



Country Brief

# WORLD VISION GEORGIA

*for life, for children, for change*

World Vision (WV) is one of the leading children’s rights non-governmental organisations in Georgia. Throughout its over 20 years of work in the country, the organisation has been actively engaged in the strengthening of the child welfare system and creating a healthy and active society for children that is inclusive, tolerant, and provides equal opportunities for all. The organisation’s long-term presence and professional expertise in the field has successfully positioned it as a reliable development partner for national and local governments, CSOs and other stakeholders.

World Vision Georgia (WVG) recognizes a holistic approach, whereby through transformational development children, their families and communities are able to identify and overcome the challenges that prevent them from living life in all its fullness.

## WVG Target Locations



As a leading global partner, we labour alongside supporters, stakeholders, Families, and communities to transform lives and bring hope, and, as a result, all our lives are enriched. Together with our partners, WVG has positively impacted the lives of more than 100,000 children, that benefited from our services, capacity-building, awareness-raising, and advocacy campaigns. **More than 19,000 children in Georgia has been directly reached and supported by World Vision.**

## ESSENTIAL NUMBERS FOR FY 2022



5000 children are enrolled in Child Sponsorship Programme



Child wellbeing services provided to 502 children supported through case management services



Positive parenting trainings provided to 892 parents



3 day and night shelters serve more than 100 street connected-children



448 trained foster parents



Up to 1000 youth empowered by youth clubs



Up to 100 families engaged in Ultra Poor Graduation model



Social and education service provider capacities built among 972 workers



16 small projects and youth initiatives implemented



1 day care centre serves 25 toddlers from the most vulnerable families



8 child protection and advocacy groups are working across the country



1756 refugees, asylum seekers received empowerment, integration and social protection services



Up to 5000 Ukrainian refugees have benefited from WV Global Response Programme

## WVG RESPONSE DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC



To address the immediate and long-term needs of the most vulnerable children and communities in Georgia during and after COVID-19, World Vision Georgia focused on scaling up preventive measures by producing age-appropriate videos and brochures promoting hygiene and healthy lifestyle among children; strengthening health systems through engaging and training faith leaders in CoH vaccine module in order to promote vaccination in their communities and supporting street-connected children affected by COVID-19 through equipping the centres with sanitary and hygienic items; providing an enhanced holistic psychosocial support (psychologist, priest, social worker, caregiver and art therapist) in order to overcome COVID-related stress and lockdown follow up; also organising leisure camps for children, caregivers and other staff building stress-free and friendly environment. **More than 500 children and adults directly benefited from the COVID-19 preventing initiatives.**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



World Vision Georgia identifies and trains active community representatives/ partners to co-facilitate community engagement process and address local needs of the most vulnerable.

Our organisation enables initiative groups to identify issues of local importance and together with partners plan, implement and monitor response actions. These in the end increases the sense of ownership and responsibility as well as the capacity of local communities. **In 2022, World Vision Georgia supported implementation of 16 micro projects identified by the local communities in Samtske-Javakheti, Imereti and Tbilisi. Up to 2000 community members benefited from those initiatives.**

## LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



(The Ultra Poor Graduation Model)

World Vision Georgia has been implementing the Ultra Poor Graduation model since 2019.

The graduation approach is a comprehensive, time-bound, integrated and sequenced set of interventions which enables extreme and ultra-poor households to achieve key milestones towards sustainable livelihoods and socioeconomic resilience, in order to progress along a pathway out of extreme poverty. **In 2022, with the support of the Samtskhe-Javakheti and Imereti Development Centres, we involved up to 100 families in a two-year programme.**

## CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE



World Vision Georgia maintains a strong position in the field of child welfare through its active work on policy (on local and national levels) and service development, access and delivery to respond to the children's needs and rights for health, education and protection.

8 child protection and advocacy groups identify community needs and advocate for making the change in the lives of vulnerable children.

Our organisation contributes to the implementation of the Code of the Rights of Child in Georgia, the deinstitutionalization of residential institutions for children deprived of parental care; the development of the regulatory framework for the shelters run by religious institutions and local municipalities; creating child protection departments; strengthening alternative child care services through capacity building of social workers and foster parents. WVG extensively works with local municipalities to establish new services based on existing needs.

Our organisation supports educational institutions with technical expertise and material resources for empowering young people. Through school clubs, youngsters are engaged in non-formal education activities, develop skills and become active citizens in their communities. Community driven and national level child welfare initiatives are implemented through WV programmes and donor funded project "Reinforcing the child welfare and protection system in Georgia" which is financed by the European Union and World Vision France.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



World Vision Georgia Early Childhood (ECD) Programme supports the healthy growth and development of children under eight, considering the significance of early childhood development and care (0-2y and 3-6y), school (6-8y) inclusion and transition processes. Early years lay the foundation for later school success and the further development of a person.

In 2022, WVG targeted the most vulnerable children focusing on advancing the quality of early and preschool services, contributing to development of supporting services and inclusive environment, arranging outdoor spaces of preschools, enhancing positive parenting skills, as well as providing policy and methodological input to the preschool and general educational institutions.

To enhance access of children with special needs to quality education, World Vision Georgia implements diverse initiatives such as summer camps for deaf children, their family members and teachers promoting sign language, improving communication and supporting the transition process at schools. To promote literacy among visually impaired children and strengthen the capacities of specialised schools, our organisation provides regular material-technical support such as braille books distribution and reading clubs.

**More than 4000 children have been supported through the ECD Programme initiatives.**

## SUPPORTING REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND STATELESS PERSONS IN GEORGIA



WVG, in partnership with the UN Refugee Council in Georgia (UNHCR), is providing support to refugees from different countries who had to leave their homeland and find a new place to live. Our joint project "Community mobilisation and participation" contributes to the realisation of the fundamental rights of asylum seekers, persons granted international protection, persons in the stateless determination procedure, and stateless persons in Georgia, by strengthening community-based protection, and contributing to their peaceful coexistence with the local population, as well as the integration process.

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



We enhance youth participation and engagement to create positive changes at all levels.

WVG youth-led initiatives provide support mechanisms to foster the individual competencies of youngsters necessary for participation in social, civic, and economic life. **Through youth clubs, WVG equips 1000 youth with life and technical skills, entrepreneurial business development techniques and innovative approaches that bring social change to the community.**

Youth council is an effective mechanism to promote youth participation and engagement in the decision making process. World Vision Georgia is actively involved in creating youth councils in regions, building capacity of youth, strengthening them and providing technical expertise. **Currently, 7 youth councils uniting more than 150 qualified youth are already functional, giving them the opportunity to address essential needs and be the voice of youth in their community.**

## BEING A RELIABLE PARTNER

Being transparent and accountable to our communities, partners and donors enables us to make positive changes in the lives of vulnerable children and communities.

We are a trusted partner of communities, churches, national governments, corporations, UN agencies, the European Commission, and many other international bodies.

We build long-term partnerships to ensure a long-term impact.

Through joint efforts, we enable children, with their families and communities, to build a better future for themselves.





### UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE IN GEORGIA

World Vision Georgia has been responding to the emerging needs of the Ukrainian refugees from the very onset of the crisis by launching a humanitarian response Programme in Georgia.

Our interventions focus on the provision of immediate humanitarian support to the citizens of Ukraine affected by the crisis including food security, child protection, healthcare services and information regarding basic social services such as education and employment opportunities as well as psycho-social support available for them. From the first days, our organisation provides direct humanitarian assistance to arriving families affected by the war in Ukraine. **2250 beneficiaries already received multi-purpose cash assistance to cover their most urgent and immediate needs before becoming employed.** Ongoing consultations and informational meetings are held for vulnerable people to facilitate access to available services in the country - education, healthcare, social, and psycho-social support as well as employment opportunities.

In Georgia, Ukrainian children are able to receive education in their native language at local schools as well. **To support the learning process, our organisation equipped 550 child beneficiaries with educational kits and learning supplies. With the aim to improve the mental health of 1,000 refugee women and children, WVG provides regular psycho-social support such as art, music and dancing therapy for children; informational sessions on gender based violence prevention; individual and group sessions for Ukrainian refugees to deal with the traumatic experiences of war.**

World Vision Georgia works closely with the Government of Georgia, Internally Displaced Persons, Eco migrants and Livelihood Agency, local municipalities, UNHCR, and the Ukrainian Embassy in Georgia to assist refugees in the country and coordinates the information flow on existing services offered by different stakeholders.

**More than 5000 children and adults have already benefited from the Ukraine Crisis Response Programme financially supported by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) and UNHCR.**

### PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Promoting gender equality and preventing gender-based violence in the country is one of the priorities of World Vision Georgia. To combat gender-based violence against girls, boys, and women in the rural areas of Georgia, organisation works with partner schools and preschool institutions in the frame of the new project "Prevention of gender-based violence by strengthening educational institutions" with the financial support of the Government of Canada - Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives.

Two guidebooks for preschool and school practitioners were developed to serve as a practical tool for staff to contribute to the implementation of gender-responsive practices in the educational institutions of Georgia.

The training sessions introducing gender-responsive pedagogical practices to teachers and educators were conducted in Kakheti, Imereti and Samtskhe-Javakheti. **More than 500 educational practitioners were able to receive relevant knowledge and guidance on initiating gender focused activities in their communities and creating an environment offering equal opportunities to all.**



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