



Faith and Development at a Glance 2020

Engagement with faith leaders and faith based-institutions

Religious scholars are highly respected and are the backbone of the Afghan community. It is our hope that they will play a role in all levels of society and work together to help World Vision implement its humanitarian programs to reduce forced marriages and underage marriages, and reduce violence against children and women.

MoU signed with Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj (MoRA&H)

For effective and meaningful implementation of the programs in the communities, WV Afghanistan has signed an MoU with MoRA&H (Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj) at the national level.

Supporting and strengthen the Community based Structure/Approaches

WV Afghanistan supported the DoRA&H with forming of Provincial Level Faith Leader Forum (FLF) in three target provinces – Herat, Badghis, and Ghor

- Herat
 - Male: 10
 - Female: 6
- Badghis
 - Male: 14
 - Female: 10
- Ghor
 - Male: 13
 - Female: 10



Strengthen the capacity of faith leaders and community-based structures:

Since then, WV Afghanistan has conducted several trainings for various community members including faith leaders, school teachers, kindergarten teachers, female Shura sand youths on community change for protecting children (CC-4-PC) and Gender in Islam. The figure below shows the details.



Establishment of District Level Advocacy Networks

In order to support community-based advocacy for child and social protection, and facilitate a forum for communities to have meaningful and sustainable ownership of initiatives for change, WV Afghanistan established district level Advocacy Networks. The Advocacy Networks in Ghor, Badghis and Herat comprise of male and female faith leaders, civic activists, youth, teachers, and CDC members. The network identifies harmful practices or negative behaviors and acts as agents of positive change in order promote peace and social cohesion in their own communities.



“I have a better understanding of the rights of the child and feel empowered to make change in my community,” says Masouda, Female Faith Leader, Advocacy Network Herat

In 2020 alone, the Faith Leader Forum and Advocacy Networks successfully mitigated 11 cases of CEFM.

Faith leaders are acting as agent of change in the communities:

WVA with the engagement of the trained faith leaders achieved to deliver the messages of Child Rights and Gender from faith perspective to 94096 community people through Friday prayer preaches, public campaign and through TV/Radio roundtables in order to strengthen the culture of positive changes in the target communities.

- Men: 63,458
- Women: 14,581
- Girls: 6,790
- Boys: 9,267



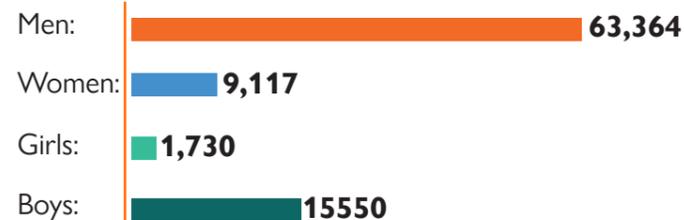
Faith leaders trained on preventive messages of COVID-19 (direct beneficiary)

- Herat: 120
- Badghis: 80
- Ghor: 70



Faith in Action: The Power of Faith Leaders to Fight a Pandemic:

WVA engaged with faith leaders (as agent of health) to disseminate the message of COVID-19 preventive measures from faith perspective to 89,761 community people.



With in-depth understanding of the context, WV Afghanistan Faith and Development team developed and contextualized appropriate faith-based related training materials and modules such as:

1. WASH in Islam
2. Gender in Islam
3. Environmentalism in Islam
4. COVID-19 Preventive Measure from Faith Perspective

With this integral initiative, WVA aims to be self-sufficient in faith-based related modules and even to support the other Muslim contexts which are similar to Afghan context with providing these integral modules for their use in their programming in order to gain the community and public acceptance.

1 Using Community Change for Protecting Children (CC4PC), we improve capacity of community faith and civic leaders to influence positives social changes in a sustainable manner and we work with faith and civic leaders to increase their awareness about spiritual nature of children and positive family relationships.



2 Using the Community Change model, we enable people to identify the burning issues in their communities and the negative social values that influence them, and to find solution.



3 Using WASH in Islam module, World Vision's behavior change approach is designed to ensure behavior-change programming is contextualized and effective.



4 Using Gender in Islam, we empower the faith and civic leaders to improve Gender Scale and Gender Norm Attitudes in the community levels.



World Vision Afghanistan has fully integrated interfaith partnership into all our community based projects.



We aim to influence community and family systems toward positive social change via a faith based lens.

It Takes a World to End Child, Early, and Forced Marriage



The It Takes a World to End Child Marriage of Afghan Girls campaign was launched in 2017 and aims to reduce incidents of child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) in Herat and Badghis provinces. The campaign strives to achieve three key outcomes that contribute to the empowerment of children, community, and State to protect children:

- Increased life skills for both boys and girls to take part in promoting a CEFM-free community
- Transformed cultural norms, attitudes and practices underlying CEFM
- The enforcement of existing laws and policies related to CEFM.

A key project which contributed to the campaign was Enhancing Hope for Afghan Girls in Herat Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Sites. The project worked with influential members of the community such as Shura leaders, faith leaders, teachers as well as families and children in order to reduce incidents of CEFM in 10 Herat IDP informal settlements. Within the implementation of the project, World Vision community mobilizers were trained on community change, life skills, and child protection and worked with the IDP communities to mobilize their support to establish of gender segregated youth clubs comprising of 12- to 18-year-old girls and boys.

Community mobilizers directly worked with community Shuras (council), religious and faith leaders as well as teachers to raise their awareness and commitment to end violence against children. An in-depth evaluation of the project showed an increase in life skills amongst adolescent boys and girls plus a changed perception of caregivers related to early marriage, ultimately resulting in the reduction of CEFM cases.