

BACKGROUND:

World Vision (WV) is a relief, development and advocacy organization that works with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by Christian values, the organization is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people and serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. As a child-focused organization the prevention, response and protection of children experiencing violence, neglect and all types of exploitation is essential to WV's mandate to bring change and increase the wellbeing of children.

World Vision Syria Response (WVSR) has been operating inside Syria, Jordan and Turkey since 2011. We provide life-saving protection, education, WaSH (water, sanitation and hygiene), livelihoods and health services to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local communities impacted by the ongoing conflict now in its 10th year. The war has killed 55,000 children within Syria and left 13.4 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance. 6.7 million of whom are internally displaced, uprooted from their homes and exposed to continuous attacks and shelling. Almost 6.08 million of those in need are children.¹ The COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis and the lack of accountability for the grave violations against children and civilians have further compounded the situation of Syrian children, their families and host communities. In 2020 alone WVSR reached more than 3 million people, including 456,000 Syrian people with critical health services since the beginning of the year and more than 208,000 Syrian people were provided with child protection services. More than 70 per cent are children.



With no end in sight for the ten-year conflict, the needs of the population continue to increase.

In response to the significant needs created by this humanitarian emergency, WVSR aims to fulfil the following strategic goal: **By 2023, World Vision Syria Response aims to contribute to the improved well-being of 1,700,000 girls and boys affected by the Syria refugee crisis, by addressing their humanitarian needs, promoting and protecting their rights.**



WORLD VISION: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

In FY 2020, WV was able to harness **73.7 million USD** to respond to persons affected by the crisis within Syria as well as those impacted in neighbouring countries such as Jordan and Turkey. The Response's funding levels increased by almost 8 million USD from FY19. This was possible thanks to the generosity of **12** multilateral and institutional donors and drawing on the tireless efforts of 14 Support Offices within World Vision International's global network.

During FY 2020, World Vision Syria Response:



directly reached a total of 2,065,800 conflict-affected adults and children

1%

in Turkey

5%

in Jordan

94%

in Syria

83%

of World Vision's beneficiaries during this period were women (26%) and children (57%).²



Almost two-thirds of people benefitted from WaSH services:

14%

of vulnerable families benefitted health services supported by WV

6%

from protection services, including psychosocial and case management support for children

8%

from shelter services for displaced families

6%

from Education

3%

from cash and livelihoods interventions

¹ 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syria Arab Republic

² The livelihoods sector is second highest for this year's financial allocation yet lowest in the number of beneficiaries. This is due to the high costs per beneficiary for these interventions which is extremely high in comparison with the other sector interventions.

WORLD VISION PROTECTION PROGRAMMES:

The aim of the Protection sector is to ensure and improve people's safety, dignity and human rights. In World Vision, protection operates as both a cross-cutting theme (mainstreaming protection principles and promoting safety across all humanitarian and development programmes and advocacy) and as a sector (preventing and responding to specific protection issues affecting individuals, families and communities in large-scale emergencies and in fragile contexts). Protection is of concern to World Vision for three major reasons:



World Vision has an ethical obligation to implement humanitarian and development programmes and to advocate in a manner that avoids exposing people to further harm while promoting safety.



World Vision is a child-focused organisation; adopting a holistic and ecological³ approach to child wellbeing, whereby children are recognised as not living in isolation, but as part of families and communities. When families and communities experience or are threatened with violence, coercion and exploitation, deliberate deprivation, neglect and discrimination, or when their rights are violated, the wellbeing of children is always undermined. Therefore, World Vision addresses protection issues that affect families and communities as a contribution to achieving child wellbeing. In this way, all of World Vision's protection work is considered to be child-focused. World Vision's point of difference from other protection actors is that the organisation measures the impact of the protection sector to the wellbeing of children.



World Vision recognises that individuals, families and communities affected by conflict, disaster, displacement, famine or living in fragile contexts are at particular risk of violence, coercion and exploitation, deliberate deprivation, neglect, discrimination and other human rights abuses. World Vision chooses to address protection issues in these contexts as an important part of the organisation's humanitarian mandate, and because child wellbeing cannot be effectively achieved without it. World Vision Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs (HEA) has committed to expanding sectoral and technical capacity in protection, including by focusing resources in this area.

WVSRs mandate is to assist vulnerable Syrians and Host Communities impacted by the Syrian Crisis. Accomplished by the strategic goal, **by 2023, contribute to the improved well-being of 1,700,000 girls and boys affected by the Syria refugee crisis, by addressing their humanitarian needs and promoting and protecting their rights.**



The strategic objective of the protection sector is to protect the most vulnerable girls, boys, women, men; and create an empowering environment for all, regardless of gender, ability or social status. These are defined by the following Child wellbeing objectives CWBOs:



Increase in girls and boys protected from violence.



Increase in children who have positive and peaceful relationships in their families and communities.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY:

In WVSR, the three components of Protection; Child protection in humanitarian action (CPHA), Faith & development and safeguarding are integrated. All three approaches are mutually reinforced into one sector under the Protection umbrella to ensure that the systems approach to child protection is taken into account at all levels. These adopt a holistic and ecological approach, where the protection team consists of specialists with expertise in Protection, Child protection in humanitarian action (CPHA), Faith & development, cluster co-leadership and Safeguarding. The team of specialists act as a main technical support for the field and partners staff in implementation, coaching and monitoring of protection activities.

³ EMPOWER GIRLS and BOYS through positive youth development, life skills, and asset building to be resilient influential protection actors in their environment, STRENGTHEN FAMILIES through parenting supports and services so that families remain together and respect, nurture and protect all girls and boys, PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES through sustained dialogue and collective action to promote positive norms, protective behaviour and protective mechanisms, CATALYSE FAITH COMMUNITIES through mobilisation and capacity building to be safe for boys and girls, and transform social norms that cause harm to them, INFLUENCE GOVERNMENTS through social accountability at all levels to take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of girls and boys.

WVSR programming targets children, caregivers, women and men, in general and specialized Protection, Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services in addition to emergency protection activities such as distribution of dignity kits to women and girls. As women and girls remain especially vulnerable due to the escalating violence, WVSR ensures an integrated programmatic approach with the other sectors which contributes to the creation of a protective and empowering environment for everyone. Our protection program focuses on structured and non-structured awareness raising sessions, CP and GBV case management for children and adults, community based interventions, emergency cash assistance/individual protection assistance, parenting programming, structured and non-structured psychosocial support, and capacity building in addition to the Safeguarding, faith & development activities in child protection and gender. All of which are either implemented directly or through partnerships⁴.

This includes building and enhancing systems and services to ensure improved and equitable protection and response mechanisms to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect for children and women.

Our protection program targets accessible geographic locations and provides a variety of needs-based assistance. Our humanitarian advocacy efforts are concentrated to address the challenges of humanitarian access and indiscriminate violence against humanitarian workers and populations at risk, equally. For this, we are steering the Syrian INGO advocacy plans and actions together with the other NGOs and colleagues in a wider Partnership. Inside Syria, WVSR works with both partners and vulnerable populations; through services offered from Community centres, Women and Girls Safe spaces and Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs). WVSR is building capacity to provide these lifesaving activities to include more registered refugees living in Turkey.

These objectives are achieved through implementation of the following main Project Models:

1. **Child Protection & Advocacy CP&Aⁱ** including associated project Models as; Peace Road life skillsⁱⁱ, Community Change (CC)ⁱⁱⁱ, Channels of Hope for Child Protection (CoH CP)^{iv}, Channels of Hope for Gender (CoH Gender)^v, Reporting & Referral^{vi}, Celebrating Families (CF)^{vii}, Home Visiting^{viii} and Positive Discipline^{ix}
2. **IMPACT+^x**
3. **GASING AHEAD^{xi}**
4. **Problem Management PM+^{xii}**
5. **Toolkit for Child Friendly Spaces in Humanitarian Settings, which includes;** Activity Catalogue for Child Friendly Spaces in Humanitarian Settings, Operational Guidance for Child Friendly Spaces in Humanitarian Settings and Training for Implementers of Child Friendly Spaces in Humanitarian Settings.
6. **Women Adolescent and Young Child Spaces WAYCS model^{xiii}**

WVSR aims to ensure the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of the most vulnerable groups including children are met, through the above mentioned interventions. Emphasis is placed on activities that prevent and respond to violence and harmful situations. Protection projects strive to protect those who are experiencing or are at risk of violence through responsive interventions. Local service providers' capacity to respond to this target group is supported and improved upon. The interventions seek to support restoration and reintegration of children who are survivors of abuse, exploitation, or violence, through appropriate community-based interventions when possible and appropriate. To this end:

IMPACT:

17,000 

children were provided with psychosocial support activities.

1,000 

girls and boys were provided with case management who were either referred by other partner organisations or identified by protection staff.

12,500 

Parents and caregivers received parental kits to promote parents' well-being and support to distance-learning.

26,000 

men, women, girls and boys were reached with behaviour change activities to increase the awareness on child protection risks, including early marriage, child labour, domestic violence and education.

⁴ including caregivers and families, local partners and entities, municipalities, national and local level authorities and Faith Leaders - on child protection through a community-based and system strengthening approach.

PROJECT PORTFOLIO:

In 2020, WVSR provided Protection services for 208,000 Syrian people. Of which more than 70% were children and 57% females.



COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION:

WVSR recognizes that reaching the strategic objective of improving the wellbeing of 1,700,000 girls and boys affected by the Syria refugee crisis cannot be accomplished alone. Thus, WVSR has developed strategic partnerships that enable the organization to build technical expertise, implement innovations and collaborate to increase effectiveness in the field with donors, government ministries, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations and sector working groups.

The coordination and collaboration of strategic partnerships takes three main forms:

- Direct partnerships and joint activities.
- Engagement and support; with different platforms
- Co – leading the clusters, sub-clusters and work groups

WVSR has a long-term presence and well-established relationships at the national and local level with government authorities, faith leaders, community leaders and community members. Partnership agreements with a multitude of actors has enabled WVSR in working at different levels to achieve protection outcomes for vulnerable children (and their families). WVSR plays an active role in representing the organization at different platforms such as the Protection clusters, CP and GBV working group, CM and MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support) task force, humanitarian INGOs Forum and other fora like the Irish Consortium and GBV consortium. Additionally, in a co-leading role, WVSR collaborates with the No-Lost Generation (NLG) MHPSS task force based in Amman and CP working groups in Northwest Syria (NWS).





CHILD PROTECTION SUB-CLUSTER CO-LEAD:

The Child Protection Response Coordination Team acts as a sub-cluster within the Protection sector. The Coordination Team is usually physically distant from the children, but is the closest point to an effective and feasible response.

WVSR co-leads the child protection sub-cluster with UNICEF in NWS (Cross Border), to strengthen coordination and performance, to improve quality and coverage of the child protection response, to enhance NGO representation and participation in child protection coordination, and to lead the technical working group/task force within the coordination group⁵.

The role of the coordinator of the child protection sub-cluster is to respond to issues related to children in NWS. The coordination team plays an important role in representing the needs and voice of children in Syria to the stakeholders; who support the response and advocate for their rights.

In addition, the coordinator of the child protection sub-cluster supports building the capacities of local organizations and communities, which are the first point of contact with children in Syria, to provide high quality services accompanied by a coordination system that provides geographical coverage based on the needs of the children in NWS.

Through the co-leadership of the Child protection sub-cluster WV is involved in achieving the following:

- Increased participation of NGOs
- Direct link with the operational level
- Improved status and influence of the NGO with national authorities' donors, etc.:
- Opportunity to influence policy and strategy and to offer a balance to a strong UN agencies' focus.
- Better needs and gaps analysis
- Continued community engagement

⁵ Technical Working Groups (TWGs) are small, task-oriented and time-limited. They are created on a needs basis – e.g. to agree on minimum standards and to formulate appropriate technical practices

WORLD VISION GLOBAL WORK IN PROTECTION:

WV's Global Protection Strategy vision is: Individuals, families and communities living in safety, with dignity, and enjoy human rights without discrimination. The foundation of this protection is the Human Rights Act founded by international law. It is the responsibilities of governments and other authorities to respect, protect and fulfil these rights.

The goal of World Vision's Global Protection Strategy is: **Safe humanitarian and development programming and advocacy, and strengthened protection of people affected by conflict, disaster, displacement, famine or living in fragile contexts from violence or threat of violence, coercion and exploitation, deliberate deprivation, neglect and discrimination, and supporting people to enjoy their rights in safety, and with dignity.**



Through its years of experience in child protection work in various contexts around the globe, WVI has a deep understanding of the complex nature of child protection. To have sustainable improvements system thinking is needed to understand the “big picture” of child protection and to address violence against children in a comprehensive manner, including cultural, political, social, spiritual and financial factors. A systems thinking approach helps to understand how different parts of a system affect each other, and how prioritized interventions need to be adjusted as the system and context change. WV has developed a Child Protection and Advocacy (CP&A) project model, which takes a systems approach to address the root causes of violence against children. This approach utilizes community engagement that strengthens the collaboration among formal and informal actors to analyse the root causes of violence against children and includes design and implements plans to address the root causes, thus strengthening the protective environment for all children, especially the most vulnerable. The CP&A framework allows space for integrated models (such as Channels of Hope and Celebrating Families) and methodologies that address multi-sectorial root causes of violence against boys and girls. An independent three-country, multi-year study found that communities participating in WV's child protection programming through the application of the CP&A model experienced improvements in protection outcomes for both girls and boys. The CP&A model is now in operation in 47 WV offices globally.

CP&A project model is contextually relevant and aligns with the INSPIRE⁶ framework, a globally recognized set of seven strategies to eliminate violence against children.

⁶ Seven **strategies** for ending violence against children is an evidence-based technical package to support countries in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children aged 0-17 years. They are: implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills.



A group of girls colouring in the fresh air thanks to WV Korea that helped distribute colouring pencils and notebooks. © World Vision.

ⁱ The Child Protection and Advocacy (CP&A) project model describes a process of engaging with key community stakeholders to address the root causes of violence against children through building capacity and increasing partnering and collaboration between formal and informal child protection actors. These partners work together to create a protective environment that cares for and supports all children, especially the most vulnerable. The model suggests a range of interventions that focus on improving laws and accountability, increasing social services and support, enabling behaviour change, and strengthening household and child resilience. Interventions are chosen and designed based on participatory analysis and planning processes.

ⁱⁱ Peace Road is a participatory, interactive, experiential and structured curriculum used with adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, 12 to 18 years of age. The suggested approach mobilises the community for positive youth development and assets building, helping young people to thrive, promote peace and contribute to their communities. In particular, it shows how to build the capacity of local volunteer facilitators to work with children in an informal setting, supported by parents and other adults in the community.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Community Change (CC) is a process of sustained, facilitated interpersonal dialogue by which communities explore in depth the underlying beliefs, socio-cultural norms and traditional practices that either challenge or support their progress towards improving the well-being of children. Through this dialogue, community members are empowered to come up with their own solutions and plans for social change.

^{iv} Channels of Hope (CoH) is both a process of engagement and a workshop methodology to mobilise faith leaders and faith communities to meaningfully address (in contextually appropriate ways) violence against children in its various forms in their local communities. CoH is built like a menu, and programmes address their locally relevant issues. CoH addresses attitude/behaviour change by engaging faith leaders through their holy texts, facilitating debate, presenting factual information and then mobilising the faith leaders and their wider communities to directly engage and speak out against the same issues

^v Channels of Hope (CoH) is both a process of engagement and a workshop methodology to mobilise faith leaders and faith communities to meaningfully address (in contextually appropriate ways) violence against children in its various forms in their local communities. CoH Gender addresses the core values that often drive GBV, including the unequal valuing of one gender over another; gender roles and norms in the family, or particular understanding or interpretation of religious teaching. This is done through in-depth analysis of holy scriptures, sustained dialogue/debate, accurate information about the effects of GBV through technical information, as well as testimony from a person impacted by GBV contributes to evaluate underlying beliefs and norms that drive behaviour.

^{vi} Through series of workshops local actors, both formal and informal, and key stakeholders come together to look at the strengths and the problems with the current ways reporting and referral (R&R) of cases happen in the community that hinders the response to cases of abuse. The suggested guideline describes a process that supports the stakeholders in developing steps for strengthening or establishing a CP R&R that fits best to the most vulnerable from the duty bearers, community stakeholders, including MVC.

^{vii} The Celebrating Families (CF) project model seeks to empower families so that they will enjoy positive and loving relationships, and are able to plan and work together towards achieving their hope and vision for the future.

^{viii} The Home Visiting project model describes a way to help caring communities join their strengths and form social connections on behalf of the most vulnerable children and their families through mobilising volunteer home visitors. It outlines the process of mobilising community to identify and register home visitors. During regular visits, home visitors support the family in developing a vision that defines improved well-being of the children and the whole family. The home visitors also link the children and parents/caregivers with available services and informal supports. Through home visitors, the community regularly monitors and follow-ups on the level of support and quality of services provided to the most vulnerable

^{ix} The Positive Discipline methodology works on the basis of positive reinforcement, enabling children to share in the responsibility of good behaviour and to be respectful of decisions made by adults. The methodology (adopted from Plan International) includes guidance for trainers to equip parent/caregivers with basic knowledge on child development and positive discipline. The methodology empowers parent/caregivers, especially those with most vulnerable girls and boys, to improve their capacity for positive parenting, thus contributing to changing their attitudes and behaviours toward application of negative and harmful discipline methods.

^x The IMPACT+ Club project model is an integrated life skills approach to adolescent engagement that addresses key sectoral issues facing adolescents in a holistic way. The goal of this model is that adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, transition well into adulthood as active citizens empowered with competencies, values, confidence and social connectedness.

^{xi} WV model, The comic stories in this booklet tackles the need to engage children and their parents or caregivers during times of instability. They speak to various audience groups, highlighting key child protection concerns, and other harmful issues, which children and families face in times of turmoil. "Gazing Ahead" is a title inspired by the ability of the human psyche to dream and imagine the future. Pulling the strings of tomorrow closer as change inevitably dawns upon us, we gaze ahead with a colorful imagination. It is unfortunate that children are losing the ability to dream big dreams. In the world of today the mere-constant survival mode of people living in fragile and torn states are hijacking children's imagination. Infecting it with poisons of hate, anger, greed and sadness, planting seeds of separation, despair and death. Communities who once lived in peace years ago are now living in torment. This unfortunate cycle of destruction is staining children's imagination, robbing them of their innocence, and blocking their ability to dream in vibrant colors. "Gazing Ahead" is an attempt to rekindle hope, it is an act of handing a child who is the parent of tomorrow a box of colored wax crayons and a piece of paper. It is also an attempt to read a good story to the child in the parent of today, with the ambition at heart that both children would meet together to "Gaze Ahead" in colors again.

^{xii} PM+ is useful for a range of emotional problems. It does not involve diagnosing mental disorders, even though it is likely to help people with mood and anxiety disorders.

^{xiii} Following three interventions of the model; 8. Psychosocial Support to families 9. Information and support around protection issues 10. Support to adolescents (girls and boys with priority to girls)



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