

World Vision UK

General Election Manifesto

2024



COVER PHOTO: Babi, age 9, holds one of his family's young goats. ©2024 World Vision UK

World Vision works with children and communities in nearly 100 countries to create a better world, a world fit for children and their futures.



And what we see today is heartbreaking. Around the world, children's fundamental rights to protection, to be provided for, and to participate in decisions that affect them are repeatedly and systematically violated and ignored. Every child has the right to survive and thrive. For children to develop to their full potential, they need access to healthcare, nutrition, quality education, and protection. The world today is in a global child rights crisis that makes sustainable development unattainable. The climate crisis, armed conflicts, and a global cost of living crisis have led to spiralling needs that development assistance levels simply cannot keep up with.

The UK government will have a choice to make:

be a global leader taking action to leave today's and tomorrow's children with an equitable, inclusive, just, peaceful and prosperous world on a habitable planet. Or fail the world's children, making them continue to pay for unfair systems, short-sighted progress and a lack of will to make changes.



We want the next government to ensure the UK is a development leader and a champion for children at home and abroad, working towards a world where every child can live life in all its fullness. This Manifesto outlines steps the next Parliament and Government can take to keep the promises made to the world's children – and have the greatest impact on sustainable development and peaceful societies.

Ensure the aid budget has the greatest impact possible on the world's most vulnerable children

The UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) changes and saves lives. In a world struggling under the weight of the climate crisis, conflict, the cost of living crisis and the legacy of Covid, the need is dramatically increasing while budgets are under constant threat. Money must be spent in the best way possible. While children make up nearly 46% of the global population in ODA receiving countries, only 11% of UK ODA targets children. And yet joint Ernst & Young/World Vision research demonstrates that every \$1 invested in children returns a \$10 impact for children and their communities. The next government must:

- **Increase the percentage of the ODA budget targeting children by 10% across sectors**
- **Commit to developing a roadmap and a timeline for returning the ODA budget to at least 0.7% of gross national income**
- **Commit to reducing the amount of ODA spent inside the UK**

Be a champion for accountability to children

Children's participation in decisions affecting them is a pillar of their rights. They will be most impacted by not addressing the global challenges we are experiencing today and have innovative ideas on how to solve these. Making child and youth consultation a cornerstone of UK development policy is therefore an easy win for the UK and will have the most sustainable impact on our future. The next government must:

- **Commit to ensuring youth participation at any global development summits or conferences held in the UK**
- **Build on FCDO's youth consultation experiences by committing in the first 100 days to developing internal guidance for including meaningful child and youth consultation across the Department and overseas diplomatic offices**
- **Use political influence to champion children's active involvement in global events such as Nutrition for Growth Summits and United Nations Climate Change Conferences**

Be a leader in creating a world fit for children

At the UN World Summit for Children in 1990, world leaders came together and committed to action to make a better future for all children. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise that children are critical to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and include 28 targets directly related to children. And yet children continue to suffer disproportionately. The cornerstone of the SDGs is the commitment to Leave No One Behind. The UK should be a leader in setting the world on the right path for today's and tomorrow's children. The next government must:

- **Appoint a Special Envoy for Children within FCDO**
- **Within the first 100 days, commit to developing a cross-FCDO Child Rights Strategy that brings together existing priorities and policies and embraces consultation with children and youth**
- **Make sure children's rights and vulnerabilities are factored into the UK's approaches to tackling climate change and armed conflict**