



Empowering women and girls

Every woman and girl has a right to reach her full potential

Join World Vision's Strong Women Strong World movement and help us end extreme poverty by empowering women and girls to live healthier, safer, and more prosperous lives.

WOMEN AND GIRLS face more obstacles simply because they were born female

At World Vision, we believe it is possible to **end extreme poverty**. But it won't happen as long as half the world's population is held back from reaching their full potential. Women and girls living in extreme poverty face unique obstacles in every stage of their lives that hold them back from living positive and prosperous lives.

The end of poverty begins with her

Gender equality is key to effective development and creating a peaceful and stable world. When women and girls enjoy equal rights, freedoms, access, and opportunities – children are better cared for, families are stronger, communities are more prosperous, and progress is accelerated.

However, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could reverse the limited progress that has been made on gender equality and women's rights, and therefore development in general. The coronavirus outbreak exacerbates existing inequalities for women and girls across every sphere – from health and the economy, to security and social protection.

Emerging data shows that, since the outbreak of the pandemic, violence against women and girls – and particularly domestic violence – has intensified. School closures and economic downfall have led to a surge in child marriage and child labour. An estimated 5.2 million girls are at risk of never returning to school.



Every minute, 22 girls under the age of 18 are married, nearly 12 million girls every year.



Every day, women and girls collectively spend 200 million hours collecting water.



129 million girls are out of school and a further 5.2 million are at risk of not returning after school closures



Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death for teenage girls globally



980 million women don't have access to financial services, limiting economic growth and development.



SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The sustainable development goals (SDG) were created by the UN as a blueprint to fight poverty and create a peaceful and prosperous world. SDG 5, advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls, underpins all the other goals. Achieving gender equality is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty, to promoting the health, education, protection and well-being of girls and boys.

Our approach

At World Vision we have been deeply engaged in gender equality work for decades. It is integrated into everything we do, at each stage of a woman's life. Through our long-term development projects, emergency responses and advocacy we aim to create environments that enable women and girls to overcome the unique obstacles and barriers they face.

We work with entire communities—women, girls, men, and boys—to transform discriminatory practices together. We also work with faith and religious leaders around the world to acknowledge and act upon gender injustices in their communities. This inclusive approach results in the shifting of long-held mindsets, traditions, and harmful cultural norms that have held women and girls back for generations.

We support women and girls with healthcare, water, education, child protection and economic empowerment to equip them with the tools they need to thrive.



She can be born healthy when her mother is equipped to care for her. Through our Mother and Child Health programmes, community health workers equip mothers with vital information and support during pregnancy and the child's early years.



She can stay strong and healthy and go to school when there's access to clean water near her home and she doesn't waste hours a day collecting water and getting sick from drinking it. World Vision reaches one new person every 10 seconds with clean water.



She can remain in class during her period when she has appropriate sanitation facilities for menstrual hygiene management. Through our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programmes, girls get access to schools with latrines and private sanitary rooms.



She can be protected from violence when her community begins to turn away from harmful traditional practices like FGM and child marriage. Our Child Protection programmes engage the community to tackle the root causes of injustice for girls.



She can thrive when she has access to vocational training, savings groups, credit, and financial services. Our Economic Empowerment programmes equip women with the tools they need to overcome poverty and be successful.

PHOTOS
FRONT: Ireen, 8, is surrounded by women role models: World Vision Malawi staff who want to help make her life better. © 2019 Jon Warren / World Vision

TOP RIGHT: Chengzhen, 10, from China shows her hula hoop skills. © 2018 Ben Adams / World Vision

BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mother with twins, Zambia. © 2017 Jon Warren / World Vision

Cheru, 6, benefits from a World Vision pipeline that brings clean water to her community. She used to walk more than 6 km daily to collect unsafe water from a dried riverbed. © 2018 Jon Warren / World Vision

Perseverance, 12, in grade six, in her school in Zimbabwe, which received new classroom buildings from World Vision, as well as furniture, latrines and a water pump, which replaced an unsafe well. © 2010 Michelle Siu / World Vision

Rohingya refugee girl, Jannatul, 5, is the sole-surviving child of Rohingya widow Salima (name changed to protect identity). Jannatul goes to a World Vision child-friendly space to play and learn. © 2019 Jon Warren / World Vision

Shabitri used her World Vision training and start-up money to establish a bamboo weaving business and a small grocery shop. © 2019 Jon Warren / World Vision

BACK: World Vision Zambia staff member talks with parents of sponsored children. © 2017 Jon Warren / World Vision



World Vision's Strong Women Strong World

is a movement of people who believe gender equality is key to effective development and creating a peaceful and stable world. We promote equal rights, freedoms, access, and opportunities for women and girls – so that families are better cared for, communities are more prosperous, and progress is accelerated.

When girls and women are empowered, everyone wins. And, when her potential is unleashed, extreme poverty doesn't stand a chance.

Every year millions of girls and women in some of the world's toughest places participate in World Vision programmes around the world, that are enabling them to live stronger, safer, and more productive lives. But we want and need to do more, especially knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting women and girls and erasing the limited gains that have been made on gender equality and women's rights over the past decades.

With our Strong Women Strong World UK movement we aim to reach and empower over 6 million vulnerable women and girls by 2024 and provide them with access to healthcare, water, education, protection and economic empowerment, so that she, her family and her community can thrive. But we cannot do this work alone. We need you, your voice, your skills, your resources, and your connections. You can help women and girls lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty, live healthier lives, and reach their full potential.

How to get involved

Join World Vision's Strong Women Strong World movement and help us raise awareness and inspire action to empower women and girls around the world. Mobilise your networks, influence and resources to help women and girls reach their full potential. For more information and to join the Strong Women Strong World movement **scan the QR code** and follow the link to our website: worldvision.org.uk/strongwomenstrongworld



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At World Vision, our focus is on helping the most vulnerable children, in the most dangerous places, overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian faith, we've worked together with communities, partners, local leaders and governments, for over 70 years, so that children – of all faiths and none – are empowered to experience fullness of life.