

CAPACITY STATEMENT

NUTRITION



The malnutrition rate among Vietnamese children under 5 years old is still high, with stunting prevalence at 19.6%¹. There is also a huge disparity in child malnutrition among different parts of the country, with stunting prevalence recorded among ethnic minority children at 31.4%. In areas where World Vision Vietnam works, the stunting rates are much higher (27.1% on average), especially in Điện Biên Province (38.7%) and Quảng Trị Province (42.2%)².

Vietnam's National Nutrition Strategy aims to reduce child malnutrition to under 15% by 2025 and under 12% by 2030. Yet in remote areas, big hurdles remain, including food insecurity, inadequate nutrition knowledge and practices, infectious diseases, poor sanitation and hygiene, lack of qualified health workers, poor health care facilities, and poor health-seeking behaviors.

World Vision Vietnam implements Nutrition programs in 28 Area Programs, most of which are located in remote and mountainous areas of the country. We adopt a long-term, community-based, and integrated approach which encompasses health rehabilitation; agriculture and economic development; early childhood care and development; water, sanitation and hygiene; micro-finance; and advocacy on matters related to child health and nutrition.

¹ National Nutrition Survey, 2019-2020

² World Vision Vietnam's Annual Nutrition Measurement, June 2020

Priority Focus

Goal

Reduce malnutrition in children under five years old through integrated approach

Objective

- + Adequate dietary intake is ensured for mothers and children.
- + Mothers and children are protected from illnesses.
- + Effective nutrition and health policies and practices are in place.

Approach

The interventions are designed and implemented in integrated ways to render comprehensive impact on children's health.



FY20 expenditure
3.61 million US dollars



Technical staff
2 national level staff (manager and specialist)
4 zonal level technical officers



Children impacted in FY20
50,591 including
5,140 most vulnerable children



Technical models
Nutrition Club Platform
Positive Deviance/Hearth
Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
Timed and Targeted Counselling
Community Led Total Sanitation
Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage
Saving for Transformation
Ultra Poor Graduation
Building Secure Livelihoods

Technical Expertise

At national level, we have a full-time Nutrition Technical Program Manager with a strong clinical background and 27 years of experience in designing health and nutrition models and technical guidelines, providing supportive supervision to the implementation at grassroots level, and partnering to advocate for the Government's mainstreaming of promising models. Working alongside the Health and Nutrition Technical Program Manager is a Nutrition Specialist with 7 years of experience in nutrition and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), as well as a panel of other technical specialists in livelihoods development, child protection, and disaster risk reduction, altogether ensuring an inclusive and integrated support for children and their families.

At field level, 4 full-time Nutrition Technical Program Officers, and 28 Development Facilitators who are the focal points in charge of implementing health and nutrition activities at our working areas.

Advantages & Strengths

Thirty years implementing nutrition programs in over 50 districts nationwide has honed our **technical models** and accompanying guidelines for a standardized and effective application at community level. Some technical models such as Timed and Targeted Counselling and Nutrition Club platform have been documented in the Zero Hunger Program and the Government's Nutrition Program by the National Institute of Nutrition and recommended for replication.

Since 2008, the **integration** of nutrition with other sectors such as WASH, agriculture and economic development, and early childhood care has been promoted, so that parents/caregivers of malnourished children can acquire the necessary child care practices and build a hygienic living environment while securing a sustainable supply of healthy food for their children. This integrated approach optimizes resources and impact.

Given a timeline of 10-15 years in each Area Program, we have established **solid partnerships** with government agencies, academic institutions, private sector, non-governmental organizations, local health workers, community networks and other local partners, which enables effective mobilization of expertise, resources, and local participation, and in turn contributes to the sustainability of the outcomes upon the Area Programs' closure.



Partnerships

We partner with government agencies at all levels in implementing health and nutrition activities as our interventions closely align with Vietnam's National Nutrition Program. At national level, **Ministry of Health; National Institute of Nutrition; and National Institute of Malaria, Parasitology, and Entomology** are our main partners in the development, issuance, and grassroots implementation of the technical guidelines that aim to foster children's physical growth.

World Vision Vietnam is one of the 7 founding members of the **Civil Society Alliance of Vietnam's Scaling Up Nutrition**, which is a network of international and local non-governmental organizations devoted to advocating the Government to fulfill commitments and allocate resources for nutrition-related issues. In 2020-2021, as a representative of the Alliance, we joined the national committee established by the Ministry of Health to develop the 2021-2030 National Nutrition Strategy.

We are an active member of the **Technical Working Group on Nutrition** facilitated by Health Partnership Group to support the Ministry of Health and other national health agencies in implementing health and nutrition programs across Vietnam.

At grassroots level, representatives of **local Department of Health**, health workers, and community people are involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of health and nutrition interventions. This heightens the community ownership and the sustainability of the technical models in the long run.



Technical Models



Nutrition Club Platform is a community-based and community-led behavior change initiative which involves home visits and monthly meetings for mothers and caregivers of children under five to learn about basic nutrition knowledge and child care practices, common diseases prevention and food preparation. It is also a platform to implement integrated interventions such as livelihoods, food security and water, sanitation and hygiene.



Timed and Targeted Counselling is designed to promote health practices at the level of the individual and their immediate family through a scheme of home visits. It is aligned with the 7-11 strategy, which seeks to strengthen and consolidate our health programming through a package of high impact interventions to improve child wellbeing, including 7 interventions during pregnancy and 11 interventions for children up to 2 years of age, delivered in an integrated lifecycle approach.



Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition is an approach to timely detect severe acute malnutrition in the community in emergency situations and provide for those without medical complications with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) or other nutrient-dense foods at home. This model can prevent child deaths and help the child rehabilitate from severe wasting.



Positive Deviance/Hearth addresses malnutrition through nutrition education and rehabilitation, while capacitating families to sustain the nutrition rehabilitation and preventing malnutrition at home.

- † The Positive Deviance process identifies affordable, effective and sustainable practices that are regularly used by people with limited resources to prevent malnutrition.
- † The Hearth part is an extensive behavioral change intervention to introduce locally discovered positive deviant practices as well as other practices essential to child health, utilizing a number of approaches such as mother-to-mother support, counselling, adult learning, skills building, motivation through visible results and community mobilization.



Integrated with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene interventions including Community Led Total Sanitation and Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage are implemented to identify and resolve the root causes of diarrhea and other waterborne diseases.



Integration with Agricultural and Economic Development provides parents and caregivers with climate-smart and cost-effective farming technologies, production inputs and improved access to micro-credits for business development to sustainably generate food and income.

Three main models that have been integrated with nutrition interventions include: Savings for Transformation, Ultra Poor Graduation, and Building Secure Livelihoods.

Grant Experiences

1 Malnutrition reduction for children under five in Điện Biên Đông (2020-2021)

Budget: 46,047 US dollars

Donor: 365MC via World Vision Korea

Results: To reduce malnutrition rates (stunting, underweight, wasting) among children under 5

2 Emergency Medical and Nutrition Care for Vulnerable Children and Community in Hưng Yên Province (2016-2017)

Budget: 73,000 US dollars

Donor: World Vision Singapore

Goal: To improve child care practices among mothers and caregivers, and improve access to nutritional care and health treatment for children from poor households, which in turn reduces malnutrition and illnesses among 300 most vulnerable children under 5

3 Child Health Now Project (2013-2016)

Budget: 277,000 US dollars

Donor: World Vision Australia

Goal: To promote exclusive breastfeeding and deworming practices, and to advocate for five additional guidelines to support the implementation of National Nutrition Program

4 Improving Maternal and Newborn Health in Điện Biên Province (2012-2015)

Budget: 1,500,000 US dollars

Donor: Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Goal: To provide 5,800 women at reproductive age with quality health services on essential and emergency maternal and newborn care at district and commune levels while also equipping them with newborn care practices at home and positively influencing their health-seeking behaviors. **Result:** 2,400 newborn babies benefited during the project lifetime.

Our contributions to child well-being in 2018-2022

Stunting prevalence decreased from 31.3% to **26%**.

Underweight prevalence decreased from 18.9% to **15.4%**.

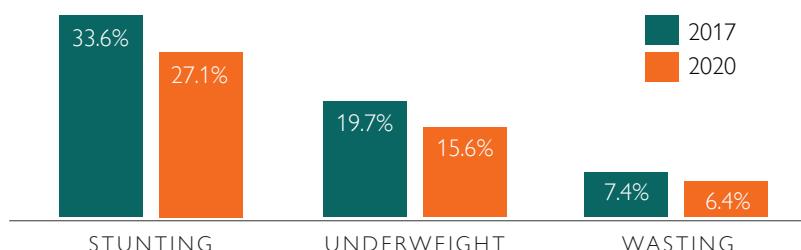
2,865 children under 5 escaped acute malnutrition after participating in the intensive nutritional rehabilitation centers.

32,965 expectant mothers and caregivers with children under 2 received timely and targeted counselling on nutrition and infectious diseases prevention.

22,267 households with children repaired or newly constructed proper sanitation facilities for their own family's use.

Malnutrition Prevalence of Children Under 5 (2017-2020)

Source: World Vision Vietnam's Annual Nutrition Measurement, June 2017 and June 2020



World Vision is a movement of people called to improve the lives of vulnerable children around the world. We believe that a country, and a world, where all children are protected and free from extreme poverty and able to reach their full potential is possible. Since 1988, World Vision Vietnam has been devoted to the most vulnerable children and communities, helping them overcome poverty. Every year, over 200,000 Vietnamese children benefit from our work in three key areas: Child Protection, Nutrition, and Sustainable Livelihoods.