

# AFGHANISTAN

## ABOUT WORLD VISION AFGHANISTAN

World Vision began operating in Afghanistan in 2001. After transitioning from emergency assistance to long-term development, World Vision's focus has been the improvement of maternal and child health, nutrition, education and livelihoods.

Children Benefited:

240,000

Children live in poverty:

3.2 million

Children under 5:

5.6 million

AFGHANISTAN

Programme Areas:

370

Children in Country:

17.2 million

## PRIORITY ISSUES



Health



Education



Child Protection



Nutrition



Economic Development

## HELPING CHILDREN AND MOTHERS SURVIVE PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

Afghanistan has one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world. World Vision works with families, communities and health workers to promote basic health for well-being and survival; with a special focus on children under 5 and women of childbearing age. Since 2004, World Vision has trained more than 350 midwives to care for pregnant women and their babies, before, during and after birth. Increased awareness and capacity has led to a 37 per cent increase in the number of babies being delivered by skilled birth attendants, in the areas where World Vision works.

## FAST FACTS



59% of children under 5 are **stunted** (UNICEF, 2013)



1 in 11 women risk **maternal death** (Save the Children, 2012)



Fewer than 1 in 3 people have access to **improved sanitation** (UNICEF, 2013)

## IMPROVING EDUCATION:

Education remains a challenge for children in Afghanistan and for girls in particular. To better prepare children for school, World Vision is establishing Early Childhood Care and Development Spaces that help prepare them to start primary school. World Vision also links its education and nutrition programmes, by providing more than 60,000 children and 2,400 school staff with monthly food rations, encouraging school attendance. Over the past three years there has been a 29 per cent increase in school enrollment and a 56.5 per cent increase in school attendance.

## WHAT WE DO

Thanks to training and equipment provided by World Vision, newborn and maternal mortality rates are dropping. Photo by Paul Bettings, World Vision.



## IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH CLEAN WATER

World Vision provides clean, safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of wells and the training of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene committees which not only take care of wells but also provide training on proper hand washing and the importance of using potable water.

## GROWING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

To improve income levels for rural families, World Vision works through agricultural development initiatives, such as the introduction of drought resistant wheat and pistachio crops, the cultivation soybeans as well as beekeeping and honey-making. As a result, 52.5 per cent of involved parents said their income had increase as a result of beekeeping; 63 percent reported they are now able to cover all the educational costs for school-aged children and 97.5 per cent were able to cover health costs for themselves and their children without assistance, thanks to increased income from the sale of honey.



Girls study in World Vision's Street Children Centre, where children who were living or working on the streets are able to get access to remedial education and health care. More than 95 per cent have gone on to formal schooling after one year in the centre. Photo by Paul Bettings, World Vision.

## FAST FACTS



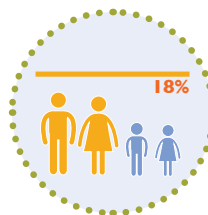
An estimated **750,000** children are involved in **child labour** (Child Poverty Measurement: the Case of Afghanistan (Biggeri, Trani, Mauro) Working Paper, 2011 )



**4.3 million** children are out of school (UNICEF, 2012)  
**1 in 10** young girls are **illiterate** (BBC, 2009)



**275,000** young people are **unemployed** (ILO, 2007)



**3.2 million** children live in **poverty** (Child Poverty Measurement: the Case of Afghanistan (Biggeri, Trani, Mauro), Working Paper 2011 )

## PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE:

In 2011, World Vision established its first Street Children Centre in Herat. The safe and creative environment provides children, 6-12 years old who are living or working on the street, the chance to participate in an 11-month remedial education programme, which also gives them access to healthcare and counseling. Of the first 300 graduates, more than 95 per cent passed the school entrance exams and more than 90 per cent have now been integrated into the formal education system; many of them are at the top of their class, like Zarif, 13. "Before I came to the centre, I used to collect garbage," he remembers. "My hands and feet were dirty. I was illiterate. Now, I go to school and I am in third grade, in first position [the top student]. I learned to be clean. I work in the mornings and in the afternoons, I go to school... I want to be a doctor in the future to serve my country," he added.

**LEARN MORE:** [www.wvi.org/afghanistan](http://www.wvi.org/afghanistan)

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