



REGREENING COMMUNITIES PROJECT MODEL

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Regreening Communities

An evidence-based evolution of the successful FMNR project model

Thriving environments for thriving communities and future generations

Climate change, unsustainable farming practices and exploitation of natural resources are rapidly degrading the landscapes of the communities World Vision works with – especially rural ones. When landscapes are decimated, communities cannot sufficiently grow food, gather water or access firewood. These communities are also more vulnerable to climate-related disasters and natural resource-based conflict. This negatively impacts the community's ability to develop sustainable livelihoods, resulting in more fragile communities and more vulnerable children.

The Regreening Communities project model addresses all of these issues by guiding communities through a participatory environmental restoration process. A tailored set of solutions is selected by each community, including scaling-up indigenous restoration practices, strengthening government partnerships for restoration and introducing proven practices like Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR).

The outcomes of this approach are greater community cohesion, a thriving and climate-resilient landscape, and greater quantity and quality of crops, livestock, forest products and natural resources for households to consume and sell – thus contributing to the food security, economic resilience and hope for future generations of children.

1. Snapshot of model and its strategic relevance

1.1 Provide a brief statement about what the project model is and the global sector approaches it contributes to.

Regreening Communities (RGC) is a community-led landscape restoration project model, which sits within the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) team with a strong linkage with the Livelihoods sector. It is an evolution of the existing Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project model that has been successfully implemented in more than 25 countries. The FMNR project model takes communities through a planning process, with the end goal being the introduction of the technical practice of FMNR to restore tree density and environmental health. The Regreening Communities model builds upon this by introducing a broader suite of restoration techniques to address a wider range of environmental concerns – beyond just deforestation.

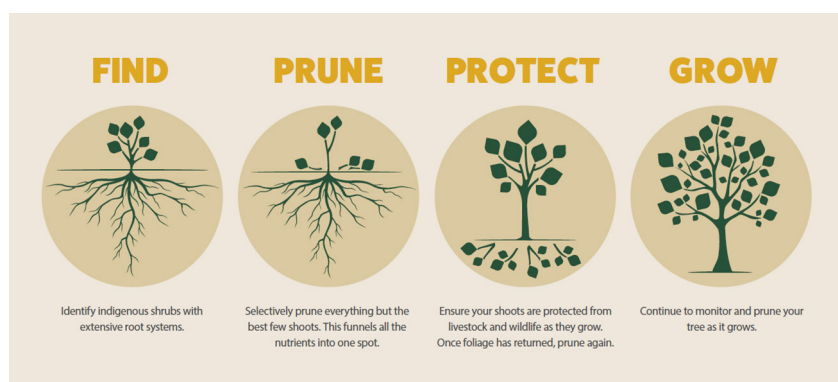


Figure 1. The FMNR Technical Practice – now part of the Regreening toolbox

A thriving environment is foundational to the livelihoods of many communities, especially in rural, farming and pastoral areas. However, due to climate change, land degradation and unsustainable farming practices, the environments of these communities are depleted. This project model supports communities to map their environment, prioritise solutions to the issues they are facing and collectively restore and protect their environment. A tailored set of environmental restoration solutions is selected by each community, including scaling-up local and indigenous restoration practices, working with governments, and introducing proven technical practices like FMNR.

In many countries around the world, women and girls are natural custodians of the environment, given that they interact with it when gathering firewood, traditional medicines and water. RGC values and elevates women by relying on their expertise in these areas. RGC also calls for communities to monitor local government commitments to address ecological restoration and to engage in constructive dialogue and collective actions to ensure the accountable delivery of these commitments. This participatory approach has been proven to be more effective in transforming beliefs, values and attitudes than other technology transfer approaches.

The outcomes of this model are:

- target environments are more resilient to climate-related shocks and disasters through improved condition of soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity
- individual, household and community social resilience is strengthened
- sustainable improvements are made in production of local crop, livestock, forest, aquatic or marine products for consumption and sale.

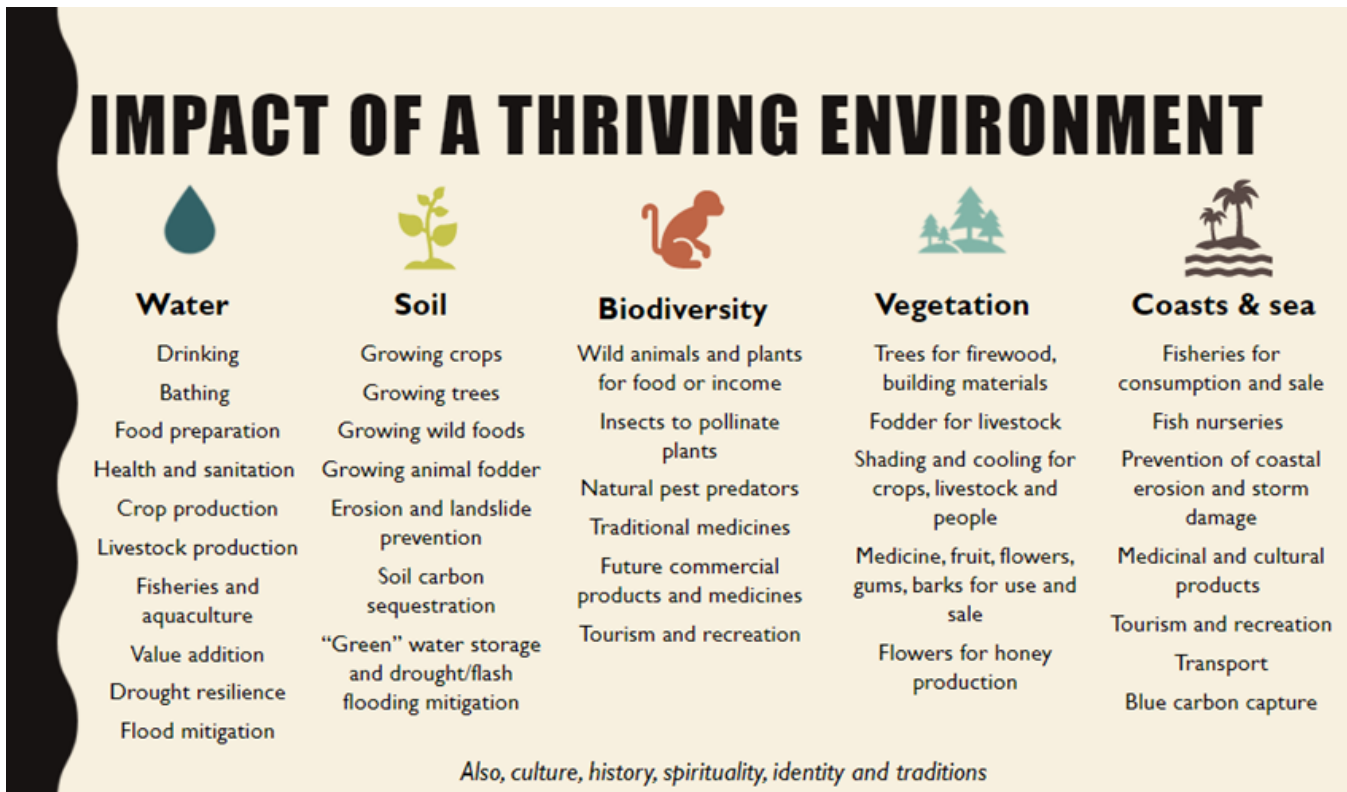


Figure 2. The Impact of a Thriving Environment

1.2 Indicate the Child Well-being (CWB) Aspirations, Objectives and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets that this model contributes to

1.2.1 CWB Aspirations

Global Impact Framework

By ensuring ecosystems are thriving and that communities have healthy soils to grow food and animal fodder, reliable water sources, and a flourishing natural-resource base, Regreening Communities will contribute to the following WV's Global Impact Framework Outcomes:

	Outcomes
Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2030, all children and their families have access to safe and nutritious food all year around. By 2030, all forms of child malnutrition are eliminated.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resilience of people is built and their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters is reduced.

Child Well-being Aspirations

Goal	Sustained well-being of children within families and communities, especially the most vulnerable			
Aspirations	Girls and Boys:			
	Enjoy good health	Are educated for life	Experience love of God and their neighbors	Are care for, protected and participating
Outcomes	Children are well nourished	Children read, write, and use numeracy skills	Children grow in their awareness and experience of God's love in an environment that recognizes their freedom	Children cared for in a loving, safe, family, and community environment with safe places to play
	Children protected from infection, disease, and injury	Children make good judgments, can protect themselves, manage emotions, and communication ideas	Children enjoy positive relationships with peers, family, and community members	Parents or caregivers provide well for their children
	Children and their caregivers access essential health services	Adolescents ready for economic opportunity	Children value and care for others and their environment	Children celebrated and registered at birth
		Children access complete basic education	Children have hope and vision for the future	Children are respected participants in decisions that affect their lives
Foundational Principles	Children are citizens and their rights and dignity are upheld. (including girls and boys of all religions and ethnicities, any HIV status, and those with disabilities)			

This model relates to several of the outcomes related to child well-being. The key ones are:

- **Children value and care for others and their environment** – The community workshops around creating linkages between environmental health, climate resilience and community/child well-being will be highly inclusive of children and young people, and they will be agents of positive change in the restoration of their environment through restoration activities in school settings and home. This participation also relates to children being cared for in a safe environment and children being decision makers.
- **Children have hope and vision for their future** – A [recent study](#) by the University of Bath of 10,000 children across 10 countries from Nigeria to the Philippines found that nearly 60 per cent of young people approached said they felt very worried or extremely worried about climate change and three-quarters of them said they thought that the future was frightening due to climate change.¹ Through greening, communities will be supported to make changes that will ensure a more climate-resilient and thriving environment that will be able to support communities into the future. It is anticipated that this will increase hope for the future among all community members, and this will be measured as a one of the project indicators.

¹ Marks, E., and Hickman, C. et al., (7 Sep 2021). 'Young People's Voices on Climate Anxiety, Government Betrayal and Moral Injury: A Global Phenomenon'. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3918955>.

- **Children are well nourished** – Restoration of soils for improved crops and animal fodder will ensure greater nourishment of children. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture may be selected by communities as something they want to programme as part of this model, and this directly impacts the nutrition of children and their families.
- **Parents and caregivers are able to provide well for their children** – More resilient and productive soils, vegetation, waterways, and coastal and marine areas directly benefits families and communities that rely on the land or sea for incomes, food, medicine and risk mitigation. Parents and caregivers who are able to access sufficient and diverse food from primary production and profitable livelihood opportunities from the environment are able to provide well for the children in their care.

1.2.2 SDG Targets

This model relates to 12 of the SDG Targets listed below. As well as these, it also aligns with several other United Nations and International Agreements such as the AFR100 (country-led effort to bring

100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030), The Bonn Challenge (global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Goal to see 1 billion hectares of land under restoration by 2030, and the Glasgow Leaders declaration on Forest and Land Use, which saw 141 countries sign on to protect and restore forests and degraded landscapes.

1. No Poverty

- **1.4** – By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- **1.5** – By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

2. Zero Hunger

- **2.1** – By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- **2.3** – By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- **2.4** – By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

3. Gender Equality* applicable to some communities – particularly those doing a twin track approach

- **5a** – Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

4. Water and Sanitation

- **6.6** – By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

5. **Decent Work and Economic Growth**
 - **8.4** – Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead
6. **Reduced Inequalities**
 - **10.2** – By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
7. **Sustainable Cities and Communities**
 - **11.4** – Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
8. **Responsible Consumption and Production**
 - **12.2** – By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
 - **12.8** – By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
9. **Climate Action**
 - **13.3** – Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
10. **Life below Water**
 - **14.2** – By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
11. **Life on Land**
 - **15.1** – By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
 - **15.2** – By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
 - **15.3** – By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
 - **15.4** – By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
16. **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**
 - **16.7** – Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

1.3 List the primary owner as well as contributing sectors that map to this model.

The project model sits within the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) thematic area with a strong linkage with the Livelihoods sector. Additionally, Regreening Communities also contributes to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector – given its focus on working with communities to ensure adequate quantity and quality of natural sources of water. It also contributes to the Health sector given the strong focus on improving soil quality for the improved production of crops and animal fodder – which contributes to the health and nutrition of children and their families.

2. Programme logic

2.1 Theory of Change

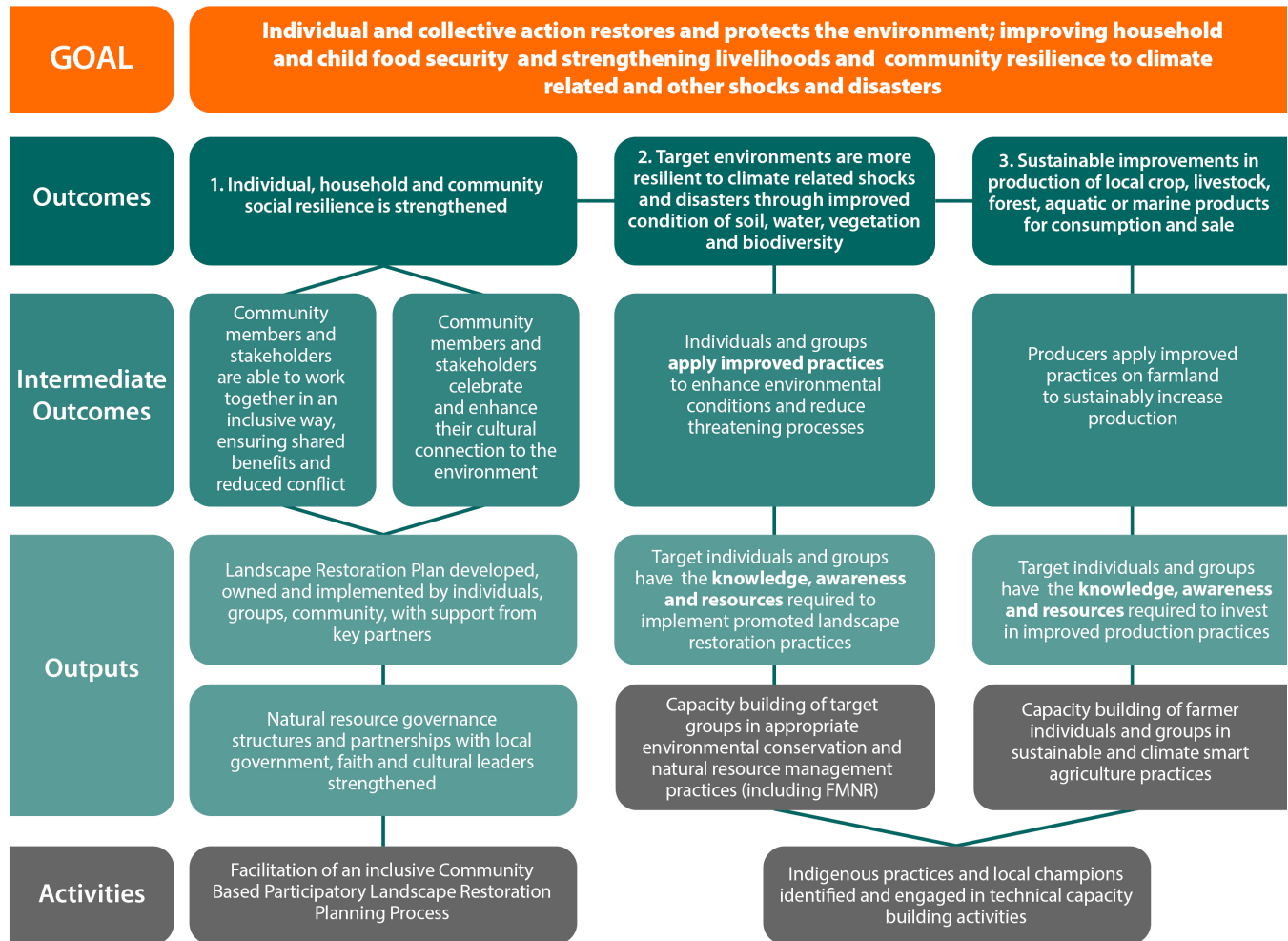


Figure 3. Regreening Communities Theory of Change Diagram

2.1.1 Give a description of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context.

Land degradation, climate change and unsustainable land and sea management practices have left communities with a depleted natural resource base, no longer able to support food security or stable livelihoods, and increasing risk in the face of future disasters. By mobilising and empowering communities to value, understand and work together with their local environment, this project model will reduce feelings of hopelessness and vulnerability to harsh environmental conditions. Through the development of participatory landscape restoration plans and their implementation with key partners and community members (including marginalised groups), individual and household resilience and community cohesion and capacity to manage conflict will increase. Through the scaling up of indigenous practices that successfully restore environmental conditions as well as new proven, low cost and accessible practices such as FMNR, the drivers of ecological degradation will be reduced while also enhancing ecosystem function. As a result of the restoration of land and seascape functions:

- the risk posed to communities from disasters such as drought and floods is reduced
- the capacity for sustainable production for a wide range of agricultural and pastoral commodities is increased
- access to food security and diversity is increased
- livelihood opportunities from other nature-based products are increased

This project model is designed to target rural communities, suffering the results of land or seascape degradation or those who want to pre-emptively prevent further degradation from happening. These communities – and their children – often face severe food insecurity and high poverty levels, and are vulnerable to climate-related shocks, stressors and disasters. Social instability in the form of conflict, migration and social inequality is common due in part to the ever-decreasing natural resource base, with the negative impacts felt most intensely by marginalised groups including women, people with disabilities, vulnerable children and adolescents, and youth and those without access or rights to land, including many indigenous communities. Regreening Communities works directly with representatives within a community as well as key stakeholders such as local government and community leaders, faith organisations, and ministries or departments of agriculture, environment and/or forestry. Through the landscape restoration committee, community champions, land managers and the key stakeholder groups mentioned previously, the entire community and its children, as well as those ‘downstream’ in the catchment or landscape will benefit from the resulting improved environmental resilience and function.

Regreening Communities not only addresses ecological degradation, but also the closely related degradation of hope and capacity to overcome the challenges of a depleted environment. A thriving environment allows communities to access opportunities and resources again. When the community works together to identify their goals, pinpoint the root causes of environmental degradation, creatively develop potential solutions and actions they can take or mobilise others to support, their sense of agency, power and capacity to change their future and that of their children’s is enhanced. Regreening Communities prioritises the use of indigenous knowledge, local champions, experiential learning (through exchange visits), demonstration sites, and ongoing support and mentoring to build knowledge, skills and capacities in the community. This participatory approach is proven to be more effective in transforming beliefs, values and attitudes than other technology transfer approaches. Engaging faith leaders and holding the traditional, cultural and/or spiritual connection to land, sea and ‘country’ close is also a critical principle in the model’s approach.

2.2 Sustainability of a model

2.2.1 Give a description of how the model addresses 5 sustainability drivers:

- **Local Ownership** – By supporting the community to develop their own landscape restoration plan, including their own priorities and preferred practices, this creates a strong sense of local ownership. Community members are supported to own and lead the plan and to consider how they will continue to follow the plan after World Vision has left.
- **Partnering** – Part of the landscape restoration plan includes identifying the local stakeholders who will need to be included to restore the environment. This includes extension agents, faith leaders, other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or community-based organisations (CBOs) working in the area and potentially even private sector partners. This model is strength-based and seeks to find locals and extension agents who can provide training first, and only when there is a gap would World Vision step in to provide training and support.
- **Transformed Relationships** – The restoration of the environment creates a unique common ground for communities, given that it provides the foundation for everyone’s livelihoods and health. It is anticipated that the landscape restoration plan will allow community members to see each other as collaborators through this

process and that this relationship will lead to greater success in other development projects or community initiatives. The highly inclusive nature of this model will also allow for marginalised community members to be active participants within this process, thus shifting the way they may previously have been seen and treated by their community. The advocacy components of this approach also mean that it has the potential for communities to transform their relationships with governments or private sectors who have been enablers or disablers for landscape restoration at the onset of the project.

- **Local and National Advocacy** – Where appropriate, this model will support communities with a customised toolbox of advocacy techniques to demand better services from their local government – such as agricultural extension agents to provide training and support in environmental restoration and climate change adaptation practices. Communities also may wish to engage with national governments by looking for enabling factors such as national reforestation targets that communities can contribute to or by advocating for better policies in countries where there is inadequate national government support for environmental restoration.
- **Household and Family Resilience** – The restoration of the environment will mean landscapes and communities are more resilient to climate change. The restoration of farming and pastoral lands means households have more food to eat and sell which also contributes to their economic resilience. The improved relationships and social cohesion that is fostered through the landscape restoration plan will contribute to the community's ability to work collectively to address future challenges – acting as a form of social resilience.

Environmental Sustainability

Furthermore, the model itself is fostering environmental sustainability at its core by supporting communities to regenerate, protect and live more harmoniously with their natural environment – ensuring it will be there for future generations.



2.3 Standard Logical Model

Hierarchy	Description	Code	Indicator Name	Indicator Type (Essential, recommended or optional)	Means of Verification
GOAL	Individual and collective action restores and protects the environment, improving household and child food security, and strengthening livelihoods and community resilience to climate-related and other shocks and disasters	C4B.0044	Proportion of parents or caregivers able to provide well for their children (disaggregated by sex)	Essential	HH Survey
		C2D.0298	% households (HHs) able to pay for children's basic education costs	Optional	
		C1C.0154	% HHs able to pay for children's health costs	Optional	
		C4B.25456	Proportion HHs in multidimensional poverty	Essential	
		C4B.25258	Proportion HHs facing moderate or severe food insecurity according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale – Global Standard Scale	Essential	
		C4B.0060	% HHs with sufficient diet diversity	Essential	
		C1A.0022	% children receiving minimum dietary diversity	Recommended	
		C4B.21261	% HHs with year round access to sufficient food	Recommended	
		C4B.25369	% HHs that are food secure as measured by the Household Hunger Scale	Optional	
		C1D.034455	# of hectares protected, and/or under restoration	Essential	Proj. Rec. Review
OUTCOME 1	Individual, household and community social resilience is strengthened	New	#/% of respondents reporting feeling hopeful about the future	Essential	HH Survey
		C4D.034400	% HHs able to raise a large sum of money within 30 days	Essential	
		C4D.034422	% HHs scoring equal to or above the cut-off on Subjectively Evaluated Resilience Score	Recommended	
		C4B.0074	% HHs who faced a disaster and were able to employ an effective disaster-risk reduction or positive coping strategy	Recommended	
		C5A.25855	# and % of HHs reporting good self-efficacy	Recommended	
		C2B.22845	% adolescents report increased self-efficacy	Optional	
		C4A.21420	% HHs reporting that they have good community leadership	Recommended	
		C4A.21416	# and % of HHs reporting good community cohesion	Recommended	
		C4A.21418	% HHs reporting good conflict management in the community	Recommended	
C5A.19086	# of marginalised and vulnerable community members report feeling valued and respected from community groups and leaders	Optional			
Intermediate outcome 1.1	Community members lead Re-greening planning processes	New	% respondents/community members aware of the environmental restoration plan and committee	Essential	HH Survey
		New	% respondents/ community members with a positive opinion of the environmental restoration/Re-greening plan and committee	Recommended	HH Survey
		New	% respondents who participated at least in one environment restoration activity	Recommended	HH Survey
		C4D.03443	% leadership roles in mixed-gender project supported groups held by women and men	Recommended	Proj. Rec. Review
		New	% women, men and people with disabilities reporting they were able to meaningfully participate in community-level meetings, groups and/or collective action	Recommended	HH Survey
Output	Contextual analyses completed	New	# of studies	Essential	Proj. Rec. Review, Reports

Ac-tivi-ties	Contextual analysis including biophysical; governance; gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI); conflict; livelihoods; and disaster risk				
Output 1.1.2	Community-based natural resource management (NRM)/ environmental restoration committees established/ strengthened	New	# of community-based environmental restoration committees (Regreening Committees) formed and/or strengthened and functioning	Essential	Assessment of committees
		New	# of members of community-based environmental restoration committees/Regreening Committee (disaggregated by sex and categories of community members)	Recommended	Review of Project and committee Records
		New	# of leadership roles in mixed gender project supported groups held by women	Recommended	
		C4B.19234	# of people exposed to awareness-raising campaigns/ activities highlighting climate change and environment issues	Recommended	
Ac-tivi-ties	Identify and strengthen community-based NRM organisations, and institutional arrangements are strengthened to enhance social cohesion in the implementation of the landscape restoration plan/regreening plan)				
Output	Community Regreening Plans completed	New	# of environmental restoration plans developed	Essential	Review of Project and Committee Records
		New	# of environmental restoration plans updated according to their agreed frequency	Essential	
Activities	Community awareness-raising on the linkages between landscape degradation, climate change, livelihoods, food security and child nutrition				
	Participatory planning processes used to develop common vision for the future, identify areas to be protected and restored, and identify recommended actions				
	Regreening Index baseline and ongoing participatory monitoring plans established				
	Consider linking to Empowered Worldview (EWV) activities that relate to social cohesion and trust if programming these models in tandem and add related outputs and indicators				
Intermediate outcome 1.2	Improved governance systems (agreements/ bylaws, policies, etc.) support environmental restoration, ensure shared benefits and reduce natural resource conflict	C4B.25451	# and % of 'healthy partnerships'	Essential	Project Record Review
		New	# of bylaws, policies and/or agreements supporting environmental restoration adopted	Recommended	
		C4D.20985	# and % of partners with appropriate capacity to make sustained contributions to child well-being	Optional	
		SDG 1.4.2	% total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognised documentation and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure (disaggregated by sex, disability and type of tenure)	Optional	HH Survey
		NEW ref WRI	Proportion of forestland (or key biodiversity areas) that is legally titled and customarily held by indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent local communities	Optional	Community Workshop/ FGDs
		New	% respondents who agree local natural resource governance is fair	Recommended	HH Survey
		New	% respondents who believe conflicts about the environment are able to be resolved successfully	Recommended	
		New	% respondents who agree everyone who uses the environment is committed to restoring it	Recommended	
		New	% respondents who agree that leaders (formal and informal) are committed to restoring the environment	Recommended	
		New	% increase in Landscape Governance Assessment score	Optional	Community Workshop
		C5A.25826	Proportion of HH respondents satisfied with their last experience of public services	Recommended	HH Survey
		C4D.0094	% adolescents who report that their views are sought and incorporated into the decision-making of local government	Optional	Adolescents Survey

Output 1.2.1	Capacity of community members to advocate for support and make agreements for environmental restoration plan implementation strengthened	New	# individuals trained/supported to advocate for support	Essential	Project Records Review
		C4D.22804	# of partnering MOU/agreements in place between stakeholders	Recommended	
Activities	Community champions for land/seascape restoration objectives identified and actively engaged in partnerships to address enabling (local restoration groups) and disabling (e.g. absentee landlords, extractive industries, polluting industries components of landscape restoration plan (including tenure and access related issues)				
	Community advocacy for better services supported where appropriate (potential links to Citizen Voice and Action [CVA])				
Output 1.2.2	Constructive dialogue and collective action with formal and informal duty bearers	New	# relevant stakeholders engaged	Essential	Project Records Review
		New	# local leaders engaged	Recommended	
		New	# of CBOs engaging with policy implementation agencies	Optional	
		C5A.25552	# of community members participating in CVA community gathering	Optional	
		C2C.26096	# of sub-national and national dialogues	Optional	
Activities	Faith and cultural leaders support enacting the landscape restoration plan (through building awareness, encouraging support, etc.)				
	Stakeholders work together to identify enabling and disabling factors (policies, practices) and threats to the environment				
	Relevant stakeholders engaged to support implementation of the environmental restoration plan				
	Relevant agreements and by-laws made to support implementation of environmental restoration plan				
Intermediate Outcome 1.	Community members and stakeholders celebrate and enhance cultural and spiritual connection to the environment	New	% community members reporting a feeling of enhanced cultural and spiritual connection to the environment	Essential	HH Survey
Output	Faith and cultural leaders contribute to behaviour change in support of the environmental restoration plan	New	# of faith/cultural leaders engaged	Essential	Project Records Review
		C4B.25427	# of individuals participating in behaviour change training (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Optional	
		C1B.026316	# of faith leaders trained in improved environmental conservation and NRM	Optional	
Activities	Faith and cultural leaders mobilised to support landscape restoration plan under Outcome 1.1 (through building awareness, encouraging support, etc.)				
	Current and historic culturally significant land/seascapes and indigenous communities and practices are included in restoration planning process				
	Activities that enhance community cultural connection to environment are included in landscape restoration plan				
	Recognise and value the contributions of indigenous communities, traditional knowledge and management practices to land and sea management				
Output 1.3.2	Celebration and acknowledgment events held to recognise environment and champions/acknowledgment events held to recognise environment and champions	New	# of events	Essential	Project Records Review
		New	# of participants at events (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Essential	

Activities	Celebrate and amplify the impact of land and seascape restoration successes and champions to inspire and motivate further action				
	Regular review of participatory monitoring of changes in the environment by community members				
Output 1.3.3	Children, adolescents and/or young people engaged as supporters of Regreening	New	# of children, adolescents and young people (CAYP) supporting Regreening their environment	Essential	Project Records Review
		SDG 1.4.2	# of schools engaged in supporting land and seascape restoration	Recommended	
		New	% students who demonstrate knowledge of climate change and their environment (e.g., ecological cycles, how to identify risks, importance of natural resources)	Recommended	Student Survey
Activities	Youth and schools engaged through IMPACT+ Environmental Stewardship Model or other localised environmental education tools				
	Children, adolescents and/or young people made aware of environmental restoration and climate change related to their local environment				
	Children, adolescents and young people participate in and/or support implementation of the Regreening Plan				
OUTCOME 2	Target environments are more resilient to climate-related shocks and disasters through improved condition of soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity	New	Regreening Index score for target landscape	Essential	Proj. Rec. Review
		C4B.25211	Average tree density in target area	Recommended	Environ. Observations
		C4B.25212 (adapted)	% change in average tree density in target area	Recommended	
		C4A.0042	% respondents that observe that tree cover is maintained or increasing	Recommended	HH Survey
		C4D.034424	% respondents who observe an increase in soil fertility		
		C4D.034425	% HHs who observe soil erosion has reduced		
		New	% respondents who observe an increase in water quality/availability		
		New	% respondents who observe health of coastal and marine resources in their community is improving		
Intermediate	Individuals and groups apply environmental conservation and improved NRM practices	New (based on C4B.25537)	# and % of target area (% total hectares) with a project defined minimum number of recommended environmental conservation or improved NRM practices (disaggregated by practice)	Essential	Project Records Review
		C4B.25210	Area of land managed with FMNR in the target area (ha)	Essential	
		C4D.034423	% HHs using improved NRM (environmental conservation) or sustainable agriculture practices	Essential	HH Survey
		New	#/% HHs contributing to restoration/conservation activities on communal land	Recommended	Proj.Rec.Review
		C4B.25209	#/% HHs adopting FMNR in target area (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Essential	HH Survey
		C4B.22761	% trained individuals who adopt improved environmental conservation and NRM techniques (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Recommended	
		New	# of groups using improved environmental conservation and improved NRM	Optional	Project and Group Records Review
		New	# of individuals participating in groups using improved environmental conservation and improved NRM practices (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Optional	
		C4B.22760	% trained individuals with knowledge of improved environmental conservation and NRM techniques (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Optional	HH Survey

Output 2.1.1	Trainers trained in improved environmental conservation and NRM practices	New	# of trainers trained on environmental conservation and improved NRM	Essential	Project Records Review
		C4B.19053	# of lead farmers guiding others in local community	Recommended	
		New	# of trainers trained on FMNR (disaggregated by community member, government, NGO or other)	Recommended	
		New	# of trainers assisted with necessary materials and training kits	Recommended	
Activities	Trainers (community, government, NGO and other) are trained in the selected environmental conservation and improved NRM practices				
	Support (in the form of assets, capacity, partnerships or mentoring) provided to trainers and local champions and restoration actors to enhance and accelerate their work towards the landscape restoration plan				
Output 2.1.2	Communities' capacities in environmental conservation and improved NRM practices strengthened	C4B.22759	# of people trained on environmental conservation and NRM techniques (disaggregated by practice sex and disability)	Essential	Project Records Review
		New	# of practitioners trained on FMNR	Recommended	
		New	# of individuals assisted with materials or equipment for environmental conservation or NRM (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Recommended	
Activities	Capacity building and training of target groups in NRM using indigenous practices and proven practices such as FMNR, Integrated Pest Management practices, etc. Final list of intervention is to be decided in each context as per the community action plan				
Intermediate	Individuals and groups reduce impact of threatening processes on land and seascapes	C3A.026300	# and % of HHs refraining from unsustainable environmental management practices	Essential	HH Survey
		SDG 7.1.2	% HHs with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	Optional	
Output 2.2.1	Community supported to adopt clean fuel technologies	New	# of participants who attended awareness-raising sessions of clean fuels and technologies	Recommended	AP/Project Records Review
		New	# of HHs supported with clean fuels and technology (disaggregated by HH head and technology)	Recommended	
Activities	Support individuals and/or groups to take up energy alternatives to reduce threatening processes (such as unsustainable firewood harvesting, etc.)				
Output 2.2.2	Community supported to reduce reliance on unsustainable or threatening practices	New	# of participants who attended awareness-raising sessions on threatening practices and sustainable alternatives	Essential	AP/Project Records Review
		New	# of individuals supported with sustainable alternative income generation opportunities (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Recommended	
Activities	Support individuals and/or groups to take up alternative income-generation opportunities or energy alternatives to reduce threatening processes (such as unsustainable timber or firewood harvesting, over grazing, overfishing, etc.) Provide training, access to ongoing technical support/mentoring, facilitate partnerships or access to assets or financial support as required				
OUTCOME 3	Sustainable improvements in production of local crop, livestock, forest, aquatic or marine products for consumption and sale	C4B.25213	% HHs with improved access to firewood, building poles, timber and non-timber forest products (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Essential	HH Survey
		C4B.14228	% HHs with increased income (disaggregated by sex)	Essential	
		C4D.034427	% HHs who observe that livestock production is improving	Recommended	
		C4D.034426	% HHs who observe that their main staple crop production is increasing	Recommended	
		New	% HHs who observe that fisheries (or other aquatic or marine) production is improving	Recommended	
		C4D.034443	Average # of hours per day spent on firewood collection (gender disaggregated)	Optional	

Intermediate Outcome 3.1	Producers apply improved practices to sustainably increase their production of target products	C4D.034423	% HHs using improved NRM or sustainable agriculture practices	Essential	HH Survey
		C4B.25537	# and % of target area (% total hectares) with a project defined minimum number of recommended sustainable agriculture and NRM practices	Essential	HH Survey, AP/Project Records
		C4B.22749	# of community or local trainers who have trained others on improved and sustainable agricultural techniques (disaggregated by sex and disability)	Recommended	AP/Project Records Review
Output 3.1.1	Trainers trained in sustainable and climate-smart agriculture techniques	C4B.22749	# of project trained individuals who have trained others on improved sustainable and climate-smart agriculture techniques (sex disaggregated)	Essential	Monitoring/Project Records review
		New	# of trainers trained on FMNR (disaggregated by community member, government, NGO or other)	Recommended	
		New	# of trainers assisted with necessary materials and training kits	Recommended	
Activities	Trainers (community, government, NGO and other) are trained in the selected sustainable and climate-smart agriculture technologies				
	Support (in the form of assets, capacity, partnerships or mentoring) provided to trainers and local champions to enhance and accelerate their work towards the environmental restoration plan				
Output 3.1.2	Individuals and groups' capacity to adopt sustainable and climate-smart agriculture techniques strengthened	C4B.22746	# of individuals trained in improved sustainable and climate-smart agriculture techniques (disaggregated by type of training)	Essential	Monitoring/Project Records/Reports Review
		C4B.22751	# of farmers (or individuals) receiving agricultural inputs and assets (disaggregated by sex)	Recommended	
		C4B.22753	# of Farmer Field Schools	Optional	Proj. Rec. review
		C4B.22752	# of farm demonstration sites established	Optional	
Activities	Identify suitable, contextually appropriate practices with communities (both for men and women) to increase production of targeted products				
	Capacity building of farmer individuals and groups in sustainable food production to support household food security				
	Assisting women with assistive devices and/or material support to increase production and help in regeneration process				

2.4 Methodology of the model

2.4.1 Give a description of the methodology and explain what makes this model unique from similar models (Part 5 will require references to more field guidance).

Regreening Communities allows the community to choose their priorities, the preferred restoration techniques, and the way they want to implement their landscape restoration plan. Regreening Communities is a highly adaptable model, which follows this basic methodology:

1. **Community consultation and landscape mapping** – Identify where the environmental degradation is happening and how it is impacting the community. This includes issues like low crop production due to soil infertility. Additionally, this step identifies enablers (such as existing community environmental groups) or disablers (such as illegal logging).
2. **Support or set-up community landscape restoration groups, including champions** – This step could include supporting the formation of a new community landscape restoration group, or it could include supporting and bolstering existing groups that are trying to do this work. This step should include identifying champions and ensuring that all community members are represented – particularly women, youth and people with disabilities.

3. **Create landscape restoration plan and priorities** – The target group should develop their restoration plan and priorities based on which areas of degradation are impacting the community the most. This should be shared back with the wider community for sign-off.
4. **Implement the landscape restoration plan**
 - a. **Scale up indigenous practices that work and amplify the work of local champions** – This includes supporting community groups and individuals to provide training and restoration initiatives within the community.
 - b. **Advocate for better services from government** – Using a customised toolbox of advocacy techniques, the community demands services such as climate change adaptation training from agricultural extension agents. This includes advocating for enabling factors such as land and natural resources access for indigenous communities, people with disabilities, adolescents, youth, children, and women. This step could be done at a local, county, or national level.
 - c. **World Vision and partners provide capacity building in a customised toolbox of approaches** – This includes FMNR and other techniques that are as low-cost and simple as possible.
5. **Monitor changes, refine plan, share successes and celebrate champions** – Continue to modify the plan based on community needs and learnings as well as provide space to celebrate and share practices with the current community and surrounding communities (where relevant).

2.4.2 Explain if aspects of this model can be implemented independently or whether the project model should only be implemented as a whole package. If a modular implementation is possible, please explain how.

These five basic steps of this approach must always be done, but the selected advocacy techniques and restoration techniques will be different in each community depending on their needs and the budget and capacity of the staff. For example, in an Area Programme with a small budget, they may only wish to provide capacity building in a small selection of low-cost restoration techniques such as FMNR and zai pits. Conversely, in an Area Programme with a large budget they may wish to implement CVA instead of the lower-cost advocacy techniques.



2.5 Level of evidence for the model

2.5.1 Provide a brief description of the analysis of the key pieces of evidence used to build this model.

The Regreening Communities model is strongly based on the experiences and outcomes of more than 40 past projects, promoting FMNR along with a wide range of complimentary natural resource management and sustainable production practices in various ways. The Regreening Communities model is a more holistic model combining the community mobilisation approach of FMNR with broader scope and range of natural resource and sustainable production practices. This model also includes the FMNR tree management practices, as applied in these projects.

An Evidence Gap Analysis on the FMNR project approach was completed in 2016 by World Vision Australia. This analysis reviewed 21 internal evaluations and analyses and more than 30 external sources (academic articles and grey literature), including 12 journal articles specific to FMNR. Since this review, more research on FMNR projects and their ongoing impacts have been done by numerous research institutions as well as World Vision staff. The FMNR Hub continues to collate, review and share this evidence to inform FMNR practice, and subsequently has also informed the development of this model.

2.5.2 What does the available evidence say about effectiveness of the model and sustainability of achieved outcomes (in terms of time, funding, etc.)?

Strong evidence of the following impacts of FMNR has been found in both published literature as well as through our own statistically valid impact evaluations:

- high reach and uptake
- improved tree cover and tree density
- increased availability of wood and forest products
- improved land and soil quality
- increased income and decreased poverty
- improved food security
- improved child well-being, and more so for poorer households
- improved gender equality and social cohesion
- increased crop yields
- empowered communities

Since this 2016 Evidence Gap Analysis and 2019 Meta Review, more research on FMNR continues to strengthen the evidence for FMNR as a low cost, rapid and easily replicated, community-led approach to restoring and improving agricultural, forested and pasture lands.

2.5.3 What are the identified gaps in the analysis of evidence and how do they likely affect the chance of success of the model?

Evidence gaps remain for contexts where the FMNR approach specifically has not yet been implemented and/or researched in the same level of depth. This includes coastal and wetland contexts, for example. The current FMNR evidence is focussed strongly on the African context – in West Africa where it was first developed in the 1980s and more recently in Eastern and Southern Africa, where it has now been in implementation for over 10 years. While there is some evidence from FMNR project evaluation activities in the Asia Pacific region (Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Myanmar), external evidence specific to FMNR is not yet available. Evidence of community-based natural resource management and natural regeneration practices and the contribution of improved environmental conditions for

development outcomes,^{2,3} is well established in Africa, Latin America, Middle East, and Asian contexts, where the specific tree management technique of FMNR has not yet been widely applied.

2.5.3.1 Primary evidence of the Regreening Communities model

The following three pieces of evidence were selected to demonstrate the strong empirical foundation underpinning the Regreening Communities model:

1. Binam, J.N., Place, F., Kalinganire, A. et al. (2015). [Effects of farmer managed natural regeneration on livelihoods in semi-arid West Africa](#). *Environ Econ Policy Stud* 17, 543–575.
2. Cornwell, K. (2019). [FMNR Evidence of Impact Report](#). World Vision Australia, FMNR Hub.
3. Westerberg, V., Doku, A., Damnyag, L., Kranjac-Berisavljevic, G., Owusu, S., Jasaw, G., Di Falco, S. (2019). [Reversing Land Degradation in Drylands: The Case for Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration \(FMNR\) in the Upper West Region of Ghana](#). Report for the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative in the framework of the “Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture” project.

The Project Model Technical Review panel assessed the strength of this evidence and has provided the following evidence ratings:

1. Effects of farmer managed natural regeneration on livelihoods in semi-arid West Africa	2. FMNR Evidence of Impact Report	3. Reversing Land Degradation in Drylands: The Case for Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in the Upper West Region of Ghana
NEW TO BE ASSESSED	78%	75%

2.5.3.2 Secondary evidence of the Regreening Communities model

Additional evidence of the benefits of FMNR in increasing household income, crop production and tree cover in Niger have been published by Haglund et al (2011).⁴ A social return on investment analysis of FMNR programming in Talensi district of Ghana also provides evidence of a 16:1 return on investment when the social, economic and environmental benefits of FMNR were quantified.⁵ A more recent study (2019) in the same area identified that the combination of FMNR with other associated sustainable land management practices resulted in farmers being significantly better off than conventional farmers, increasing their return on investment by up to four times.⁶

A similar approach to the Regreening Communities approach has also been used across several projects, most notably the [DryDev project](#) in Ethiopia and Kenya. Through this approach, over 58,000 farmers (40 per cent female) restored 50,000 ha throughout 29 sub-catchments, including 8,000 ha through FMNR. Over 2 million trees were planted, and 3,500 ha of pasture and 2,600 ha of irrigation were brought into production. This resulted in the following impact:

² IRP (2019). Land Restoration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: An International Resource Panel Think Piece. Herrick, J.E., Abrahamse, T., Abhilash, P.C., Ali, S.H., Alvarez-Torres, P., Barau, A.S., Branquinho, C., Chhatre, A., Chotte, J.L., Cowie, A.L., Davis, K.F., Edrisi, S.A., Fennessy, M.S., Fletcher, S., Flores-Díaz, A.C., Franco, I.B., Ganguli, A.C., Speranza, C.I., Kamar, M.J., Kaudia, A.A., Kimiti, D.W., Luz, A.C., Matos, P., Metternicht, G., Neff, J., Nunes, A., Olaniyi, A.O., Pinho, P., Primmer, E., Quandt, A., Sarkar, P., Scherr, S.J., Singh, A., Sudoi, V., von Maltitz, G.P., Wertz, L., Zeleke, G. A think piece of the International Resource Panel. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya [Land-Restoration-for-Achieving-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-An-International-Resource-Panel-Think-Piece.pdf \(researchgate.net\)](#).

³ Heger, M., Zens, G., & Bangalore, M. (2020). Land and poverty: The role of soil fertility and vegetation quality in poverty reduction. *Environment and Development Economics*, 25(4), 315–333. Doi:10.1017/S1355770X20000066.

⁴ Haglund, E., Ndjéunga, J., Snook, L. and Pasternak, D. (2011). Dry land tree management for improved household livelihoods: Farmer managed natural regeneration in Niger, *Journal of Environmental Management*, 92(7) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2011.01.027>.

⁵ Weston, P., Hong, R., Kaboré, C. et al. (2015). Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration Enhances Rural Livelihoods in Dryland West Africa. *Environmental Management* 55, 1402–1417. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-015-0469-1>.

⁶ Westerberg, V., Doku, A., Damnyag, L., Kranjac-Berisavljevic, G., Owusu, S., Jasaw, G., Di Falco, S. (2019). Reversing Land Degradation in Drylands: The Case for Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Report for the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative in the framework of the “Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture” project.. [ELD-Ghana-Report-final-240120.pdf \(eld-initiative.org\)](#).

- Minimum dietary diversity has increased from 1.89 in 2015 to 5.07 in 2018, indicating an increase in access to diverse food categories.
- The number of hungry months reduced from 3.41 in 2014 to 1.6 in 2018, indicating increased household food security.
- According to the household hunger scale, 93 per cent of households reported no household hunger and only 6 per cent and 1 per cent of households reported moderate and severe food insecurity respectively.
- Average household income and expenditure has nearly doubled from US\$716 to US\$1,286, and from US\$470 to US\$1,080 respectively.

The premise of the Regreening Communities model is, at its simplest, that a thriving environment is critical to the achievement of the community development outcomes necessary for child well-being. A comprehensive summary of the evidence for the link between land restoration and the Sustainable Development Goals has been detailed by the International Resource Panel (IRP) (2019)⁷. Heger, Zens and Bangalore (2020)⁸ provide empirical evidence of significant poverty reduction in response to improvements in vegetation and soil health as a result of environmental restoration activities. Furthermore, they identified that it was the most vulnerable rural communities that disproportionately benefited from the greatest poverty reductions as a result of environmental improvements – more so than as a result of receiving income. This suggests that improving environmental conditions is potentially a more effective approach for improving well-being of the most vulnerable than simply focusing on income.

Participatory community-based natural resource management approaches have been widely proven to be the most successful way to ensure inclusive and equitable outcomes for both people and the environment together.⁹ In addition to participatory planning approaches that build trust and community cohesion, Regreening Communities seeks to build on indigenous knowledge, from a diverse range of groups in the community, to co-create locally owned land and sea restoration solutions.¹⁰ Local champions and farmer-to-farmer extension (F2FE) approaches are also a key part of ensuring effective capacity building in restoration and sustainable agricultural practices, as demonstrated by Kiptot and Franzel.¹¹

2.6 Contexts the model has worked in

2.6.1 In what countries was the model, or parts of it, tested and validated? Indicate if rural, urban, fragile, or transition economies.

The FMNR project model, which mirrors a similar community planning process and introduces FMNR and other complimentary approaches, has been successfully implemented in 27 countries (Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Kingdom of Eswatini, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, Burundi, Ghana, Senegal, India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Haiti and Sri Lanka) through World Vision Area Programmes and/or grants. These communities have been primarily rural settings whereby most community members rely directly on the environment for their livelihoods, such as for farming or pastoralism. Please see project examples in the evidence section for details.

The full Regreening Communities approach is currently being piloted in Uganda, with partners Catholic Relief Services and CARE International.

⁷ IRP (2019).

⁸ Heger, M., Zens, G., & Bangalore, M. (2020).

⁹ Buono & Rao (2016).

¹⁰ Elias, M. (2018). 'Mobilizing indigenous and local knowledge for successful restoration', Lessons for gender-responsive landscape restoration, GLF Brief 4, (Bioversity International, CIFOR, Global Landscapes Forum, CGIAR). GLF-Brief-4.pdf (globallandscapesforum.org).

¹¹ Kiptot, E. & Franzel, S. (2019). Developing sustainable farmer-to-farmer extension: experiences from the volunteer farmer-trainer approach in Kenya, International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability, 17:6, 401-412, DOI: 10.1080/14735903.2019.1679576 (PDF) Developing sustainable farmer-to-farmer extension: experiences from the volunteer farmer-trainer approach in Kenya. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337043149_Developing_sustainable_farmer-to-farmer_extension_experiences_from_the_volunteer_farmer-trainer_approach_in_Kenya [accessed Nov 25 2021].

2.6.2 What contextual factors (e.g., cultural, political, religious, local and/or national) were found in the evidence to affect the likelihood of success or failure of the model and why? (e.g., strength of civil society, partner capacity, physical environment, community engagement, etc.)

This model is widely applicable in most rural settings. In peri-urban settings, there must be enough parts of the community that rely on the natural environment, otherwise there will not be enough buy-in. This model is unlikely to work in urban settings; however, in these settings, approaches such as kitchen gardens or similar could still be introduced. For communities that are more geographically dispersed or contain nomadic communities the project team must decide whether to create multiple sub-landscape plans to capture the disparate areas and sub-communities. These plans can then be collated to form a broader landscape plan for the whole area.

The model will likely be easier to implement in areas where there is already a high degree of trust, social cohesion or social capital. If there are extremely high levels of conflict within a community it may impede the likelihood that the community can unite over a landscape restoration plan. However, if the conflict is natural resource based (e.g., farmers and pastoralists clashing over land usage) then this model can be introduced as a peacebuilding initiative to rectify this issue.

This model is easily adapted if there is low or high capacity of partners, governments or local institutions. If there is high capacity in any of these areas, World Vision is simply supporting the existing structures and acting as a facilitator between the community and these institutions to unite around a landscape restoration plan. However, if any of these areas are weak, then the toolbox of advocacy techniques is used to strengthen things such as agricultural extension agents' capacity to provide training or the ability of indigenous people to access forest products.



3. Project model design and implementation quality

3.1 Essential elements

3.1.1 What are the essential interventions of the model that should always be central to design and implementation in all contexts? What are the essential indicators that (where relevant) should be included in the M&E plan of Technical Programmes and projects?

Steps one through four of the methodology (consultation, landscape mapping, landscape restoration planning and plan implementation) are the essential interventions of the model. Furthermore, these must always be done in a way that is inclusive of the wider community, including women, people with disabilities, children, adolescents and youth.

The essential indicators for this project model have been identified in the Standard Logical Model table in Section 2.3 above.

3.1.2 What are the negotiable features that can be adapted for different contexts? (provide details in Section 3.7)

The specific advocacy and restoration techniques that are selected by the community to restore their environment will be different in every context. Therefore, they are designed as a 'toolbox' that community members select from.

3.2 Staffing requirement and competencies

3.2.1 To successfully implement this project, what staff will be required?

- **At the national office level:**
Ensure the presence and services of a technical lead with an inter-disciplinary team of specialists on faith and development, natural resource management, agriculture and GEDSI. They should be familiar with the Regreening Communities project model to be able to facilitate design and implementation.
- **At the Area Programme (AP) level:**
 - A champion of regreening approaches, and a natural resource management and resilience point person – both of whom have more than 70 per cent of their time to give to the project
 - A champion on Empowered Worldview and Citizen Voice and Action (if any of these project models are included in the design)
 - Support from the AP manager, as well as key finance staff will be required; a project can have a designated staff
 - Design, monitoring and evaluation (DM&E) technical support for participatory M&E, mapping and reporting; a project must have a designated M&E staff
 - GEDSI technical support or designated focal point
- **At the field level:**
Development facilitators (DF) will be the key staff who will facilitate the development and oversee the implementation of Regreening plans. The DF should at least have a diploma in environment, natural resource management, forestry/agroforestry or other related fields. The number of DFs should be considered carefully as the workloads may vary depending on the number and type of interventions a project/programme intends to implement, spread of the target population, and support available through the extension system of the country. Wherever possible, gender balance should be maintained within the DFs.

3.3 Budget

3.3.1 Based on evidence, what are the typical cost items of implementing this model? Give an overview of resource requirements and provide examples.

Financial planning and budgeting

Typical costs involved in this model will include:

1. Staff costs for the above-mentioned staff.
2. Cost of context analysis studies.
3. Events and meetings at the community level. These may include workshops and meetings with key community members to scope the appropriateness of the model, Regreening Committee meetings to plan and prioritise areas to be restored and to develop action plans, regular review and reflection meetings of the Regreening Committee (quarterly or bi-yearly as planned), and annual celebration and re-forecasting for Regreening plan and community-level monitoring.
4. Events and meetings at the project/AP level – for example, meetings with stakeholders and holding learning and sharing events.
5. Compensation/incentives for the government experts/local extension staff and local leaders/trainers, as well as travel allowance and support if required.
6. Capacity building activities – including existing local and indigenous practices, the Regreening Communities toolbox of techniques (including FMNR), and advocacy and/or conflict mediation techniques selected by community members. This will also include capacity building activities for staff.
7. Direct funding for partner implementers to run capacity building or support for existing restoration groups.
8. Provision of tools or resources for certain restoration techniques – for example, water harvesting or nursery equipment. The assistance for restoration options provided to a community can be tailored based on the budget of the AP/project.
9. Education and/or engagement activities with children, adolescents and young people.
10. Gender equality, disability and social inclusion budget line for affirmative actions, such as budget for accommodation of people with disabilities, engagement with women's rights organisations and organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs), or training on gender-based violence.

3.3.2 Are there any economies of scale that should be considered? (provide details in Section 3.7)

Because this model is so adapted and contextualised to each community, there aren't many economies of scale to consider. However, the project should always aim itself at the entire community, instead of sub-groups, because this is the more efficient and effective way to run the model.

3.4 Partnering

3.4.1 Briefly describe the evidence of what partnerships have been successful and which haven't. Provide links to more detailed documentation such as case studies where available.

As any landscape or seascape to be restored involves many stakeholders, partnering in the planning and implementation of this project model is essential. FMNR projects have deliberately included the widest stakeholder group possible to achieve maximum impact. In the FMNR East Africa project, this included engaging with local government to have FMNR included and budgeted for in the county plans of and partner NGOs providing training. However, as with all World Vision programming, the partnering is context dependant. In a study titled 'Effects of local institutions on the adoption of agroforestry innovations: evidence of farmer managed natural regeneration

and its implications for rural livelihoods in the Sahel,¹² it was found that, 'In areas with well-structured formal and informal institutions, populations seem to have adopted a better collaboration attitude with the local government by developing plans for a good management and protection of natural resource including FMNR practices. However, in areas where these commissions are being assimilated to governmental institutions, the willingness to raise incentives towards a better management of natural resources is less perceived.' As such, the involvement of governments and other partners will depend on their respective strength, reliability and formality in each community.

Key partners are likely to include a wide and diverse range of community organisations and groups, local leaders, schools, faith leaders and organisations, local government, and ministries or departments of agriculture, environment, water, forests and/or fisheries. Additional partnerships may also include private sector and research. It is important that partnerships are developed for meaningful collaboration, with the values and prioritised goals for landscape restoration by the community understood and supported by all. This table highlights what a typical project with partners might look like.

Partner	Scoping and consultation	Environmental mapping and restoration	Regreening	Other	Type of involvement
Community-based organisations (CBOs)	X	X	X		CBOs that are already working on environmental restoration should be empowered to continue and lead this work as part of Regreening Communities. CBOs that are focused on other areas such as health, or education may just be consulted at the scoping stage.
Environmental, climate adaptation or conservation organisations	X	X	X		These may be NGOs or linked to the government or private sector and focus more on biophysical components of the environment and/or production systems. They will likely be able to support many elements of the project, such as contextual analyses, training in natural resource management or sustainable production practices, monitoring and evaluation, or research; and be important for evidence building, thought leadership and advocacy.
Organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) and women's rights organisations (WROs), youth groups, indigenous groups, and women's groups	X	X	X		These groups will likely be representative of the GEDSI populations that the project model is trying to reach and thus should be deeply involved to understand the needs of these population groups regarding their landscape/seascape. It should be ensured that there are restoration practices selected that are accessible to the diverse people in this group and that their voices are heard in determining priorities. Funded partnerships should be sought with organisations such as OPDs and WROs to leverage their expertise for design, implementation and monitoring, evaluation, and learning.
Faith communities and faith leaders	X	X	X		As with schools, faith communities often have access to a physical location within the environment that can become a demonstration site for a restoration activity or be able to provide volunteer groups for community actions. Faith leaders can be influential in reaching community members with messaging and should therefore be involved at all stages.

¹² Binam, J.N., Place, F., Djalal, A.A. et al. (2017). Effects of local institutions on the adoption of agroforestry innovations: evidence of farmer managed natural regeneration and its implications for rural livelihoods in the Sahel. *Agric Econ* 5, 2. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40100-017-0072-2>.

Local leaders and chiefs	X	X	X	In some contexts, traditional/customary leaders like chiefs have 'de facto' or even 'de jure' authority to resolve natural resource disputes, allocate land ownership and use rights, and marshal communities for collective labour. As such, it is essential to understand their role, to deeply consult and work with local leaders throughout the Regreening Communities process to develop buy-in and legitimacy, and to support the activities and ultimately the sustainability of the outcomes.
Local government	X	X	X	Local government involvement will be dependent on government capacity. When working with high-capacity governments, it will be crucial to understand current government budget and priorities regarding landscape restoration and to advocate for changes within these government priorities that will support the ongoing protection and restoration of the environment. Also, it is critical to understand and work with the most local governmental institutions, such as village land management commissions or building partnerships, where appropriate.
Government extension agents	X	X	X	Extension agents have been critical partners in almost all FMNR projects. These agents provide training in forestry, agricultural and fisheries practices, and therefore have the potential to be powerful agents of change in the project. RGC projects should seek to work with these agents in a co-learning process wherever possible.
National government ministries – for example, agriculture, fisheries and forests	X		X	National government may not be involved directly in the project, but national policies should be scanned for any complementary policies such as reforestation targets or budgets. If appropriate, the project may seek to report against these targets or access funding accordingly. This may be important for donors, for scaling and for sustainability. Some national government ministries may also have key framework agreements that can support how extension staff and other actors work together.
Schools and children, adolescents and youth (CAY) groups	X	X	X	Schools and children's and adolescents' groups can become groups where restoration activities take place and a location for consulting with children and adolescents on how they want to be involved with their landscape restoration. Regreening Communities can also engage with children and adolescents through other approaches, such as child-led research, intergenerational dialogue, linking locally developed life skills curricula with RGC projects, disaster risk reduction or environmental clubs in schools, and child participation in decision-making.
Research organisations			X	Research organisations can help in selecting the most appropriate restoration practices for the community, in measuring more complex impacts such as soil fertility or carbon capture, in advising on challenges arising, or in responding to questions raised by the community. Research organisations that have a strong commitment to incorporating GEDSI actions within restoration practice should be selected.

Local universities (for example, those offering forestry, agriculture, agroforestry or climate adaptation courses)				X	Local universities may have high-capacity students willing to assist with data collection or biophysical measurements, or other local information or support that can help in planning, implementation and measurement. Effort should be made to ensure gender balance in the selection of students to assist.
Private sector	X			X	Private sector organisations should be considered at the scoping stage. They may be an agent of environmental degradation (a logging company) or an agent of positive change (a carbon credits programme). Their role within the landscape must be considered and planned for – especially if there are activities that could prove to be mutually beneficial to the environment, the community and the private sector partners. They may bring helpful practical resources. They are also key in related livelihoods programming.
Market actors				X	Market actors/partners play a role in marketing process. This can also include smaller market actors like micro-entrepreneurs or retailers of agricultural inputs that contribute to the identified solution (for example, direct seeding equipment or tree seedlings) or agricultural services. They will become very important stakeholders and partners in cases where the RGC project is implemented with a Local Value Chain Development (LVCD) component.

3.5 Accountability

The monitoring and evaluation activities and strong partnership approach of this programme model will provide accountability to community, internal decision-making, learning, improvement and knowledge management and a mechanism for generating and sharing evidence with donors, key external stakeholders, and decision makers.

The monitoring and evaluation for this project will take a participatory approach, whereby the communities themselves are heavily involved in the evaluation of processes and outcomes according to their desired objectives as defined in their landscape restoration plans. Indicators will be informed by community assessments of landscape and seascape conditions through the Regreening Index, or ‘citizen science’ community-led monitoring of observable non-technical indicators such as tree numbers, biodiversity, etc. Evidence of changes in social, economic and environmental indicators will be informed through evaluation surveys, community assessments and external data. Participatory review and evaluation throughout the project processes through the community landscape restoration committees, on farm technology adaptation and sharing of results, and landscape restoration planning review processes, will ensure that the project is meeting household and community expectations, and evidence is being generated that can be shared with others.

Mapping of the restoration areas in a Geographic Information System (using World Vision’s organisational ArcGIS account or simple and freely available tools such as Google Earth, Restor among others) is strongly encouraged in the project model. This will facilitate sharing of restoration activities with others in the sector (both within and beyond World Vision), collaboration locally, and tracking of changes in indicators such as tree cover or land degradation by external datasets. Tracking of indicators such as hectares of land or sea under restoration and changes in key indicators such as tree density will enable the project’s contribution to national and global targets for land restoration, carbon sequestration and environmental conservation to be quantified.



3.6 Adaptation to fragile contexts and transitioning economies

3.6.1 Describe which aspects of the model and process should be adapted in fragile contexts and list any adaptation to tools and materials available (provide links in Part 5).

Regreening Communities is a crucial intervention for many fragile contexts. A report by IISD and UNEP found that in the 60-year period prior to 2009 at least 40 per cent of all intrastate conflicts have a link to natural resources availability.¹³ The FMNR model has successfully been implemented in several fragile contexts including Somalia, South Sudan, Chad, Zimbabwe, Haiti and Ethiopia. It is anticipated that the Regreening Communities model will also be applicable in these contexts but may need modifications such as:

- integrating the World Vision Integrating Peace and Conflict Sensitivity tool within the contextual analysis stage
- utilising the Fragile Context Programme Approach where appropriate
- only promoting advocacy techniques that are appropriate for fragile contexts, and in some contexts reducing the engagement with government officials and focusing only on community-based structures until there is a more stable local government system
- only promoting restoration techniques that are affordable and accessible for these communities – such as FMNR
- prioritising restoration techniques that may have ‘quicker’ returns (such as small-scale water harvesting techniques) if the community may be considering migration or if displacement is a risk
- looking to integrate restoration activities into cash-for-work programmes – as seen with FMNR in the SomRep project in Somalia
- integrating additional peacebuilding interventions or specific conflict-sensitive approaches.

3.6.2 Describe which aspects of the model and process should be adapted in transitioning economies or whether different approaches can be integrated (i.e., Cash Based Programming). List any adaptation to tools and materials available (provide links in Part 5).

The key adaptation Regreening Communities will need to consider in transitioning economies is whether this community will be moving from farming/pastoral economies to drastically different value-chains or businesses. If the community profile is relatively unchanged, then minimal adaptations will be needed. However, if there is a strong shift in the economic profile of the community then this should be integrated into the way the community maps what they need from the environment now – and into the future – to support these needs. This could include new businesses or value chains.

¹³ Matthew, R., Brown, O., & Jensen, D. (2009). From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment. UNEP.

3.7 Integration and enabling project models

3.7.1 Give examples on how this model can be effectively combined with other models to improve child well-being.

This model, and the restoration of the natural environment, is foundational to all World Vision project models. It can be integrated within a Building Secure Livelihoods programme as a way of providing more robust options to the community beyond just Climate-Smart Agriculture and FMNR. It could also be considered in the later stages of Ultra Poor Graduation, when community members have achieved a more stable income and livelihood. It is highly recommended that this model is integrated with economic development approaches and models such as LVCD or Savings for Transformation (S4T) to ensure the community fully experience the economic benefits that can be unleashed from a thriving environment. The model can also be done in conjunction with WASH programming – particularly around natural water source availability and cleanliness. For communities already undertaking Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture or Climate-Smart Agriculture, the Regreening Communities model would be a natural graduation for them to begin thinking about off-farm factors for growing food (water availability, soil fertility, erosion, etc). The model can also be programmed in conjunction with Empowered Worldview – particularly with the overlaps around Regreening Communities supporting individuals to have more hope and a sense of agency over the restoration of their environment and their sense of hope for the future. Additionally, the 'Strengthening a Community Reporting and Referral mechanism' tool (under CA) can be effectively combined with this model to ensure there is a functional and accessible reporting and referral mechanism in place for children with different vulnerabilities who can be referred to proper services during crises caused by climate change.

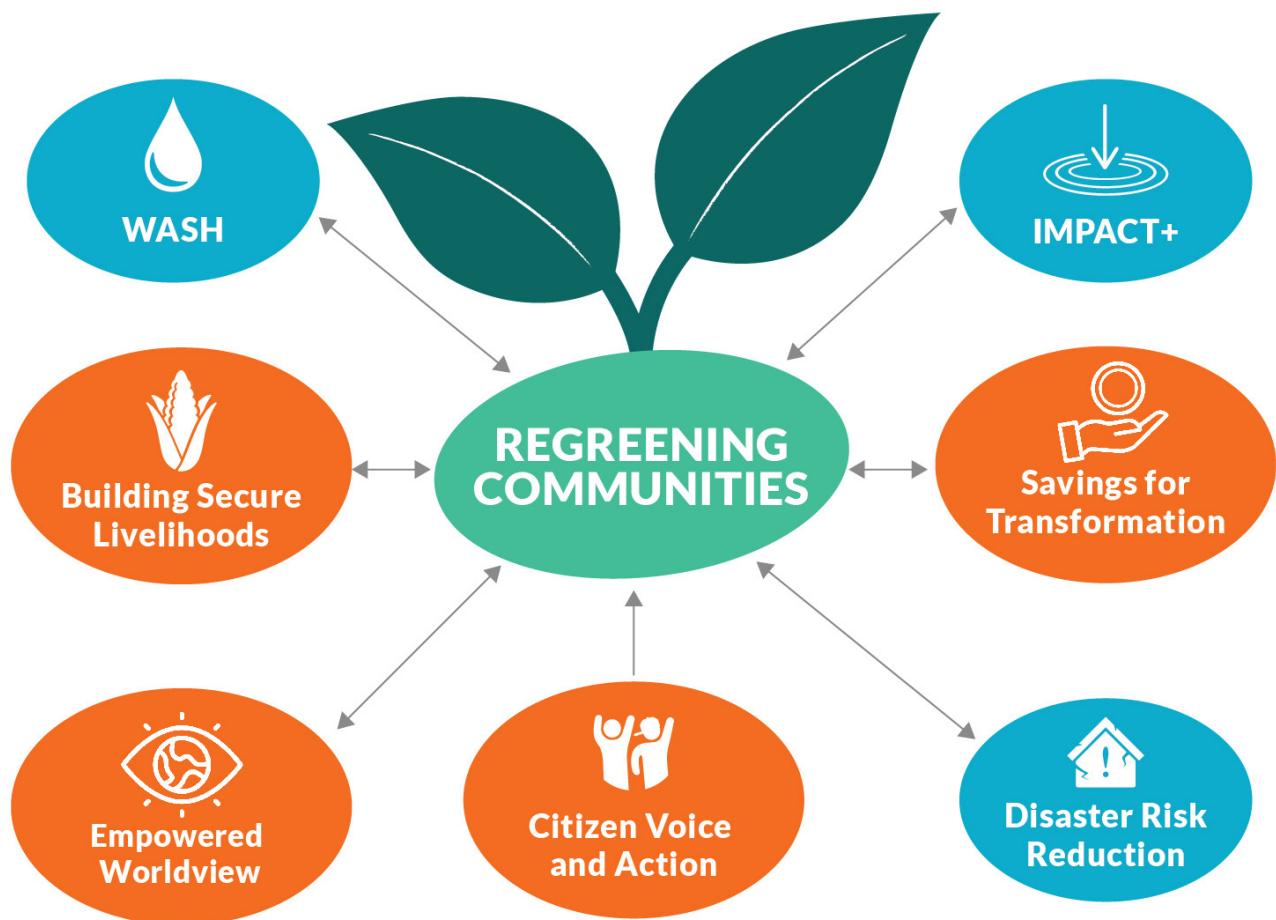


Figure 4. Regreening Communities Model

3.7.2 If applicable, briefly describe how the model can work with Citizen Voice and Action (CVA), Celebrating Families (CF) or Channels of Hope (CoH) or Empowered Worldview enabling model. (Provide details in Section 3.7)

CVA will be provided as one option that can be selected as part of the toolbox of advocacy techniques. This model is highly complementary to Empowered Worldview (EWW) given its focus on ‘regreening mindsets’ and fostering a sense of hope in conjunction with the restoration of the environment. If applicable, it is recommended that EWW be done in conjunction with Regreening Communities. The EWW methodology focuses on identifying and training faith leaders and other community influencers, including women and youth. Their involvement is essential for community acceptance of EWW’s focus on encouraging personal initiative, rather than waiting for support from government or aid agencies. These leaders then mentor other community members as they start Regreening Communities activities such as diversifying crop and livestock production or building reservoirs to conserve rainwater for irrigation during drought.

EWW has been implemented in 26 countries. As EWW spreads to more areas, the methodology is beginning to move beyond a focus on livelihoods to also encourage peacebuilding efforts and inspire communities to develop their own solutions to community issues such as child neglect and education, which are often influenced by traditional views.

3.8 Design and Implementation Quality Assurance (DIQA) tool

3.8.1 Use the DQA and IQA tools to outline the essential elements and minimum quality standards to apply when assessing design and implementation of the model as part of Technical Programmes/ Projects. Make sure LEAP 3 Programme Quality Guidance and Tools are taken into consideration.¹⁴



¹⁴ <https://www.wcentral.org/community/EL/Pages/Programme-Quality-and-LEAP-3.aspx>.

4. Linkages and integration

4.1 Child focus

4.1.1 Child participation

Describe the ways in which the model establishes the meaningful participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project, and any intended impact on children's participation in other aspects of their lives.

World Vision conducted a research study in 2020 to capture children and young people's ideas on how they wanted to engage in climate action. We spoke to 121 children and young people (74 girls and 47 boys) between the ages of 10 and 17 from 12 countries: Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nicaragua, and Romania. Ninety-four per cent of these participants wished to take personal action to address climate change, and a common theme among their responses was to keep them at the heart of climate programming.

Considering this, children, adolescents and youth must be meaningfully involved in the land restoration planning process, where their vision and wishes for the future of the landscape that they will inherit should be considered. Children, adolescents and youth are powerful advocates and agents of change in the implementation of the restoration activities through their schools, groups, families or even on land they have access to manage. Participation through school environment clubs, education, and awareness-raising activities is an extremely important part of the project activities. This activity should abide by the following principles:

- establishing child-friendly mechanisms and platforms on- and off-line to facilitate children's safe and effective formal engagement in climate policymaking
- ensuring that children have access to justice, including effective remedies and reparation of violations due to environmental harm and climate-related child rights violations, through child-friendly and gender-responsive complaints mechanisms at all levels, including by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure
- ensuring that children have access to age-, gender- and ability-appropriate information and education on the climate and environmental crisis through formal and informal education to ensure that children have the necessary skills and knowledge to build resilience and adaptive capacity, and to empower children to influence, promote and create a more sustainable future.

4.1.2 Safeguarding

Describe how the intervention will meet the relevant Child and Adult Safeguarding Standards.

All relevant safeguarding processes and procedures will be included in the operation of the interventions in the field according to World Vision Partnership and national office policies and procedures governing site visits, interactions between staff and communities, and collection and use of data and information (including photographs). All staff will be screened appropriately, and relevant training will be provided for all staff. A risk assessment will be done to assess context specific risks around physical or emotional violence – including injury or discrimination by programme staff, partners, community members and other affiliates – and appropriate mitigation measures will be determined. Partner safeguarding risk assessment will be conducted to make sure partners are safe before engaging them in work with community members and children. Before engaging children in any activity, risk assessment will be conducted not to harm any child. Complaint and feedback mechanisms described in the accountability section will have behaviour protocols as part of information sharing and safeguarding incidents.

4.2 Development Programme Approach

4.2.1 What relevant information is being collected from the LEAP programme assessment and from relevant tools in the critical path (including the root cause analysis tools in Step 5) to help inform the selection of this model?

The Regreening Communities model is well suited to enhancing an existing Area Programme, as part of a new Area Programme or even as part of a national office Technical Programme with its strong emphasis on community empowerment, local ownership and long-term sustained effort to ensure effective outcomes are achieved.

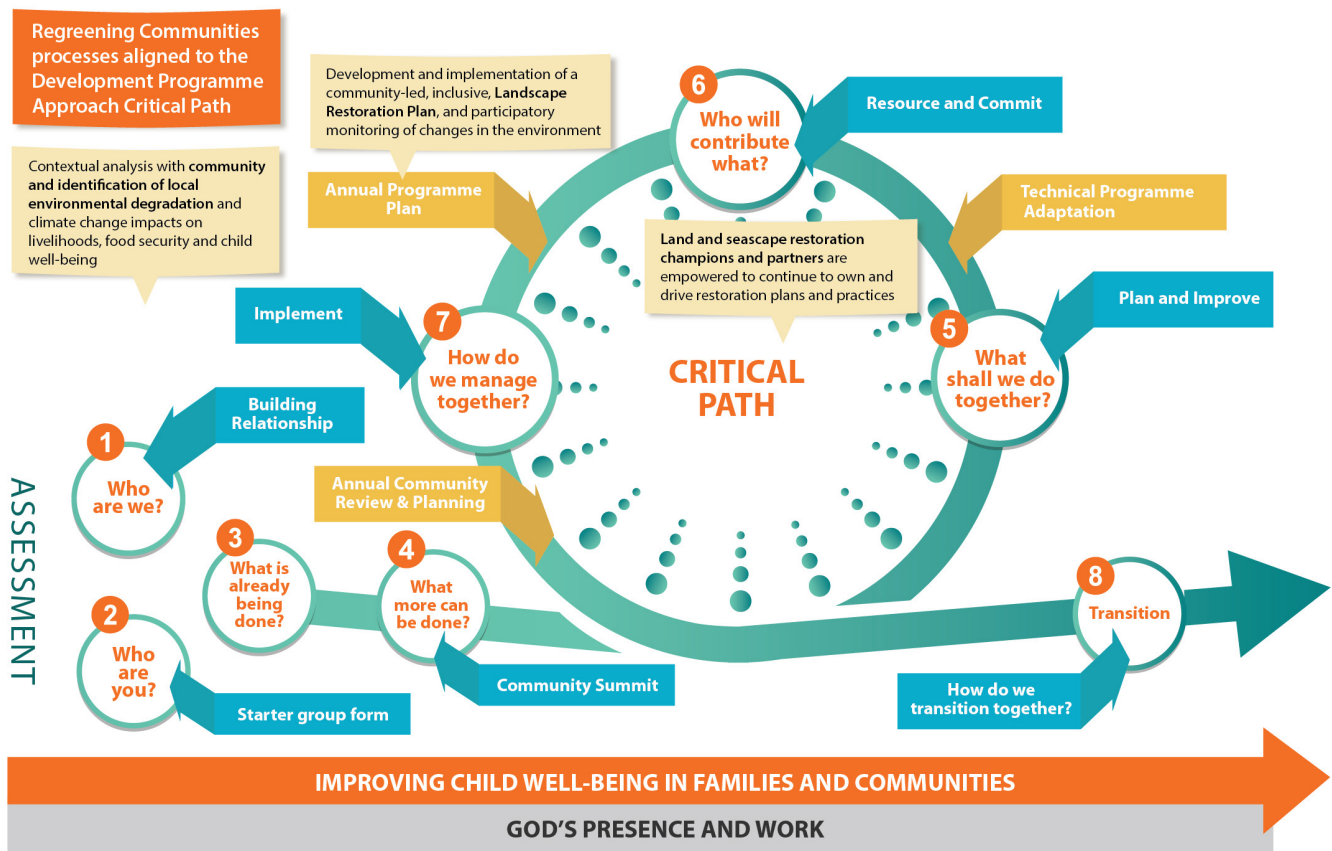


Figure 5. Regreening Communities processes aligned to the Development Programme Approach Critical Path

4.3 Faith

4.3.1 Briefly describe and give examples of how faith has been successfully integrated into the implementation of this model.

FMNR has been championed around the world by faith leaders, including this FMNR conference of 170 faith leaders in Malawi. Working with faith leaders and organisations is therefore a key part of Regreening Communities. In the Christian faith, 'creation care' is a central tenant for many individuals and communities to contextualise why they must protect and restore the environment that God has entrusted them with. In Muslim contexts there is a similar concept to creation care, 'And do no mischief on the earth after it has been set in order: that will be best for you, if ye have Faith' (Surat Al A'raf, 'the Heights', verse 85). Similar concepts can be found in Buddhist and Hindu faiths also. Faith leaders can foster this message in their respective services and ceremonies and can become 'leaders' within the community restoration plan – particularly around the change in mindsets that may be part of this Regreening

Communities process. The area around their places of worship also holds potential to become a demonstration site for restoration practices. The latest version of Empowered Worldview contains a module on creation care which will be highly complementary to this programme.

4.3.2 Outline how this model partners with the church or faith actors to achieve its outcomes. If available, give examples of where partnering with the church and/or other faith groups has been successfully included into the implementation of this model.

As above, faith leaders will be included from day one of this model to understand how their faith and their congregation understands the linkages between their faith and the environment. These linkages will be used as a foundation for all messaging and community-based discussion going forwards so that the model is adapted to this context. Additionally, church, mosque or temple grounds can become demonstration sites for some regreening techniques as has been seen in past FMNR projects.

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion



4.4 Gender equality

4.4.1 Describe briefly how changes in participation, access and control, and increased gender equality will influence the quality of life for women and girls within communities.

The handbook for this model will include guidance for how to make this model either Gender Mainstream or Gender Transformative. The Gender Mainstreaming model will include:

- **Gender analysis:** A gender analysis is conducted at the design stage.
- **Gender mainstreaming action plan:** A gender mainstreaming road map and an accountability tool will be developed to assist projects to ensure gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout the project cycle.
- **Design:** Activities ought to respond to gender-specific needs, barriers, biases and disadvantages (e.g., training, incentives, differential targeted services). Data and indicators are disaggregated by sex where applicable.
- **Partnerships:** The design will include a partnership with local women-led, women's organisations/networks that address gender inequality.
- **Budget:** A gender and inclusion budget line will exist.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** We commit to monitoring and reporting on the gender equality results.

The Gender Transformative approach will be for Area Programmes which have high capacity in gender programming and will include a 'twin track' approach. This means that all existing Regreening Communities activities will be gender inclusive, while a second 'track' will address the specific barriers and norms that are impeding women's equality within this community. Supplementary guidance will be available on the RGC wvcentral page when developed.

Both approaches will aim to see women taking up at least 40 per cent of leadership positions within the programme, as this has been shown in FMNR programming to shift the attitudes within the community that women can be decision makers. In the community consultation phase, there will be some women-only meetings whereby women can express the barriers and enablers to their participation. If violence is an issue, more targeted interventions will be needed to address the prevention of male violence against women. This should be done at a systemic level (addressing norms) and at a local laws level to ensure that there are ramifications for perpetrators. If the problem is endemic, then a Channels of Hope for gender programme should be considered to directly address the violence.

The increased availability of natural resources has positive gender consequences in and of itself. As women and girls are often the collectors of firewood and water, this increased availability reduces their travel time and improves their safety. Furthermore, men and boys are often the herders in pastoralist communities and the increased availability of animal fodder decreases their travel time too. This results in girls and boys having more time for school.

Disability

Explain how disability inclusion will be integrated into programme design and throughout the project cycle.

The handbook for this model will include guidance for reaching minimum standards of disability integration: 1) conducting a formative Disability Assessment, 2) developing a Disability Inclusion Action Plan, 3) partnering with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) and other relevant stakeholders, 4) ensure disability inclusion is a shared responsibility, 5) ensuring disability inclusion in outputs, 6) allocating budget accordingly, 7) monitoring, evaluating and reporting on disability inclusion (including adequate and appropriate collection of disability disaggregated data), and 8) taking a disability-inclusive 'do no harm' approach.

Briefly describe the ways in which the model will lead to changes in policies and social norms affecting people with disabilities.

Issues of disability, poverty and environmental sustainability are inextricably linked. People with disability are particularly at risk from the effects of climate change, such as natural disasters, food insecurity and displacement. In order for the Regreening project model to be effective in relation to sustainable development and climate change adaptation, it must incorporate disability-inclusive development principles. Taking a rights-based approach to advocating for improved policy and standards promotes inclusion by increasing accessibility and awareness of barriers, and empowering the voice, capacity and socio-economic security of people with disability.

Describe the specific ways in which the model will enhance the degree of empowerment and decision-making authority for people with disability.

People with disability have little access and control over resources within a community, primarily due to poor education, lack of income, social exclusion and limited roles in leadership and decision-making. Active participation of persons with disability, their families, and their representative organisations in the planning, decision-making, designing and implementing of all relevant initiatives will ensure inclusion of voices, ideas and needs. Ensuring people with disability are not just beneficiaries but also active partners and stakeholders in livelihood opportunities will enhance access to resources, financial independence, and benefit families and the broader society.

Describe briefly how increased disability inclusion will enhance the goal of greater community cohesion.

Disability inclusion is a cross-cutting issue, and if barriers and needs of the most vulnerable, particularly children with disabilities, go unaddressed, the aims of having thriving communities will not be reached. Projects will, where possible, use a 'twin track' approach, ensuring disability perspectives are included and initiatives are fully accessible to all people with disability, alongside disability-specific actions being taken to increase the empowerment and participation of people with disabilities.

4.5 Local to national advocacy

4.5.1 Improve the national policy environment relating to the CWB Objectives and Sustainable Development Goals

The Regreening Communities model includes the building of a grassroots, bottom-up movement through the mobilisation of members of the community to support land restoration in their community. These community champions are also encouraged and supported to share this message beyond their own community as well and may use radio, media, exchange visits, demonstration sites, among other approaches to do this.

Where additional support or better provision of services is required from local government, advocacy approaches such as CVA are well suited to be combined with Regreening Communities. Calls for better extension services, access, or tenure arrangements for land or natural resources can be successfully addressed in this way.

Where multiple communities are implementing Regreening Communities across multiple separate landscapes, there is the opportunity to combine outcomes, lessons, messages or demands to engage higher levels of government or to link to national and subnational/top-down movement building. While it may be beyond the scope of the Regreening Communities model, it is important to consider if engagement with non-World Vision stakeholders (such as private sector) at the national and/or sub-national levels can strengthen the broader enabling environment and increase land restoration outcomes and broader cumulative contribution to CWB and SDGs.

We promote the utilisation of social accountability approaches, primarily Citizen Voice and Action (CVA), to bring local communities alongside service providers for evidence-based constructive dialogue and collective action towards significantly improved service delivery and service quality, and to influence public policies. The CVA approach is designed to empower communities – including women, children, and young people – to hold their governments accountable for services promised, such as health care, waste management, education, child protection, access to clean water, and other areas that impact the well-being of children and their families. For the Regreening Communities, CVA can address; better extension services, access or tenure arrangements for land and natural resources among others. Find additional Guidance for CVA adaptation for [Environment Management and Climate Action](#).



World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.