

ENOUGH



ENOUGH CAMPAIGN

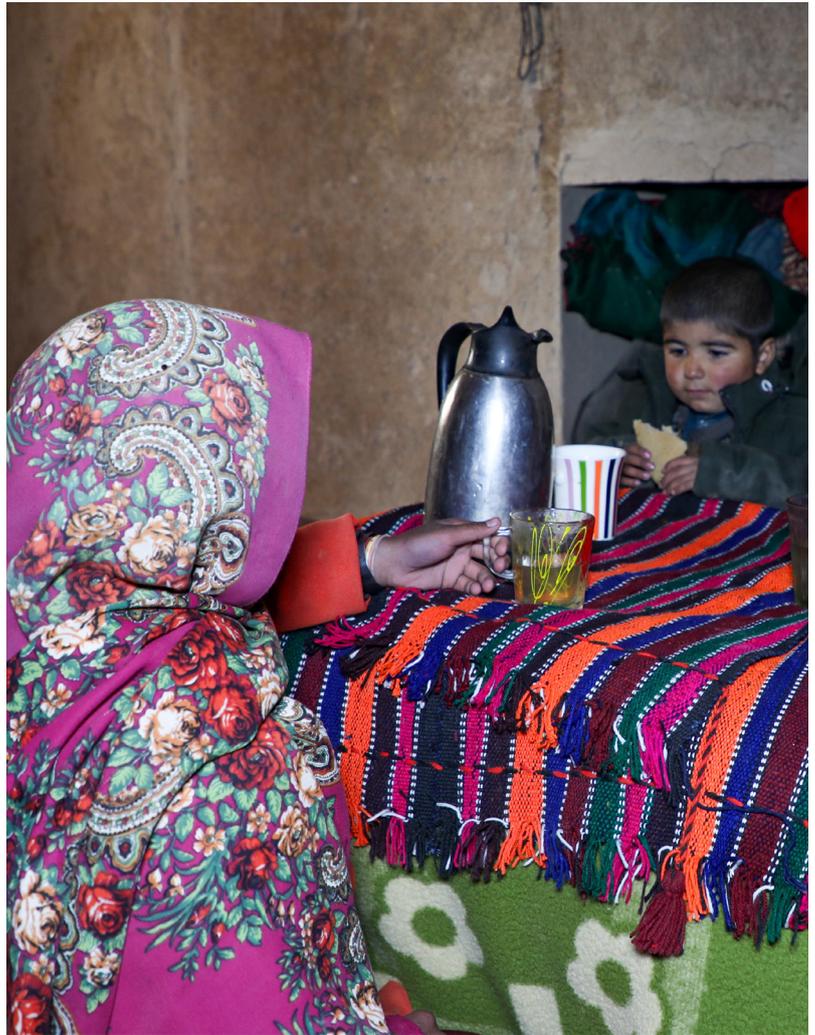
World Vision Afghanistan - 2024

Hunger and malnutrition in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is in the midst of a hunger crisis. An estimated [7.8 million](#) children began 2024 not having enough to eat, three million children facing acute malnutrition and 12.4 million people in need of food assistance. For most of these, humanitarian support for the country has been inadequate to help them achieve food security.

In addition, Afghanistan is facing its worst drought in 30 years, and has endured a range of extreme weather events such as intense heat, intense cold and snowstorms, and reoccurring floods. Children's lives continue to be at risk as the impacts of climate change proliferate.

These climate-related drivers of hunger and malnutrition are exacerbated by human behaviour. Children in Afghanistan are living with legacy of decades of conflict and the economic collapse triggered when international development aid was pulled out as a response to the upheavals of August 2021.



While there remains significant humanitarian support for Afghanistan, it has been inadequate year-on-year, and this emergency assistance is likely to diminish further. As a direct response to funding shortages, ten million food-insecure people were removed from emergency programmes in 2023 and food rations only met 50% of the minimum needed country-wide¹.

World Vision Afghanistan has seen the effects of this close at hand, where former recipients of food assistance gather outside our food distributions, delivered in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), pleading for continued support. There is not enough to go around.

Meanwhile, hunger is related to, but distinct from, malnutrition. More than 4 million women and children required treatment for acute malnutrition in 2023. 44.7 percent of children in Afghanistan are living with stunting, and wasting is at the highest level of concern (over ten percent) in three of World Vision's zones of operation, including a startling 15.4% in Faryab. Likewise, the under-fives mortality rate is 46 per 1000 live births nationally, reaching 63 in Faryab, relative to a global target of under 25 per live births.

¹ World Food Programme, 2023. WFP Afghanistan Situation Report - September 2023 - WFP Global Operational Response Plan Update #8, p. 32.

More subtle nutritional indicators are also worth noting. A study² conducted by IOM in 2022 estimated that 60.5% of children under five, 40% of women of reproductive age, and 44% of pregnant women were anemic in Afghanistan. The mean intake of vitamin C among Afghan children aged 6-59 months was 29.8 mg/day, which is below the recommended dietary allowance (RDA) of 45 mg/day. The study also found that 13.7% of the children had plasma vitamin C levels below 11.4 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, indicating vitamin C deficiency.

This picture of scarcity, however, should be set in the context of Afghanistan's rich food culture, its reliance on highly adaptable small-scale agriculture, and real opportunities to address what are partly human-caused challenges through appropriate interventions. Afghans are resourceful, cherish their land, and want the chance to build lives for their children and grandchildren in their homelands.

As such, there is reason to hope that it is possible to end child hunger and malnutrition, but a systemic response is required to address systemic food insecurity.



² Zewar, M. and Chakraborty, S., 2022. 'Nutritional Emergency Among Women in Afghanistan: Anemia Prevalence and Associations with Contributing Factors in Reproductive-Aged Afghan Women'. *Medical Reports and Case Studies* 2022, 7:2. International Online Medical Council [online], accessed September 2024.

Children and caregiver's views

My father does not work every day and can only find work some days. When he comes home **he is very upset and does not talk with us**, so most of the time I don't say anything about my favourite food.

9-year-old Karim, Herat

Most of the time I have gone to bed hungry, like when my favorite food was not available or there was no food to eat at all... My Mother says, **"There is no food to eat where I can get your favorite food"**.

12-year-old Nadia, Herat

"I want to study hard and get good grades, but it's difficult when I'm hungry all the time. My mother says education will help us in the long run, but **right now, we need food.**"

12-year-old Zuhra, Faryab

Sometimes we don't have even dry bread to take to school. I can't take anything to school. I know my parents don't have money to give me to buy biscuits or cake. During break, some of my friends bring snacks which makes me feel even hungrier when I see them. Sometimes I wish we were wealthy so that we could buy delicious food.

12-year-old Jawid, Herat

Usually, **I am going to school without having any food.**

7-year-old Raof, Ghor

"We are farmers, but what can we grow when the land gives us nothing? The drought has taken everything from us. I feel ashamed when I come home empty-handed."

Najibullah, male caregiver, Faryab

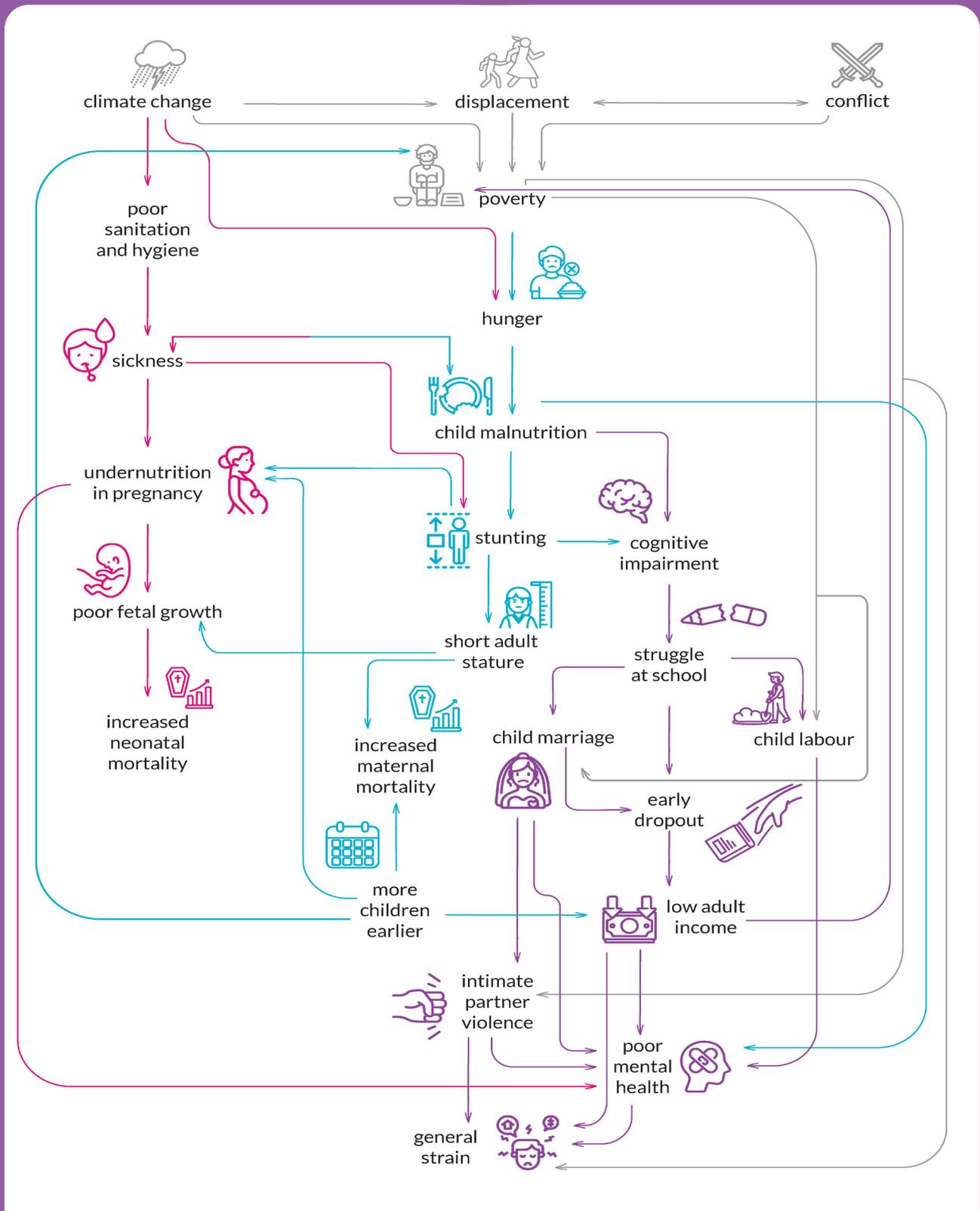
"I see my children's ribs, and it breaks my heart. No mother should have to watch her child starve."

Fatimah, female caregiver, Faryab



Holism for Enduring Impact

Child hunger and malnutrition, and wider food insecurity, are at the centre of a complex series of drivers, catalysts and symptoms, all interrelated. World Vision's ENOUGH Campaign will therefore mobilise work across all sectors to disrupt vicious cycles involving hunger and malnutrition, and promote virtuous cycles of nourishment and abundance.



Theory of Change and Theory of Action

Child hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity are at the centre of Afghanistan's matrix of short- and long-term challenges. Critically, hunger and malnutrition are both the most eye-catching of symptoms, and the most decisive of catalysts of many longer-term challenges – driving early marriage, child labour and the sale of infants, preventing children from accessing school, and in turn entrenching generational poverty.

Delivering life-saving food aid – which addresses the immediate symptoms of poverty – is at one end of a spectrum that includes healthcare, the promotion of education, provision of WASH and the promotion of good hygiene, livelihoods support and investment in agricultural resilience and diversification.

Just as these challenges are interrelated, so must the response connect work across sectors. Holism is the name of the game. ENOUGH calls our attention to the need for complementarity within given geographical areas so that, for instance, wherever we have a health centre tackling malnutrition, we also look for opportunities to support the diversity and climate resilience of local harvests, and access to markets, as well as improved access to clean water to limit malnutrition driven by waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea.

World Vision Afghanistan is already active in all of the relevant sectors in four provinces in Afghanistan, but tackling child hunger and malnutrition is a way of focusing a wider commitment to sustainable responses to these challenges, and is therefore a key part of World Vision Afghanistan's National Office Strategy over the next two years.

There are two areas in which the ENOUGH campaign can add value to this existing work:

1. **Programming:** Through a focus on the systemic challenge, World Vision Afghanistan will intentionally focus on the interrelationships between positive outcomes in different sectors and increasingly shape its own project designs and donor engagement towards making the most of these multipliers.
2. **Advocacy:** Building on this work, with appropriate evidence gathering, World Vision Afghanistan will call decision-makers' attention, and summon international resources, to the need for sustained, multisector responses with the ambition of tackling food insecurity at its heart. Central to this work will be amplifying the voices of children and their communities.





Therefore, ENOUGH entails connecting our existing work to future expansion but not growth for growth's sake, or necessarily growth 'outwards' geographically. As well as supporting communities which have not received assistance, we will also consolidate in locations where World Vision is providing a particular kind of hunger or nutrition related assistance, by investing in the best complement or complements for this work.

In particular, with Afghanistan's reliance on the rural economy, supporting climate-resilient land-based

livelihoods is especially important – and growing international funding for this work will be part of World Vision Afghanistan's ENOUGH Campaign advocacy.

In the Afghan context, moreover, where restrictions upon women and girls are part of a broader web of deprivation, we will consistently apply a gender lens across ENOUGH indicators.

This isn't only about the decisions we make in our project design, however. While the Humanitarian Needs Response Plan midyear report finds that 12.1 million of the target 17.3 million people have been reached with some kind of support, a much lower proportion of those targeted for 'intersectoral reach, with at least three forms of assistance' number only 1.9 million, of a target 7.6 million. Advocacy for the latter is desperately needed.

In summary, the ENOUGH Campaign is about ensuring that we go beyond numbers of 'beneficiaries' towards more robust and accessible food supply which requires a holistic, comprehensive and multisectoral approach.

ENOUGH in Nine:

Nine concrete outcomes from World Vision Afghanistan's ENOUGH Campaign

- Building and enriching the evidence base for Afghans' experiences of food security and insecurity beyond existing (largely quantitative) data produced by IPC, the Nutrition Cluster and other actors.
- Foregrounding children's voices wherever possible, at least in the generation of evidence, and representing Afghan children's experiences to donors and other decision-makers including local leaders and the authorities, with appropriate risk management and safeguarding.
- Promoting the embedding of child nutrition sensitive approaches into relevant policy and funding decisions across sectors.
- Mainstreaming child nutrition and food security indicators into national plans in adjacent sectoral policies (e.g. WASH, protection, social cohesion, healthcare) especially through participation in cluster groups.
- Promoting Afghanistan's need for food security investment at the global level, not least by participating in the ENOUGH Campaign's engagement with global initiatives such as Nutrition for Growth and pursuing a new unified global nutrition fund, with a particular focus on amplifying the voices of Afghan children.
- Ensuring that more of the most vulnerable children in World Vision's programming areas, and their caregivers, receive the food and cash assistance they need.
- Through resources and expertise, empowering rural communities to cultivate more nutritious food by way of improving nutrition, livelihoods and wider wellbeing.

Increasing the number of adolescents whose quality of life outcomes are improved by the provision of micronutrient supplements and gender sensitive (or transformative) programming.

Increasing the capacity of the Community Health Workforce to support essential nutrition services.

ENOUGH project mix

Since August 2021, World Vision Afghanistan has supported over five million Afghans, around half of whom are children. This includes over two million recipients of cash, food and livelihoods support, and nearly two million who have benefited from health and nutrition support. In addition over half a million have received support in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which can have positive impacts upon nutrition.

World Vision is well placed to increasingly join up these projects for enduring impact.

World Vision Afghanistan has worked for years at the intersection of hunger, nutrition and agricultural (and other) livelihoods. The ENOUGH campaign will be an opportunity to consolidate this work, not least through the large multisector BHA-funded FRAMES project and the newer FCDO-funded DAWAM project.

Existing programmes such as DAWAM and FRAMES already seek to bring sectors together to increase the reach and durability of positive outcomes, including in the nutrition and food security sphere. Other projects that feed these objectives, and can be complemented with work in adjacent sectors, include 'private non-sponsorship' (PNS) funded projects such as through the Global Hunger Response, Childhood Rescue, and Livesaving in Ghor. In these and in new projects, we will apply World Vision and other models and approaches such as nutrition sensitive value chain approaches, Regreening Communities and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), and investment in climate-smart agriculture.

The measurable outcomes outlined below will be complemented by nuanced and sensitive storytelling that foregrounds children's and community members' voices in describing Afghanistan's nutrition and food security landscape. Starting in Ramadan (March 2024), we began placing the intense challenges Afghanistan faces in a wider cultural context: Afghan food culture, fasting, and traditional practices, as well as agricultural skills that are the lifeblood of the Afghan economy.

This will build common ground with the community and faith leaders whose support will be essential for promoting effective engagement in-country, and helps create a sense of the possible among donors and decision-makers upon whose support their engagement with Afghanistan relies.

External opportunities in the midst of challenges

The operational environment in Afghanistan is unique, but so is the policy environment. International isolation, in particular, presents challenges for any attempt to build a cohesive movement across civil society, government, the private sector and international donors, with systemic food security as its goal. In particular, INGOs and the UN are the main, and frequently only, international actors in parts of Afghanistan and, shorn of long-term funding, are tasked with reconciling the often contradictory demands of in-country authorities and donors.

However, World Vision Afghanistan believes that building such a movement, for such a system, is possible and cannot wait, just as long-term development support cannot wait until humanitarian crises are resolved. The work of engaging donors, to ensure that longer-term, systemic support for food security – such as climate-smart agriculture, health systems strengthening, interventions across the water-food-energy nexus, and both macroeconomic and more local support for livelihoods – requires patient, intentional cooperation.

Moreover, demonstrating to donor governments and individual supporters that making a positive difference is possible helps challenge some of the more defeatist public messaging around Afghanistan.

In-country, while coordination with the authorities may be somewhat constrained, it will be important to ensure that NGOs, donors, technical experts and communities themselves are together encouraging the authorities to implement policies that look to the longer-term food security of all Afghans, especially those living with the greatest exposure to hunger, malnutrition and climate-related shocks.

Operationalisation

The ENOUGH Campaign will be shaped by a Steering Committee which consists of senior staff from across the organisation’s functions, co-chaired by the Advocacy and Policy Director and the PDQ Director. It will meet fortnightly.

Staffing

In addition, administrative staff and colleagues from other support functions, will be included in some Steering Committee meetings, especially where planning events.

Steering Committee members will collaborate closely on pieces of work at the intersection of their functions. For instance, Education technical specialists are well-placed to support advocacy based on child-consultation.



Budget

World Vision Afghanistan is a grant-funded office, and has no private funding. The intention for the ENOUGH Campaign is that it will be largely budget neutral: the focus is on shaping the design of existing and new programming around the objectives of improving systemic food security for the particular benefit of children. Therefore, the amount available to projects that serve ENOUGH objectives is expected to total around 60 million USD.

However we will seek out opportunities to raise additional funding for evidence-building and research, advocacy activities and communications initiatives, especially those with a participatory element or woven in to project implementation.

Campaign in 45 words

Climate change and the legacy of conflict leave Afghanistan in a food security crisis, with localised extreme malnutrition and hunger.

World Vision will work across sectors
with diverse partners
to address systemic food insecurity
so Afghanistan's children can enjoy **ENOUGH** healthy food for generations to come.

Campaign in 250 words

Can we end child hunger and malnutrition?

World Vision's global ENOUGH campaign is a loud proclamation that, yes, we can!

Over the next three years, ENOUGH will draw international attention and material resources to tackle this enduring issue in Afghanistan, a hunger hotspot.

**Every child deserves the food they need to develop a healthy body and mind.
Every family deserves ENOUGH of the right kinds of food.**

Afghanistan is in the midst of a hunger crisis. An estimated [7.8 million children](#) began 2024 not having enough to eat. Humanitarian support for the country has been inadequate to address the acute threat to life posed by food insecurity.

In addition, Afghanistan is facing its worst drought in 30 years. Children's lives continue to be at risk as the impacts of climate change proliferate.

Tackling hunger and malnutrition through food distributions, cash support, and health interventions, requires more international support. But these aids to survival are only part of the picture. Even a completely funded humanitarian response is not enough. ENOUGH for Afghanistan's most at-risk children is ENOUGH food, yes, but also ENOUGH clean water, ENOUGH access to education, ENOUGH healthy relationships, ENOUGH protection, ENOUGH healthcare, including mental health care, ENOUGH play, and ENOUGH livelihoods opportunities for their caregivers, and ENOUGH participation in the decisions that affect their lives.

The ENOUGH campaign will therefore build resilience by complementing work that helps children SURVIVE with support that helps them ADAPT and THRIVE: working towards holistic and connected interventions in health & nutrition, WASH, child protection and education, and through advocating for child-centred approaches to food security among decision-makers.