
World Vision International is an international, Christian, relief, development and advocacy organization working to promote the well being of all people, especially those of children. Founded in 1950, World Vision International has programmes in 106 countries spread over six continents. Our mission statement states:

"World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God".

The World Vision Partnership is guided by six basic core values. They are: We are Christian; We are committed to the poor; We value people; We are stewards; We are partners; We are responsive.

The annual budget of World Vision is US$750 million. Almost 80% of WV's funding comes from private sources, including individuals, foundations and corporations. The remainder comes from governments and multilateral agencies. More than 10,000 people are World Vision Employees. More than 4 million people and thousands of churches, organizations, and governments contribute financially to our work. Nearly 100 million people participate in some way in World Vision programmes.

World Vision International has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is in Official relations with World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, UNCTAD. We collaborate with WFP, UN Commission on Human Rights, etc. WVI is a member of ICVA, CONGO and FIIG.

A faith-based organization, WV is operational in the field, working to protect and promote the health and well being of the people. Because WV works among children and women of the developing world, we have seen the devastating impact on their health that results from the use of tobacco. Tobacco addiction is becoming more widespread. People are spending more out of their meager financial resources to care for relative suffering from tobacco related diseases.

Unfortunately, our field staff working in maternal and child health, nutrition projects and primary health care programmes report that the high powered marketing practices of tobacco manufacturers are pushing the poor people to accepting tobacco smoking, undermining the staff's hard work of educating and training in disease prevention and health promotion. Without
appropriate intervention the burden of tobacco related diseases is even heavier.

As an international NGO we are very concerned about the dumping of tobacco products from the industrialized countries to the developing countries, where most of our constituencies live and work. The countries who are home to the largest tobacco corporations, especially USA, UK and Japan, bear particular responsibility in ensuring that they promote a universal Convention that protects the health and lives of people in developing countries, which are targeted the most (70%) by their corporations. We would like to see common adoption of common standards.

We believe that the strongest possible Convention on tobacco control is very essential in favour of public health, as well as in holding the tobacco corporations accountable for the devastating results of their products on the health and the economic ruins they bring upon the people.

World Vision International urges the governments to adopt a Convention that promotes a total ban on tobacco production, manufacture, marketing, transportation, sale and use; Convention that bans its advertising, storage, export, import and smuggling; bans sponsorship by tobacco industries of sports, meetings and conferences; bans donation and distribution of sample of tobacco products; and bans dumping of tobacco products in the developing countries.

We want major resources to be made available to countries to help them fight this battle against tobacco. We want our children, all girls and women to be safe from predatory practices and the disastrous effects of tobacco and to be tobacco-free.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and all its protocols should be legally binding on all member states, which when implemented, be also binding on all tobacco companies registered in those countries.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Ram
Director
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