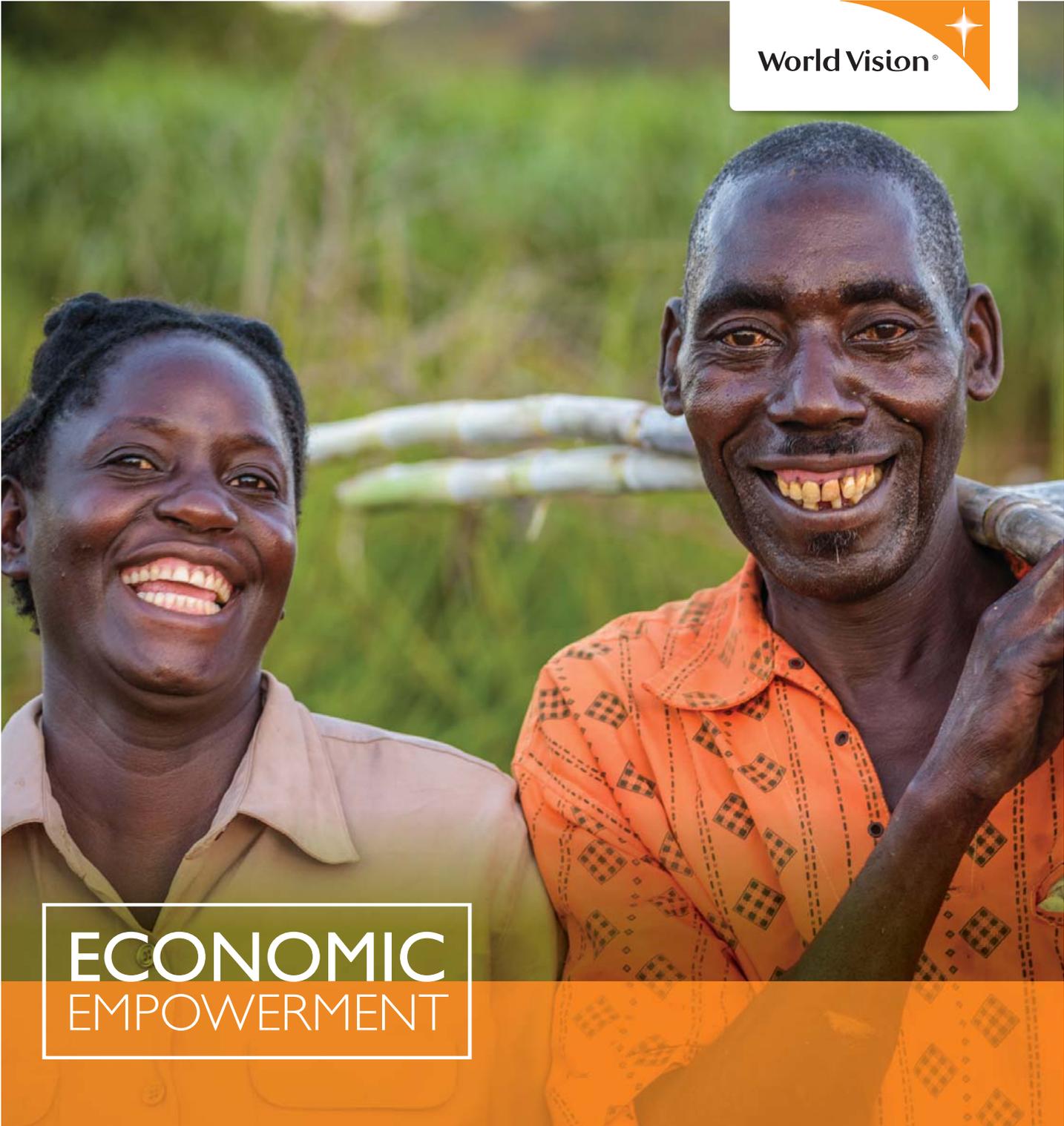




World Vision®



ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT

EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW MODEL

EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW

When people believe that their lives have value, this confidence is reflected in their behavior and their ability to affect change in their communities. Unfortunately, a worldview of hopelessness and dependency characterizes many countries where World Vision serves, limiting people's ability to break the cycle of poverty.

Empowered Worldview training is World Vision's model to help people understand their own worth and how they can utilize their full potential by employing their talents and the resources available to them. Based on biblical principles, EWV is now being adapted to work with Muslim and Hindu communities.



Mr. Msifiri used to farm just one crop—corn—convinced that was all that would grow well in his area. EWV helped him realize that he could use irrigation to diversify and increase production. Now he's expanded to other crops, such as cassava, and raises livestock, too.

OVERVIEW

In many developing countries, mental attitudes of hopelessness and risk aversion create barriers to development and human flourishing. Aid agencies rarely address this, and often inadvertently perpetuate it by creating a sense of dependency.

People's faith beliefs often form the foundation of their worldview. Shifting to a worldview that humans are empowered individuals, rather than living at the mercy of divine or government demands, makes it possible for them to move toward a more abundant life for themselves and their families.

The Empowered Worldview (EWV) training was developed when livelihood projects in several World Vision program areas demonstrated that, as participants grew in their understanding of their worth in God's eyes, their worldview was transformed from one of dependence to one of empowerment and personal responsibility. This unleashed their creativity to find ways to improve their farming methods and increase their incomes.

EWV is helping communities move away from fatalism, superstition, and a dependence on government and aid agencies to solve their problems. It also is helping participants to become better husbands, wives, parents, and neighbors, and better understand their responsibility to steward their environment.

EWV has the potential to dramatically increase the effectiveness of World Vision's community development work, equipping community members to use the same principles that have improved farming methods and incomes to also solve community problems, such as lack of adequate healthcare, educational opportunities, or sanitation.

EWV FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

EWV is the foundation on which World Vision is building its THRIVE (Transforming Household Resiliency in Vulnerable Environments) economic empowerment model, which is a comprehensive and systematic approach to

farming that is empowering the most vulnerable households to move from dependence to dignity.

THRIVE addresses solutions within three critical areas that present interlocking challenges that are addressed by the EWV model:

- The end-to-end business of smallholder farming: Helping people transform the risks of farming into opportunities to increase their incomes
- Natural resource management: Helping people adapt to a changing environment
- Emergency management: Helping people absorb unexpected events and stresses, keeping them from falling too far in the event of a crisis

BACKGROUND

World Vision observed that livelihood projects in East Africa were experiencing improved results when participants were encouraged in their understanding of their self-worth, enabling them to break free of mindsets that limited their individual freedom to make changes in their lives.

In July 2014, an effort was launched to create a formal curriculum that could be integrated into THRIVE projects rather than relying only on informal coaching. The baseline survey for this effort was designed to determine the extent that dependence attitudes and community members' views on faith play in shaping mindsets.

The survey responses confirmed the relationship between faith principles and worldview. Interviewees consistently spoke of the important role that faith has in encouraging hope and empowerment—key building blocks for a transformed attitude. Interviewees also expressed that superstition perpetuates poverty because it breeds fear. The survey showed that a long-established World Vision program area (which had included some training in empowered worldview values) rated 75 percent better than an early-stage program area (where development work did not include this training) in dependency attitudes.

This data provided strong support to develop the EWV curriculum based on a foundation of faith beliefs, incorporating biblical principles of personal responsibility and stewardship.

The newly developed curriculum was pilot tested with about 1,700 community members in 53 program areas in Tanzania, as well as being introduced to eight additional World Vision offices throughout Africa. After the pilot training (March 2016), these participants created 11 new income-earning projects. Three months later, the number of projects had grown to 223—a twenty-fold increase and a dramatic illustration of the power of individual creativity and development resulting from a transformed worldview.

EWV TRAINING PROCESS AND CURRICULUM

EWV training

The process for disseminating EWV knowledge consists of equipping community leaders to facilitate EWV workshops, and then supporting these facilitators as they work in teams of two or three to train individuals on EWV principles who are influential in their communities.



Tabu Omari Juma (pictured with her son), from Masware village in Tanzania, had her eyes opened to new possibilities after participating in Empowered Worldview training.

She created a vegetable garden to help feed her family and grow produce she can sell for additional income. She plans to invest her profits in a savings group, with the goal of increasing her capital for future small-business opportunities.

She's also growing rice on land she used to rent to others. "Now I know the value of my fertile land," she said.

Empowered Worldview training helped her see that she wasn't limited by her circumstances.

"I am trying to utilize the scarce resources that surround me," Tabu said.

REALIZING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM THROUGH EWV

Pastor Paul Mdimi realized that his teachings and those of his fellow pastors reinforced the idea that people had to rely on fate, unable to control changes in their lives. “We have been trying to spiritualize everything and letting fate take its course,” he said. But the EWV workshops challenged his view, and he now says, “My mindset, which has been a barrier to my breakthrough, has been transformed.”

Pastor Josiah Sumiya describes how people used to believe that success made them a target for bewitchment, but EWV helped them understand the power of God, releasing their fear of local witch doctors.

These community influencers will inspire and support others as they initiate projects on their own without waiting for support from government or aid agencies. They will encourage others to follow their lead as they use their God-given ingenuity to start projects such as: creating small reservoirs that conserve rainwater to irrigate crops during the dry season; starting kitchen gardens to provide nourishing food for their families; and generating more income through crop diversification and poultry farming.

Involving key community leaders in implementing EWV is essential to community acceptance of EWV’s philosophy of encouraging personal initiative to change one’s circumstances. The individuals trained in each program area will be chosen for their influence and commitment to their communities. These include:

- Faith leaders, who are among the most influential voices in African communities, especially in helping their congregations understand the significance of EWV principles to individuals’ faith
- Leaders from farmers associations, who will inspire their peers to implement new ideas to increase crop production and income
- Savings groups, which will encourage their members to take the initiative to identify and invest in projects that will generate better income for their families
- Community leaders, (including leaders of women’s and youth groups and health extension workers), who will inspire others to embrace EWV’s principles, identifying creative ways to use their skills to shape their futures

EWV Curriculum

The EWV curriculum consists of three parts: pathways for working with different audiences, the core curriculum, and the Community Empowerment Toolbox.

The pathways section of the curriculum provides guidance on the most effective strategies for facilitators to introduce and encourage active participation in EWV training for the different groups with which World Vision works. Guidance is provided for the following audiences:

- **Denominational churches:** This approach involves working with the structure of the denomination, starting at the highest levels to enlist support for working at the grass roots. At the core of this approach is envisioning and empowering the local church to be a catalyst for transformation in their local community.
- **Informal collection of Christians from different denominations:** This approach involves introducing EWV by meeting informally with local Christians to reflect on the Bible and analyze their context. Out of this reflective process comes the energy for local action with the local community to address issues.
- **Muslim groups:** Priority and quality time should be given to relationship building, which is essential for ensuring trust and confidence in the approach and partnership. The focus of the process is identifying common

needs and building the knowledge and skills to address them and improve the livelihoods and well-being of the community.

- **Youth:** This approach involves working with small groups, initiating quick, short-term projects and initiatives that are achievable, and building confidence and a sense of belonging. The process should be energizing and fun while focusing on quick results that build on their aspirations and skills.
- **Smallholder farmers or community members of other faiths:** This process is primarily about using the Empowered Worldview Community Toolbox in a way that meets the shared needs and aspirations of the community.

Community Empowerment Toolbox

The Community Empowerment Toolbox includes practical exercises for facilitators to use during EWV training workshops. These include tools for raising awareness of existing cultural attitudes, gathering information, analysis, planning, and activities for children and youth.

EWV FUTURE EXPANSION

While incorporating use of the EWV curriculum into World Vision’s THRIVE projects in Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Honduras, World Vision also is working to significantly expand the reach of this life-

changing program throughout Africa and Asia. Projects are currently under way to expand EWV in the following ways:

- **EWV in Muslim contexts:** EWV has been used in a limited way in areas that include both Christians and Muslims. World Vision is expanding on this by introducing EWV in Mali, which is predominantly Muslim. Although World Vision has strong relationships in these Malian communities, creating a Muslim adaptation of a biblically based curriculum must be done with wisdom and respect. Implementation of EWV in Muslim communities will begin with a pilot in program areas that are stable and mature in their interfaith work, recruiting facilitators who have extensive experience working in interfaith contexts. This pilot will identify any obstacles to EWV in mixed faith communities and determine the wisest strategies for future implementation. The curriculum also will be translated into French for effective use in West Africa.
- **EWV in areas of conflict:** World Vision is testing EWV implementation in Burundi to evaluate the effectiveness of the methodology in a fragile state that is characterized by intense poverty and civil conflict fueled by a history of ethnic genocide. Implementing EWV in Burundi as a component of a peacebuilding program also will provide an invaluable assessment of EWV’s ability to impact World Vision’s work beyond

EWV CORE CURRICULUM

#	Module	Outcome	Application
1	Identity	Participants gain an awareness of their identity in Christ as made in the image of God—that they are loved and valued and are co-creators of His earth. They learn to be free from fear and superstition so they can live full and abundant lives.	Participants see themselves as God sees us—valued and precious. As a result, they see others in the same light, made in the image of God, and so they respect and value others even if they are very different in values and behaviors.
2	Vision	Participants have an awareness and understanding of God’s vision for individuals, families, and communities to live in harmony. They are encouraged to benefit from the fruits of their labors, and to be free of greed, exploitation, and oppression.	Participants have a desire and determination to work to help the church work alongside its community to improve livelihoods and well-being.
3	Compassion	Participants come away with a heart for the poor and fully appreciate the central place that compassion has by studying Jesus’ example.	Participants have a compassionate attitude and demonstrate it practically in their community by individual acts of kindness and supporting small projects. Ultimately, a compassionate attitude becomes a way of life.
4	Relationships	Participants see the importance of relationship building, even with people who are very different in values and lifestyle.	Participants will be motivated to spend time with people different from themselves to build trust and community.
5	Faith	Participants are challenged to be more courageous and take risks in coming alongside their community by trusting God and working together to improve and change the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Participants will also be encouraged to trust God to make use of the little resources they have to benefit the community.	Participants will see the value of stepping out of their comfort zone when working with their community.



income-generating projects. The recent civil conflict in Burundi is an offshoot of a genocide in the 1990s that has left unresolved tensions between ethnic groups simmering and ripe for political exploitation. World Vision believes that EWW can have a lasting impact on the social cohesion of the communities where we work, and play a key role in encouraging them to take the initiative to foster peace and reduce ethnic conflicts.

- **EWW in Asia:** World Vision is incorporating EWW principles into a livelihoods project in the Vidarbha area of India in communities that are predominantly Hindu and Muslim. This area is characterized by high rates of suicide among farmers who have become desperate in their attempts to support their families while faced with drought, failed crops, and lack of opportunity. World Vision staff from Indonesia and Pacific Timor-Leste also will participate in EWW training in India with the goal of exploring how to adapt it for community development programming in their countries.
- **EWW in additional African countries:** World Vision is also working to build the EWW

capacity of World Vision offices in Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, which do not have THRIVE projects, but have identified EWW as a critical component in their strategic plans.

BUILDING AN EVIDENCE BASE FOR EWW

World Vision's experience with EWW's ability to change lives has been overwhelmingly positive. However, most of the evidence is anecdotal. For EWW to continue to expand, it's critical to open the door to more funding sources and to ensure that EWW's effectiveness is well documented. A solid evidence base also is a vital part of monitoring and ensuring program quality, as well as fostering commitment and transparency in the communities in which we're working.

World Vision is working to formally document case studies of individuals impacted by EWW. A similar effort on World Vision's maternal and child health work in Ethiopia opened new doors for funding from government and public grant sources. We also are including robust midterm and final evaluations in the projects that are expanding EWW use in Africa and Asia, using outside consultants to ensure a thorough and objective analysis. This will provide specific, quantifiable evidence of EWW's effectiveness.



P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716
www.worldvision.org

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.