

WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS EXECUTIVE ROADMAP SUMMARY

Foundations for Active Engagement



WELCOME TO THE WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS ROADMAP

As we journey together toward a world without orphans, the *World Without Orphans Roadmap: Foundations for Active Engagement* will act as a helpful guide

Our vision on this shared journey is that every child would grow up in a safe and loving family, know their Heavenly Father, and reach their God-given purpose. Our shared mission is to call and equip national leaders to collaborate in solving their country's orphaned and vulnerable child crisis.

God's call is to care for orphaned and vulnerable children and their families. The Church is both global and local and, therefore, perfectly placed to engage with many other partners in supporting and strengthening families, so that orphaned and vulnerable children thrive.

We have been praying for people like you to join this journey, and we believe the Lord will be blessing and speaking to us of His Love and care for us, for children, for families, and for nations. He can do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine in multiplying the impact of our service as He strengthens our connections to His Love, to each other, and to many others who will be joining the journey.

THE RIVER OF ORPHANHOOD AND VULNERABILITY



Every time a child falls in the river of vulnerability, dangerously caught up in the whipping and life-threatening current, we rush together to try to rescue the child and pull him or her to safety.

This desire to protect a child, propels us to do all we can to try to help children who are institutionalized, being trafficked, or living on the streets. After countless days and years of pulling terrified and drowning children out of raging waters, someone asks, «Why don't we walk upstream and keep the children from falling into the river in the first place?» Of course, we continue to rescue those who are drowning, but we also begin to see the need to prevent vulnerable children from falling into the raging and dangerous current in the first place. That is prevention. We keep pulling the drowning children out, but we also see we could help prevent these terrifying vulnerabilities by protecting children from falling into the raging current in the first place. Both prevention and rescue will require education and specialized training at the individual level for those helping and intentional collaboration among those serving on the prevention and rescue teams. This illustration sets the stage for the overview of the *WVO Roadmap*.

THE WWO ROADMAP FOCUS AREAS

«Why don't we see a World Without Orphans now?» The WWO Roadmap presents four key answers to this question.

The WWO Roadmap highlights the framework and resources needed to accomplish the inspirational aim of helping each child reach their God-given purpose by building motivation and skills to address the four key priorities through collaborative learning communities, training, and mentoring, as described below:



BROADSCALE COLLABORATION allows us to co-Labor with God the Father and with many others in building His kingdom of love and safety for families and children.

God is drawing an ever-expanding crowd of individuals, churches, groups, organizations, alliances, and networks to care passionately about broadscale collaboration to reach monumental goals in the area of love and safety for families and children. It appears that God is establishing a kairos moment, in which many will recognize the love and power of God, through His Church, on behalf of orphaned and vulnerable children.

The challenge is big – there are from 2 to 8 million children living in orphanages, more than 150 million children who have lost one or both parents, and more than 1 billion children – one of every two – who experience serious abuse each and every year.

Such a challenge is so big that it requires a new way of working together, in which the Church, government, non-profit, and business communities actively coordinate their actions and share lessons learned. In this collaboration framework, it matters little who waters and who plants; it matters most that God is causing the growth (I Corinthians 3:6) to help vulnerable families and children reach their God-given purposes.

Such collaborations are characterized by broad partnerships among church alliances and organizations, as well as across the seven spheres of influence, including religion, family, education, government, media, arts and entertainment, and business.



INTERVENTION helps strengthen family-based care for orphaned and vulnerable children, including supporting families in reunification, foster families, and adoptive families.

The global commitment to family-based care as being God's intention for children has caused governments to look to national faith leaders to help support interventions to strengthen families, including reunification, foster care, and adoption.

Now, in more than 38 nations, pastors and church leaders are actively engaging in broadscale collaboration with a vision for a world without orphans. In another 47 countries, World Without Orphans movements are emerging. Pastors, priests, and other faith leaders are acting on fresh recognition that God is «a father to the fatherless and places the lonely in families» (Psalm 68:5-6). They are encouraging those in their congregations to help strengthen families in the process of reunification and to foster and adopt children for whom safe reunification is not possible.

We all benefit from training in understanding the impact of early loss and deprivation for a child and for becoming instruments of the Lord's healing, hope, and restoration for vulnerable children and their families. A modern day paraphrase of Ephesian 1:23 describes the central role of the church as God's heart for the world in this way: «The Church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the Church.»



PREVENTION of orphanhood and vulnerability addresses violence against children, poverty, and disability because we care about each child.

As governmental leaders in every nation are now beginning to see that orphanhood, abuse, and vulnerability in children are preventable, not inevitable, they are asking church leaders for help.

Global data show that if we do not include a strong focus on prevention as we increase the number of children who are removed from institutions and safely placed into families,, emptied orphanages fill right back up with the next set of vulnerable children. According to Dr. Charles Nelson from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, global research shows abuse and poverty as the strongest drivers for institutionalization.

An even more common challenge than institutionalization is the large number of children who are abused, They slip under the radar because they they live in countries without an effective legal system to protect them. While such children may never come to the attention of a foster system or orphanage system, they are often known in their communities and can be helped by neighboring churches or organizations.

As for WWO, our desire is to do what we see Jesus doing, and He was outspoken in His stand for abused children. «But if anyone abuses one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for him to have a heavy boulder tied round his neck and be hurled into the deepest sea than to face the punishment he deserves!» (Matthew 18:6, The Passion Translation).

Driven by an increase in internet exploitation of children, faith leaders around the world are learning about and implementing programs that work to protect children in their communities. As our friend Menchit Wong, who serves on the Global Council for WWO and served in the executive leadership of Compassion International for many years, says, «If we do not reach vulnerable children first to help them, many others will reach them to harm them.»



LIVING REFRESHED: SPIRITUAL, RELATIONAL, PRACTICAL SELF-CARE for Christ-followers called to serve orphaned and vulnerable children; the secret to living refreshed as we serve.

Practitioners on the front lines of service to vulnerable children face high demands on their emotional and spiritual reserves. If we are not careful, the practical, emotional and spiritual expectations of this calling become overwhelming. When servant-hearted and Christ-like leaders get burned out, they step back from their service. As a movement, we cannot afford to lose good people to burnout. In Isaiah 40:30-31 the scriptures affirm that “Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” Therefore learning how to hope in the Lord to replenish our physical, emotional and spiritual reserves is a vital habit we all need to develop.

In the Living Refreshed portion of the Roadmap we encourage advocates, champions, and practitioners toward a combination of practical self-care and spiritual habits. This combination keeps us abiding in Jesus Christ and growing into His image. In John 15 Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” In this Living Refreshed section, we hope you discover the tools to help replenish you so that you bear much fruit.

BIG DREAM AND A SPECIFIC VISION

In this journey, we are trusting God to use the WWO Roadmap as a tool for empowering Leaders in many nations, engaging thousands of churches, strengthening tens of thousands of families, and helping hundreds of thousands of children reach their God-given purpose. Because we believe Jesus shows He cares about each child, when He says, «Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for such is the Kingdom of heaven» (Matthew 19:14), we at WWO **also care about each and every orphaned and vulnerable child.**

This includes:

- each child who is a social orphan (has living parents unable to care for him/her), such as most of those living in orphanages or institutions
- each child who has orphan status, as one or both parents is dead
- each child with an orphan spirit, such as those suffering from hopelessness and loneliness, which is common for those who have experienced sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, bullying, or exploitation (both online and face-to-face)

Our vision is that when these four priorities are combined, advocates, champions, and practitioners like you will through WWO Roadmap have access to the tools they need, as we together collaborate towards God’s great vision for families and children in the nations.



The best way to benefit from the WWO Roadmap is to learn together with others.

The WWO Roadmap serves as a guide for conversations, learning and implementation for your learning community with a WWO vision, both those which already exist in your country, city or region, and also for learning communities you may start in your church, your city and in your nation.

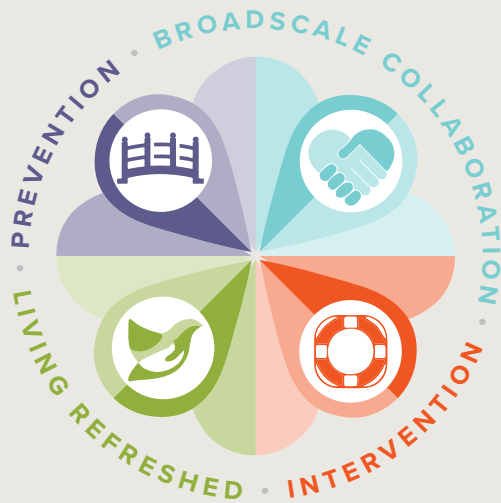
We believe the World Without Orphans Roadmap: Foundations for Active Engagement will serve you as a helpful guide.



All content in the *WWO Roadmap* is also available online with added resources and media at wworoadmap.org



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