

Faith

Globally, 8 out of 10 people claim a connection with a specific religious belief.

In most of the communities where World Vision works, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, the numbers of people claiming a religious faith will be even higher.

Faith can impact on people's world view, attitudes and outlook in positive and negative ways:

- Negative culture of fatalism, or blaming bad events on the perceived sins of others
- Positive culture of compassion and service to others, especially the more vulnerable



Empowered World View

Empowered World View is a faith-based enabling development approach for mobilizing and empowering individual and communities' potential to transform their mindset, beliefs, and behaviour which affirm their identity, dignity, and agency to participate effectively in sustainable transformative change. It is a foundational approach for engaging individuals and groups to address the root causes of many problems in communities and is used within every sector of development.

The approach targets various groups in any community, regardless of which particular faith background they are from. Some of the targeted groups include, but not limited to:

- **Faith leaders**, who are among the most influential voices in African communities are equipped to deliver Empowered Worldview messages that promote the well-being of children
- **Leaders from farmers associations**, who help inspire their peers to implement new ideas to increase crop production and income
- **Savings groups**, which encourage their members to take initiative in investing in projects that will generate better income for their families
- **Community leaders (including leaders of both women's and youth groups)**, who lead others to embrace EWW's principles, identifying creative ways to use their skills to shape their futures
- **Youth**, who form the majority of communities



Impact of Empowered World View

- EWW training provides a faith-based foundation to support World Vision's livelihoods work through empowering community members to see their own inherent value and build on the skills, abilities and resources available in their communities
- Training includes: exchange visits, conservation agriculture, savings groups, producer groups, market access, value chain development, agro-forestry, risk management, micro-finance. The approach facilitates improvements in family income and child well-being
- Evaluation in Tanzania identified a marginal but statistically significant increase of \$44 per month in household income. Also identified a significant and positive project impact in households' ability to provide for children's needs, especially education and food security
- Empowered World View has the potential to dramatically increase the effectiveness of all of World Vision's community development work, equipping families to look for creative solutions to also solve community problems.
- By helping to unleash people's creative potential to look for new ways to solve problems with the resources they have at hand, World Vision's work in each community will be multiplied.



Further work with Geo-Scientists

- Faith leaders – highly respected, influential, views will be listened to
- Science can be misunderstood and mistrusted by faith communities
- World Vision can bring together faith leaders and geo-scientists to develop better understanding of faith and culture as well as science
- Collaboration with geo-scientists can increase understanding of risks and hazards and identify potential solutions to build community resilience, mitigate disaster risks and adapt to climate change



Conclusion

- **Influential Factor** - In most vulnerable communities faith is the most influential factor in people's lives
- **Multiplier Effect** - A faith-based perspective in livelihoods and resilience work can promote a positive influence for faith
- **Game Changer** - Bringing scientists together with faith leaders to understand each other's world views can enable a scientific approach to building resilience to be accepted among communities of faith

World Vision is an international Christian, children's charity. By working together with people of all faiths and none – children, their communities, and supporters and partners, we believe that the lives of the world's most vulnerable children can be transformed.