

Communication on Engagement

**Communication on
World Vision International's
engagement with the
United Nations Global Compact**

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Author: Mike Wisheart. Senior Editor: Heather Elliott.
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I. Statement of continued support from World Vision International president and chief executive officer

World Vision actively supports the 10 principles of the United Nations (UN) Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and the prevention of corruption.

In this Communication on Engagement we describe a number of areas where we have been able to collaborate with the Global Compact to promote the principles.

This report focuses on our engagement at the global level. World Vision offices in Australia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Senegal and Spain have joined their national Global Compact networks and are submitting their own reports.

In pursuing our mission to seek the sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable, World Vision continues to see value in endorsing, and collaborating with, the UN Global Compact.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Jenkins
President and Chief Executive Officer
World Vision International

October 2015



2. Introduction

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Everything we do has one goal: the sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable. We work with families, communities and partners to ensure that children enjoy good health; are educated for life; experience the love of God and their neighbours; and are cared for, protected and participating. Our vision statement captures this:

**Our vision for every child,
life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart,
the will to make it so.**

World Vision's pledge is to be accountable, effective and efficient for the children and communities we serve and for our donors. Our organisation is a member of the International NGO Charter of Accountability (INGO Charter) which has provided additional impetus, sharpening our understanding of the many dimensions of accountability and identifying areas for improvement. As an INGO Charter member, it is a requirement that World Vision's annual Accountability Report is reviewed by an independent panel of experts. The report is designed to comply with Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) level C which demonstrates World Vision's commitment to sustainability reporting. The report and the panel's assessment are published on the World Vision and INGO Charter websites.¹

This report focuses on our accountability as a participant of the UN Global Compact. The first section (Section 1) comprises a statement of support from World Vision International's President and CEO. Section 3 briefly describes the engagement of World Vision's country offices with their respective Global Compact Local Networks. World Vision International collaborates directly with the UN Global Compact in both the Business for Peace and Poverty Footprint work streams. These are described in Section 4. Section 5 outlines World Vision's advocacy on the role of business and cross-sector partnerships, and the post-2015 development agenda. Section 6 gives an insight into World Vision's participation at global level events hosted by the UN Global Compact.

¹ World Vision International Annual Reports can be accessed at <http://www.wvi.org/annualreviews>; Accountability Reports can be accessed at <http://www.wvi.org/accountability>.



3. Engagement with UN Global Compact local networks

In addition to World Vision International's participation in the UN Global Compact, five World Vision national offices are participants:

World Vision Australia
World Vision Indonesia
World Vision Lanka
World Vision Senegal
Fundación World Vision Spain

Each of these offices will report its Communication on Engagement separately. This report is limited to World Vision International's engagement at the global level.

4. Participation in UN Global Compact special initiatives

Business for peace

At the headquarters level World Vision International and the UN Global Compact are exploring opportunities to pilot a joint fragility assessment tool incorporating the input and perspectives of the private sector.

For more than a decade World Vision has played a global leadership role in local conflict analysis. World Vision is the leading practitioner of the industry-standard 'Do No Harm' framework. In addition, World Vision's own 'Making Sense of Turbulent Contexts' (MSTC)² has been independently evaluated, used by NGO partners, and named by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) as one of a few world-class conflict-analysis frameworks. These tools generate practical recommendations for aid actors, especially in humanitarian, development, and advocacy sectors, but are not designed to include private-sector actors.

World Vision International and the UN Global Compact are currently exploring opportunities to pilot fragility analyses with direct input from the private sector. World Vision has worked with other NGOs and the mining sector to draft tools for use in exploration activities. The UN Global Compact's Business for Peace initiative, its partners and World Vision have committed to pursue conflict analysis that includes all perspectives, including business, as depicted in Figure I.

² Available at <http://www.wvi.org/making-sense-turbulent-contexts>.



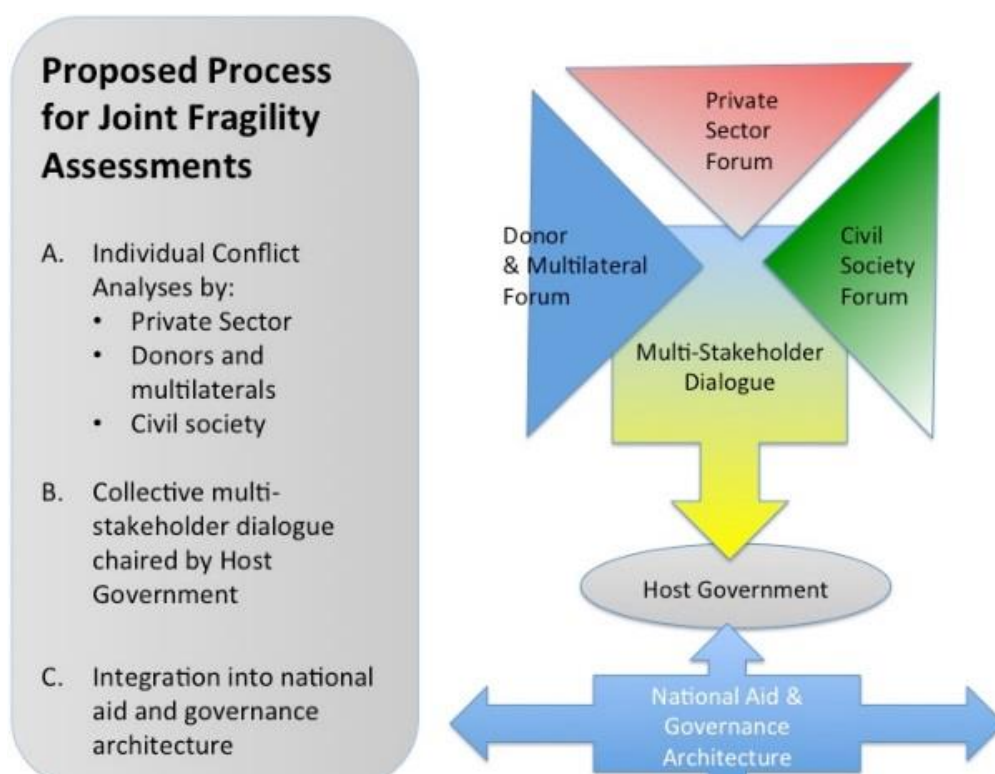


Figure 1. Proposed process for joint fragility assessments

World Vision and the UN Global Compact’s Business for Peace staff are exploring use of this approach with their respective national offices and local networks in two countries – one in Latin America and the other in Asia.

Poverty footprint

This year (2015), World Vision International has been actively participating in the Poverty Footprint Advisory Group that is providing input to update and strengthen the methodology originally developed by Oxfam.³ This is to enable the assessment tool to be more readily available to companies and civil society organisations to collaborate together in undertaking the Poverty Footprint assessment.

The tool provides a structured and rigorous approach that is geared towards helping companies evaluate their impact on poverty through their operations and policies. The intent of the Poverty Footprint assessment is to increase transparency on corporate social impacts and encourage follow-up projects that improve circumstances and opportunities for people living in poverty.

³ The revised tool, launched on 26 September 2015, is available at <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/3131>.



Five key factors are considered essential to help individuals and communities overcome poverty: livelihoods, health and well-being, diversity and gender equality, empowerment, and security and stability. The methodology includes a step-by-step process, as well as indicators, with a strong focus on stakeholder engagement and transparency.

World Vision has joined the Advisory Group not only to provide inputs to the review of the methodology but also to aim at becoming one of the civil society organisations ‘accredited’ to use the Poverty Footprint tool with companies.

5. Advocacy on the role of business and cross-sector partnerships

World Vision has been actively advocating on the role of business and cross-sector partnerships – between government, business, civil society and/or UN agencies – in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. These efforts have complemented the work of the UN Global Compact, for example through its publication *Architects of a Better World: Building the Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture*.⁴

During the last eighteen months World Vision has published three papers:

- *Getting Intentional: Cross-sector partnerships, business and the post-2015 development agenda*,⁵ the first paper in the series, makes recommendations on the enabling environment at the national and global levels to support effective cross-sector partnerships, including putting in place multi-stakeholder platforms and effective accountability mechanisms.
- *Reaching the Unreached: Cross-sector partnerships, business and the post-2015 development agenda*,⁶ makes specific recommendations regarding how these partnerships, and in particular the business approach to them, can reach the most vulnerable, including those in fragile contexts.
- *Advancing the Debate: Cross-sector partnerships, business and the post-2015 development agenda*,⁷ building on the previous papers, explores and suggests resolutions on four interrelated areas of growing concern in discussions on cross-sector partnerships: what the ‘rules of the game’ are regarding good development (and development finance) practice; asymmetries of power between different development actors; the changing modalities of development financing; and the need for greater accountability of all actors.

⁴ https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/about_the_gc/Architecture.pdf.

⁵ <http://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/publication/getting-intentional-cross-sector-partnerships-0>.

⁶ <http://www.wvi.org/justice-children/publication/reaching-unreached-cross-sector-partnerships-business-and-post-2015>.

⁷ <http://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/publication/advancing-debate-cross-sector-partnerships-business>.



These papers were launched in New York between July 2014 and February 2015. Representatives of the UN Global Compact participated in each of these launch events as well as a World Vision roundtable, co-hosted with the UN Foundation, entitled 'Partnerships for the Post-2015 Development Agenda'. This took place on 11 February 2015 in New York.

6. Participation in UN Global Compact global events

World Vision has actively participated in events hosted by the UN Global Compact, as follows:

- UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, 'Architects of a Better World', 19–20 September 2013, New York
 - World Vision International was represented by Dr Cheryl Freeman, Senior Director, Advocacy and Justice for Children.
- UNIDO and UN Global Compact Event, 'Engaging the Private Sector in the Post-2015 Era: Presentation of a Consolidated Report from Global Consultations', 24 September 2014, New York
 - Dr Cheryl Freeman represented World Vision International as a panellist in a discussion focused on the findings of the report being launched.
- Inaugural Business for Peace Annual Meeting, 29–30 September 2014, Istanbul
 - World Vision International's Director for Peacebuilding, Mr Matthew Scott, represented our organisation and proposed a process in which to include the private sector in national-level fragility assessments.
- UN Global Compact +15 Event, 'Business as a Force for Good', 23–25 June 2015, New York
 - Mr Scott was a panellist in a discussion on multi-stakeholder collaboration within the Business for Peace meetings.
 - Mr Mike Wisheart, World Vision International's Senior Adviser, Corporate Engagement, Advocacy and Justice for Children, led a discussion entitled 'Partnerships, Children and Education'.
- UN Global Compact launch of the Poverty Footprint tool, 26 September 2015, New York
 - Mr Wisheart and Dr Freeman represented World Vision.





7. Conclusion

World Vision holds that business is an essential contributor to the effort to achieve a sustainable end to poverty. Our organisation calls for a broader and deeper engagement of companies in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. World Vision is therefore pleased to confirm its continued support for the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact as our organisation continues striving towards attainment of sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable.



CONTACTS

World Vision International

Global Executive Office

Waterview House

1 Roundwood Ave, Stockley Park

Uxbridge, Middlesex UB11 1FG

United Kingdom

+44.20.7758.2900

World Vision International

Advocacy and Justice for Children

World Vision House

Opal Drive, Fox Milne

Milton Keynes MK15 0ZR

United Kingdom

+44.1908.841.063

World Vision International Geneva

& United Nations Liaison Office

7-9 chemin de Balexert

Case Postale 545

CH-1219 Châtelaine

Switzerland

+41.22.798.4183

World Vision International New York

& United Nations Liaison Office

919 2nd Avenue, 2nd Floor

New York, NY 10017

USA

+1.212.355.1779

World Vision Brussels &

EU Representation

18, Square de Meeûs

1st Floor, Box 2

B-1050 Brussels

Belgium

+32.2.230.1621

www.wvi.org

