

Country Brief 2023

# WORLD VISION AFGHANISTAN



## WHO WE ARE

In 2001, World Vision began its work in Afghanistan as an emergency response to address the urgent needs of children and families affected by natural disasters and decades of conflict. A decade later, World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) expanded its operations to deliver long-term development programming in the western region, and established its national headquarters in Herat. World Vision Afghanistan strives to improve the lives of Afghanistan's most vulnerable children, and is proud of its strong reputation in some of the country's poorest and most remote communities.

## WHERE WE WORK

World Vision Afghanistan works in 36 districts and 4,184 villages across Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Faryab provinces. A liaison office in Kabul enhances our coordination at the national level and, in 2023, a response office was also established in Nangahar to meet the needs of returnees from Pakistan. We work closely with children, parents, teachers, village councils, religious leaders, local and international NGOs, the authorities and other coordinating bodies such as UN agencies.

## ESSENTIAL NUMBERS FOR FY23



2,870,770

direct participants, including  
1,335,514 boys and girls



US\$58,852,463

expenditure



88.5%

of children with acute  
malnutrition became well-  
nourished in targeted areas.



Funding target of  
**US\$24.4 million** dwarfed  
by **US\$92.2 million** cash  
and GIK (gifts in kind)



36

projects



103,058

people accessed clean water  
in targeted areas.



25

funding partners including  
World Vision Support  
Offices and UN OCHA/  
AHF, WFP, UNICEF, BHA,  
DEC - UK, ADH, FCDO,  
Dutch Relief Alliance  
(DRA), GFFO, ADA



658

regular and  
stipend staff



968,253

people received food assistance  
and livelihood recovery support.

# WHAT WE DO - PRIORITY SECTORS



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The 2023 Humanitarian Need Overview shows that 13.2 million people in 34 provinces reside in areas where primary healthcare services are not accessible within a one-hour walk. Afghanistan has one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world with over four million acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children.

WV Afghanistan's health and nutrition teams improve the health and wellbeing of children through its 36 health and nutrition teams (mobile and static) and 22 family health houses. These help tackle life-threatening illnesses and malnutrition among children under five, and support females of reproductive age to easily access maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) services.



## CHILD PROTECTION

In 2023, 7.5 million people needed protection services in Afghanistan. Child protection issues include child marriage, child labour, sale or exchange of children, child trafficking, and other forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. World Vision Afghanistan's holistic approach to child protection addresses household vulnerability and promotes community-based protection mechanisms, alongside individual-focused interventions. WVA raises awareness of child protection issues in communities, provides parenting skills training, and works with street children, many of whom are breadwinners, providing safe spaces to play and learn life skills.



## EDUCATION

A lack of school facilities, cultural barriers, displacement, remoteness and local or national restrictions leave 7.9 million children at risk of missing out on education. WV Afghanistan continues to support and advocate for violence-free school initiatives, inclusive education and the development of life skills in safe formal and informal learning settings. WV Afghanistan improves access to life skills programmes through children's clubs, early childhood development (ECD), community-based education (CBE), accelerating learning classes (ALC) and other peer-to-peer programmes. WV Afghanistan also advocates for girls' education at the provincial and regional levels in the country.



## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

In 2023, approximately one-third of Afghanistan's population (13.1 million) were in IPC Phase 3 (crisis level of food insecurity) or above with 2.8 million of those in WV Afghanistan's operation areas. WV Afghanistan's FSL interventions are designed to increase the number of well-nourished children by addressing children's and families' immediate survival needs through lifesaving food assistance and cash transfers, and then integrating them with livelihood recovery and resilience-building initiatives.

WV Afghanistan followed the Ultra-Poor Graduation Approach, focusing on the most vulnerable individuals, and prioritised food assistance (cash and in-kind) to ensure the survival of people in at-risk communities. We also provided agricultural and livestock assistance such as improved drought-resistant seeds and toolkits, and follow-up support to reduce risks and increase self-resilience.



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Nearly two thirds of the Afghan population have been impacted by drought, driven by climate change, with children bearing the brunt. Where WASH facilities are inadequate, outbreaks of water-borne diseases are depriving children of education and other essential rights when they need them the most. In FY23, WV Afghanistan's WASH interventions improved child health through improved access to WASH, not least through the construction and rehabilitation of water supply systems in Badghis, Herat, Ghor and Faryab.



# CROSS CUTTING APPROACHES:



## HUMAN CAPITAL

Recognising the significant loss of human capital due to migration after August 2021, World Vision Afghanistan is investing in the long-term capacity of the wider workforce, training frontline health workers, teachers, peer NGO workers, and agriculturalists, as well as building the capacity of our own staff team.



## ADVOCACY

Advocacy inside Afghanistan has worked to maximise the space within which organisations can work to support Afghanistan's most at-risk people, while including female colleagues in project delivery. WV Afghanistan was able to operate in diverse sectors thanks to painstaking local and provincial-level engagement, and with full participation in the Humanitarian Cluster Team and interagency groups such as the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR).

Internationally, WV Afghanistan collaborated with likeminded NGOs and Support Offices to highlight the concerns affecting the people of Afghanistan, and address the ongoing funding gaps, exacerbated by donor reticence to fund projects in Afghanistan.



## RECOVERY, RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

Through its FSL interventions, WV Afghanistan supported 21,035 individuals and families with livelihood recovery support, improved food security, and resilience for children and their families. We engaged local communities in decision-making processes, improving their ability to deal with climate hazards, having fostered trust and collaboration among many stakeholders, such as building networks of livestock keepers and service providers to add value to their produce.

# OUR IMPACT

To read more about World Vision Afghanistan's impact, read our annual report and our impact stories:



Clean Water Restores Hope for Children's Education



A Mother: World Vision's Health Service is a blessing for us!



Counselling Sessions Helped Khurshid to Cope with her Negative Behaviour



"Street Working Children Enrichment Centre Gave Me Hope to Achieve My Dream"



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Empowering Women through Income-Generating Projects

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