



WVDF Technical Programs on Community Engagement and Sponsorship (TP CESP)



FY 22-24

Evaluation
Summary Brief

What was evaluated?

Since FY22, World Vision Development Foundation (WVDF) has been implementing the Technical Program on Community Engagement and Sponsorship (TP CESP) in twenty-eight (28) Area Programs (APs) across 41 provinces, 128 cities/municipalities, and 1,325 barangays in the Philippines.

The program aims to improve the wellbeing of children and their communities by engaging them in participatory and empowering processes, building their capacities and resilience, and connecting them with local and global partners. The program also facilitates the meaningful relationship between children and their sponsors who support the development initiatives of World Vision. Most importantly, CESP also works to ensure the sustainability and scalability of the development outcomes by fostering local ownership, capacity, and accountability, and by leveraging resources and partnerships.

WVDF plans to achieve this program goal through three (3) major target outcomes:

1. Support community duty bearers, civil society organizations (CSOs), children's clubs, and faith-based organizations (FBOs) in planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing their development efforts.
2. Provide community partners, children's clubs/groups, and community volunteers the knowledge and skills on Child Sponsorship and its contribution to Child Well-Being (CWB) issues, and
3. Support communities that effectively address the root causes of violence against boys and girls



To work towards these outcomes, WVDF has implemented major key intervention activities, including:



Conflict/Context Sensitivity Program through Empowering Children as Peacebuilders (ECAP) curriculum module



Spiritual Nurture Programming Activities such as Empowered World View and Celebrating Families.



Child Protection and Advocacy (CP&A)



Why was the evaluation conducted?

With the TP CESP implementation nearing its completion in 2025, WVDF undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the program to determine the extent to which it has changed and impacted the lives of the children and communities.

More specifically, the evaluation sought to achieve the following objectives:

- 1 Assess the performance of TP CESP and the AP's contributions** to such, the relevance of program interventions in addressing child well-being issues in covered areas, the effectiveness of project models and interventions in contributing to program objectives, the sustainability of program gains in covered areas, and the efficiency of interventions vis-à-vis investment
- 2 Understand how the programme or project has addressed gender and disability inclusion** during program implementation.
- 3 Document emerging practices and approaches** deemed effective in delivering program interventions; and
- 4 In light of the evaluation's findings, recommend adjustments** in programming approaches and priorities.

The technical program evaluation was implemented by an independent team of consultants. The end-of-program evaluation was conducted to measure the accomplishments and assess the impact that the program has made on the lives of the children, their families, and communities.

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used in the evaluation to collect, analyze, and report the results based on the objectives and indicators of the CESP Technical Program, as well as to satisfy the evaluation objectives identified for the culmination of the program.

The consultants used a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods (primary and secondary). The main data collection methods include a review of program documents and other related literature, surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews.

Contributing to Target Outcome 1

(Support community duty bearers, civil society organizations (CSOs), children's clubs, and faith-based organizations (FBOs) in planning, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing their development efforts.)

- The collaborative efforts with community partners, LGUs, BLGUs, DepEd, children and youth groups, FBOs, and volunteer demonstrates that partners are now better equipped and more capable of contributing effectively to child well-being. Groups have resulted in significant progress in their development initiatives. The Partner and Organizational Capacity Assessment showed **a substantial improvement from 50.0% in FY2022 to 85.0%¹ in FY2023.**

Improvement in collaborative efforts and capabilities in contributing to the child well-being.

2023

85%

2022

50%

- In addition, the data further suggests that there was **improvement in performance and healthy partnerships from 70.5% at baseline to 74.6% in the evaluation.** This signifies a positive trend towards effective partnerships between groups and individuals in the communities.
- Focus group discussions and review of program documents indicate that **the participation of children and youth in the program Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DME) and implementation of community projects has evolved significantly.** From acting as facilitators for other children and serving as information sources, their participation had expanded to consulting and facilitating activities for both children and adults, and becoming a voting body in decision-making processes.
- One notable challenge encountered in implementing the program was the **decrease in the percentage of community members who perceive that feedback from the community is used to improve programming.** The baseline data showed 17.9%, which decreased to 15.8% in the evaluation. This would explain that feedback mechanisms may not necessarily be ineffective in some programs, while other factors, such as the community members' interest in the program or the value of providing feedback about the program, may not be fully appreciated at this time.

¹ A total of 20 partners completed the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) tool at baseline in FY22, compared to 17 partners at the evaluation in FY24.

Contributing to Target Outcome 2

(Provide community partners, children's clubs/groups, and community volunteers with the knowledge and skills on Child Sponsorship and to enable them to contribute to Child Sponsorship and Child Well-Being (CWB) issues)

- There has been **a significant increase in the percentage of sponsored children who can articulate at least three benefits or activities from the program (from 60.1% to 78.8%)**, which implies that the program's efforts to inform children of the sponsorship have been effective.
- **Participation rate of registered children (RC) in program activities increased from 92.6% (52,746 children) at baseline to 99.4% (59,084 children) in the evaluation.** This high level of participation indicates that the program has successfully engaged RCs and encouraged their active involvement, which is crucial for their development and well-being.
- Despite these achievements, minor challenges were encountered, particularly with **the slight decrease in the percentage of sponsored children aged 12-18 who are aware of their sponsor's name, from 22.8% at baseline to 21.6% in the evaluation.** This highlights a gap in the personal connection between sponsors and children, an important aspect of the sponsorship experience.



Contributing to Target Outcome 3

(Support communities that effectively address the root causes of violence against boys and girls)

- There is a positive shift in attitudes towards gender equity among the community members. **The proportion of community members supporting gender equitable attitudes increased from 84.9% at baseline to 87.3% in the evaluation.**
- There has been **a significant increase in the follow-up of child protection cases, suggesting that communities are becoming more proactive and effective in addressing violence against children.** This increase in reported, responded to, and monitored CP cases demonstrates a heightened community awareness and responsiveness towards child protection issues.
- **Children's perception of their ideas being incorporated into local government decision-making decreased.** The decline, though not drastic, indicates a noticeable gap in participatory processes within local government decision-making. One of the challenges expressed was the effects of the changes in the barangay leaders after the recent elections, which led to children's impressions of inconsistency in how child participation is valued and implemented in their communities
- Overall, the evaluation **results of the TP on CESP reflect a strong community commitment mainly to child protection and participation.** The involvement of various stakeholders and the establishment of local partnerships show the importance of a collective approach to addressing child well-being. The challenges faced due to changes in barangay leadership because of the country's political system and the reintegration of children post-pandemic highlight the difficulties in maintaining program continuity and stability.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF WVDF TP CESP PROGRAMS



Child Protection and Advocacy (CP&A)

engages key community stakeholders to address the root causes of violence against children by building local capacity and strengthening collaboration between formal and informal child protection actors.

It works to create a protective environment that supports and safeguards all children, particularly the most vulnerable, by improving laws and accountability, expanding social services and support, promoting positive behavior change, and strengthening the resilience of children and their families through participatory analysis and planning.

One of the major activities included in this program is the ***Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)***, which is a local-level advocacy methodology that gives citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions about what makes a good school, clinic, or other government service.

The goal of Citizen Voice and Action is to improve the accessibility and quality of public services. Through collaborative, non-confrontational dialogue between service users, government, and providers, users are empowered to monitor and seek accountability for service delivery and to take collective responsibility for services.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF WVDF TP CESP PROGRAMS



Spiritual Nurture of Children (SNC) promotes spiritual nurture and positive values among children and youth, who are exposed to modern society's eroding moral standards. Overall, the program aims to create a positive impact on the lives of Filipino children by engaging them and their families in interactive workshops and guiding them toward a healthier and more spiritually enriched future.



Empowering Children as Peacebuilders (ECaP) is a peace education and value-based life skills curriculum that typically targets children (age 12-17) in formal and non-formal environments. It uses various approaches to support participants in gaining the knowledge, attitudes, and life skills to become peace advocates in their schools and communities. WVDF has been implementing ECaP since 2005.

- **The re-integration of children into the public environment after the pandemic was a challenge for the program.** Fewer children feel safe most of the time, with many only feeling safe occasionally. Their fears mainly involve risks outside the home, such as road accidents, dark alleys, flooding, and fear of judgment from others.



- Some barangays have newly-elected officials lacked prior knowledge or training on child protection and the role of the Barangay Council on the Protection of Children (BCPC). Thus, **the program needed to re-establish some of the affected BCPC and conducted training for newly-elected barangay officials** for them to strengthen their ability to monitor and follow up on child protection (CP) cases.
- **Registered Families (RFs) often compared their benefits with those of others, which at times discouraged their children from participating in program activities.** Additionally, some RFs lost interest in engaging with the program after learning that it would be ending in a few years, which further affected their children's participation.
- **Changes in barangay leadership have disrupted some program activities, particularly those linked to the previous administration's plans.** This has affected children's belief that their ideas are considered in local decision-making. While new officials have been oriented and partnerships renewed, full support may take time as they continue to understand the program and align it with their priorities.
- **A decrease in the percentage of sponsored children aged 12-18 who are aware of their sponsor's name highlights a gap in the personal connection between sponsors and children,** which is an important aspect of the sponsorship experience. In addition, there is also a decrease in sponsored children who said they received benefits or participated in activities.
- **There is an untapped network of former child monitors (CMs) and registered children (RCs) that are not currently utilized in the community.** Some CMs leave the program when it ends in their area or when their children age out of sponsorship. Although some former volunteers remain interested, they feel unsure about continuing without a sponsored child.

POST-EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Explore the possibility of engaging former Registered Children (RCs) and youth leaders as technical support for ongoing programming activities.

Recognizing and valuing past contributions can encourage continued involvement, especially among former RCs, youth leaders, and siblings of RCs who are willing to volunteer.

2 Organize a core group of caregivers or parents trained in child protection to collaborate with the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) and reinforce the leadership of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).

Newly elected BLGU officials often lack awareness of existing CMs and child protection processes due to weak knowledge transfer. Current parent and caregiver CMs can help bridge this gap by supporting and guiding new officials.

3 Mainstream interventions that provide mental well-being support, such as counseling and mental health services, to help children cope with anxiety and stress.

Existing CESP program activities can be aligned with government-led mental health initiatives, creating stronger and more coordinated support systems. In addition, sustaining good practices such as integrating spiritual nurture activities within CESP further reinforces interventions aimed at promoting children's overall mental health and well-being.

4 Establish or strengthen parent support groups in partnership with government and local organizations.

Through initiatives such as Go Baby Go, CESP has successfully formed support groups for parents of very young children. However, there remains a need to extend similar interventions to parents of adolescents and older children, who also require guidance and support. Designing parent support groups as part of CESP's broader capacity-building strategy will ensure that all parents in program communities are included.

5 Consider the creation of a Resource Acquisition and Empowerment Program for Partners (REAPP), designed to strengthen resource management while fostering long-term collaboration and community empowerment.

Local partners face resource constraints that threaten program continuity after funding ends. REAPP offers a partnership model that builds strategic alliances to sustain program impact beyond external support.

6 Enhance intervention activities to strengthen children's and families' motivation to participate beyond the material benefits provided by the program.

While CESP has improved child participation, opportunities can be expanded further. Strengthening meaningful engagement and long-term commitment can help shift participation from being seen as material support toward a stronger sense of belonging and empowerment.



WVDF TECHNICAL PROGRAMS ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SPONSORSHIP (TP CESP)

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