

## World Vision's Drivers of Sustainability

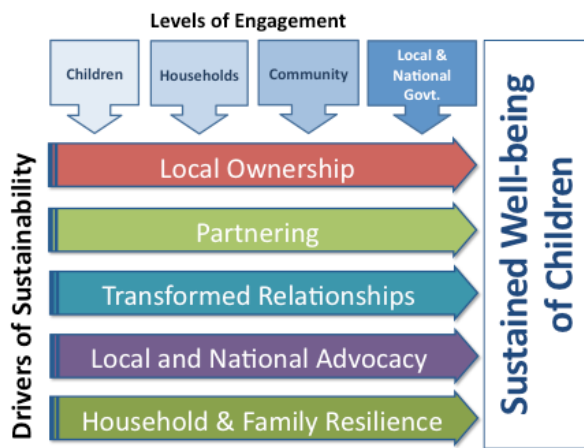
### Introduction

The purpose of the Drivers is to give WV the language and a simple, usable framework to enable the organisation to maximise our contribution to our Ministry Goal: **The sustained well-being of children within families and communities, especially the most vulnerable.** The development of the Drivers was informed by WV's Theory of Change and Ministry Framework and the latest Resilience Theory of Change. The Drivers inform WV's strategy and programming and serve as the basis for a set of key indicators to measure progress toward sustainability.

### Background

Sustainability is already at the core of World Vision's Ministry Goal: **The sustained well-being of children within families and communities, especially the most vulnerable.** World Vision's approach to sustainability is based on the understanding that our contribution to a community's journey will always be temporary. We define sustainability as 'the ability to maintain and improve upon the outcomes and goals achieved with external support after that support has ended'. The challenge of making sure that the positive changes to child well-being achieved as a result of a World Vision programme last beyond its transition, is always multi-faceted. In every context where World Vision works, the **five key Drivers of Sustainability** listed below need to be built into the Development Programme Approach and associated Technical Programmes in order to increase the likelihood that improvements in children's well-being will continue beyond WV's involvement in a programme area.

1. **Local ownership:** The programme vision and priorities are developed with and owned by the community and local partners after an in-depth shared exploration of child well-being in their own context. There are clear plans for how local actors will continue mutually accountable dialogue and action on child well-being priorities after WV's engagement has ended
2. **Partnering:** Shared projects (including those linked to Technical Programmes) are developed and implemented by multi-stakeholder and cross sector working groups. Local groups and organisations are developing and using the skills to work effectively together for child well-being, balancing their priorities and interests. Governments, regulators, traditional structures the media and the private sector are engaged and play a role. Churches and other faith-based organisations are actively engaged, building on their sustainable presence and influence with their congregations and wider communities.
3. **Transformed relationships:** God calls WV and the Church into a ministry of reconciliation which is visible in transformed relationships. Men, women, girls and boys care for each other, for their community, for their environment, and the wider world. Relationships within households and communities are defined by trust, equitable gender relations, conflict prevention and resolution, voluntary sharing of time and resources, and the valuing and protecting of all children, especially the most vulnerable.
4. **Local and national advocacy:** On-going activities by citizens and local groups to hold government service providers accountable for the quality and quantity of services delivered for the community and children against plans and policies, based on regular assessments. Activities also focus on building collaborative dialogue between communities and decision makers at the local and national level, to press for wider systemic changes with impacts and reach beyond the borders of our programmes. National engagement will often be undertaken in collaboration with coalition partners who share our objectives.
5. **Household & Family Resilience:** Families and households develop resilience to changing shocks and stresses. They can prevent, prepare for, mitigate and recover from disasters, adapt to external factors and transform their well-being on a pathway of growth and progress out of poverty.

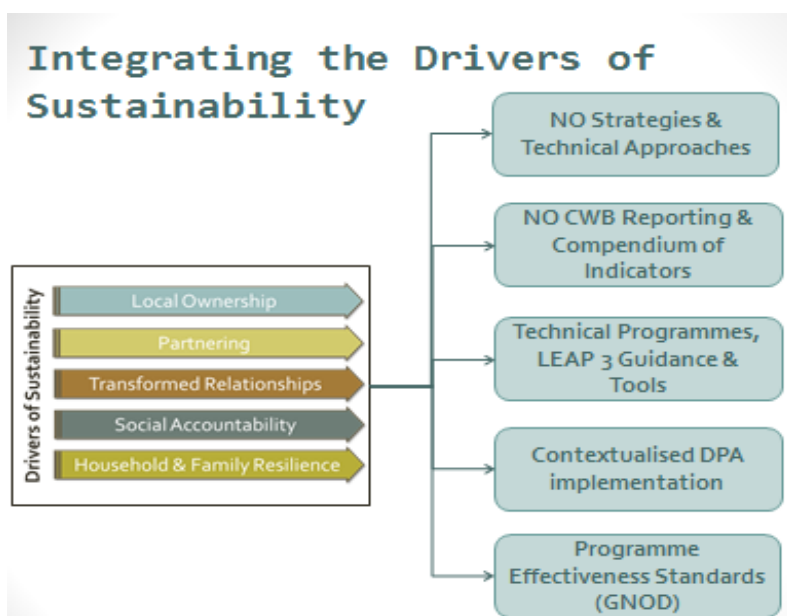


The Drivers of Sustainability make it possible for World Vision programmes to have a consistent and explicit focus on sustainability, right from the beginning of WV's engagement in an area. They operate at **four levels**: children themselves as key actors in their own well-being and partners in development according to their level of maturity and evolving capacities; households and families; communities; and the broader enabling environment of systems and structures for child well-being. The four levels correspond to World Vision's Ministry Goal of contributing to sustained child well-being within families and communities and an ecological understanding of child well-being

Sustainability is at the heart of World Vision's Development Programme Approach. The Critical Path, which lies at the centre of the DPA, is carefully designed to build an enabling environment for sustainability, creating space for processes which allow the development of ownership, multi-stakeholder partnerships, transformed relationships and social accountability throughout the life of WV's long-term development programmes. In World Vision's emergency responses and shorter cycle grant funded programmes, sustainability takes different forms. Not all drivers are applicable in the same way. Short term grant funded programmes will need to consider all the drivers, both social and non-social, to identify contextualised strategies that clearly and explicitly show how the intervention contributes to longer-term sustainability objectives.

### Measuring the Drivers of Sustainability

Ultimately, the best way to measure sustainability is through ex post evaluations that are done after World Vision's presence in an area ends. However, progress towards sustainability at each of the four levels can be measured as a part of regular programme monitoring and end of programme evaluation. All outcome evaluations should include a focus on sustainability, measured using indicators for the relevant drivers. There are many indicators already in the Compendium of Indicators which measure different aspects of the Drivers of Sustainability. Indicators relating to the Drivers should be discussed and included in monitoring and evaluation plans and indicator tracking tables. To make it easier for programme teams to track progress with sustainability, SMEs with expertise in the components of each Driver have recommended a small number of priority sustainability indicators and associated tools which can be used for monitoring and evaluation (see the full version of this paper).



**The Development Programme Approach** promotes active community engagement and decision making with the explicit aim of building such shared awareness and understanding of the critical issues influencing child well-being, especially for the most vulnerable, in their area. Ideally, all these exploratory activities are planned and managed by key community members with the support of WV staff. The information that emerges from this community research process and from regular, public progress reviews belongs to the community and should be presented in a way that is accessible to all so that community members can develop their own shared vision and priorities for child well-being and to make key project decisions alongside WV.