

РЕАГУВАННЯ НА КРИЗУ УКРАЇНИ

В ГРУЗІЇ

We provide need driven humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian children and families affected by the crisis
Ми забезпечуємо потреби українських дітей та сімей, що постраждали від кризи, в гуманітарній допомозі

World Vision

GEORGIA



Country Brief 2023

WORLD VISION GEORGIA

Illuminating Hope, Transforming Lives, Children Come First

World Vision Georgia (WVG), an unwavering champion of children's rights, stands at the forefront of transformative initiatives dedicated to enhancing the lives of vulnerable children, families, and communities. Guided by our mission, "Empowering Lives, Building Lasting Change," we drive impactful programs that directly address local challenges, cultivating resilience and fostering self-sustainability within communities.

Our commitment to breaking the cycles of despair is evident in our dual focus, where we function primarily as a development office while maintaining a robust emergency response capability.

Operating on multiple levels of programmatic influence, our approach

encompasses micro-level interventions, focusing on children and families, to mezzo-level engagements involving communities and local governments. At the macro level, we collaborate with the central government to enact systemic changes that have a lasting impact on the broader society.

By combating poverty, injustice, and social exclusion at their roots, we not only empower individuals but also address the broader structural issues that perpetuate vulnerability.

Join us on this journey as we navigate the intricate interplay between immediate relief and sustainable development, working towards a future where every child and community can thrive.

BY STEADFASTLY ADVOCATING AND IMPLEMENTING CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS AT BOTH CENTRAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, WE HAVE POSITIVELY TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF OVER 600,000 VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS IN GEORGIA.



As Child Rights Champions, we holistically reinforce the child protection system in Georgia through:

- **Going Beyond Institutional Care:** Enhancing the gatekeeping system in Georgia by supporting alternative care and implementing family strengthening programs to ensure both visibility and life-saving support for vulnerable children, both seen and unseen. This is accomplished through strategic partnerships with the State Care Agency under the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; the European Union; Austrian Development Agency (ADA); World Vision Austria; World Vision France; and Tbilisi City Hall.
- **Continuing nationwide efforts in lifting families from extreme poverty,** addressing both financial challenges and mindset barriers, and fostering self-sufficiency through strategic partnerships with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Danish Refugee Council in Georgia (DRC), and LEPL Social Service Agency (SSA).
- **Enhancing the resilience of municipalities and communities** for better social and healthcare services, fostering closer connections with vulnerable people through strategic partnerships with ADA, the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and partner municipalities.
- **Providing critical support to Refugees and Asylum seekers,** facilitating access to basic services, job opportunities, and fostering integration into the local community. This effort is supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH), World Vision Germany, and World Vision Finland.
- **Fostering youth empowerment,** supporting the seamless transition to adulthood for vulnerable children and youth by providing access to quality and inclusive education and essential life skills. These activities are implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, the European Union, the National Youth Agency, World Vision USA, and World Vision Germany.

THROUGH OUR PROJECTS AND TARGETED SERVICES, WE ARE DIRECTLY WORKING WITH MORE THAN **21,000** CHILDREN AND **16,000** ADULTS - BRINGING HOPE AND ABUNDANCE TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

Celebrating Achievements - Our Collective Impact in 2023:



Three Day and Night Centres cater up to **100 street connected-children** daily



Increased the capacity of more than **1,800 civil servants** for the provision of enhanced healthcare and social services



One Day Care centre serves **25 toddlers** assisting vulnerable families and single mothers through a specialized service and care



Equipped **11 local public health centres** to ensure equitable access to health resources



More than **2,500 youth** empowered and engaged in youth-led initiatives building a brighter future



Positive parenting training provided to **464 parents**



Up to **12,000 refugees and asylum seekers** received empowerment, integration and social protection services



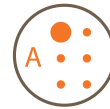
12,000 cash-based assistance and vouchers distributed to those in need



2,388 refugee children benefited from Happy Space – Education and Development Centre services



650 refugee women received psycho-social and integration support



150 deaf and blind children enhanced their sign language/braille skills through reading clubs established at public schools.



Child Protection and Well-being

To strengthen the child welfare system with a holistic approach, we implement essential activities through our projects across key areas crucial to shaping child well-being. Within the project Implementing the Child Rights Code in Georgia financially supported by ADA, WVG is developing effective child protection and prevention measures in collaboration with the Government of Georgia (GOG) for safeguarding children and ensuring their protection at the municipal and national level. WVG actively contributes to this endeavour by crafting comprehensive guidelines, implementing targeted training programs, and establishing robust monitoring frameworks for Child Care Units. Through our efforts, more than **800 vulnerable children** with protection needs have been provided with varied support by trained municipal social workers enabling them to grow and thrive.

WVG operates three Day Care and Crisis Intervention Centres accommodating up to **100 street-connected children** in Tbilisi and Kutaisi within the projects generously supported by respective donors such as the European Union, ADA, and other invaluable supporters. These centres cater to the needs of street-connected children, providing a caring environment, nutrition, medical assistance, access to education and psycho-social rehabilitation activities, nurturing children's physical, emotional and social well-being. A Day Care Centre for socially vulnerable children serving **25 toddlers** aged 6 to 30 months, offers a family-like atmosphere, essential care, and resources. It serves as a lifeline for single mothers and vulnerable parents, enabling them to work while ensuring the comfort and safety of their children.

We are partnering with NCDC within the "Leave No One Behind" project, funded by ADA, to mitigate the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen health and child protection systems in the country. Under the project **758 professionals, including 597 family doctors and 162 municipal social workers** were trained in referral mechanisms and procedures concerning Child Protection cases to enhance their ability to identify, timely report and prevent child abuse cases effectively. **11 Public Health Centres** were equipped with necessary resources, technical supplies and medical items empowering them to better serve local communities and secure public health. **Six training modules** were developed on immunization, regular child vaccinations, Hepatitis C and B, Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), and HIV prevention to strengthen the capacity of health personnel and social workers ensuring a sturdy and informed approach to key health issues.

Poverty Alleviation, Livelihoods Transformation and Economic Empowerment

We are committed to supporting the Government of Georgia in its poverty alleviation endeavours by introducing the Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) approach under the project ERTAD (Empowerment, Resilience, Transformation, And Development). **The project was officially recognized by (GoG) as a pilot program for combating poverty in the country, marking a significant milestone.** ERTAD project is led by the consortium of WVG, World Vision Germany, DRC and SSA with the financial support of SIDA.

The overarching goal is to implement a sustainable and multifaceted solution, guiding **780 households** along a transformative path out of poverty through financial aid, access to healthcare, tackling socio-economic exclusion and bolstering behavioural change. Household Empowerment Consultants were specifically trained in the UPG methodology to assist vulnerable families in realizing their full potential, acquiring new skills and starting their ventures, eventually transforming their lives. Each consultant works and assists households based on individualized development plans aligning with the four pillars of the UPG methodology: Social Empowerment, Livelihoods Promotion, Financial Literacy, and Social Empowerment. Through this personalized strategy, families receive the necessary tools and support, empowering them to achieve self-sustainability and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their households.



Community Resilience through Humanitarian Aid – Strengthening Refugees

To ensure that refugees' rights are realised and to help them overcome challenges such as language barriers, employment struggles, and limited access to essential services, we offer diverse support to refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons from various countries, including those from Ukraine affected by the ongoing war.

In 2023, our multifaceted assistance, tailored for refugees and covering healthcare, access to quality education, social and legal services, financial support, and psychosocial consultations, provided **21,000 aid and support services** to children and adults in need. These diverse services were part of the projects "Community Mobilization and Participation," supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the "Ukraine Crisis Response" project financially supported by World Vision International and ADH.

In collaboration with Government Institutions, we contributed to the implementation of the one-stop-shop principle, consolidating all essential social protection and health services offered by five governmental agencies; Within the initiative, we trained **739 management and front-line civil servants** to enhance state service provision for refugees and other vulnerable groups. We also capacitated CSOs/NGOs run by refugees through training and technical assistance, enabling them to address the needs of their communities. Through our tailored approach and cash-for-protection support, we meet the unique needs of displaced individuals, promoting integration, stability, and hope in new settings.

- ✔ **16,143 cash-based assistance and specific vouchers** addressing the essential needs of children and their families distributed to those in need.
- ✔ **3,000 adults** benefited from employment support and language education programs fostering their integration and self-sufficiency.
- ✔ **2,737 children** received diverse education support including school kits.
- ✔ **2,232 individuals** benefited from mental health and psychosocial support.
- ✔ Through **Happy Space** – Education and Development Centre operating in Tbilisi and Batumi, World Vision provides regularly valuable support to **children and parents** covering **2,400 individuals**. These centres serve as meeting points for Ukrainian children and their mothers, engaging them in diverse psychosocial, cultural, and non-formal education activities, helping them overcome stress and adapt to new surroundings.



Inclusive Education - Ensuring Development for Children with Special Needs

We strive to enhance access to education for children with disabilities, particularly those who are blind, deaf, or hard of hearing and face challenges in acquiring essential literacy skills due to the limited bilingual teaching and inclusive education in schools. By equipping Reader's Clubs in three schools with needed resources and offering children various educational activities we assist more than **150 blind and deaf children** in advancing their literacy and sign language skills. Through providing audio and braille books to these children we aim to contribute to their holistic development and integration into society. WVG organizes **Deaf Camp for children and their families**, empowering parents and their kids, advancing teachers' competencies, promoting sign language and supporting the smooth transition of children to school. Through these efforts and a multifaceted approach, we provide equal opportunities for academic and personal growth with the support of World Vision US.



Youth Empowerment and Advocacy - Equipping young people with essential skills and opportunities

WVG continues supporting youth through expanded opportunities for self-realization, especially considering a significant **31% classified as NEET** (Not in Education, Employment, or Training). We actively participate in national-level youth platforms, contributing to discussions and initiatives that address youth-related issues on a broader scale within the country. Through the newly launched project SKYE NET (Skills and Knowledge for Youth Empowerment Network) we are committed to empowering over **500 young individuals**, especially disadvantaged youth, by enhancing their entrepreneurial, career management, and digital skills within our youth clubs, with particular emphasis on fostering digital and green transformation. The project, funded by the European Union under its EU4Youth Programme, is implemented by WVG, World Vision Armenia, Millenium Training and Development Institute (Moldova), and IRIS Business Incubator (Armenia). WVG, in collaboration with UN agencies, assessed Georgian youth-related legislation and developed a recommendations document, fostering alignment of local legislation with the EU standards and promoting the overall well-being of the country's youth.

We take pride in being the pioneering non-governmental organization in the region, partnering with Institute of Public Affairs of Georgia (GIPA) **to introduce youth policy as an elective subject**. This initiative empowers students to learn and actively participate in social and political spheres.

We facilitated municipal and regional youth forums creating platforms to amplify youth involvement in decision-making processes. **More than 2,500 youth were empowered** and participated in youth-led initiatives to address the local needs and shape the future of their communities.



World Vision in Georgia – A Reliable Partner

This transformative journey was made possible with the unwavering support of our dedicated donors and partners. Being transparent and accountable to our communities, partners and donors enables us to make positive changes in the lives of vulnerable children and communities. Our commitment to the well-being of children in the country stands firm and drives us forward on this enduring journey to create a future marked by promise, equality, and boundless opportunities for every young life.

CONTACT AND
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