

**Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationship with the countries of
Africa
Public Hearing –Friday, 11 May 2018
Questions Taken on Notice
World Vision Australia**

1 HANSARD, p. 35

Mr Moores: World Vision Australia is a member of the Global Compact Network Australia.

Senator MOORE: Yes, and it has been from the start.

Mr Moores: I personally haven't been very engaged, but I understand that the network engages with businesses in multiple forums, through conferences, workshops, webinars and informative products et cetera. I'm not really sure what their membership is, but I understand it includes a lot of the largest businesses in Australia, so it's quite an influential stakeholder group. And I understand that a lot of the initiatives under the Global Compact Network are voluntary based, so it's very much up to the businesses themselves as to how much they engage with the network and report on the progress that their businesses are making under the network. I'm happy to follow up and research it further.

Senator MOORE: Yes, it would be useful if you could have a look and let us know.

The Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) is a multi-sector network that brings together Australian signatories to the United Nations Global Compact – the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative – to advance corporate sustainability and the private sector's contribution to sustainable development.

Founding members of the GCNA include Accenture Australia, Allens, KPMG, Nestlé, Rio Tinto, The Ethics Centre and Westpac Banking Corporation. According to its 2017 Annual Report, the GCNA has a growing membership base comprised of 64 businesses, 5 business associations, 11 non-profit organisations (including World Vision Australia), and 8 academic institutions. It is unclear how many of these members are actively involved in the activities of the GCNA. Of interest to this inquiry is the fact that the Australia-Africa Minerals and Energy Group is a business association member of the GCNA.

In terms of its activities, the GCNA runs a range of initiatives to keep its members informed of international and Australian developments and trends, to facilitate capacity building and knowledge sharing, engage with peer members and other stakeholders, and explore local and global best and emerging practice to promote corporate sustainability. This includes producing issues papers and reports, developing tools, and organising workshops, forums, conferences and webinars for its members across four key topics: human rights; the environment; anti-corruption; and sustainable development. For example, in 2017 the GCNA:

- Launched the CEO Statement of Support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), signed by 33 business leaders;
- Launched the online Australian SDGs Hub for Business, a step-by-step guide that outlines how each SDG is relevant to businesses and how businesses can contribute to its achievement; and
- Convened key high impact events, including the inaugural Australian SDGs Summit, the third Australian Dialogue on Business and Human Rights, and the inaugural Australian Dialogue on Bribery and Corruption

Of particular relevance to this inquiry is the formation of the Sustainable Development Leadership Group, which GCNA has established to build the capacity of Australian businesses to engage and partner in international development activities, and to operate more effectively and responsibly in developing countries. World Vision Australia welcomes the formation of this Leadership Group and looks forward to engaging with its members to implement shared value development projects.

2 HANSARD, p. 37

CHAIR: In your \$113 million footprint, how many of those programs are in areas where we have a current diplomatic footprint and how many are not? Is there any evidence about whether you suffer any diminution of ability where we don't have a presence? I want to contrast what happens when we've got a mission and you've got a program—that's a positive story, I presume—with what happens when we don't have one. What are the difficulties you face?

Mr Harwood: We can take it on notice and do that alignment.

The World Vision partnership has National Offices in 25 of the 54 countries of Africa: Angola, Burundi, Chad, Congo (or the Democratic Republic of Congo), Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As a Support Office within the World Vision partnership, World Vision Australia provides expertise and funding for community development programs in our region and around the world. In 2017-18, World Vision Australia implemented 143 community development programs in Africa, including 100 projects in East Africa, 38 projects in Southern Africa and 5 projects in West Africa. Almost half of the African countries in which World Vision Australia operates do not have an Australian diplomatic footprint. Of the 19 African countries in which World Vision Australia had active community development projects in 2017-18, only ten had an Australian diplomatic presence through an Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate (see Table 1).

Diplomatic Posts can play an important role in supporting humanitarian and development actors and in liaising with national governments to address the underlying causes of humanitarian, development or environmental crises.

Table 1: Alignment of World Vision Australia's in Africa

Countries in Africa in which World Vision Australia has active projects in 2017-18	Does Australia have a diplomatic presence in this country?	Details of Australian diplomatic presence in this country
Burundi	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, Kenya
Ethiopia	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Embassy, Ethiopia
Kenya	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, Kenya
Rwanda	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, Kenya
Somalia	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, Kenya
South Sudan	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Embassy, Ethiopia
Tanzania	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Consulate, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Uganda	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Consulate, Kampala,

Countries in Africa in which World Vision Australia has active projects in 2017-18	Does Australia have a diplomatic presence in this country?	Details of Australian diplomatic presence in this country
		Uganda
Angola	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Consulate, Luanda, Angola
Democratic Republic of Congo	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, Nigeria
Lesotho	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, South Africa
Malawi	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Consulate, Lilongwe, Malawi
Mozambique	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Consulate, Maputo, Mozambique
Swaziland	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, South Africa
Zambia	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Consulate, Lusaka, Zambia
Zimbabwe	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Embassy, Zimbabwe
Chad	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian Embassy, France
Ghana	Yes	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, Ghana
Senegal	No	Diplomatic relations and consular assistance managed through Australian High Commission, Ghana

3 HANSARD, p. 37

CHAIR: I think the evidence we got in Perth from the extractive companies was that when they were going into areas where—I think they called it francophone—

Mr Harwood: French-speaking countries, yes.

CHAIR: Basically, when they went into regions which have never looked our way, because we don't have historical linkages, everything became more difficult—visas, contact with ministers. There is some suggestion that our diplomatic footprint is not big enough, so I want to get some idea of what it looks like from World Vision's view, and, if you are responding to emerging natural disasters or the like, what problems did you face?

Mr Harwood: We'll take it on notice.

Mr Moores: We're happy to do that analysis.

CHAIR: If you can do that for your program, I think it would be very useful as evidence—and list the issues.

World Vision Australia operates through the global World Vision partnership in responding to humanitarian crises around the world. In emergency contexts, World Vision Australia provides

funding, technical support (program management and sector-specialist skills), and assists in managing funded relationships with donors, both institutional and individual, in Australia. All World Vision responses are led by a National or Response Office that is primarily responsible for developing relationships with all relevant diplomatic posts in a country. In certain situations, World Vision Australia may assist in facilitating that relationship, but this is usually always led by the National Office.

In a humanitarian context, Diplomatic Posts can play an integral role in supporting humanitarian actors in providing relief and helping to address the underlying causes of humanitarian crises. In response to the 2017 drought in Somalia, the strong relationship between SomRep (the Somalia Resilience Program, of which World Vision is a member) and DFAT Post in Nairobi helped to facilitate the fast-track approval of additional funding, enabling SomRep agencies to provide much-needed assistance to the disaster-affected communities.

Beyond providing financial assistance and supporting the delivery of funded programs, donors are also able to better negotiate and advocate for humanitarian access for humanitarian actors, advocate for principled humanitarian response in compliance with international standards, and support a negotiation or end to conflict or crises when they have a diplomatic presence in country. This can be achieved through representation on a Humanitarian Country Team, direct negotiations with authorities and in person engagement on funded programs. Having a physical presence in the affected country and trained humanitarian staff, can be an essential mechanism for providing a holistic approach to humanitarian crises and demonstrating Australian leadership.