

# World Vision Afghanistan

## Sustained Humanitarian Response (WVA-SHR)

Situation Report 03 | Period: 1 Feb – 31 Mar FY25

### SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In the first quarter of 2025, Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis remained severe. Nearly half of the country's population—approximately 22.9 million people—are in urgent need of assistance, including 12 million children who face a convergence of critical risks: food insecurity, poverty-driven child well-being concerns (such as child labour), poor healthcare access, and inadequate clean water and education.

#### **Strain from Refugee Return**

Since January 2025, more than 200,000 people—primarily returning from Pakistan and increasingly from Iran—have re-entered Afghanistan. Many of these returnees lacked access to basic services during displacement, and their arrival is placing immense pressure on already overstretched systems. The majority of these families include female-headed households and individuals with disabilities, heightening their vulnerability and urgent need for targeted support, especially in food, shelter, healthcare, and education.

#### **Food Insecurity and Health Crisis**

Food insecurity continues to worsen, now affecting an estimated 14.8 million people, including many of the newly returned families. Compounding this, the healthcare system has been severely weakened by recent funding shortfalls. Over 200 health facilities have shut down, placing 1.84 million people at risk of losing access to essential health services. This decline is expected to lead to a rise in preventable diseases such as measles and malaria, further straining an already fragile health infrastructure.

#### **Education Under Pressure**

The education sector faces critical stress. Nearly nine million children—including thousands of returnees—require immediate educational support. Displacement, unsafe school environments, decaying infrastructure, and prolonged gaps in schooling are together a catalyst of generational poverty, especially for returnee children who may already have missed years of education.

#### **Impact of Funding Cuts**

Against a background of widespread cuts to humanitarian and development aid globally, a sudden halt to US Government-funded projects in January further undermined humanitarian response capabilities.

Projects like the World Vision-led FRAMES consortium are among those affected. Community consultations conducted by World Vision reveal widespread fear and anxiety among affected populations, many of whom depend on consistent access to clean water, healthcare, food security, livelihoods, and cash assistance. The loss of these essential services is pushing families already on the edge deeper into crisis, threatening their survival and well-being.

### RESPONSE STRATEGY

World Vision Afghanistan's response strategy is rooted in a deep understanding of the country's dynamic and complex humanitarian context. Our approach is principled, community-driven, and responsive, shaped by continuous contextual analysis that addresses overlapping crises including political instability, economic collapse, climate-induced shocks, and restrictive policies, particularly those impacting women and girls.

Our interventions are informed by real-time data and ongoing community engagement. We adopt a needs-based, community-centred model, prioritising the most vulnerable through multi-sectoral assessments, and ensuring meaningful community participation in designing and owning the response. Our integrated programming spans across:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Counselling
- Food Security
- Livelihoods

We also mainstream critical cross-cutting themes such as social inclusion, safeguarding, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) to ensure our programming is safe, inclusive, and accountable.

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World Vision is actively engaged in humanitarian coordination platforms, collaborating with clusters, local authorities, and peer organisations to ensure alignment with the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). In line with the localisation agenda, we work closely with local NGOs to enhance reach, community ownership, and long-term sustainability.

Access and risk management remain central to our operations. We uphold neutrality and promote community acceptance while implementing robust security, fiduciary, and reputational risk mitigation protocols.

To ensure quality and learning, we apply a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) framework. Community feedback and evidence-based learning guide programme adjustments and help maximize impact.

Finally, we embrace Nexus programming, bridging emergency response with early recovery and long-term resilience. By addressing the root causes of vulnerability, we aim to strengthen local systems and promote sustainable development.

## FUNDING

WV Afghanistan has already surpassed its FY25 funding target of USD50 million, securing 129% of the goal.

## STAFFING

### No. of current total staff

786 (12 expatriates & 771 nationals,  
including 83 new hired, 3 deployments)

## TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED

**369,738** individuals (95,226 girls, 77,530 boys, 130,989 women & 65,993 men) through World Vision's 19 ongoing projects.

## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS



### Integrated Health and Nutrition Support

WV Afghanistan has continued to provide lifesaving health, nutrition and counselling support through 32 Fixed Health & Nutrition Centres (FHC), 22 Family Health Houses (FHH), and five Mobile Health & Nutrition Teams (HMNTs), reaching **117,598 participants**.

- **106,229 individuals** received outpatient consultation (OPD) support.
- **80,530 individuals** received health education.
- **17,437 individuals** received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
- **15,389 children under five** screened for malnutrition (1,897 children admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)).
- **11,369 individuals** received maternal and child health support (7,296 antenatal care, 2,202 postnatal care, 1,345 family planning sessions, 526 deliveries).
- **3,738 individuals** received vaccination support.
- **1,176 pregnant and lactating women (PLW)** were supported with breastfeeding initiatives.
- **152 Community Health Workers (CHW)** were trained in Herat and Faryab.
- **690 children** received life skill sessions.
- **207 children** participated in tutorial classes to enhance their learning.
- **175 cases** were identified for distress support and received social assistance.
- **150 parents** received counselling sessions to strengthen family support systems.
- **122 children** used sports items at the Health, Education, Mentorship and Advocacy for Tomorrow (HEMAT) centre for socialisation and physical well-being.
- **116 committee members** attended capacity-building training to enhance community protection systems and understand their role in child protection.
- **98 schoolteachers** from eight schools received life skill ToT.



## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- **72,038 individuals** accessed clean water and sanitation facilities through constructing six new water systems in the community and four new water and sanitation facilities in healthcare centres.
- **680 hygiene kits** (Cluster kits package) were distributed to 4,760 individuals in Badghis, aiming to improve hygiene practices in targeted communities.
- **36 WASH group members** participated in a two-day training on hygiene promotion topics, aiming to enhance community awareness and promote sustainable hygiene behaviour, while preparing the ground for upcoming infrastructure interventions.



## Food Distribution, Cash, Livelihoods

World Vision Afghanistan addressed immediate life-saving needs of people in the targeted areas while also focusing on livelihood recovery and resilience building.

- **271,243 individuals** received food assistance to meet basic needs and avoid employing negative coping strategies.
- **10,000 trees** were distributed to transform a barren area into a vibrant green space, fostering a greener and healthier environment.
- **4,760 individuals** were supported with climate viable productive assets such as improved seed, tool kits and capacity building initiatives on climate smart agriculture practices.
- **20 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)** were trained and equipped with essential tools to provide basic veterinary services in hard-to-reach areas of Herat.
- **Through Nexus Approach**-building on the emergency responses-we are empowering communities to recover their livelihoods from shocks and step up towards resilience building.



## Advocacy

Preparations for, and the delivery of, WV Afghanistan's participation at the Nutrition for Growth Conference in Paris was a substantial focus during the reporting period. World Vision Afghanistan co-hosted an event with Action Against Hunger (AAH/ACF) and the Afghanistan Civil Society Alliance entitled The Right to Food in Afghanistan:

Policy solutions and challenges post-2021. In addition, WV Afghanistan was involved in a high-level EU hosted event on nutrition funding in crises and took.

The key ENOUGH target of coalition building has been advanced substantially. As with other functions, Advocacy during February and March was also dominated by responding to the pause, (later rescinded, then reinstated), to US Government funding, then termination such as by participating in sectoral discussions with UN and other donor representatives, engaging with communities and staff affected by cuts, and reflecting their experiences to advocacy targets as part of wider external engagement. This complemented requests to help bridge resource gaps and promote the ongoing need for donor engagement with Afghanistan and flexibility within grant-funded programmes.

WV Afghanistan was involved in the drafting of ACBAR (the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development)'s collective position to donors ahead of the April Afghanistan Coordination Group and participated in an online call with EUDEL in Kabul to discuss the parameters of that consultation.

WV Afghanistan Advocacy also participated in a WVUK-led webinar promoting support for fragile contexts among legacy donors.

WV Afghanistan Advocacy presented its FY25 strategy to the SMT (Senior Management Team) in early February.

WV technical leads continued their regular engagements with health and food security, and livelihoods clusters, advocating for child-sensitive project implementation and external engagement.



## Communications

The Communications Unit conducted an orientation session for all staff to ensure full alignment with World Vision's updated branding guidelines, followed by the rollout of new branding and visibility elements across all communications materials and activities.

During the reporting period, the team provided comms and content support for visits by regional colleagues-Kate, Nino, and Nikita-documenting their engagements to generate compelling communications assets.

A key highlight was the production of a multimedia package for World Water Day, featuring videos, an op-ed (later picked up by media outlets), social media tiles, and human-interest stories that amplified WV Afghanistan's WASH interventions.

The unit's efforts contributed to a total reach of 99.3 million across platforms, alongside a 144% surge in media mentions (totalling 139), reflecting significantly heightened visibility for WV Afghanistan programme.



## Partnership

WV Afghanistan continues to prioritise partnership establishment and strengthening through collaboration with local organisations, consortia, the private sector, and faith-based and community networks. During the reporting period, WV Afghanistan maintained strong collaboration with local partners and led consortium management efforts, providing technical support and guidance. Under the Global Affairs Canada funding opportunity, we expanded our partnerships, including BBC Media Action and the local NGO-Women Activities and Social Services Association-through the submission of concept notes. Through the UN-Women Twinning Programme, WV Afghanistan is engaging with women-led and women-focused organisations in Herat, offering small grants to support institutional capacity building. A list of eligible Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) has been submitted to UN-Women for validation. It is pending for further steps.

WV Afghanistan was also selected to serve on the Steering Committee of the Localisation Technical Working Group (LTWG), contributing to localisation strategies and action plans. During the reporting period, WV Afghanistan made progress in strengthening systems and processes for working with partners, including the development of Partnering Guidelines and the establishment of a Partnership Committee.



## Resources

Video: [A Lifeline for Herat's Children: Health, Healing & Hope | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)

Video: [Earthquakes destroyed their water, you helped give it back! | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)

Video: [Before & After: How Clean Water Changed a Village in Afghanistan | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)

Story: [Food assistance: more than short-term relief | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)

Story: [Deadly floods, life-giving water: why World Vision put WASH first in Ghor | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)

Story: [World Vision helps reduce maternal mortality in Afghanistan through integrated midwifery services | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)

Story: [A mother, a widow, a carpet weaver, a provider: Life through the eyes of an Afghan woman](#)

Story: [Inside a Health Clinic](#)

Story: [Short distance, long journey: the struggle for healthcare in rural Daikundi | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)

Op-Ed: [When the mountain will no longer provide: Inside Afghanistan's climate change crisis | Afghanistan | World Vision International](#)



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Children wait patiently alongside their parents at a World Vision cash distribution site, a vital source of support for families in need.

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