



Submission No 76

**Review of Australia's Relationship with the
Countries of Africa**

Organisation: World Vision – Answers to Questions on Notice

World Vision Australia Supplementary Comments

Joint Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Relations with the Countries of Africa

June 2010

World Vision Australia's consolidated supplementary comments to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade have been developed in response to four questions taken on notice during our recent appearance before the Committee. The questions relate to opportunities and challenges for South Africa in the post-apartheid era, building better support for small scale and subsistence agriculture in Africa, protection of civilians and community demand for better governance.

I. Agriculture

World Vision Australia's supplementary comments on agriculture have been developed in response to a question taken on notice during our recent appearance before the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. These comments examine how Australia can leverage its re-engagement in Africa to better support small scale and subsistence agriculture working to alleviate poverty and hunger.¹

Australian dryland agricultural expertise

Australia as the driest continent on Earth has developed much experience and lessons learnt in dryland agriculture. We have niche expertise that cannot be easily matched by other OECD countries. However, we have lacked the impetus to sufficiently use this expertise to benefit poorer dryland nations. In contrast, Israel has invested extensively in small-scale and large-scale sustainable agriculture research that is being used to benefit dryland African countries.

Australian international agricultural research programs favour broad-acre monoculture farming systems with high technical and technological input and emphasis on cash cropping rather than household nutrition. Such techniques are ill-suited to addressing the vulnerabilities of small-scale and subsistence farming households that make up the vast majority of Africa's rural residents and alleviate poverty and hunger.

Australian expertise also tends to be highly specialised into siloed disciplines geared to 'delivering' one solution. The ACIAR initiative to boost maize yields in East Africa through a plant breeding program is one example. A good initiative will fail to make an impact unless other pressing constraints such as land tenure issues, land degradation and access to markets are also addressed. The complex nature of food, livelihood and poverty require inter-disciplinary approaches that can address and adapt to the many variables and vulnerabilities facing farmers in Africa.

Opportunities for Greater Australian engagement

Australia's reengagement in Africa is an opportunity for it to leverage its expertise, knowledge and skills in dryland agriculture to support sustainable agricultural development in dryland African countries.

¹ World Vision Australia (WVA) supports food security and livelihood projects in **25 African countries**. Average country program size across all sectors (food security, health, education, economic development, HIV, disaster recovery) is \$US 5 million. The most vulnerable populations exist in the dryland states of Africa, particularly in the Sahel band just south of the Sahara, and the Horn of Africa, but also including parts of Southern Africa along the tropic of Capricorn.

There is great potential for AusAID and Australian agricultural research institutions, ACIAR, CSIRO and ABARE to reorient some of their programming to 'appropriate technologies' principles that are relevant to producers who are labour-rich but land and cash poor and provide greater benefit to small scale and subsistence farmers in Africa. Appropriate Australian knowledge and capacity also exists outside the formal research and agriculture communities such as organic farming and Landcare movements and permaculture associations. The Australian Government could facilitate and resource partnership exchanges between Australian agricultural research bodies with African country counter-parts and/or by providing grant mechanisms to also encourage the exchange of research and agricultural techniques *within* African countries. The expansion of Australia's aid program to Africa also creates great opportunities for Australian volunteer programs to better facilitate the exchange of skills between Australia and Africa. Programs such as the Australian Youth Ambassadorship Programs and VIDA could be expanded to support Australians with appropriate skills in small-scale, organic, and sustainable farming techniques to work with African communities and institutions.

Focus of Australian dryland agricultural assistance in Africa

West and Central Africa is a natural location for Australia to focus its agricultural aid program. This region has dryland agricultural conditions very similar to parts of Australia, such as northern Western Australia, Northern Territory and inland Queensland. Australian mining companies are also increasing their expansion into the region, requiring a greater balance of engagement and diplomacy by the Australian government.

West Africa is open and comfortable with engagement by Western countries. It is predominantly Islamic presenting an opportunity for Australia to demonstrate its credentials in the Islamic world and support our diplomatic engagement with Islamic countries in our own region and in the Middle East.

Development needs are also acute. Globally, West and Central Africa have the highest global mortality and development deficits and the lowest human development indicators. Eight of the bottom ten countries with the worst human development indicators are in West and Central Africa.² More than half of each country's population lives on less than \$2 per day³ and ten West and Central African countries are also in the bottom cluster of international gender development indicators.⁴ Eleven West African countries are also amongst the top 20 countries with the highest global under five mortality rates.⁵ The effects of climate change are already being felt: between 1970 and 2000, West and Central Africa received 10 percent less rainfall than from 1930 – 1960. Over the last 50 years, Sahelian zones have also shifted between 25 to 35 km south.

Recommendations

World Vision Australia recommends the Australian Government maximise its food security assistance to Africa and develop policies that preference small scale and subsistence farming by favouring the following approaches / principles:

- **Crop and farming system diversification** – This principle utilises a variety of crops to provide a regular flow of different foods throughout the year rather than relying on a single crop monoculture. This expands nutritional diversity and enhances household food security by spreading agricultural risk by producing different crops at different times of the year and hedging the risks of unforeseen weather events.

² [Human Development Indicator Report 2009 pg. 173-4.](#)

³ Ibid pg 178).

⁴ Ibid pg. 185

⁵ [UNICEF, State of The World's Children Report, 2009](#)

- **Approaches that maximise soil health and minimise purchased inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and herbicides)** – Imported chemical and mineral inputs are likely to continue to increase in price, often creating no-win cycles of debt that undermine the viability of small-scale and subsistence farmers. They also damage soil structure by destroying micro-flora and micro-fauna that otherwise render nutrients accessible to plant roots. Measures to restore soil nutrients and moisture retention that may be too labour intensive for broad-acre mono-cropping are applicable to small-scale farming. Seed from self-pollinating varieties can also be saved from a harvested crop and sown the following season. In contrast seed from hybrid varieties lose vigour if replanted in the following season and must therefore be re-purchased. Seed quality can be improved by also establishing a community based seed multiplication system managed by farmers.
- **Approaches that emphasise appropriate household nutrition over cash cropping for the poorest communities** - Lack of knowledge about what constitutes a healthy diet is acknowledged as a serious constraint to improving food utilisation by poor communities. Two groups that are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition are children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women. Improved food production at the household level often does not immediately translate into improved nutritional outcomes for under fives, particularly when focussed on cash crops and low value staples such as maize. Preventing malnutrition requires a mix of community responses such as access to the right types of nutritional food and feeding practices such as exclusive breast-feeding practices for the first six months of life and the appropriate weaning practices, access to primary health care, including immunisations, malaria treatment, treatment for intestinal infections and acute respiratory infections, sanitation and access to safe drinking water.
- **Influencing behaviour change** – ‘Expert’ top-down training rarely gains strong results if it is not coupled with behaviour change techniques that influence attitudes and practices. Many food security initiatives by development agencies have under-achieved due to poor extension and communication with target households. The most successful behaviour change communication techniques target discussion more widely than male members of the household and also seek to engage women, faith leaders, the education system, government officers, community leaders and the media. Success also comes from working alongside farmers to adapt new ideas with existing knowledge and practices and to include farmers in experimentation and assessment of risk and crop and technique propositions.
- **Gender** – In Sub-Saharan Africa, women are estimated to complete 80 percent of food production and utilisation roles, but receive just 5 percent of extension advice, and less access to education, inputs, credit and land. Anecdotal evidence from WV Senegal suggests investment in female extension agents generates wider transformation of agriculture yields than investment in male agents.
- **Adapting to climate change** – Farmers across Africa are consistently reporting that weather behaviours in the last decade have become more erratic and extreme, detrimental to security and livelihoods. Agricultural programs need to focus on resilience through diversification of production to spread risk, increase reliance on plants and animals that are well adapted to harsher climates, and plan better for rapid onset shock events such as floods, storms and heat waves.
- **Harmonisation of farmer and government decision power** – World Vision staff experience has observed tensions being common between poorer farmers in Africa and government representatives from the departments of agriculture, forestry and water, who are perceived as having a policing role rather than a supporting role. Well-meaning policies can often focus on broad based ideas rather than livelihood realities. A classic example is reforestation schemes that prevent rural residents from accessing land for timber and fodder. Australia should support programs that favour farmer engagement in problem identification and formation of solutions and policies and work to improve co-operation between government agencies and rural residents.

- **Approaches that improve food storage, conservation and market linkages and market information for small-scale farmers** - Between 60 to 70 percent of grain production in Africa is stored at the farm level. While African agricultural traditions have developed many effective storage preservation techniques, there is much room for cost-effective improvement of storage, management and utilisation. Market access linkages that facilitate improved sales of crops as well as access to a wider variety of foods at household level are crucial. Improved infrastructure (transport, communications and sales avenues) and information (access to current market prices and trends, potential buyers, access to fair trade systems and co-operative selling and input purchases) are also significant factors for better market access.

Recommended Agricultural Techniques

World Vision endorses the application of a number of agricultural techniques suited to small-scale and dryland farming in Africa. We have outlined in detail an example of one very successful technique, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) that is one of the most promising techniques available to restore the soils and profitability of farms in dryland agricultural zones. We currently support eleven FMNR related projects across eight African countries. Projects have reached a mature phase in Ethiopia, Senegal and Niger and pioneer projects have been established in Mali, Chad, Mauritania, Ghana and Uganda. Each project has an annual value between \$60,000 and \$260,000 per year.

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration

The majority of forest losses in Africa have occurred in the last 30 years. Forests have been cleared for conventional agricultural land or felled for charcoal production. Ill-suited agricultural approaches based on European conditions have also resulted in gradual degradation, salinity and erosion of the soils, causing a collapse in yields in most dryland zones and a contraction of arable land. Unlike Australia, African farmers have not had access to machinery to remove trees by the roots, many of which continue to live and regrow each year in farmer fields. **Globally, millions of hectares of seemingly treeless farm and grazing lands still contain living tree stumps with the ability to sprout new shoots.** Trees also have regenerative capacity from soil seed banks. However, continuous grazing, cutting for firewood and clearing and burning for land cultivation deny these seeds and stems the chance to become trees.

Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a technique first pioneered by Tony Rinaudo, an Australian agriculture missionary with 'Serving In Mission' (SIM) in Niger in the early 1980s. From its early beginnings, the technique was shared from farmer-to-farmer across the regions of Maradi and Zinder. Mr Rinaudo is now employed by World Vision Australia.

The FMNR technique encourages farming communities to select, prune and protect regrowth from stumps in their fields that would otherwise be cut or burned during field preparation. The trees become intercropped among the annual crops that continue to grow and benefit from being around the trees. The regrowth can be pruned and trained into valuable straight timber poles. After just two to three years, the farmer can commence selectively harvesting some trunks while continuing to re-grow new ones.

The benefits of returning the trees to the productive fields include:

- Availability of firewood (reducing expenditure and saving time, especially for women, who often spend more than three hours seeking firewood each day)
- Increased productivity of conventional crops – via leaf-drop improving soil nutrient composition and structure; reduced wind and rain erosion; reduced soil evaporation; attracting grazing animals in the dry season, adding animal manure and urine

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration contd

- provision of non-grass animal fodder
- pest control by creating harbour for animals that prey on crop pests (lizards, spiders, birds, toads and frogs)
- growing free food and medicines; and diversified income from tree-based food and medicinal products
- out-of-season production and construction timber sales

Results

In Senegal, after just 2.5 years of a World Vision project, farmers have converted 3500 ha. to FMNR.

In Niger, the International Food Research Institute (IFPRI) found that after 20 years of spontaneous farmer-to-farmer replication of FMNR, ('Feeding Millions', 2009, chapter 7). They report that:

- Many villages now have 10 to 20 times more trees than 20 years ago
- The average re-greening rate is averaging an additional 1.25 million trees per year
- By 2003 a land area of 5 million hectares was under FMNR management.
- The soil improvement is estimated to contribute an additional 500,000 tonnes of cereal production per year representing annual food stocks for 2.5 million people.
- Despite a doubling of population since 1980, Niger has maintained per capital food production
- In the drought of 2005-6, communities that applied FMNR were more resilient than the wider population
- The abundant timber supply and non-timber tree products resulted in women in those communities having a stronger economic position and capacity to nourish themselves and families

In Chad, initial World Vision reports suggest that after three years FMNR fields have a 50 percent greater yield than non FMNR fields.*

** These results are preliminary and not triangulated with performance on other farms, or accounting for weather variances over monitoring years, and are not independently validated.*

Other techniques applied and endorsed by World Vision are outlined below. World Vision also considers these techniques to improve soil and yields, increase productivity and reduce the vulnerability of farming households. All techniques are currently being scaled up and or mainstreamed across our programs.

- **Application of Australian acacias** – World Vision has partnered with other Australian institutions, including CSIRO and West Australian CALM to explore the application of selected Australian acacias in West Africa that are suited to the same climatic conditions and used by Indigenous Australians. The species provide a rapid growing, drought-hardy nutritional supplement, support erosion control and encourage animal forage in West Africa and Ethiopia.
- **Agroforestry** – purposefully integrating perennial and annual crops for mutual benefit

- **Permaculture** – an Australian agricultural design system that creates an on-farm closed circle of production where waste recycling from one process benefits another.
- **Biogas** – fermenting manure for methane production to substitute for wood cooking fires
- **Composting and other organic fertiliser production**
- **Crop stubble mulching**
- **Community-managed forests and non-timber forest products**
- **Fuel-efficient wood stoves and insulated ‘miracle’ baskets to slow-cook without fire.**
- **High nutrition, resilient crops (e.g. Moringa olifera, acacia, avocado)**
- **Improved fallow/crop rotation with nitrogen-fixing leguminous crops**
- **Inter-cropping of mutually beneficial crops**
- **Integrated Pest Management** – this approach is promoted by the UNFAO via ‘Farmer Field Schools’
- **Multi-purpose hedges for field protection, delimitation, timber production and erosion control.**
- **Planting of Jatropha hedges** – a hardy hedging plant with oil-rich nuts that make several products including soap and biodiesel.
- **Zero tillage, conservation farming**
- **Tree crops (fruit, nuts, seeds, leaves, timber, bark and sap)**
- **Vegetable gardening, especially backyard nutrition gardens, suitable for HIV affected communities**
- **Zai holes** – digging a matrix of holes in dryland fields, which create sheltered points where organic waste and moisture accumulate, providing rich concentrated zones to plant seeds.
- **Carbon sequestration and carbon markets** - Exploring the viability of carbon sequestration and carbon markets to provide long term income to communities for development. World Vision is piloting this approach in Ethiopia and Senegal, in particular through the *Humbo Assisted Natural Regeneration Project*, which is the first large scale forestry Clean Development Mechanism project in Africa to be registered with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.⁶

More detail on all these initiatives is available on request.

⁶ Documents concerning the Humbo project were submitted to the Committee on 5 May.

2. Dedicated resources for protection of civilians⁷

World Vision advocates for States and relevant non-state actors to fulfil their legal obligations to protect the rights of children, families and communities. Australia has expressed a high-level commitment to include protection in humanitarian action evident by the goal of AusAID's 2005 Humanitarian Action Policy to 'protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity' in addition to assisting recovery from disasters.⁸ However to date, this intention has not been translated into a comprehensive protection policy framework, or clear minimum requirements for programmes and partners.

World Vision as a Christian humanitarian, development and advocacy organisation upholds and promotes the fundamental values of justice, protection of human rights, and the opportunity for all persons to live life in fullness with peace, security and without fear. In times of conflict and natural disaster, states, together with the international community including non-governmental organisations have a collective responsibility to protect and allow humanitarian and development agencies to respond to affected populations.⁹

Protection and assistance are widely recognised as the 'two indivisible pillars' of humanitarian assistance. All humanitarian agencies have a moral and ethical responsibility to ensure the protection needs of affected populations are recognised and responded to appropriately. The UNHCR and ICRC have protection mandates that are defined by international law. The top five humanitarian NGOs including World Vision also include protection as a core activity. It is no longer considered acceptable for humanitarian and development agencies to focus on material needs without considering the protection of individuals and communities. World Vision describes this approach as protection mainstreaming.

The most widely accepted definition of 'protection' is:

All activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law, i.e. human rights law, International humanitarian law and refugee law. Human rights and humanitarian agencies must conduct these activities in an impartial manner and not on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, language or gender.¹⁰

This definition is aimed at humanitarian and human rights actors engaging the legal responsibilities of authorities such as the State, and in some circumstances, armed actors to respect their humanitarian obligations to protect civilians.

World Vision's Approach to Protection Mainstreaming

Protection mainstreaming is a practical approach to ensure that humanitarian actors consider the safety, dignity and rights of people affected by disaster and conflict. World Vision views protection

⁷ Components of this briefing paper have been submitted by World Vision as suggested text for the Protection Chapter in the forthcoming revision of the Sphere Handbook. The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by a group of humanitarian NGOs and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement in an effort to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disaster, and to enhance the accountability of the humanitarian system in disaster response. Sphere is based on two core beliefs: first, that all possible steps should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of calamity and conflict, and second, that those affected by disaster have a right to life with dignity and therefore a right to assistance. Sphere is three things: a Handbook, a broad process of collaboration and an expression of commitment to quality and accountability. The project has developed several tools, the key one being the Handbook.

The revision process of the Sphere Project Handbook is progressing.

⁸ AusAID Humanitarian Action Policy, January 2005, http://www.aisaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/humanitarian_policy.pdf at 18 May 2010.

⁹ The Sphere Project, *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response* (2004, 12).

¹⁰ Sylvie Giossi Caverzasio, *Strengthening Protection in War: A Search for Professional Standards* (2001, 19).

mainstreaming as falling within the ‘vulnerability’ part of a protection risk framework¹¹: focusing on actions that reduce people’s exposure to harm, particularly when people are travelling to and from, or participating in World Vision’s humanitarian sector programmes such as food distributions or accessing water and sanitation facilities. World Vision views protection mainstreaming on a continuum of different levels of engagement in protection: from applying a ‘Do No Harm’ approach to humanitarian assistance at one end of the spectrum (incorporating principles such as participation, equality and equitable access, empowerment and accountability and ensuring policies on child protection and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse are functioning), through to protection mainstreaming, and then greater engagement on protection issues through either protective action (including protection objectives as a component of an assistance project) and stand-alone protection programming and advocacy (containing specific protection objectives). For more details see Appendix I.

Over the past two years World Vision has been field-testing an approach to protection mainstreaming using minimum standards and indicators¹² to help sector humanitarian staff to incorporate protection into their food, water and sanitation, health, livelihoods, shelter and education projects. An article discussing the benefits of this approach can be found at: <http://www.odihpn.org/report.asp?id=3099>.

Recommendations

World Vision Australia recommends Australia adopt a practical approach to mainstreaming protection by incorporating protection into its policies, sector programmes, strategies and business plans to better uphold Australia’s policy commitment to humanitarian action by:

- *Policy framework*: AusAID developing a comprehensive protection policy framework outlining its focus and priorities for protection in humanitarian response, and the scope of implementation.
- *Humanitarian response*: Funding protection activities when calling for concept papers and / or proposals within Australia’s humanitarian response. This should include AusAID funding stand-alone protection programmes as well as providing funding to strengthen protection mainstreaming and response to Gender and Sexual Based Violence in humanitarian programming particularly in high risk settings such as those affected by conflict and violence.
- *Minimum Agency Standards*: Promoting the Minimum Agency Standards for Incorporating Protection into Humanitarian Response as a practical tool to help programmes mainstream protection.
- *Building humanitarian protection capacity*: Extending funding opportunities to build protection capacity in humanitarian response to non-mandated agencies engaged in protection work; and
- *Child Protection*: Ensuring AusAID and partner agencies have a child protection policy and an agency Code of Conduct in place including clauses regarding the Prevention and Exploitation of Sexual Abuse (PSEA), and robust mechanisms for training staff and monitoring adherence.

¹¹ The Protection Risk Equation: Risk= Threat x Vulnerability/Capacity.

¹² CARE Australia, Caritas Australia, Oxfam Australia and World Vision Australia, *Minimum Agency Standards for Incorporating Protection into Humanitarian Response*, 2008 <http://www.icva.ch/doc00002448.pdf> at 18 May 2010.

3. Civic education and demand-led governance initiatives

World Vision welcomes the proposed African Partnership and Capacity Building Facility within Australia's *Draft Framework for Development Assistance to Africa 2009 – 2016*. The Framework states that the "demand-led" facility will be established to support a broad range of potential activities including capacity building and technical assistance in areas such as governance, trade policy, public sector reform, private sector development, peace building, conflict prevention and emerging issues of interest to both Australia and Africa. In developing the facility we would urge the Government to refer to the findings of the June 2009 Office of Development Effectiveness Evaluation Report *Australian Aid to Health Service Delivery in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu* that recommends AusAID explicitly recognise the limitations of technical assistance in Australia's aid program.

AusAID has recognised through its policy work on demand-led governance that governance is broader than government and the institutions of state - the judiciary, public sector and parliament - and involves a strong and representative civil society and media; and an active and informed citizenry. AusAID has also previously supported this type of work in Africa. World Vision urges the Government to include civil society organisations within this proposed facility to support demand led governance by communities. We consider that approaches which strengthen civil society organisations and community based accountability are vital to improved governance outcomes especially in the delivery of key essential services such as health and education. Given the scope of governance needs in Africa, this would be a worthwhile consideration under this facility.

In our program work, World Vision uses a development tool called Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) that aims to enable and empower communities to influence the quality, efficiency and accountability of their local health and education services. CVA was first used as a community scorecard process by CARE Malawi, this approach was further developed by the World Bank in The Gambia and World Vision in Uganda. Under CVA, communities meet in their local health clinic or school together with staff, administrators, local representatives and politicians. The standards of these services are assessed together against standard national entitlements promised by the government and indicators are agreed to improve services, with responsibilities divided between staff, community members and officials.

In Uganda community members have been armed with new-found confidence, and approached their local member of parliament who provided one million Ugandan shillings (A\$500) as a contribution to improving the quality of existing services. At the Buseese Primary School, parents learnt that whilst their school's teacher/student ratio was one teacher to every 186 students, the government's standard was one teacher per 60 students. Within months of the community process, and as a direct result of CVA, the school had two new teachers on staff.

Local politicians have also seen the benefits in promoting civic rights through CVA. In Nkosi, 80 kilometres south of the Ugandan capital of Kampala, the political representative of the local sub county, Mr Ssendaula Fulgensio, commented that:

"The key thing that CVA has done is to mobilise the community. They know their rights. The community now knows what they are supposed to get from the sub county. They are in a position to track their services. The community is able to say no to substandard service. Politicians normally promise air but because CVA is in place the community has come out with a vision and know what they want and are asking for politicians to do what they promised."

4. Opportunities and Challenges for South Africa in the Post- Apartheid Era

World Vision Australia's supplementary comments on the Opportunities and Challenges for South Africa in the Post Apartheid Era have been developed in response to a question taken on notice during our recent appearance before the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Opportunities

South Africa has a population of over 49 million, 50 percent of which fall below the national poverty line. It has a dual economy – a formal and sophisticated economy comparable to industrialized nations and an underdeveloped informal economy comparable to developing countries. This duality extends beyond the economy to the multitude of cultural and society groups that co-exist in one country. The term 'Rainbow Nation' is often used to encapsulate the diversity of races, tribes, creeds, languages and landscape that characterises modern South Africa. This diversity is a key strength and provides many opportunities, but also presents challenges.

The South Africa's National Constitution is one of the most progressive in the world and enjoys high acclaim internationally for its pioneering approach to human rights and reconciliation. It was approved by the Constitutional Court on 4 December 1996 and took effect on 4 February 1997. It seeks to "lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law; improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations."¹³ However, despite the Constitution's good intentions significant challenges remain for its full realisation.

Since the end of apartheid in 1994, South Africa has become an important emerging global economy, with sustained economic growth, decreasing unemployment, a growing middle class, increased education, infrastructure development, a growing, vibrant and engaged civil society and the host of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. It now leads the African continent on industrial output and mineral production. The primary sectors; manufacturing, services, mining, and agriculture are well developed. The country has seen steady economic growth since 1999, averaging a 4 percent annual economic growth rate to 2007. The pressure of the global financial crisis has affected South Africa and it is emerging from its first recession in 17 years. However, the solid and stable macroeconomic structures that have been established since 1994 have ensured that the economy returned to GDP growth of 4.6 percent p.a. for the first quarter of 2010.

World Vision is working with Government, private sector and civil society with a holistic view, building on the strengths of this system, to access better economic conditions at the household level. World Vision's programs in South Africa aim to address the unique opportunities and challenges presented by working in South Africa in the post apartheid era.¹⁴ We have identified the following strategic priorities:

- To improve HIV & AIDS, health and nutrition status of women and children
- To improve household economic well-being; and
- To address education and increase the percentage of children who attain functional levels of reading, basic maths and essential life skills.

¹³ The Republic of South African Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 available at <http://www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/index.htm>

¹⁴ See Appendix I for details of World Vision's South Africa Programs

World Vision is working with communities to establish better linkages between policies and community service delivery, thereby enhancing service delivery, accountability and transparency through citizen empowerment and advocacy approaches. South Africa has a vibrant civil society with a multitude of NGOs, faith based and community based organizations in operation. However, the South African government would reap further benefits from tapping into this social capital, as community based organisations tend to have first-hand knowledge of issues on the ground, and are therefore in a unique position to contribute to policy development. World Vision is working with other organisations to build networks to present a stronger voice of communities.

Challenges

The International Monetary Fund has identified the long-standing issue of unemployment as one of the biggest challenges to South Africa's economic growth, alongside poverty, large wealth disparities and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Half of South Africa's population fall below the national poverty line; 12 million children are living in poverty with 4 million going to sleep everyday without food;¹⁵ 34 percent of the population live on less than \$2 a day while 25 percent live on less than \$1.25 a day. Poverty is based on gender, race and location and is a legacy of apartheid. Forced removals have also resulted in land tenure issues; landlessness and a lack of land ownership, impeding communities – especially those in rural areas – from accessing a source of livelihood through farming. This has laid the foundation for the high levels of unemployment and inter-generational poverty that continue to persist.

1. *High prevalence of HIV and AIDS:* The high prevalence and incidence of HIV&AIDS and TB assist in entrenching poverty, especially for women and children. The adult HIV infection rate is 18.1 percent. The estimated number of orphans due to HIV/AIDS and TB currently stands at over 3 million children. South Africa has been identified as one of the few countries in Africa that is regressing on MDG 4, largely as a result of HIV which accounts for 40 percent of infant deaths. All WV ADPs have HIV and AIDS programs that strive towards being integrated with all activities in the ADP including health and education programs.
2. *High levels of poverty and inequitable income distribution:* South Africa has low income levels and one of the worst Gini-coefficients (57.8) of any country in the world. 25.2 percent of the population is unemployed and there is heavy dependence on welfare. Affluence and abject poverty co-exist and as a result there is a high crime prevalence with increasing levels of gender, child and school-based violence. Violence undermines social cohesion in under serviced communities and has contributed to worker strikes in recent years. World Vision is ensuring that it is working with the poorest in communities, but it is also involving other segments of community, so the poor do not continue to be isolated (see EBEH project in Appendix 2).
3. *Increasing urbanisation:* The rate of urbanisation is above 60 percent and is expected to be over 75 percent by 2015. There are high levels of rural to urban, urban to rural and intra-urban migration. Immigration into South Africa, especially from within Africa, is also increasing as well as emigration of skilled and professional people, resulting in skills deficits, especially in the fields of finance, health, education and engineering. WV is currently piloting innovative ways to work in urban areas, capitalising on the participation of the many players that can add value to programs.

¹⁵ Human Science Research Council Report on Poverty, 2007

Appendix I – World Vision’s Approach to Protection

	‘Do No Harm’ Approach	Protection Mainstreaming	Protective Action	Stand-alone protection programming
Description	Ensuring humanitarian activities do not place affected populations at risk of further harm. Includes DNH/LCP, equality & equitable access, participation & empowerment and accountability.	Builds on the DNH approach but also includes positive steps to reduce exposure to harm through protection analysis, inclusion of protection indicators in sector projects and adapting programme implementation in response to changes in the overall protection situation. These actions help to design and implement sector programmes with a protection 'lens' but do not have specific protection objectives.	Goes beyond mainstreaming in that sector projects also contain specific protection objectives as well as assistance objectives. Changes in the overall protection situation are monitored and advocacy strategies adapted in response.	Contain specific protection objectives and are directly aimed at improving protection
Examples	Code of conduct translated and made available to communities in an appropriate format; DNH and risk assessments; safe and confidential community feedback mechanisms in place; training staff in Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)	Identifying specific threats and vulnerabilities in relation to routes to and from food distributions and adapting the location or time of day of distributions; community discussions and planning for escape routes, security and family meeting points in a shelter or camp management project; monitoring Food for Assets/Work projects for compliance with national labour laws; inclusion of protection questions in general and sector assessments.	Including objectives for monitoring and reporting violations against civilians in a shelter project; establishing protection monitoring of IDP return as a component of a livelihoods recovery project; introducing fuel-efficient stoves to reduce incidence of sexual violence; advocacy to peacekeepers to enhance route security.	Monitoring IHL; establishing rule of law programmes; medical/legal/psychosocial services for SGBV
Institutional policy & staffing requirements	Staff code of conduct; child protection policy; commitment to Building Safer Organisations (BSO) and PSEA; Accountability strategy and/or HAP accreditation.	As for the DNH approach plus a protection strategy outlining organisational commitment to protection and scope of work/areas of focus; policy on responding to abuses (beyond those covered by child protection policy and code of conduct); advocacy strategies outline how and when the agency will respond to protection issues including decision-making processes.	As for protection mainstreaming.	As for protection mainstreaming.
	All staff trained in code of conduct, child protection policy and know how and when to report allegations; Relevant staff trained in DNH/LCP at global and field level and available to support field programmes.	As for the DNH approach plus all operational staff have a good basic knowledge of protection and sector staff, programming staff, design, monitoring and evaluation (DME) staff and relevant managers have been trained in mainstreaming protection. Staff are able to identify and analyse protection issues, monitor trends and adapt programmes accordingly. Requires protection staff at headquarters level who provide periodic support to field programmes and may require dedicated protection staff at the field level, at least initially.	As for protection mainstreaming plus dedicated protection staff at the field level.	As for protective action.
Applicable standards & guidance	Red Cross Code of Conduct, Sphere, HAP, Good Enough Guide, sector-specific technical guidance	As for the DNH approach plus Minimum Agency Standards for Incorporating Protection into Humanitarian Response. ¹⁶	As for protection mainstreaming plus ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work.	As for DNH approach plus ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work.

Adapted from Sorcha O’Callaghan and Sara Pantuliano, ‘Protective Action: Incorporating Civilian Protection into Humanitarian Response’ HPG Policy Brief 29, December 2007

¹⁶ The ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work are intended to apply to protection-focused work, but may be a helpful reference for mainstreaming protection work also.

Appendix 2 – World Vision’s work in South Africa

World Vision South Africa began operations in 1967 with an initial focus on childcare projects with local churches. In the 1970s, community development projects provided education, nutrition, immunisation and training at farm schools and urban area. In the 1980s community development projects engaged in early childhood and economic development issues. The Area Development Program (ADP) concept was introduced in the mid 1990s, and there are currently 17 such programs in operation in six out of nine provinces. World Vision Australia supports three ADPs in South Africa, Ixopo, Embo and Umzimkulu ADPs. Recognizing the rapid urbanisation occurring in South Africa, World Vision has commenced an urban program in Orlando East, Soweto and a peri-urban program in Embo. Throughout the years World Vision South Africa has adapted its approach from welfare provision to building the capacity of community organizations, working with existing structures to strengthen them, and networking with civil society.

World Vision Case Studies

Case Study 1: Addressing HIV/AIDS – Mfelandawonye HIV Project:

Ixopo, located in KwaZulu Natal (KZN) in the Sisonke District Municipality, has a growing number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) due to the impact of HIV & AIDS which often leaves children in the care of the elderly or on their own. The project has facilitated the mobilization of communities to lead the process of caring for vulnerable members of their communities. From that process a Community Care Coalition (CCC) was born composed of members of other CBOs, community leaders and community members. Over the last year this CCC has gone from being dependent on WV to now running its own meetings and formulating an action plan to actively support people infected and affected by HIV. The Mfelandaonye team is now liaising directly with Government Ministries such as Health and Social Services to ensure services are delivered to communities, as well as organising Home Visitors to care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

Case Study 2: Addressing Economic Development - Embo Business and Employment Hub (EBEH):

Embo is a small peri-urban, mainly Zulu community of approximately 10 000 persons situated to the West of Durban in South Africa. Unemployment and poverty are rife in the area, although the community is situated next to three growing commercial and industrial areas. The most significant challenge facing this community is access to economic opportunities in the local economy. Embo has been invisible to the "formal world" due to stigma of being a poor, informal community.

The Embo Business and Employment Hub is a community development initiative that exists to overcome this 'invisibility'. EBEH is a concept that integrates personnel recruitment, business linking, capacity development and careers guidance under one roof. The Embo community, with the support of World Vision, has established a partnership with the local municipality, provincial government, the business community and other Non-Government Organisations. It has launched a major initiative to create local employment, build existing businesses and establish linkages. The project functions as a recruitment centre, with demand-driven skills development and vocational guidance and training as complimentary functions.

Case Study 3: Strengthening Education Services: Principals Forum

The goal of the Ixopo education projects is to improve the quality of the education delivery system. One way WV is achieving this is by strengthening existing structures, such as building the capacity of the Ixopo Principals Forum which represents 27 schools within the ADP. Since receiving leadership training the forum has developed their vision, mission and core values, and has recently elected a new executive committee which will provide strategic direction for future interventions. They have also developed short term and long term objectives, including ways to improve parental involvement in school activities, as research has shown that the quality of education is higher in schools where parents are involved. The ADP will continue to work with the Principals Forum to strengthen School Governing Boards to enable schools and their communities to work closely with the Ministry of Education to access services that are allocated to schools, but often not delivered in rural areas.