

HARD FACTS

World Vision operates programs that tackle hunger and other critical problems linked directly to poverty, including water shortages, conflict and HIV and AIDS.

Our world is in the grip of a chronic emergency that is claiming the lives of **8.8 million** children under the age of five every year – that's approximately 24,000 children a day. That number is roughly equivalent to the combined populations of Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa dying each year!

Here are some key statistics & issues on **Child Health & Child Nutrition** and how they affect children.

What is the problem?

- Malnutrition is the underlying cause in at least 35% of all child deaths.
- A child dies due to malnutrition every 10 seconds.
- The main identified causes of death are: pneumonia (29%), diarrhea (18%), pre-term births (12%), asphyxia (10%) and malaria (8%).
- All these causes are largely preventable¹ and research shows that two-thirds of these deaths or 6 million children could be saved each year through simple, affordable strategies such as better nutrition, birth spacing, skilled birth attendants and early recognition and treatment of childhood diseases. Malnutrition is the underlying cause in at least 35% of all child deaths.
- 500,000 pregnant women die each year
- The fact that so many millions of children die every year of avoidable causes is the biggest child rights violation of our time.

Why do we have this problem when the diseases are preventable?

- The basic needs of children and mothers are not prioritized.
- Poverty - no access to funds to pay for life saving health interventions or to access health services.
- Governments in countries where child mortality is a significant problem do not allocate enough funding to health - sometimes less than 5% of the government's budget is allocated to health.
- Poor health systems: Weak, inaccessible health systems and low numbers and/or lack of adequate training of health workers.
- Lack of adequate and nutritious food; unclean water and poor sanitation.

What is the solution?

- The solutions are known, affordable and relatively simple. The key solutions include:
 - access to good food
 - clean water
 - sanitation and
 - basic health care including access to immunizations, vitamins and birth attendants
- The main barriers to the implementation of these solutions are:
 - the low priority governments give to ensuring basic health of children and mothers, particularly for those living in poverty and rural areas
 - lack of consistent and reliable funding of key health needs of children and mothers.

World Vision's five year global campaign will tackle this chronic global health emergency. We will work with poor communities, our millions of supporters, wider publics and other organizations, to get governments to take the most effective action so that more children can live healthy lives within their communities.

Child Exploitation

In order to achieve life in all its fullness and child well-being, World Vision works to protect and respond to situations where children are abused, neglected and exploited.

Children are cared for, **protected**, and participate is the fourth outcome of child-well being. Currently, WV as a partnership is developing an advocacy strategy on this theme.

Child exploitation includes the following areas: child labour, early child marriage, children in armed conflict, child trafficking for labour and sexual purposes, child sexual exploitation, and harmful traditional practices.

Child Exploitation Stats:

Child Labour: Approximately 158 million children aged 5-14 are engaged in child labour.

Child Marriage: In developing countries, more than 60 million women aged 20-24 were married/in union before the age of 18 of whom over 31 million live in South Asia.

Child Trafficking: An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked every year.

Children in Conflicts and Emergencies: At any given time over 300,000 child soldiers, some as young as eight, are exploited in armed conflicts in over 30 countries around the world. More than 2 million children are estimated to have died as a direct result of armed conflicts since 1990.

Children without Parental Care: Approximately 143 million children are orphaned by one or both parents.

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: An estimated 70 million women and girls alive today have been subjected to some form of genital mutilation/cutting.

Sexual Exploitation of Children: 2 million children are believed to be exploited through prostitution and pornography.

Violence against Children: 40 million children below the age of 15 suffer from abuse and neglect and require health and social care.

Human Trafficking: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2009)* reveals that the majority of trafficking victims identified by states are women and children who make up 88% of all victims (66% of victims are women, 13% girls, 9 % boys, and 12% men).

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says that human trafficking is the third largest grossing sector of organized crime after drugs and arms.

General Statistics: Best source for Statistics is undoubtedly UNICEF:
(http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_bigpicture.html)