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## MEDIA RELEASE

### World Vision launches discussion papers on urban child wellbeing at WUF7

Today at UN Habitat's World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia, World Vision launched two reports at their networking event on the wellbeing of the most vulnerable children living in a diverse range of urban environments.

Ongoing urbanisation is one of the defining trends of the 21<sup>st</sup> century thus far. To respond to rising global urbanisation, World Vision International has created a Centre of Expertise for Urban Programming (Urban CoE) to pursue action research and learning about the impact of urbanisation on those least able to cope. Working with six field offices, the Urban CoE has designed a series of innovative initiatives to better understand the unique characteristics and complexities of diverse urban contexts, and the reports released today provide an update on our findings.

The publication *Just Cities for Children* presents an overview of evidence from a five-year urban action research and learning initiative. The report emphasises that dynamic urban contexts require a flexible, agile, and multi-disciplinary approach to address the unique issues of urban poverty. These findings will inform World Vision's Cities for Children framework, consisting of the four inter-related sectors of health, safety, prosperity, and resilience and will continue to be strengthened during the next phase of action research and learning.

In the second report, *Rapid Urbanisation, Economic Growth and the Wellbeing of Children*, World Vision has examined the basic question: How much do we know about the state of urban child wellbeing after parallel periods of sustained urbanisation and economic growth?

The report finds that, despite two decades of strong economic growth in a significant number of developing countries, it cannot be said with any confidence that urban children, particularly the poorest, are clearly better off. In part, this is due to inadequate data on even some basic elements of child welfare in urban environments.

As well as calling for broadening and deepening the range of official data collected, the report points out the opportunity for international NGOs to test data tools and collect data from their own areas of operation to contribute to a better understanding of the state of children in today's urban areas.

World Vision International is a Christian humanitarian aid, development, and advocacy organisation providing short-term and long-term assistance to 100 million people worldwide, including more than 4.1 million children registered for child sponsorship.

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