



OUR IMPACT
OUR STORY
IRAQ ANNUAL REPORT
FY24

WHO WE ARE

WORLD VISION IRAQ'S GOAL

To enhance the well-being and resilience of 4.5 million vulnerable children and communities across Iraq by delivering sustainable and climate-resilient, integrated programmes focused on protection, education, peacebuilding, WASH, livelihoods, and community engagement—while fostering partnerships for long-term impact.

Our Vision for every child, life in all its fullness.

Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

World Vision is a child-focused humanitarian aid, development, and advocacy organisation operating in over 100 countries. World Vision Iraq began its operations in 2014 as an emergency humanitarian response, dedicated to saving lives. It continues to operate under a Category Three Sustained Humanitarian Response Declaration due to the ongoing needs in the country.

As the context gradually evolves, World Vision Iraq is increasing its focus on recovery and resilience. Globally, World Vision operates across the entire Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus (HDPN). Over the next three years, World Vision Iraq aims to be increasingly recognised as a 'whole nexus' implementer.

COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S FORWARD



As we reflect on our journey over the past year, we take immense pride in the progress we have made in ensuring innovative programming, quality implementation, and accountability to affected populations. Strengthening our programme management, monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes has been crucial in transitioning from an immediate humanitarian response to long-term recovery and resilience efforts.

A significant highlight this year has been the launch of the Resilience and Recovery Pathways for Iraq (RRPI) programme. Recognising the urgent need for collaboration, we have joined forces with eight organisations, including five international and three national NGOs: Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Tearfund, Islamic Relief Worldwide, World Vision, Al-Mesalla Organisation for Human Resources Development, Aid Gate Organisation (AGO), and Public Aid Organisation (PAO). The RRPI programme aims to address the root causes of vulnerability and fragility in Iraq, promoting recovery and resilience by enhancing the stability and inclusion of vulnerable populations in Ninewa, Thi Qar, and other governorates by 2030.

Key milestones under the RRPI programme include conducting an area-based design workshop, developing a Theory of Change (ToC), conducting context assessments, developing the programme name and logo, signing MOUs with RRPI partners, and establishing a robust governance structure. A major milestone was the official launch of the programme in Baghdad in the presence of donors—marking a pivotal moment in advancing this collective effort.

In addition, our team's dedication has resulted in the finalisation and launch of the World Vision Iraq three-year Nexus Strategy, which will guide our future direction and priorities. We have also enhanced our capacity-building efforts, notably through the Fragile Ready initiative, tailored to the unique context of World Vision Iraq. Through this, our team is better equipped to navigate the challenges of the ever-changing environment in which we work.

Our commitment to building community resilience is evident in the successful implementation of the Anticipatory Action (AA) project, which introduced a community-based early warning system and developed the first-ever AA protocol. Another key achievement has been our reintegration work supporting returnees from North East Syria.

World Vision reached returnees and host communities through Cash for Work, Demand-Driven Vocational Training, and Business Support to foster economic empowerment and social cohesion. Additionally, our comprehensive Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services have been pivotal in enhancing community well-being. These services have been delivered in safe spaces in close collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Health, ensuring a holistic approach to the reintegration process.

We have also implemented impactful interventions focusing on climate resilience, social cohesion, livelihoods, education, and inclusive WASH services—particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities.

As we move forward, I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, partners, donors, and the communities we serve for their commitment to these shared goals. Together, we are creating sustainable change, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you. I am confident that, with ongoing collaboration, we will build on our successes to bring lasting impact and hope to the people of Iraq.

Biruk K. Beyene
Country Director
World Vision Iraq

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCE DIRECTOR

In the ever-challenging landscape of non-governmental organisations, achieving financial stability and growth is a testament to strategic planning, dedicated efforts, and the unwavering support of donors and stakeholders. The fiscal year 2024 has been a remarkable period for our organisation, marked by significant milestones and financial achievements that have strengthened our capacity to fulfil our mission. This article highlights the key financial successes and the impact they have had on our programmes and beneficiaries.



One of the most notable achievements of FY24 was the outcome of our fundraising efforts. Through a combination of innovative fundraising campaigns, strategic partnerships, and the generosity of our donors, we surpassed our target annual cash income by 34%, reaching a total of US\$11,844,162. This success was further bolstered by a substantial Fragile Funding contribution of US\$1,100,000, which played a crucial role in meeting our financial goals.

Our commitment to efficient budget management was evident in our ability to maintain a balanced budget while maximising the impact of every dollar received. The strategic allocation of funds remained a cornerstone of our financial success.

Maintaining a low administrative ratio is critical for non-governmental organisations, ensuring that the majority of funds are directed towards programme activities. Our administrative costs were meticulously managed during the reporting period, and we achieved an administrative ratio of 10.5%, reflecting a 1.5% variance from the target.

Recovering support costs is also essential for the sustainability of our operations. In FY24, we successfully covered our office costs through approved projects and Fragile contributions.

The financial successes of FY24 have had a profound impact on our programme participants. With increased funding, we were able to expand our reach and enhance the quality of our services, enabling us to address critical needs and drive positive change in the communities we serve.

Our financial achievements are a testament to the dedication of our team, the generosity of our donors, and the strategic vision that guides our work. As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this success, continuing to innovate, and striving to make an even greater impact in the years to come.

Together, we are making a difference—one step at a time.

Narine Matevosyan
Finance Director
World Vision Iraq

A MESSAGE HEAD OF SUPPORT SERVICE

The past year presented significant challenges, yet ultimately proved to be a successful one for our Support Services unit. To ensure the seamless delivery of quality services, we had to adapt rapidly to evolving circumstances. Unprecedented changes in Iraq's banking system and issues with US dollar (US\$) liquidity temporarily stalled our programming, prompting swift action to amend existing Long-Term Agreements. In response to the context, we successfully transitioned from US\$ to the local currency, the Iraqi dinar (IQD), within a tight deadline. This process involved renegotiating contracts with suppliers, making essential amendments, and conducting new tendering processes.

People remained at the centre of our work. While the currency transition initially caused delays in salary payments, we proactively explored viable solutions and established agreements with Money Transfer Agent (MTA) suppliers to ensure timely payments to staff and casual labourers—helping to sustain morale and motivation. Our office also undertook a restructuring process to align with operational needs and the changing context, initiating both Change Management Planning and Staff Care Initiatives.

We were intentional in strengthening our external engagements, particularly with government ministries and departments. Building and maintaining strong relationships was critical to securing the necessary approvals and partnerships for the effective implementation of our activities. Furthermore, we successfully completed key Talent Management initiatives and implemented robust risk management strategies—both of which played a vital role in positioning the organisation to meet its objectives.



Hindren Azad
Program Support Director
World Vision Iraq

A MESSAGE FROM SECURITY AND FLEET MANAGER

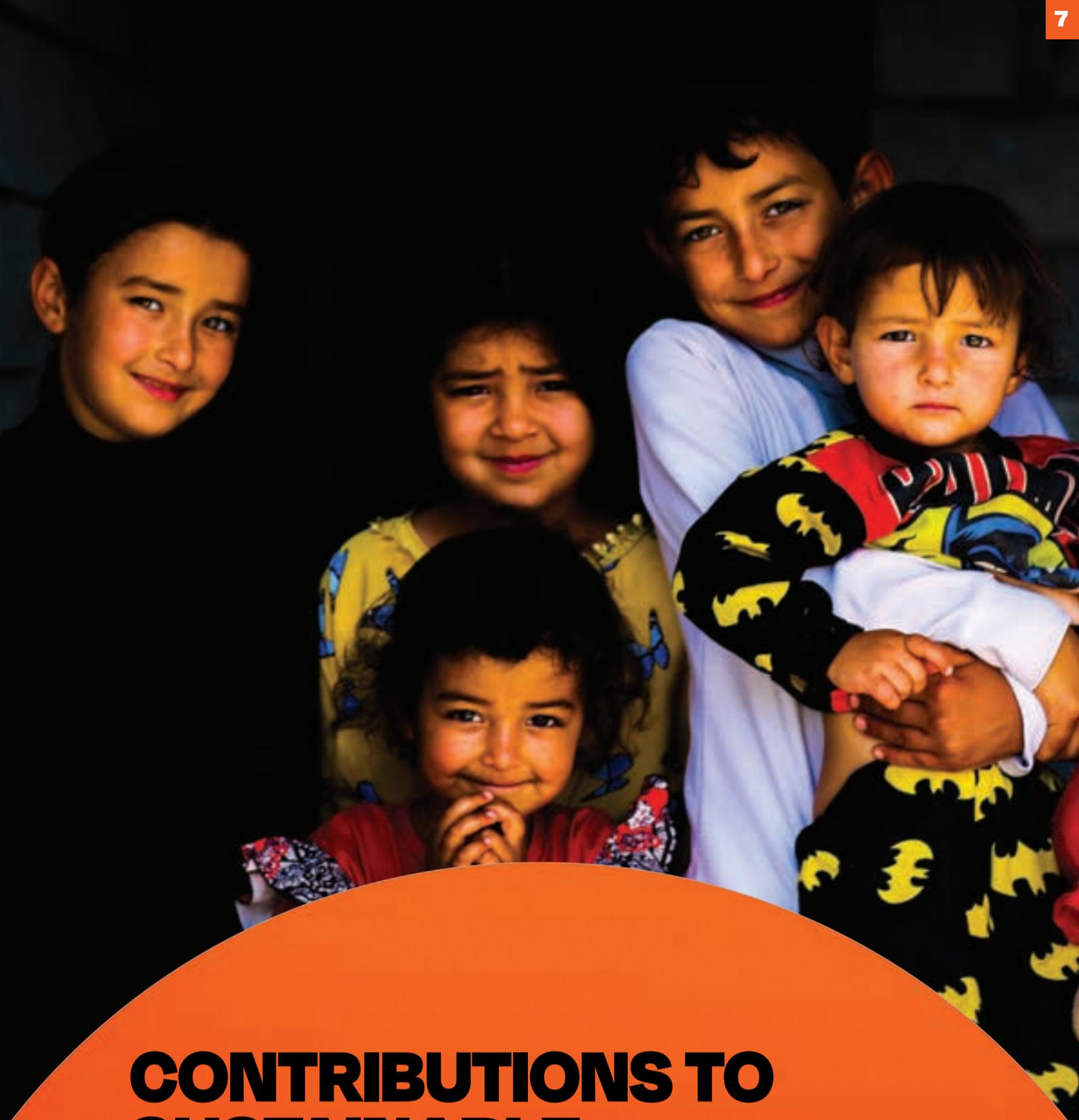
The year 2024 was particularly challenging. The prolonged conflict in the region had a direct impact on Iraq. However, despite these difficulties, we remained steadfast in our commitment to serving the most vulnerable children and their families—especially those returning from Al-Hol camp. Guided by the belief that every child deserves a decent life and access to their most basic rights, we overcame numerous obstacles to reach these groups, particularly in areas under the control of the Popular Mobilisation Forces and other armed factions where access was restricted.



I am proud to report that we achieved our goals, reaching the most vulnerable children and their families while concluding the year with zero security incidents. We ensured the safety of all staff, despite ongoing tensions and conflict in the region and the communities we serve. Adherence to standard office operating procedures was instrumental in assessing risks and implementing appropriate actions and mitigation measures.

As part of our Go Green journey and commitment to environmental stewardship, this year marked a significant milestone in fleet management efficiency. The office phased out older, large-engine vehicles and replaced them with economical hybrid models, in line with our commitment to a cleaner environment and the reduction of carbon emissions.

Salim Mahdi Mohammed
Security and Fleet Manager
World Vision Iraq



CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Our programming has contributed to the following strategic country strategies and priorities. Our office strategy remains focused on fostering connections to key strategic initiatives.

Iraq Vision 2030

Nationally Determined Contributions

2016 National Child Protection Policy

National Strategy on Early Childhood Development

National Environmental Strategy Action Plan (NESAP)

National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Digital Transformation Strategy

OUR IMPACT

OUR STORIES

This year, our programmes directly impacted over 75,780 vulnerable children, 52% (39,152) of whom were girls. Through interventions in Child Protection, Education and Early Childhood Development, Livelihoods, Cash Assistance, and WASH, we supported communities across World Vision's operational areas. Our efforts centred on children under 18 who were at risk of neglect, exploitation, violence, and abuse.

From the heart of Hamdaniyah, Ruwaida and her granddaughter posed for an Easter photo, celebrating the special day. Ruwaida reflected on how the 2014 conflict forced many families in Hamdaniyah to leave the country, creating a profound sense of separation and loss.

Ruwaida, a successful pastry business owner, is a recent participant in the Safe Return Project, an initiative funded by Australian Aid and implemented by World Vision Iraq on behalf of the Australian Government. She recently completed business management courses and began expanding her enterprise with the support of a grant she received.

Now the main breadwinner for her family, Ruwaida is able to provide essential support to her children and grandchildren through her thriving business.

CHILDREN AT THE CENTER OF OUR WORK

This year, our programmes directly impacted over 75,780 vulnerable children (36,635 boys and 39,152 girls), 52% of whom were girls. Through interventions in Child Protection, Education and Early Childhood Development, Livelihoods, Cash Assistance, and WASH, we supported communities across World Vision Iraq's operational areas. Our efforts focused on children under 18 who were at risk of neglect, exploitation, violence, and abuse.

Salim, aged 12, lives with his five siblings and parents in a modest home within the school where his parents work as guardians. He enjoys Islamic studies, drawing scenes from nature, and spending time in parks. His best friend, Ibrahim, has been by his side since primary school, and the two often play football together.

Earlier this year, Salim struggled with reading and writing. However, with the support of his teachers—Aya, Emad, and Hussein—he has made remarkable progress. “Before, I felt sad when I couldn’t read. Now, I feel happy and want to become an Islamic studies teacher,” he shared.

His mother noticed his difficulties in English, mathematics, and social sciences in sixth grade. Since 2022, World Vision Iraq—funded by Japan Platform—has provided Arabic catch-up classes, helping Salim and 720 other children improve their literacy skills and succeed in school. His mother expressed her gratitude, saying, “Without this support, we couldn’t afford private tutoring. Salim is ambitious and wants to complete his studies.”

WOMEN EMPOWEREMENT

591 women participated in business support
601 women engaged in cash-for-work activities
304 women received vocational training.

Our contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) expanded women's access to savings groups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and agriculture, fostering both economic and social inclusion. To address gaps in transition strategies, we scaled up MSMEs to create sustainable livelihoods, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities. Women gained skills to start businesses, generate income, and take on leadership roles.

With funding from UNDP, 1,496 women accessed economic empowerment programmes. Business training supported them in establishing enterprises, while cash-for-work activities provided both financial relief and hands-on experience. Vocational training in sustainable agriculture, sewing, electrical work, solar panel installation, and interior design enhanced their employability.

In Al-Hatra, Ninewa, we tackled cultural barriers limiting women's opportunities. Fifty rural women adopted agroecology practices after receiving training in climate resilience, conservation agriculture, beekeeping, and honey production, leading to improved food security and household income.

WASH programmes and small business grants further supported women's entrepreneurship and financial independence. Their participation in WASH committees also strengthened leadership roles and promoted improved community health outcomes.

Jawahir (40) is a mother of eight children, living with her husband and children in a village in Hatra, Ninewa.

Recently, Jawahir completed a seven-day training course on beekeeping and honey production. She shared, "We are now living off the beekeeping project. I knew nothing about honey production before, but I have learned gradually. I used to tend sheep and was familiar with caring for sheep and cows, but this beekeeping project is something entirely new to me. I hope to keep learning. I plan to sell honey in the future and hope it will increase my income."

Although Jawahir has a passion for farming, she has faced serious challenges due to water scarcity. "There is very little water. There is a well, but it dries up quickly. Also, there's no rain. I have two pieces of land, but I cannot cultivate them. I love planting wheat, but we lack the financial resources to do so," she explained.

In Hatra, Ninewa, villages have suffered greatly since the 2014 conflict, which forced many families to flee their homes and lands, resulting in years of displacement. Then, in 2020, the region endured another crisis—a prolonged drought.

In response, World Vision Iraq, with funding from Aktion Deutschland Hilft, launched the project titled "Facing the Communities' Ability to Adapt and Face Shocks, Crises, and Climate Changes" to help communities build resilience and recover.

At 21, Fatma's journey is one of resilience, endurance, and hope. She is now preparing for her final year of high school, determined to fulfil her childhood dream of becoming a pharmacist.

Born in Telafar, Fatma was only 13 when the 2014 conflict erupted. Under militia control, she was forced to wear a khimar and confined to her home for safety. As schools began promoting extremist ideologies, she was compelled to stop studying—an experience she describes as devastating. Fearing for their safety amid threats of attacks and kidnappings, her father made the decision to move the family to Syria, where they spent six months—first in a mosque, then in a rented house. Unwelcome there, they attempted to cross into Türkiye, eventually settling in Ankara for six and a half years. While they found physical security, Fatma was unable to attend school due to high costs.

Facing growing hostility from locals, the family made the difficult choice to return to Iraq, selling their home in Telafar to purchase a new one in Mosul. Fatma was determined to resume her education. She passed her primary school exams and re-enrolled, along with her siblings.

At 18, she discovered World Vision Iraq's savings group through the Safe Return Project, an initiative funded by Australian Aid and implemented by World Vision Iraq on behalf of the Australian Government. She joined nine women in saving money twice a month and later withdrew her savings to purchase schoolbooks for her secondary school exams.

"It was my first time learning about savings groups," Fatma said. "It helped me prepare for my exams and pursue my dreams."

On World Youth Day, Fatma shares her message:

"Never give up on your dreams."

Through the Safe Return Project, 1,241 women in Hamdaniyah and Mosul have joined savings groups, building financial resilience and working towards their goals.

Cash-for-Work: A total of 566 young people (343 males and 223 females) participated in 40-day cash-for-work activities, gaining both income and hands-on work experience.

Vocational Skills Training: 211 youth (113 males and 98 females) completed intensive 40-day vocational training in smart and sustainable agriculture, sewing, electrical connections and solar installation, and interior design. Upon completion, we facilitated their connection to the labour market—48% secured jobs, while 52% launched their own ventures.

Entrepreneurship Support: 370 youth (203 males and 167 females) received comprehensive support to start their own businesses. This included business planning, financial assistance, and mentorship.

With youth unemployment in Iraq estimated at 32.23% (Statista), our programme addressed this pressing challenge across communities in Anbar, Salah al-Din, Nineveh, and Kirkuk, positively impacting 1,147 youth, 43% of whom were female.

Through targeted interventions, we expanded opportunities for youth to:

- Engage in WASH-related community work
- Serve as mobilisers
- Lead and participate in awareness programmes on water conservation, hygiene, and sanitation

These efforts not only provided immediate employment and income, but also equipped youth with valuable skills fostering empowerment, self-reliance, and leadership. By actively contributing to their communities, they are helping to build a stronger and more sustainable future for Iraq.

YOUTH IN OUR PROGRAMMING

INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Our interventions supported internally displaced persons (IDPs), including children, men, women, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), in Mosul and Hamdaniyah. Through the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, savings groups, business development, and MSME support, we helped individuals establish businesses and gain economic independence. At the community level, we improved WASH services by constructing water networks, ensuring access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education. Livelihood programmes, including small grants and community initiatives, facilitated the reintegration of IDPs into their new environments.

By fostering economic stability, psychosocial resilience, and social cohesion, our interventions impacted 1,525 returnees from Al-Hol camp and 1,515 host community members, strengthening trust and cooperation. Over 3,000 individuals benefited from cash-for-work, vocational training, and MHPSS services, while three community centres were rehabilitated to provide essential mental health support.

Workshops and joint projects strengthened bonds between returnees and host communities. A female returnee in Baaj shared, "The mental health support we received made a huge difference." Another participant from Baiji added, "Social cohesion has improved, and tensions have decreased."

Key informant interviews from Baiji emphasised that "psychological support and small projects have significantly improved emotional well-being and reduced discrimination." In Hawija, a female participant remarked, "The project helped us establish stronger economic ties and enhanced community acceptance."

In Salah al-Din's Baiji district, 28-year-old Leqaa's journey is one of resilience and renewal. Displaced for nine years, she and her family endured hardship before returning home in 2023, only to face rejection and financial struggles.

Her life changed when she joined the Cash-for-Work activities implemented by UNDP and World Vision International through USAID support. Initially uncertain, she soon realised the programme's impact. As a tutor at Al-Rashad Primary School, she helped students thrive while finding acceptance and social integration.

Teaching reignited her dream of becoming a teacher, motivating her to continue her studies and rebuild her confidence. The project not only provided financial relief but also helped her heal from past trauma through psychological support.

Despite ongoing challenges, the initiative gave Leqaa hope, stability, and a renewed sense of purpose, enabling her to contribute meaningfully to her community.

RETURNEES

Our interventions in Mosul and Hamdaniyah supported returnees through various initiatives, including MSMEs, savings groups, and agricultural training. Returnees received training in business development and gained access to loans, business grants, and financial service providers to help them establish or expand their businesses.

In Al Hatra district, Ninewa, rural communities facing multiple crises—wars, displacement, desertification, and drought—were strengthened to become more resilient to climate shocks. The project enhanced their capacity to adapt by:

Providing agricultural training and water conservation techniques. Using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to equip farmers with climate adaptation skills.

Supporting irrigation, agricultural inputs, and beekeeping equipment. Anticipatory action initiatives, including the installation of a weather station, improved community preparedness for drought and extreme weather through early warning systems and timely cash assistance.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in Tooz District, Salah al-Din Governorate, have improved access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene services for the most vulnerable communities and children living in underserved areas.

Additionally, we have provided child-friendly, female-friendly, and disability-accessible water and sanitation facilities in schools and healthcare centers.

Hanaa vividly recalls her childhood—walking at dusk with her mother and younger sister to the wheat and barley fields near Saqlawiyah, Anbar. At ten, she fully joined her mother in harvesting, while her sister carried water. She learned to care for livestock and work the land.

When Hanaa was five, her parents divorced, and she never met her father. Her mother moved with her daughters into a home shared with extended family—fifteen people under one roof. Hanaa attended school until the third grade but dropped out to help her mother, who earned more when Hanaa joined her in the fields. Though these times hold fond memories for Hanaa, they were a struggle for her mother, who had to work to provide for the family.

Until she married at twenty-nine, Hanaa continued working in agriculture. After having four children, her role shifted to caring for them while her husband farmed. Life was stable until 2016, when conflict took her husband. Displaced for five months, Hanaa returned to a deserted village with no men, infrastructure, or means of survival.

A humanitarian organisation intervened, providing financial support. Hanaa used the funds to buy a water pump, pipes, and wheat seeds, reviving her farming skills. Initially struggling, she gradually expanded her harvest, selling wheat and okra in larger quantities.

Earlier this year, Hanaa joined a forty-day agricultural training programme implemented by World Vision Iraq and UNDP Iraq, with funding from KfW and BMZ. “I knew agriculture but not proper planning,” she said. Now equipped with skills in seasonal planning and drip irrigation, she applies water-saving techniques and has connected with other women farmers, building both knowledge and community.

Despite the hardships she has faced, Hanaa remains optimistic. She visits her ageing mother on weekends and draws strength from the lessons passed down. “Leading a household and raising children well is a rewarding experience. As mothers, we want to offer the world to our children.”

Through the Supporting a Resilient Economic Recovery by Strengthening the Agriculture Sector in Saqlawiyah District project, 78 women and 72 men have gained climate-smart agricultural skills—empowering single mothers like Hanaa to build sustainable livelihoods.

Her success demonstrates the potential of targeted support to uplift rural women, strengthen food security, and build long-term community resilience in the face of climate and economic challenges.

HOST COMMUNITIES

Recognising the pressures of displacement on host populations, our programmes targeted host communities with interventions such as MSMEs, savings groups, and agriculture skills development training. Participants received training on business development and gained access to loans through savings groups and financial service providers to enable them to grow or establish new businesses.

We used approaches such as the Farmer Field School (FFS) to improve participants' knowledge, enhance their capacity for adapting to climate change, and introduce new agricultural techniques. Support was also provided in the form of irrigation systems, agricultural inputs, and beekeeping equipment.

In Al Hatra District, Ninewa, World Vision has implemented a Disaster Risk Reduction project and established community-based disaster risk management systems to strengthen the capacity of climate-vulnerable communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the adverse impacts of climate change. This initiative supports the people of Hatra in mitigating disaster risks by activating early warning systems and promoting proactive community engagement in preparedness and response efforts.

In late 2017, as the conflict neared its end, seven-month-old Luma* was found in the wreckage of a collapsed house in Salah al-Din. Her father had gone missing, and her mother's entire family was killed in the attack. She survived and was taken to her paternal grandfather's home in Kirkuk, where her aunt, Muneera*, raised her as her own. Luma grew up calling Muneera "Mama," unaware of the truth about her parents.

Now eight, Luma shares a small rental home with Muneera, her grandmother, and three aunts. Despite limited space, they support each other. Luma, in second grade, struggles with an immunodeficiency, causing blood allergies and vitiligo. Muneera, the sole provider, also supports her widowed sister's family. Though she dreamed of attending college, conflict and financial hardship forced her to drop out. Her father's dying wish was for her to continue her education, but family pressures kept her at home.

Determined to provide, Muneera turned to sewing but was often overlooked for assistance as a single woman. A World Vision project changed that. After applying, she joined a ten-day business and sewing training programme, receiving a grant to buy modern equipment. Specialising in medical and school aprons, she reinvested in her business while covering Luma's medical expenses and home rent.

Despite financial struggles, Muneera remains hopeful. She dreams of opening an apron factory with her sisters and giving Luma a better future. Through World Vision Iraq's Micro Grants Business under the WASH Accelerator programme, launched in 2022, she is one of 100 women in Kirkuk and Hawija working toward financial independence.

"God compensates you in ways you never expect," Muneera reflects. "I want my business to grow and Luma's dreams to come true."

(*Names changed for privacy.)

Suhaila was only six years old when her father passed away, leaving her mother, Naila*, to shoulder the responsibility of raising five children and providing for the family. To make ends meet, Naila began tailoring clothes from home to earn an income and feed her children.*

However, making a living was difficult. The money Naila earned from tailoring was not enough to keep her children in school. As a result, all of them dropped out after completing the sixth grade because she could not afford school supplies, clothing, and other necessities. Suhaila recalled, "We stayed by my mother's side, helping her with tailoring to make ends meet."

Today, Suhaila (38) lives with her mother (72), her aunt (88), and her brother's family of five in the heart of Kirkuk. Her aunt has breast cancer, and her mother suffered a stroke three years ago, leaving her partially paralysed. Suhaila has been the backbone of the family, assisting her mother and aunt with their movements around the house.

But an intervention earlier this year brought much-needed relief. Naila's family was among 60 households in Kirkuk and Hawija that World Vision Iraq supported by rehabilitating Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation (WASH) facilities to make them accessible for people with disabilities.

Suhaila shared, "World Vision Iraq built a bathroom and a latrine for us. They made the toilets and bathrooms disability-friendly. The bathroom floor was too high, so they lowered it. They fixed the broken pipes. The concrete floor was uneven, but they straightened it out. They did a great job. Now, things have changed. Thanks to the organisation's help, my mother and aunt can go to the bathroom and toilet on their own. Before, they couldn't do it without my help. In the past, I barely had time for anything else because I had to assist them constantly. Now, I only need to take them to the bathroom, and they can manage the rest on their own."

*(*Names changed for privacy.)*

Our programming actively engaged persons with disabilities (PWDs) through livelihood, education, and WASH interventions. PWDs participated in MSMEs and savings groups, receiving support to develop businesses, engage in income-generating activities, and secure financial stability for their families.

To promote inclusion in market activities, we supported organisations of people with disabilities and advocated for their participation in economic opportunities. Our WASH interventions were designed with accessibility in mind, ensuring that PWDs had safe and easy access to sanitation and water facilities. This included customising infrastructure, such as ramps and specialised toilets, to meet their specific needs.

Awareness campaigns and community-based activities were tailored to ensure full inclusion of PWDs, particularly in school interventions targeting children. Additionally, PWDs received tailored mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), including psychoeducation, individual and group sessions, and training in life and emotional skills. These services enhanced resilience and facilitated better integration into their communities.

By empowering PWDs with economic opportunities, fostering social inclusion, and reducing stigma, our interventions created pathways for independence, personal growth, and diverse contributions to community development.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

PEOPLE REACHED

This year, World Vision Iraq impacted the lives of **156,976 people** including 81,189 adults (**40,524 women; 40,665 men**) and **75,787 children** (39,152 girls; 36,635 boys)



A total of 6,657 people, primarily from rural farming areas, participated in climate resilience programs designed to enhance community adaptation and address climate vulnerabilities. World Vision Iraq promoted climate-smart practices such as Climate-Smart Agriculture, Conservation Agriculture, Agroecology, and sustainable water conservation techniques to help communities manage climate impacts, particularly in drought-prone regions.

Capacity-building initiatives educated farmers on efficient irrigation, gender-sensitive agriculture, and drought management. Advanced water-saving technologies, like response drip irrigation systems (Grow Stream Tube), were introduced to optimize water use.

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Capacity-building initiatives educated farmers on efficient irrigation, gender-sensitive agriculture, and drought management. Advanced water-saving technologies, like response drip irrigation systems (Grow Stream Tube), were introduced to optimise water use.

To support greening and energy efficiency, we installed solar power systems in schools, reducing carbon footprints while enhancing educational resilience. Cash-for-Work initiatives engaged communities in environmental sustainability by transforming parks into green spaces through tree planting and grass installation, improving local ecosystems and aiding carbon sequestration.

Recognising Iraq's water scarcity challenges, our awareness campaigns emphasised water conservation and climate adaptation, reinforcing long-term environmental sustainability and community resilience. Recognizing Iraq's water scarcity challenges, our awareness campaigns emphasized water conservation and climate adaptation, reinforcing long-term environmental sustainability and community resilience.

Najah, aged thirty-four, is from a village in Hatra, Ninewa. Alongside his brothers, he supports his family of fifteen. However, life has been a struggle. For the past five years, there has been no rainfall in their village. As a farmer, Najah has always depended on agriculture, but the lack of water has made it extremely difficult to work the land and earn an income.

"There is no water. It hasn't rained for the past five years. We don't have wells, water network projects, or dams. Without water, we simply cannot plant. It costs a great deal to bring water from outside, and we don't have the financial resources. In the past, we would buy one water tank and share it with other farmers. We had to sell our sheep or their wool just to afford water," Najah explained.

With funding from Aktion Deutschland Hilft, World Vision Iraq is supporting farmers like Najah in Hatra by introducing modern, climate-resilient agricultural practices, such as drip irrigation systems, which conserve water and use it more efficiently. Najah has recently started planting using this method and feels more hopeful about the future.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Over 76,660 people benefited from our WASH programming, implemented in collaboration with partners and government directorates to ensure sustainable access to safe water, dignified sanitation, and hygiene—particularly for vulnerable communities, children, women, and individuals with disabilities.

We improved WASH services across schools, healthcare facilities, communities, and households by upgrading infrastructure, promoting sustainable water conservation, and strengthening monitoring systems. Interventions included restoring water infrastructure, delivering hygiene education, and expanding Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) support in schools and communities to empower women and girls.

Equity and inclusion were central to our efforts, ensuring WASH services were accessible to all and that affected populations participated in decision-making processes. Additionally, we promoted water conservation in climate-affected areas and strengthened local governments and community structures to support the long-term sustainability of WASH systems.

Fatma is an 11-year-old girl living with a disability affecting her lower extremities, which she has had since birth. She currently attends a primary school in Kirkuk and is in the fifth grade.

World Vision Iraq built a water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) facility inside her home to make access easier for her. Previously, Fatma had to use an outdoor restroom located in the yard, which was difficult for her to reach—especially at night, when she often felt afraid due to the distance and lack of accessibility.

Now, with the new bathroom built within the interior of her home, Fatma can access it easily using her wheelchair. She is able to use the toilet and bathroom independently, which has made her more self-reliant. Fatma is very happy about this change.

In this photo, Fatma is seen playing joyfully with her classmates in the schoolyard. When it rains and she is advised to stay at home, Fatma says, "No, I'm going to miss my friends."

In the future, Fatma dreams of earning a doctorate and teaching others.

WATER AND SANITATION HYGIENE

World Vision Iraq addressed the root causes of poverty and vulnerability while promoting resilience and self-reliance, with a particular focus on women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, returnees, and marginalised groups. Our interventions enhanced livelihoods through market-driven vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and climate-smart agricultural development.

Key initiatives included vocational training, apprenticeships, and small business development through business skills training, seed grants, and market linkages. Digital tools and technology-enhanced solutions maximised impact, while cash-for-work programmes provided immediate income and strengthened community infrastructure.

Agricultural livelihoods were improved through climate-smart practices such as water-efficient irrigation, drought-resistant crops, and sustainable farming techniques. Food security was reinforced through the provision of agricultural inputs and comprehensive farmer training.

A strong emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion ensured that women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups had equal access to resources, decision-making roles, and economic opportunities. Support for female-led businesses and leadership training further advanced women's economic empowerment.

Recognising the link between economic stability and mental well-being, mental health and psychosocial support services were integrated into livelihood programmes to foster resilience and encourage sustained engagement in economic activities.

Collaboration with local government bodies, private sector actors, and financial institutions strengthened community systems, improved access to financial services, and ensured long-term sustainability beyond the project's duration.



Fatouma sat quietly in her small atelier in east Mosul, where she has lived and worked since her early marriage. The sunlight framed her face, highlighting hands marked by years of hard work and sacrifice.

From a young age, Fatouma shouldered responsibility, leaving school to support her struggling family. Despite her father's opposition, she worked in a sock-making factory for six years, using her income to help at home. Marriage at 18 brought new challenges, including the devastating loss of her brother and a year-long paralysis caused by shock. With her husband's unwavering support, she recovered and embraced motherhood.

During the hardest years, with her husband unemployed, Fatouma baked bread and sewed to provide for her family. Later, she joined World Vision Iraq's Savings Group, which enabled her to purchase a new sewing machine. She now has a contract with a retailer, supports her children's education, and has even helped other women launch tailoring businesses.

Now 58, Fatouma is proud to be her family's breadwinner and hopes her children will never experience the hardships she endured. On International Women's Day, she shares this message: "Fight to support your family."

The Safe Return Project, an Australian Aid initiative implemented by World Vision Iraq on behalf of the Australian Government, has helped hundreds of women like Fatouma achieve financial independence and build sustainable livelihoods.

ECONOMIC EMPOWEREMENT

COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION AND REINTEGRATION OF IRAQIS RETURNING FROM SYRIA'S AL-HOL CAMP (CRRISA)

The project successfully reintegrated 3,040 participants—including 1,520 returnees from Al-Hol and 1,520 host community members—through a range of livelihood initiatives. The Cash-for-Work programme engaged 1,400 individuals in 40-day community projects, providing soft skills training, awareness sessions, first aid kits, personal protective equipment, and insurance. These activities addressed immediate financial needs while also fostering social cohesion and improving community dynamics.

In addition, 500 individuals received demand-driven vocational training across key economic sectors, supported by toolkits valued at \$1,000 to facilitate employment or self-employment. Graduation ceremonies celebrated the successful completion of the training, with many participants securing sustainable job opportunities. Business support was extended to 1,140 individuals through skills training, tailored business plans, and start-up grants averaging \$1,600. Ongoing mentorship and knowledge-sharing activities further enhanced their entrepreneurial success.

Recognising the link between mental health and economic stability, the project integrated psychosocial support services for all 3,040 participants.

Psychoeducation, individualised interventions, and robust referral pathways significantly improved psychological well-being and strengthened social cohesion. To ensure sustainable access to mental health services, three mental health centres were rehabilitated and staffed with trained personnel, offering ongoing support to at least 600 individuals, including survivors of gender-based violence. Service delivery was further strengthened through capacity-building and the establishment of strong referral systems.

Laughter fills the air in a women-led tailoring atelier in Rummaneh, where 45-year-old Iman—a divorcée and mother—has created a haven for widowed and single women to support themselves. Once isolated and struggling, Iman transformed her passion for tailoring into a sustainable livelihood, overcoming personal and societal obstacles.

Displaced by the 2014 conflict, Iman endured severe hardship but found hope through a sewing project in Erbil. Upon returning home to widespread destruction, she began to rebuild her life. With support from a UNDP and World Vision Iraq initiative, funded by USAID, she received business training and a grant that enabled her to establish her own atelier.

Despite numerous challenges, Iman persevered. Today, her atelier hosts 13 women tailors. More than just a workplace, it has become a space of solidarity, resilience, and mutual empowerment—where skills are shared, and independence is reclaimed. With ambitions to grow her atelier into a factory, Iman remains steadfast in her vision: “Women must be strong and never surrender to life.”

Earlier this summer, Tariq participated in the Celebrating Families sessions, part of the Faith and Development Project by World Vision Iraq. As a father to a seventeen-year-old son, Tariq believes that both he and his son have gained valuable insights from the sessions. Engaging with other families allowed him to broaden his perspective on parenting—particularly in supporting an adolescent in today's digital age.

Tariq shared: "The programme is incredible, as different families exchange ideas and experiences. It offers new perspectives on how to care for children, especially adolescents, in a society where social media and internet use are widespread. These sessions have a positive impact on children's character and leadership development, helping them thrive with support from their families and organisations. My son benefited greatly, and it motivates him to overcome social barriers. The experience and the sessions were very enjoyable."

Through its Faith and Development Project in Erbil, World Vision Iraq collaborates with religious and community leaders to support parents and caregivers in reimagining the family as a unit built on mutual respect, where each member is valued and empowered.

World Vision Iraq remains committed to fostering peacebuilding and social cohesion by engaging faith and community leaders as key agents of stability and inclusive development. By applying conflict sensitivity tools—such as the Good Enough Context Analysis for Rapid Response and the Integrated Programming Approach for Conflict Sensitivity—World Vision Iraq ensures that its interventions prioritise the well-being of children, families, and communities.

Grounded in a child-focused approach and aligned with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, the organisation promotes pro-social messaging, tackles the root causes of conflict, and strengthens local capacities for peace.

In FY24, World Vision Iraq launched a three-year strategy (FY24–26) to enhance peacebuilding efforts across the country. A key initiative under this strategy is the Safe Returns Project—an Australian Aid initiative implemented by World Vision Iraq on behalf of the Australian Government. As part of this project, 103 faith and community leaders were trained in conflict prevention and social cohesion. These leaders subsequently conducted 41 sessions, engaging 817 participants from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds. By facilitating dialogue and promoting knowledge-sharing, the initiative strengthened relationships and enhanced community resilience.

Regular monthly meetings further supported collaboration among leaders, fostering the exchange of best practices and reinforcing long-term peace efforts. The initiative showcased the power of collective action in fragile contexts such as Ninewa, promoting mutual understanding and unity among diverse communities.

Through these ongoing efforts, World Vision Iraq continues to support long-term stability—empowering communities to work together towards a peaceful and inclusive future.

PEACEBUILDING & SOCIAL COHESION

EDUCATION

The Catch-Up Programme in West Mosul supported 400 children (50% girls) across six primary schools, addressing the compounded impacts of conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic on education. Over a two-year period, the programme assisted students who had fallen significantly behind, resulting in a 39% improvement in the national Grade 6 exam pass rate.

Beyond academic support, the programme strengthened school management by training teachers and staff in school regulations and the code of conduct—areas where many had previously received little guidance. These trained educators subsequently led awareness sessions for students, promoting discipline and a structured learning environment.

As a result, 95% of students reported an improved school atmosphere, underscoring the programme's success in creating a more supportive and disciplined educational setting.

These days, Buthaina proudly stands by the board to write—something she once feared, as she struggled to recognise the Arabic alphabet and could neither read nor write well. Despite being an outgoing and sociable ten-year-old who loves life, school has not always been easy. Buthaina is currently in the fifth year of primary school and dreams of following her sister's path to become a doctor.

At school, she enjoys sports and plays football, particularly as a striker. Her favourite subject is Islamic Studies, where she enjoys learning about prayer and the Holy Qur'an. Buthaina's favourite teachers, Emad and Basma, are kind and supportive. She recalled, "I didn't know the alphabet, couldn't spell it out, and I couldn't read or write."

Earlier this year, Buthaina joined catch-up sessions implemented by World Vision Iraq in partnership with Japan Platform. Thanks to dedicated teachers and consistent support, her understanding of the Arabic alphabet and writing skills have significantly improved.

Despite her young age, Buthaina understands the importance of education, especially for girls in Iraqi society. Reflecting on societal challenges, she said, "Parents say that girls should not read. Every girl should achieve her dreams, put in effort, and attain her wishes." Thankfully, Buthaina's mother encourages her to pursue education and become financially independent in the future.

Buthaina has also noticed how many students struggle with English and hopes to see additional support: "All students from all stages don't know how to read English. I would like to ask if in the future you could also offer English courses."

With funding from Japan Platform, World Vision Iraq launched the catch-up classes in 2022. These after-school Arabic literacy sessions—lasting 45 minutes and held two to three times per week—support children aged seven to twelve in improving their reading and writing. Strengthening literacy in Arabic also enhances comprehension in other subjects, giving children a better chance of academic success.

Over the years, World Vision Iraq has supported 720 children like Buthaina, helping them continue their education, pass exams, and build brighter futures.

PROTECTION

World Vision Iraq supported 97 vulnerable children in West Mosul through case management, working closely with school social workers to address risks of abuse, neglect, and violence. Seventeen children who lacked legal documentation—and were therefore unable to access education and essential services—successfully obtained their documents with legal support facilitated by the project.

To strengthen child protection, World Vision Iraq established and supported Child Protection Committees (CPCs) across 19 communities over the past six years. CPC members received training to identify at-risk children and refer them to the appropriate services. In parallel, 12 school social workers from six schools were trained and mentored to assist children facing protection concerns both in school and within their communities.

The collaboration between CPCs and schools was reinforced to ensure the sustainability of child protection mechanisms beyond the duration of the project. As a result, CPCs have become increasingly proactive—engaging in community initiatives such as vaccination campaigns—and have gained strong recognition from local residents for their vital role in promoting child welfare.

At 17, Rima* had failed her exams three times and was ready to give up on school. Years of conflict and disruption had caused her to miss three years of education. She struggled after being placed in higher classes without proper preparation and found online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic nearly impossible.

Just as Rima was about to drop out, her mother introduced her to World Vision Iraq's Adolescent Toolkit Programme, funded by Japan Platform. This initiative helps adolescent girls build confidence, manage emotions, and take control of their futures. Encouraged by her mother, Rima decided to join, and everything changed.

Through the program, Rima regained her energy and learned valuable skills like time management, better communication with her parents, and how to stay determined. Despite challenges such as studying in a crowded home, Rima transformed into an active student, engaging in class like never before.

The program also helped Rima understand the dangers of early marriage, a prevalent issue in her community. "Many girls are forced to marry at twelve or thirteen. This is wrong. Girls must talk to their parents calmly and stand up for their future," she said. Rima now encourages her peers to prioritize education.

Rima's turning point came when she passed her exams and proudly handed her certificate to her parents. "Education is like a weapon. If you are educated, people will respect you," she said. Since 2022, World Vision Iraq's Adolescent Toolkit Programme has empowered 480 girls like Rima to build brighter futures.

(*Name changed for privacy.)

FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT

Rabah, 13, has two siblings and is in his first year of secondary school. He enjoys school, especially his teachers, and he particularly admires Teacher Taghrid for her kindness. Recently, he took part in a session as part of World Vision Iraq's Celebrating Families programme.

Rabah shared, "Today we had a session with the teacher, and then we sketched and coloured. We learned about Yusef's story (Joseph's story). I liked the story. The wisdom from the story is not to lie, not to steal, and to love my brothers and my friends. I will share this story with my friends."

While his parents attended a session on celebrating families, Rabah was with other children participating in another session, where they learned about family values, bonding, and morality.

Through its Faith and Development project in Erbil, World Vision Iraq works with religious and community leaders to help parents and caregivers rethink the significance of the family, where each member values one another. Through this project, we aim to support the building block of society—the family—based on principles of love, affection, and support.

World Vision Iraq trained faith and community leaders on the Celebrating Families Programme, equipping them to lead sessions and spiritual nurture of children (SNC) activities in their places of worship. This initiative strengthened community bonds, promoted interfaith understanding, and engaged parents, caregivers, and children in family-focused programming to foster a more connected and resilient society. From April to August 2024, trained faith leaders conducted Celebrating Families sessions and SNC activities in churches and mosques.

These sessions received positive feedback from participants, with parents and caregivers expressing gratitude for the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions. The Faith and Community Leaders, along with World Vision's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) team, collected feedback to assess the programme's impact.



World Vision Iraq integrates Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into its livelihood programs to enhance their effectiveness, acknowledging the strong correlation between economic stability and mental well-being. Financial hardship is often linked to psychological distress, which is why MHPSS is a critical component of the organization's interventions.

Through the Safe Returns project, World Vision Iraq provided Group Problem Management Plus (GPM+) sessions to 367 participants (26 men and 341 women) in Mosul and Hamdaniya. These sessions helped individuals address both practical and emotional challenges, improving their mental health and resilience.

Under the Community Reconciliation and Reintegration of Iraqi Returnees project, MHPSS services were delivered in Al-Qaim (Anbar), Al-Ba'aj (Ninewa), Hawija (Kirkuk), and Beiji (Salah al-Din). A total of 3,040 participants (1,545 men and 1,495 women) received psychoeducation. Additionally, 215 individuals (74 men and 141 women) benefited from individual counseling, while 2,849 participants (1,474 men and 1,375 women) engaged in group psychosocial support sessions. These efforts aimed to foster emotional healing and social reintegration for returnees and vulnerable community members.

To ensure sustained access to quality mental health care, three primary healthcare centers in these governorates were rehabilitated, equipped, and made operational. Trained health workers provided MHPSS support to 845 individuals (310 men and 535 women) within these centers.

Amal, 47, faced an unimaginable loss when her eldest son, Salim, was killed in a workplace accident in Mosul two years ago. For years, Salim had been not just her son but her closest friend and primary source of support after the death of her husband 17 years ago. His tragic passing plunged Amal into deep grief, disrupting her life and the lives of her four children, who struggled academically after the loss.

Amal found it difficult to function, with sleepless nights and a loss of appetite. She struggled to work and provide for her children, who had to drop out of school due to the financial strain. Despite the overwhelming sadness, Amal turned to prayer and began searching for ways to rebuild her life.

A few months later, Amal learned about World Vision Iraq's Safe Return Project, an Australian Aid initiative offering livelihood support and psychosocial services. Encouraged by Amna, a community mobilizer, Amal joined savings groups and participated in Group Problem Management Plus (GPM+) sessions, a structured mental health intervention. These sessions helped Amal regain strength, and through breathing exercises and the support of the group, she gradually started to heal.

As part of her recovery, Amal saved small amounts of money each month, eventually using her savings to buy school supplies for her children. Her transformation was evident to Amna, who remarked, "Five months after her son's death, Amal wasn't smiling. Now, she welcomes us with warmth." While Amal still feels the pain of her loss, she has found ways to manage her grief, using techniques like breathing exercises to cope with anxiety.

On World Mental Health Day, Amal shared her story and encouraged others to seek support in times of sorrow: "Sadness grows when you keep it inside. Everyone experiences loss, but healing starts with connection." Through the Safe Return Project, 1,388 participants, like Amal, have received psychosocial support, helping them regain emotional stability, rebuild their lives, and find hope again.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

PARTNERING AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

PARTNER OF CHOICE (POC)



World Vision Iraq is committed to creating a sustainable impact for children by building strong partnerships with government entities, donors, academia, the private sector, and other like-minded organisations. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive and unified effort to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

To further enhance these partnerships, World Vision Iraq implemented the Partnership for Operational Clarity (POC) action plan. The plan was designed to reinforce collaboration across all levels, equipping staff with essential skills for effective partnership management and ensuring clear, transparent guidelines are in place.

By institutionalising partnership practices within the organisational structure and job roles, World Vision Iraq has ensured that collaboration remains a central focus in all its operations. This strengthens the organisation's ability to deliver more coordinated, impactful, and sustainable solutions for the children and communities it serves.

The POC action plan also prioritises continuous improvement and learning, allowing for the ongoing adaptation and refinement of partnership strategies to maximise positive outcomes. Through these efforts, World Vision Iraq aims to create long-term, meaningful change for the children and families who rely on its services.

At the national level, World Vision Iraq actively contributed to coordination efforts by participating in key Technical Working Groups, including the Iraqi Cash Forum, Climate Resilience Livelihood and Agriculture, Water Scarcity Community of Practice, WASH Working Group, Climate Coordination Group, and Iraq Civil Society Education Forum. These engagements allowed us to align our interventions with broader sectoral strategies and leverage collective expertise to enhance programme impact.

Our collaborations extended to various government bodies, including the Mosul Directorate of Water, Directorate of Education, Directorate of Health, Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs, Directorate of Environment, Directorate of Agriculture, Directorate of Irrigation, Directorate of Social Network, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, multiple mayoral offices, and relevant municipal authorities. By working closely with these institutions, we strengthened service delivery, policy implementation, and community-based initiatives to improve the well-being of vulnerable populations across Iraq.

RESEARCH

WOMEN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES INCLUSION IN MARKET SYSTEMS:

This research examined the economic inclusion gaps for women and persons with disabilities in the market system through a comprehensive study conducted by an independent firm. The study involved a desk review, 21 key informant interviews with market actors, World Vision Iraq staff, and representatives from women's and disability organisations, as well as 125 participant surveys. The findings revealed significant barriers to economic participation for these marginalised groups, including restricted access to finance, training, and infrastructure.

The study also highlighted that societal norms, complex loan requirements, and inadequate accessibility in financial institutions and vocational training centres further hinder opportunities for women and persons with disabilities. The gendered division of labour remained a key factor, with high-paying jobs in sectors such as agriculture, textiles, and dairy still largely male-dominated, while persons with disabilities were largely excluded from the workforce altogether.

Labour force participation rates reflected this exclusion, with women and persons with disabilities each having a participation rate of only 11%, compared to 68% for men. Among entrepreneurs, 55% cited financial constraints as their main barrier, 29% pointed to limited access to equipment, and 12% mentioned the need for further skills training. Gender-based disparities in working hours were also evident, with men working an average of 44 hours per week, compared to 34 hours for women, who often balance unpaid domestic responsibilities. Persons with disabilities worked an average of 33 hours per week, facing additional accessibility challenges.

Viable employment opportunities for marginalised groups were found in sectors such as textiles (31%), dairy (10%), and bakeries (13%), where home-based work offers greater female participation. Profitability trends showed that men without disabilities earned the highest revenue, followed by men with disabilities, women without disabilities, and women with disabilities. The study also identified critical gaps in systemic support mechanisms, with business owners rating their access to finance at just 4.5/10 and government support at 6.0/10.

These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions that address financial, infrastructural, and societal barriers to improve the economic inclusion of women and persons with disabilities.

To address the disparities identified, several interventions were recommended, including incentivising private-sector companies to hire women and persons with disabilities through tax breaks, developing tailored financial products, and improving accessibility in vocational training centres. Public awareness campaigns were also proposed to challenge societal norms and promote workforce inclusion for these groups. These measures aim to create a more equitable market system, allowing women and persons with disabilities to contribute and thrive, fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth. By tackling systemic and societal barriers, the interventions aim to unlock the potential of marginalised groups.

CASHWAVES:

World Vision Iraq collaborated with other field offices, including Afghanistan, Syria Response (covering Syria and Jordan), Lebanon, Georgia, Iraq, occupied Palestinian territories, and Romania, to generate evidence on the transformative impact of Cash and Voucher Assistance programs. The study focused on key areas such as Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-Being, Livelihood Resilience, Community Cohesion, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. Targeting vulnerable populations, particularly women and children in Ninewa and Anbar, data was collected from 200 recipients of Multipurpose Cash Assistance, supplemented by a series of Focus Group Discussions.

The findings revealed that cash assistance plays a crucial role in enhancing financial resilience, reducing economic shocks, and improving mental well-being by alleviating financial stress and enabling access to essential services. Furthermore, the study underscored the positive impact of cash programming on women's empowerment, particularly in fostering decision-making autonomy and strengthening household dynamics. By providing financial stability, these programs help families meet basic needs while promoting social cohesion within communities.

The research emphasized the broader implications of cash assistance, highlighting its effectiveness in fostering long-term resilience and inclusion. By addressing immediate financial hardships and reinforcing coping mechanisms, cash programs contribute to more stable and self-sufficient communities. A detailed report of the study is available on the World Vision International website, offering further insights into the program's impact and key recommendations for future interventions.

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Cover Photo: Aya, the daughter of a family working on one of the farms where World Vision Iraq trained the female owner to start her own business, Hamdaniyah, Ninewa, Iraq, 2024.

Cover photo and report design: Shayan Nuradeen