

Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives

World Vision Iraq's National Nexus Strategy (2024-2026)



WHO WE ARE

World Vision is a child-focused Christian humanitarian aid, development, and advocacy organisation operating in over 100 countries. World Vision Iraq began as an emergency humanitarian response in 2014, dedicated to saving lives, and continues to operate under a Category 3 Sustained Humanitarian Response Declaration, due to enduring needs in the country. However, as the context gradually changes, World Vision Iraq is increasing its focus on recovery and resilience. Globally, World Vision works across the whole Humanitarian, Development and Peacebuilding Nexus (HDPN). Over the next three years, World Vision Iraq will be increasingly recognised as a 'whole nexus' implementer.

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STRATEGIC INTENT

2.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance while an estimated 1.1 million people are internally displaced, with 175,000 IDPs residing in camps. 131,000 people have been internally displaced in Central and Southern Iraq due to climate-related factors since 2019. In addition, there are around 273,000 Syrian Refugees in Iraq (UNHCR¹). Approximately 8.6 percent of the population in Iraq (3,759,000 people in 2021) is multidimensionally poor and unemployment is 15.5% (% of total labor force as modeled ILO estimate-2022). Years of conflict, displacement, and the economic downturn have left many children in Iraq or at risk of child labour - more than half of households surveyed having one or more children engaged in labour². An estimated 3.2 million school-aged children are out of school, with dire situations in conflict-affected areas like Salah al-Din and Diyala, where many children are left out of the education system.

World Vision's Making Sense of Turbulent Contexts³ analysis revealed a complex interplay of factors impacting the wellbeing of children in Iraq. 43% of Iraq's population are children. Whether they live in urban or rural areas, they will have to live with, and respond to, the impacts of climate change, which amplifies the impacts of conflict and scarcity, and exacerbates people's sense of uncertainty. In addition to climate change, our priorities therefore encompass peacebuilding, economic empowerment of marginalised individuals, and protection, with wider social inclusion, especially of women and girls, integrated throughout.

Working more towards long-term durable solutions creates opportunities for World Vision Iraq to expand the space for program participant for local participation and decision-making in its programming, when compared with short-term humanitarian response interventions. We are committed to locally led programming, properly contextualised for Iraq's diverse communities. WV Iraq places an emphasis on safety, sustainability, inclusivity, and the empowerment of children as key stakeholders in their own development.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/iraq-complex-emergency-fact-sheet-1-fiscal-year-fy-2024>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/high-child-labor-rates-iraq-continue-disrupt-childrens-education-childhood-and-basic-rights-irc-warns>

³ <https://www.wvi.org/publications/peacebuilding-conflict-sensitivity/making-sense-turbulent-contexts-mstc>

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CLIMATE RESILIENCE

World Vision Iraq recognises the urgency of addressing this issue and aims to increase the climate resilience and adaptation of the most affected children, families, and communities. World Vision Iraq will develop and implement climate resilience initiatives to mitigate the impacts of climate change and enhance community adaptability. World Vision will scale up its promotion of climate-smart practices, implement disaster risk reduction measures, and engage in external partnerships to maximise impact. Further, the organisation plans to utilise approaches such as Climate Smart Agriculture, landscape restoration, ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated water resource management, energy-efficient technologies, sustainable waste management, and climate empowerment and education.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

We will drive economic empowerment through skills development, financial literacy, and increasing access to resources, fostering sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable groups, at the family level, with a particular focus on women-headed households for livelihood support. We will also ensure households including people living with disabilities are likewise empowered to generate sustainable livelihoods. Through targeted economic and social reintegration support, we aim to empower youth, IDPs, returnees, and host communities to become more resilient together, transitioning from poverty and dependence towards adaptability and sustainable livelihoods.

PEACEBUILDING

Committed to Freedom of Religious Belief and 'Positive Peace', World Vision Iraq will continue engaging with diverse faith partners and powerholders employing evidence-based approaches for implementing community-based projects that foster peace, tolerance, and social cohesion. Peer-to-peer peace clubs will be established to empower youth and children as agents of change, with an emphasis upon leadership development in the next generation. Proposed peacebuilding activities will address underlying issues of conflict and violence and will promote reconciliation and peaceful coexistence within families and communities.

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PROTECTION

World Vision Iraq will focus on engagements and coordination with partners to implement child and adult protection programmes, which will augment the effectiveness, scale and sustainability of existing protection interventions. Child Protection and Advocacy (CPA) and family welfare approaches will be utilised to promote healthy family environments and child-led advocacy initiatives. We will work with partners and government to strengthen protection mechanisms to safeguard individuals from physical, psychological, and social harm, promoting a secure environment for all including preventing violence and challenging harmful practices, especially with families. World Vision Iraq will continue implementing Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy among staff and local partners. World Vision will continue to provide critical support in case management, strengthening referral systems and the community-led protection.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

World Vision Iraq's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programming aligns with country priorities and World Vision's global WASH business plan goals, striving to enhance child well-being through sustainable and quality WASH services. Improving WASH infrastructure and practices to ensure the health and wellbeing of communities will be prioritised. This includes improving water supply and quality, water security and resilience, and sanitation and hygiene governance and finance. The programming will also address the impacts of the water crisis and climate change and promote disability-inclusive, dignified, and sustainable hygiene education. WASH programs will address needs of different groups, aiming to remove barriers and increase the meaningful participation of girls and women in WASH.

EDUCATION

With 3.2 million children out of school, World Vision Iraq is committed to improving the quality and accessibility of education to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary for personal and professional growth. Through its diverse education interventions, World Vision seeks to improve learning outcomes. Catch-up programs and a focus on girls' education are integral to this effort. Sustainability is ensured through strengthening partnerships with local organisations and government bodies, particularly the Ministry of Education. Child participation is prioritised, involving children in project design and decision-making to ensure their perspectives are considered, leading to more effective and relevant educational interventions.

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DRIVERS OF SUCCESS

Collaboration and Engagement: World Vision Iraq (WV Iraq) is transitioning from humanitarian response to recovery and resilience, harmonising with the government's lead role in service and protection delivery. WV Iraq will be focusing on vulnerable children while complementing its strategy with government priorities and aligning with World Vision global strategy and SDG goals. World Vision Iraq will also collaborate and coordinate with peer and local NGOs, UN and donors aiming to support, expand its reach, influence, co-design, co-design and implement projects for effective collaboration.

World Vision Iraq is committed to enhancing its collaboration and engagement with donors both within the country and through World Vision Support Offices to gather and disseminate evidence of our advocacy efforts and innovative programs, showcasing the positive effects of our support for vulnerable children. World Vision Iraq will utilize the ENOUGH⁴ campaign as a platform to bridge our programming, policymaking, and resource development efforts.

Adaptive Programming: WV Iraq will use community profiling to tailor responses to specific needs, focusing on the dynamic nature of fragile contexts and adjusting its programmes accordingly through context monitoring and community participation. Research, assessments, and impact studies will inform World Vision Iraq's program design.

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: WV Iraq is adopting HDP Nexus thinking, working with various stakeholders, including faith actors, to enhance the quality of programming through a holistic nexus approach.

Partnering: WV Iraq is striving to become a partner of choice for multiple decision-makers by embedding partnering in its strategy, fostering a collaborative culture, enhancing systems for partnership engagement, and building staff capacity for effective partnerships. As part of its Partner of Choice (POC) initiative, WV Iraq is committed to locally led programming, aiming to enhance local ownership and sustainability by increasing long-term funding and strengthening local structures to respond to disasters.

Area Based Programming: WV Iraq will pilot localised and geographically focused programming to address specific community challenges, fostering sustainable solutions through community ownership and

⁴World Vision Iraq is part of the ENOUGH campaign, which is World Vision's global campaign to end child hunger and malnutrition

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DRIVERS OF SUCCESS

Cross-Cutting Themes: WV Iraq integrates safeguarding principles and addresses the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs of affected individuals, with a focus on women's equality and wider social inclusion, and with attention to individuals' dignity and safety.

Community Engagement: World Vision Iraq's programmes will promote participation through timely access to information, community participation in design or choices of responses, dialogue with communities, soliciting community feedback and designing programmes based on communities' expressed needs. World Vision Iraq will prioritize integrating and strengthening the capacity of the communication and advocacy teams and local partners to communicate with communities and deliver high quality media outputs (program participant stories, press releases, interview talking points, documentation for media outlets and donors).

Fragile Ready Approach: Our Fragile Ready Approach will ensure the organisation has adequate and skilled staff to address emergencies, early recovery, and long-term programming in collaboration with communities and partners and remain agile in the involving context.

Durable Solutions: WV Iraq will be working with partners to prioritise the well-being of internally displaced and returnee children and their families.

Safety-Nets: In anticipation of climate and conflict-induced displacements, WV Iraq will continue to provide cash assistance to households, ensuring children's needs are met.



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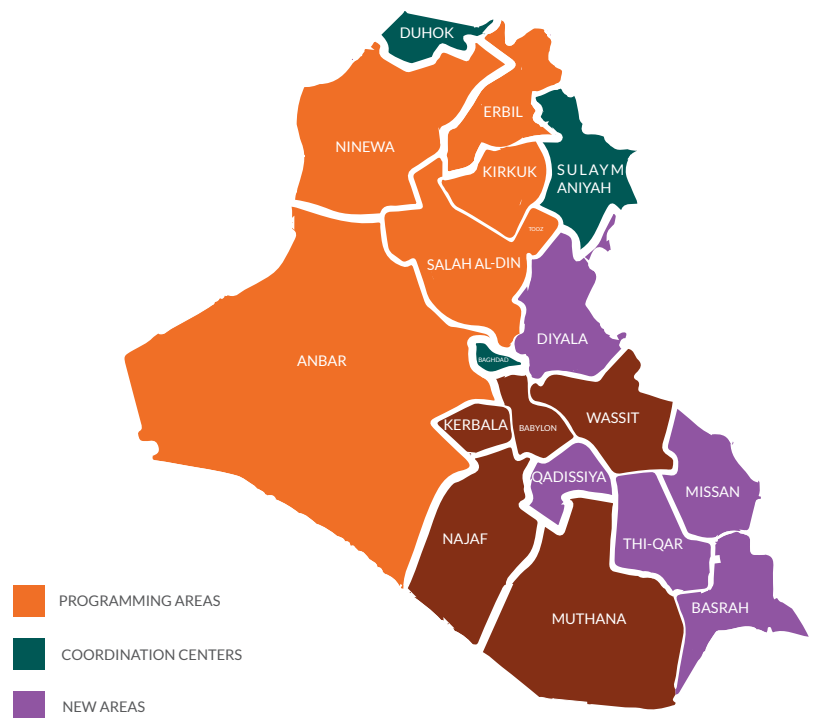


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GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

WORLD VISION Iraq will foster strategic collaborations with like-minded organizations and local partners to extend its support to the most vulnerable children. Through these partnerships, we aim to amplify our impact and expand our reach to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive environment. In addition to its current operational areas, World Vision Iraq will expand its geographical coverage by partnering with technical and consortium partners. In the targeted geographical areas, World Vision Iraq will target children and families categorised as IDPS, returnees, refugees, people living with disabilities, host communities, women, and youth, thus tackling multiple marginalisation of the most vulnerable individuals.



Contact Information

Larisa Klepac | Country Director
E-mail: larisa_klepac@wvi.org

Biruk Kebede Beyene | Programme Director
E-mail: Biruk_beyene@wvi.org

<https://www.wvi.org/iraq>
<https://twitter.com/IraqVision>
<https://www.facebook.com/WVIraq>
<https://www.instagram.com/worldvisioniraq/>