

World Vision's reflections for Norway's new humanitarian strategy

As Norway considers its next humanitarian strategy, and as a follow-up to other conversations on this subject, World Vision proposes that the following themes be included and considered. World Vision is ready to discuss these points further should there be interest.

The starting point should be a long-term commitment to supporting children's needs and rights where need is greatest. This means that focus should be placed on areas where war, climate change and disasters together pose active threats to children's lives, health, upbringing and future. In line with the principle of "humanitarian complementarity," as articulated by ICVA, support should go to and through the organisations best placed to manage needs and risks over the long term, with strong local ownership alongside international partners. The following points are central to this.

1. Invest in security risk management to protect lives and ensure effective aid

World Vision considers security risk management to be a key topic in its own right, both to protect lives and to ensure that aid funds are used effectively. Protecting the lives of aid recipients is of the utmost importance, and achieving this requires managing well the risks faced by humanitarian aid workers. This is why World Vision has built up comprehensive security risk management at every level of the organisation, addressing risks for both local and international staff.

Well-functioning security risk management also provides an added measure of security for the donor, since it contributes to more reliable and robust work that can withstand war and disaster without coming to a halt. This means that investing in good risk management is, in effect, an insurance policy for well-used aid funds that benefits everyone from recipients to implementers to donors. Well-designed risk management also enables thoughtful risk-taking, which is a prerequisite for both donors and humanitarian actors to be able to reach those in greatest need.

2. Include conflict sensitivity, humanitarian principles and fragility

The majority of humanitarian needs today exist in conflict-affected and fragile areas. Effective humanitarian response in such areas requires strong conflict sensitivity and context analysis in order to be effective and have a positive impact on the conflict. Norway can take a leading role in this area by enabling its partners to incorporate this into their work, but also by requiring it as a condition for funding. Norway can also advocate for sustained access through respect for humanitarian principles. This protects both lives in conflict areas and the tax funds invested in the aid budget, by ensuring they are used well. For this reason, World Vision has integrated these themes throughout its entire programme cycle, in order to be accountable to both communities and donors.

3. Advocate with international financial institutions to support humanitarian response, implementation and localisation of the nexus

Given the needs and pressures facing the humanitarian system, there is a need for international financial institutions and development actors to further support acute humanitarian response, and to work more closely on nexus efforts alongside humanitarian actors and interventions.

Funding needs to be both flexible and long-term, and to build local capacity to lead and be accountable for the implementation and risk management of interventions. This can include immediate humanitarian response, anticipatory action, and disaster risk reduction activities. This would also broaden the donor base for humanitarian financing, as well as make overall efforts more effective and sustainable.

The development and support of innovative financing models should also be encouraged, particularly those used where needs are greatest.

4. Lead on localisation, the nexus and climate as promised in the Grand Bargain

Norway and World Vision have both signed the Grand Bargain principles, but more work remains to implement the localisation agenda. World Vision believes that one of the keys here is local programme design and risk-sharing, which means that more space must be created for local communities and organisations to have a seat at the table when decisions are made about their future. This would help bring together solutions, such as nexus work, on the interconnected challenges of conflict and climate.

The vast majority of World Vision's staff live and work in their home areas, and we believe Norway can take a leading role in this context by investing in the creation of platforms for cooperation at the local level, where local organisations, international actors and donors can meet, collaborate and drive the localisation agenda forward.

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