessions and food demonstrations to address child underweight. This activity engaged 1,251 caregivers (580 females, 671 males), 472 children (369 girls, 103 boys) and 122 MVCs (69 girls, 53 boys).
Youth and Child clubs	Provide a safe space for children to play and learn after school. The child clubs consist of tutoring in school subjects and training on child protection and life skills issues.	45 children and youth leaders (33 girls, 12 boys) received Keeping Children Safe -toolkits sessions. Later, 34 of them continued delivering those sessions to 291 children (220 girls, 71 boys), including 86 MVCs aged 05-17 years old.
District Office of Education Youth and Sport, school directors, teachers, School Support Committees	Provide a safe learning environment for children and build their institutional capacity for child protection.	The programme has influenced the improvement of the existing education policy. Citizens have been trained of the six standard educational services such as free of charge enrolment till the end of grade 9; one class with 42 students and one teacher; teaching at least 211 days per year and

		separated toilet for females and males.
Provincial Health Department, Operational District, Health Centres	Deliver essential health services to all community members and provide information, particularly on mother and child health issues.	To prevent the community from the COVID-9 pandemic, the project worked with the district governor, commune councils, commune leaders and Health Centre. It provided 10 times public awareness on prevention and mitigation of COVID-9 disease in 92 villages. 5,013 people participated in hygiene behaviour change programming.

Table 12: Main achievements with program partners in 2020

**Sustainability and risks**

The program builds long-term sustainability through partnerships and building the capacity of community groups so that they have the skills and knowledge to operate without constant support from WV. Despite Santuk AP being relatively young, it has made significant achievements in community ownership within the various thematic programs. By building the capacity of community groups, the program staff maintain their role as mere supporters and observers while the community members themselves take leadership. Community-led micro-projects function to increase ownership - by allocating small amounts of money to community groups to run their own projects. These groups gain skills and knowledge on project management and resource mobilisation.

Poverty and loss of livelihoods caused by unemployment and climate shocks continue to pose a severe issue in the program area. As many adults in the households tend to migrate to neighbouring countries searching for work, this often leaves children without one or both parents. On the program level, this means that the capacity of the community groups can also be jeopardised by seasonal migration. Lack of income of those who do stay put in Santuk can cause poor health, particularly malnutrition, and low school attendance and low performance. For example, only 24% of mothers with children 0-23 months know the correct management of child diarrhoea and only 44% of mothers of children aged 0-23 months who received at least 2 post-natal visits from a trained health care worker during the first week after birth.

WV supports the most vulnerable families through income-generating assistance such as livestock, agricultural products, and water filters. During the reporting year, 32 households were provided with livelihood physical assets and support, e.g. livestock, agriculture, tools, etc. Furthermore, 5,969 individuals received food security assistance through in-kind food aid, cash, or voucher programming. Finally, climate risks are addressed through disaster management training and the subsequent response plans. As implementation is heavily reliant on collaboration with the government, heightened political instability can risk community gatherings and training from taking place. WV minimises this risk by maintaining a close relationship with the government while adhering to the expected social order.

**4.2.2. India**

- Hoshangabad Area Program 2018-2021 (total duration: 2007- 2025)
- Rajnandgaon Area Program 2018-2020 (total duration: 2004 - 2020)

## **Implementation context**

In recent decades, India's rapid economic growth has lifted the country to become one of the fastest-growing economies, while major economic reforms have helped dramatically reduce poverty. However, while India has been able to lift a significant percentage of its population out of poverty, many citizens still live in it. According to the latest data available, the official poverty rate in India is 22%. Furthermore, 6% of the total population still live in extreme poverty. India's economic situation varies significantly between the states. Both APs financed by WVF are in Madhya Pradesh state, one of the poorest states in India, with an official poverty rate as high as 32%. In 2020 both APs suffered from COVID-19, which had an inverse impact on the local economy and food diversity in our target areas.

The political environment in India varies by state. Despite the rising Hindu nationalism, the political and social situation of the APs have been stable. However, in other parts of the country, Prime Minister Modi's strict policy has caused social and political unrest while suppressing all the other religious minorities, especially the Muslim ones.

Though India has nominally reduced malnutrition over the last decade, the country is still home to a third of the world's stunted under-five-year-olds. Several government programs are in place to minimise the problem, and WVF's programs align with these, e.g., the National Nutrition Strategy released by PM Modi's political allies. WVF's programs are also aligned with World Vision India's national strategy, which emphasises eradicating child malnutrition and improving the health of mothers and small children.

## **Partnerships and civil society**

Local governments have various development schemes in India, but unfortunately, these schemes do not always reach the most vulnerable beneficiaries. WVF's development programs build consensus among local governing bodies to improve the situation through networking and filling the service gaps through capacity building of local service providers. Concerning child protection, in 2020, there were 111 functional Child Protection Units (CPUs) to monitor child protection and child rights at the village level.

To strengthen the civil society, WV program staff work closely with several local, regional and national partners. For example, APs have collaborated with local governing bodies. They have several joint initiatives with Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres and the Health Department to monitor the growth and nutrition and implement campaigns on water and sanitation, breastfeeding and immunisation. To improve child participation, APs support Children's Clubs so that children can act as agents of change in their local communities. For example, in 2020 despite the COVID-19, 9,210 children participated in child protection and child rights clubs and got training on child protection and child rights.

Awareness and sensitisation programs are carried out to make people aware of their rights and the process to avail the benefits through those schemes. APs also help community members to become aware of and enjoy various entitlements through the Citizen Voice and Action programs. However, in 2020 APs were not able to conduct CVA training due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The district administration was ordered to maintain social distance, and no public gathering was allowed. Therefore, APs focused on COVID-19 Response.

Some of the key partners and achievements that WV has contributed to in 2020 are shown in the table below.

Name of partner	Role in the project	Main achievement in 2020
Early Education Centres and Anganwadi (early education center) workers	Responsible for early education at the community level.	152 trained Community Health Workers were providing health services at the household level.
WV Community health workers and Accredited Social Health Activist workers	Training about proper care of diarrhoea, pneumonia and child nutrition, e.g., Timed and Targeted counselling and PD Hearth training.	12,903 mothers were oriented on WASH & diarrhoea management as because of in covid 19 Hand wash practice priority was given by Frontline workers. 1,642 pregnant women were registered in Anganwadi Centre. TTC volunteers visited remote families and motivated them through counselling to early registration of the pregnancies.
District Child Protection Units (CPUs)	Training community level Child Protection Units.	111 local level CPUs are actively monitoring child protection issues, e.g. child marriage and child abuse. 115 communities use appropriate local level advocacy approaches to protect rights of children.
Government Health & Integrated Child Development Services Department	Counselling, Immunization and aspects of the health indicators and monitoring of 0- to 59-month children health status.	417 malnourished children under five years gained weight and graduated to normal status.

Table 13: Main achievements with program partners in 2020

### Sustainability and risks

Despite independent media, a strong civil society and an independent judiciary, there are serious civil society concerns in India. Furthermore, gender disparity is high, and casteism still plays a role in the country. WVF's APs are implementing activities in coordination with the local government and leaders, stakeholders, frontline health workers, teachers, and local community members by developing and enhancing the capacity and knowledge through various awareness training to ensure sustainable development. The focus is on building the community capacity to sustain the interventions with the help of strengthened systems and structure.

Hoshangabad AP was evaluated in 2020. The purpose of the study was to assess the degree to which the AP has achieved its intended Outcomes. Owing to COVID-19 realities and restrictions on travel, the entire study was conducted virtually. The study reached a total of 341 stakeholders across all the programs. According to the evaluation for 2009- 2020, the AP has empowered communities and health workers with appropriate tools, information, and skills to prevent, diagnose and treat health issues faced by the communities. Furthermore, the program has built a strong supporting ecosystem to address malnutrition and food security. Health workers and local health volunteers are now armed with improved knowledge and skills to counsel pregnant women and lactating mothers. However, the accessibility of drinking water is still a challenge at the Hoshangabad AP area.

Hoshangabad AP has been impactful in strengthening knowledge of women and adolescent girls, and empowering them to become more confident, independent, aware of their rights and careful of their

health. The program has capacitated local communities to undertake development initiatives in villages, exemplifying the high potential for sustainability of program impacts. Effective training of volunteers by AP and impactful implementation of the programs have motivated community volunteers to continue working and change the community members' lives.

According to the Hoshangabad evaluation, remedial classes for students and infrastructure support in schools have strengthened the education status of communities. Impacts are observed among students in terms of their learning levels and educational aspirations. Furthermore, there have been very positive trends in children participating in Children's groups while tracing membership reach from 2016 (12%) to the time of this evaluation study (91%). There is also an increase in awareness among children and communities on child rights, and more positive attitudes and perceptions. Skill Development programs for youth have been very relevant and successfully provided a direction for entering the formal workforce. Through the program, farmers have started accessing more government agricultural facilities and schemes.

Unfortunately, COVID-9 has had devastating effects on the livelihoods of rural communities. Therefore, increased efforts and activities should be introduced for livelihood enhancement, focusing on strengthening agriculture practices and productivity of farmers. Due to the widespread loss of livelihoods, food insecurity has increased in rural communities. There is a need to scale and strengthen current activities for food security and reduced malnutrition among children. Finally, the evaluation shows that the access to regular and good quality water is still an issue among communities, and efforts should focus on improving access to water by mobilising community groups and facilitating Government schemes. The Evaluation Report on Hoshangabad AP is included in Annex 4.

The main risks concerning Indian APs are political and social unrest in addition to man-made and natural catastrophes. Additionally, local-level challenges are related to dropping out of school after 10<sup>th</sup> class, child protection issues, alcoholism, casteism and a deficient percentage of married women practising birth spacing. Most importantly, child malnutrition prevalence is still high. Therefore, more capacity building and awareness programs are needed to promote the behaviour change of the village dwellers.