

What is Food Security?



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Food security is the condition in which everyone has secure access to sufficient and reliable food sources.

Food insecurity exists when people do not have adequate physical, social or economic access to food. Long-term sustainable development cannot be achieved where people do not have food security.

Millions of people around the world do not have access to enough nutritious food to live healthy, productive lives. Most of their livelihood strategies, (the ways in which they make their living) are geared toward satisfying their family's need for food before they can focus on anything else, like school fees, medicine or increasing their income.

World Vision Canada's Approach

World Vision's food security programming takes place within the [Area Development Program \(ADP\)](#) through

the [Transformational Development \(TD\)](#) approach. Emphasis is placed on community-led processes that empower and provide an opportunity for the communities to attain a positive and sustainable change in their social and physical conditions. In addition, we help communities work to achieve positive change in the systems and structures that impede the poor from achieving food security.

Key Strategies and Approaches

World Vision Canada uses the following key strategies in addressing food security:

- Support the **increased and sustainable availability** of adequate and nutritious food either through the community's own production or through other social transfer mechanisms e.g. food aid.
- Support the realization of **adequate and secure access** to nutritious food by both social and economic empowerment through employment creation,

income generating programs, improved marketing and post harvest handling.

- Promote the equitable and hygienic use of culturally appropriate and highly nutritious food.
- Support improved long-term **stability of food supplies and reduction in vulnerability to food insecurity** through on and off farm investments

Working through the ADPs and in partnership with local communities, governments and other agencies, World Vision's approach to food security is based on the following principles:

Poverty reduction and livelihood security

Using a livelihood framework, World Vision contributes to local and national poverty reduction strategies that ensure secure livelihoods, mitigate disasters and increase resilience of communities. Our programming supports the most vulnerable community members to achieve food security.

Community ownership

World Vision facilitates the analysis of community needs and resources, and supports community-initiated food security interventions through participatory approaches and locally appropriate technologies.

Capacity building and democratization

World Vision builds technical, management and governance capacity of community and local government partners to help ensure program sustainability and equitable access for all community members to resources for food security.

Appropriate technology

As most vulnerable communities are resource-poor and frequently located in marginal and drought-prone environments, World Vision focuses on technologies that address both resource degradation and livelihood diversification. To help improve livelihoods and decrease vulnerability we also work with production and value-adding processing technologies.

Food Security Programming Models

Much of World Vision's food security programming happens within an integrated programming model,

especially with nutrition and health, in line with our organizational mandate of improving child well being. Below are a few examples of these models:

Integrated food security and livelihood projects

This programming model is based on the fact that in almost all cases, how people survive or make a living in poor communities and households is closely linked with their food security. Most of their livelihood strategies, whether economic, natural resource exploitation, food production or bartering, are geared toward achieving a measure of food security before they can focus on anything else. Our integrated livelihood projects aim to achieve a number of outcomes including improved nutritional status, food security and family incomes. World Vision Canada is implementing a number of these types of projects in Malawi and Mozambique.

Dry land food security programming

Recurring drought continues to be a major contributing factor to food insecurity in arid and semi-arid lands that span most of the African Sahel and large parts of Asia. Traditional food security approaches focusing on increased production of staples is not suitable in such areas due to the erratic rainfall as well as the fact that livestock keeping is favored. Combinations of dry land crop farming where applicable, and extensive/nomadic livestock keeping are the main food security interventions in such areas. The focus in this programming approach is the sustainable use of the fragile natural resource base for food and livelihood security. World Vision Canada is undertaking these types of programs in a number of countries in west and east Africa (Ghana, Mali, Kenya and Ethiopia)

Complementary food security programming

These projects are designed to complement another project by providing a needed output to achieve the overall project goal. Complementary food security programming is especially critical in achieving nutrition outcomes in specialized programs like Positive Deviance Hearth. These projects address a gap in the main program. For example, in PD Hearth, the complementary food security project facilitates access to nutrient dense animal source foods required to successfully rehabilitate moderately malnourished children. World Vision Canada is implementing a number of these projects in Mali, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Peru.

How can you help?

Agricultural Packs

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Gift.aspx?giftId=1545>

Irrigation Foot Pump

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Gift.aspx?giftId=2006>

Help an Afghan farmer

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Gift.aspx?giftId=2493>

Sponsor a Child

<https://children.worldvision.ca/sponsorship/Forms/Child.aspx?service=page/Child&lang=en&mc=3335312>

More Information:

International Food Policy Research Institute: <http://www.ifpri.org>

Eldis Food Security: <http://www.eldis.org/>

Food Security on Development Gateway: <http://foodsecurity.developmentgateway.org>

Food Security Statistics by Country: http://www.fao.org/faostat/foodsecurity/Cous_en.htm

FAO Hunger Map: <http://www.fao.org/faostat/foodsecurity/FSMap/map14.htm>



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