

Country Brief

# WORLD VISION Afghanistan



### WHO WE ARE

In 2001, World Vision began its operation in Afghanistan with an emergency response to address the urgent needs of children and families affected by natural disasters and decades of conflict. More than a decade later, World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) expanded its operation to long-term development programming in the western region of Afghanistan.

WVA strives to ensure all children experience good health; are educated for life; and are cared for, protected, and participate in efforts to achieve those basic needs. WVA is proud of its strong reputation amongst Afghan communities and is privileged to be widely accepted in the four provinces of operation. WVA views project implementation as a partnership with communities.


### WHERE WE WORK


WVA's work is well established in 35 districts and 5,015 villages of Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Faryab provinces in the western and northern regions of Afghanistan. In order to enhance our coordination at the national level, a small liaison office is also functioning in Kabul.


The organisation works closely with all levels of society including children, parents, teachers, village councils, religious leaders and other national and international agencies.


## ESSENTIAL NUMBERS FOR FY22

 **45**  
projects

 **1,369,562**  
beneficiaries, including  
**699,868** children

 **80%**  
of children with acute malnutrition  
received enough support to be  
well-nourished in targeted areas

 **13**  
child early forced  
marriage cases prevented


 Girls' registration in CBE classes  
increased from **5,833** to **11,162**

 **US\$56,996,091**  
expenditure, including  
contribution from World  
Vision Support Offices

 **25**  
funding partners (including  
donors and World Vision  
Support Offices<sup>2</sup>)



 **995**  
regular and  
stipend staff<sup>1</sup>

 **Donors**  
UN OCHA/AHF, WFP, UNICEF, BHA, DEC, UK, ADH, TAKEDA, FCDO,  
DRA, Fresenius, GFFO

<sup>1</sup>Employee hired under stipend contracts are paid a monthly amount for provided services, are only eligible for non-monetary benefits, and are hired only for project activities not for support departments.

<sup>2</sup>Support Offices: WV Australia, WV Austria, WV Canada, WV Germany, WV Hong Kong, WV Japan, WV Korea, WV Netherlands, WV New Zealand, WV Switzerland, WV Taiwan, WV UK, WV US.

# PRIORITY SECTORS

## HEALTH & NUTRITION

Analysis of underserved areas shows that 13.2 million people in 34 provinces reside in areas where primary healthcare services are not accessible within a walking distance of one hour. The broad humanitarian crisis critically limits the capacity of the healthcare system and health services.

WVA's health and nutrition sector seeks to improve the health and well-being of Afghan girls and boys. This includes reducing life-threatening illnesses amongst children under-five, detecting and treating malnourished children and ensuring females of reproductive age are healthy. In FY22, WVA provided emergency lifesaving and life-sustaining health and nutrition services through supporting static health facilities as well as mobile health and nutrition teams.

Furthermore, WVA collects data from all health and nutrition projects and feed the humanitarian and national database. This allows projects to use evidence-based information to inform project decision-making and share data-informed learnings.

## EDUCATION

Despite significant challenges in the education sector, including the ban on female education above grade six, WVA steadfastly continues to support and advocate for violence-free school initiatives, inclusive education and development of life skills to ensure safe formal and non-formal learning settings. Education is critical for children, as it helps them develop, learn how to engage meaningfully and how to build resilience and life skills so they grow into empowered citizens. WVA also equips teachers with skills to recognise signs of abuse and violence and reporting procedures.

In addition, WVA strengthens access to life skills programmes through children clubs, community-based education and other peer-to-peer programmes. These initiatives provide multiple benefits including knowledge that equips children with skills for better decision-making as it relates to healthy choices and protection from harm, as well as encourages children to be active community members. WVA also advocates for education at the provincial and regional levels.

## CHILD PROTECTION

WVA implements child protection interventions as a cross-cutting consideration and as a stand-alone theme across all sector projects. WVA is addressing the root causes of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against children across all areas of operation in Afghanistan.

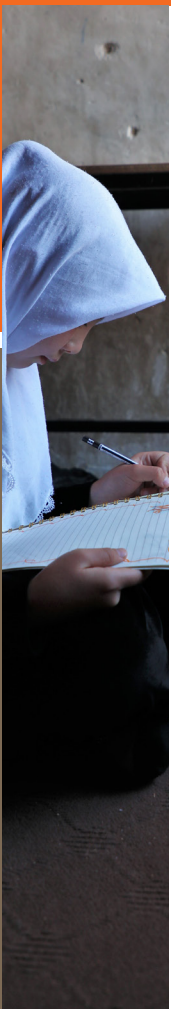
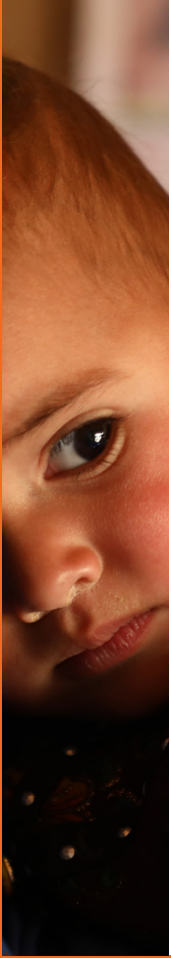
Based on the global child protection framework and the ecological context analysis findings, WVA aligns its approach with the World Vision International systems approach to child protection. This approach facilitates the development of the local and national formal and informal structures, functions and capacities in contextually appropriate ways so that stakeholders, families and children are empowered to create a protective environment for children, especially the most vulnerable. WVA also supports children in accessing independent reporting mechanisms for child protection issues and co-leads the child protection area of responsibilities at the regional level, to ensure a quality referral mechanism is in place and child protection interventions are coordinated amongst stakeholders.

## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Afghanistan continues to face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Millions of Afghan families no longer have access to food supplies, regular income or social protection. This pushes the most vulnerable households into extreme and life-threatening conditions. The key drivers of humanitarian need in 2022 were multi-dimensional: drought and climate change, as well as the economic crisis and protection threats, particularly for women and girls.

WVA's response to this emergency included a new initiative, Building Secure Livelihoods (BSL). WVA used BSL to support the most vulnerable households, enabling them to survive shocks and stresses by prioritising cash and food assistance to the groups most vulnerable to food insecurity.

Through BSL, WVA supported households in agriculture and livestock livelihoods with agricultural and livestock trainings and inputs for production. Additionally, the organisation continued to economically empower vulnerable households and young people to increase their capacity for income generation and employment, and to better manage local risks and shocks with increased economic self-reliance.



# PRIORITY SECTORS



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

WASH is crucial to human health and well-being. Safe water, sanitation and hygiene are not only a prerequisite to health, but contribute to livelihoods, school attendance and dignity. It also helps create resilient communities living in healthy environments.

In Afghanistan, 30 out of 34 provinces reported extremely low water quality. The number of households impacted by the 2022 drought was six times greater than in 2020 since the country enters its third consecutive drought year.

WVA's WASH programming significantly contributed to child health improvement through increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene. Construction and rehabilitation of different types of water supply systems in Badghis, Herat, Ghor and Faryab provinces were well-received by the communities.

# THEMATIC FOCUS



## HUMAN CAPITAL

To increase human resources for health, WVA trained more than 380 midwives and 20 anaesthesia nurses. After graduation, these newly trained professionals deployed across Afghanistan (primarily in the western region) at different levels of health facilities.

In FY22, WVA also supported the community-based healthcare system. The organisation established and ran 25 family health houses in Herat province and increased the capacity of community health workers forming family health action groups. These groups were equipped with knowledge and skills so they could effectively recognise pregnancy-related complications and provide immediate referrals to health facilities, if needed.



## RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

In FY22, WVA worked with communities to facilitate recovery and resilience. To raise awareness about COVID-19, over 73,000 information, education and communication materials were disseminated. WVA distributed 332,232 COVID-19 preventive items.

WVA also supported 1,000 families that were affected by the June 2022 earthquake in eastern Afghanistan by supplying 1,000 non-food items. In addition, 76 emergency food assistance packages were distributed to those affected by the flood in Faryab province.

WVA recognises the importance of well-trained staff when responding to emergencies and disasters; therefore, 28 national staff received National Disaster Management Training.



## ADVOCACY

- WVA's national director, Asuntha Charles, travelled to Taiwan, South Korea, the UK, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands to advocate for funding opportunities and to be a vocal advocate for girls' right to education.
- At 'Afghan Children in Crisis', a side event of the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, WVA's national director spoke and presented the findings of our report marking how the change of governance in the country and its repercussions, one year prior, has impacted the humanitarian conditions of children and families.
- WVA initiated a platform in which Afghan girls and boys conducted dialogue with policy makers from the UK Parliament and EU Parliament as well as the International President and CEO of World Vision, Andrew Morley.
- An opportunity was provided to some Street Working Children through a virtual tour with World Vision Taiwan in which children spoke to Power Station – a Taiwanese Rock Band.
- As WVA's spokesperson, Asuntha Charles commenced off a highly successful External Engagement tour and was selected to receive the award of 'Nurturers of Hope' from Disaster Management Team.

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