

This provides an update on World Vision's efforts to end extreme poverty by 2030 through Economic Empowerment.



## July 2016

Greetings!

World Vision is delighted to send you our Executive Briefing for Economic Empowerment. You are an integral part of our work to end extreme poverty by 2030, so we want to keep you updated on our progress!

In this issue, you will find:

- A note from Christopher Shore, Chief Development Officer
- Newsflash
- Prayer requests
- Video
- World Vision Micro



*"Each time I participate in a THRIVE Vision Trip, it is clear that technology is a key enabler for farmers to build improved and resilient livelihoods. It could be as simple as digging a large water pan to capture water for irrigation to large drip or center pivot irrigation systems for producer groups growing organic vegetables for export."*

Sherrie Woodring

National Leadership Council, OneVision Technology Fund Lead

## A Note from Christopher Shore

## Technology

When looking at the World Vision THRIVE model, one question that is often asked is, "How and where is TECHNOLOGY used in the model?" The use of technology is found throughout the model, so we should likely define technology and illustrate the many types of technology that we are talking about.

While many of us may think that technology means mechanical equipment or the latest electronic gadget, one good definition of technology is, "Science or knowledge put to practical use to solve problems or invent useful tools." Using that definition as a guide, we see technology in each of the operational "pillars" of our model.



For the small-holder farmer growing crops or raising animals, the most basic technology in use includes hand tools or a plough - for preparing the soil, planting, and harvesting. We often see that with improved profitability the farmer will invest in better handtools, although moving to simple mechanical tools such as [self-propelled walk-behind tractors](#) can significantly speed cultivation or harvesting.

However, improved technologies apply in nearly all aspects of farming practice, including seeds and fertilizers, pumps and devices like drip kits or mechanical sprinklers for irrigation, improved housing for chickens or beehives, equipment for storing or processing crops, mechanical or solar driers, etc. One often overlooked, but important, piece of technology for farmers is related to transport – the bicycle.

We are partnering with VisionFund International to ease the use by farmers of fairly standard technologies like bicycles, beehives and drip irrigation through the use of standard loan products.

VisionFund itself is using advanced technology to lower the cost of providing agricultural loans. [Using mobile tablets](#) (iPads), VisionFund loan officers travel to the farmer to collect data for the loan approval process. This is combined with mobile banking software and core banking systems to make loan disbursements and receive loan payments via the farmer's mobile wallet (held on a mobile phone device). The farmer never needs to travel long distances to a bank branch and is kept safe through cashless transactions. This is all linked to state-of-the-art [banking software](#).

World Vision USA has created the OneVision Technology Fund to support the capital costs of putting this system

in place across our microfinance network. Please contact your World Vision USA representative for more information.

Our “On-farm and off-farm” natural resource management “pillar” also uses technology. Conservation agriculture practice often uses specialized mechanical equipment (a subsoiler) to break up compacted soil before a farm moves to this important practice. Direct seeders or seed drills are used to plant without the need for extensive ploughing. Watershed management often uses innovative structures to slow or store water. One of the most important technologies we use is important for water management, pest management, food production, building materials and erosion control – a tree.

Finally, technology will be extensively used in our Early Warning for Early Action and Situational Awareness “pillar.” Everything from automated rain gauges to direct linkages with satellite weather data, and from advanced software and cloud-based computing gathers and processes information that farmers need, are being linked up in this exciting approach. That data is then reviewed automatically and processed, with reports generated daily (or more frequently if needed) for our users. While we might expect that this could be accessed by smart phone, many farmers in Mali will access it through another age’s advanced technology that is still state of the art for them – radio.

Just as people in business in the United States use various types of technology to make their operations more productive and more profitable, small-holder farmers are increasingly using technology (high tech, low tech, new tech, old tech) to improve their farms and their lives. The THRIVE model celebrates and encourages the appropriate uses of technology by small-holder farmers.

Christopher Shore  
Chief Development Officer, Economic Empowerment  
World Vision

## Newsflash

- To learn more about Economic Empowerment, please join our next monthly information and updates call on Friday, July 29th at 8:00 AM PT! Join from your computer by clicking the blue link below:

[join the meeting](#)

Or, join by phone:

1-877-668-4493 Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Access Code: 823 563 538

**Friday, July 29 at 8:00 AM PT**

If you have any questions, please contact your rep!

- Join us on a life-changing journey to see God at work in a community impacted by poverty. Experience the impact of your support in the lives of children and families around the world. Contact your World Vision representative if you are interested in joining our trip to Zambia in November.

**Zambia: November 7-11, 2016**

- [2016 SEEP Network Annual Conference](#): This event will afford exciting new opportunities to engage with

## Prayer Requests

- Join us in prayer for the upcoming THRIVE Forum in Tanzania, August 7-11. Pray all of our participants have safe travel. We also pray that all of our participants learn and grow in their ability to implement and support THRIVE.
- Please pray for our program in Malawi. Our capacity and impact are strong in the country, but we are in need of a strong partner who is able to step-up and provide support for this transformational model in Malawi.
- Pray for security in Mali as tension and risk continue to build for foreigners. Pray for safety, stability and peace for the country.

## Tablets are Improving Access to Loans

Please watch this video, also linked in the above article, to see how we are using tablets to improve access to loans in Africa. [Watch Video.](#)



## Get Involved: World Vision Micro

Get involved and change the life of an entrepreneur by giving them a hand up with a Micro loan. You'll get exciting email updates about the business progress of your entrepreneur and how the lives of their family and communities are changing for the better. Visit [World Vision Micro.](#)



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

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