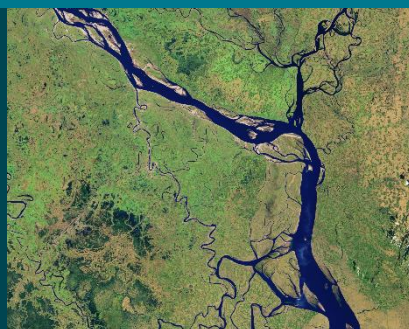




MAPPING
**THE BLUE
THREAD**



2026–2030



World Vision 

Iraq

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Business Plan

2026–2030 Business Plan

GLOBAL GOALS

Accelerate universal and equitable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services to improve health, well-being, and livelihoods

Deepen focus on the most vulnerable people, especially in fragile contexts

Demonstrate sustainable impact for increased transparency and accountability

Leverage \$1.5 billion global business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

\$7.7M

**Total Planned
Investments In-Country**

6

**WASH Program
Locations**

Geographic Area

World Vision's WASH program in Iraq works in six operational areas. The map at right provides an overview of our WASH program geographic footprint.

Mapping the Blue Thread

Water is the blue thread of integration connecting people, places, and progress. It is essential to the well-being of children and their communities and creates pathways out of poverty. Water transforms lives by driving economic growth, food security, environmental resilience, safe healthcare, and educational success.

Mapping the Blue Thread is World Vision's 2026 to 2030 global business plan to deliver adaptive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) solutions for a better, healthier world across 42 countries. Our data-driven approach enables country WASH teams to deliver targeted, location-specific strategies that maximize impact, effectiveness, and sustainability.

Vision for Transformative WASH Impact in Iraq

World Vision will equip communities in Iraq to recover and become more resilient through climate-resilient, sustainable, and community-led solutions aligned with the National Nexus Strategy. Prioritizing displaced families, refugees, and those affected by conflict and climate events, we will aim to improve child health, education, and inclusion. Working with the government, we will promote water conservation, focus on quality, and build local partner capacity to manage WASH services sustainably. We will foster collaboration across sectors to support holistic community well-being. WASH upgrades in healthcare facilities will improve patient outcomes and reduce the spread of disease. A focus on climate resilience will enhance water security and support sustainable farming. By addressing WASH, food, education, and health needs together, we will strengthen community resilience, especially in areas facing conflict, displacement, and climate challenges.



Visit our website
to learn more

2026–2030 Business Plan

Technical Focus Areas


INTRODUCTION

Technical focus areas ensure WASH programs are technically sound, contextually responsive, and equipped to deliver adaptable solutions across diverse challenges. **Water Supply and Quality** brings water closer and safer to people. **Sanitation and Hygiene** strengthens market-based solutions for area-wide coverage. **Governance and Finance** improves policies, planning, and funding. **Water Security** safeguards resources through watershed management and environmental stewardship. **Disaster Management** delivers WASH services in emergencies and programs to build long-term resilience.



World Vision in Iraq is strategically prioritizing the following technical areas during this business plan period:

WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY

 *Delivering safe, accessible, functional, equitable, and resilient (SAFER) infrastructure ensures sustainable water services.* To make sure our WASH programs are excellent, we will ensure quality is integral to how we work, think, and evaluate our efforts. We will choose “Quality Champions” to lead this effort and help staff implement quality, sustainable projects. Teams will meet regularly to talk about what is working and what can be done better. We will add mandatory quality checks to

every project, set aside resources for quality improvements, and use tools like posters and videos to share progress and what still needs improvement.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Area-wide planning, market-based approaches, and financing strategies drive progress toward universal sanitation and hygiene coverage. We will focus on sanitation and hygiene in schools and healthcare facilities, and for vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities and displaced families. We will train staff to design and implement accessible, appropriate sanitation infrastructure and will work with local stakeholders to establish clear accountability mechanisms. We also will partner with universities to develop innovative sanitation solutions for the local context.

WATER SECURITY



Protecting and managing natural water resources safeguards future water accessibility. World Vision is committed to Integrated Water Resources Management to sustain finite water sources. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers provide approximately 98% of the country's water resources. We will focus on protecting these rivers, the water supply systems that draw from them, and the agricultural lands dependent on their flow, to ensure sustainable management and long-term water security for Iraq. We also will work with the government to help shape water policies and protect the environment.

WASH NEEDS

Water

Less than 48% of people in rural areas of Iraq have access to safely managed drinking water (washdata.org).

Sanitation

Only 48% of rural dwellers have access to safely managed sanitation facilities (washdata.org).

Emergencies

Nearly 1.2 million Iraqis continue to be internally displaced, and the country hosts more than 280,000 refugees from other countries. Three million Iraqis are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection (unhcr.org).

2026–2030 Business Plan

Program Fundamentals


INTRODUCTION

World Vision WASH programs are built on 10 fundamentals that promote accountability, guide decision-making, and ensure high-quality interventions. **Community and Government Engagement**, **Multisector Integration**, and **Local Partnerships** strengthen local collaboration and program delivery. Investing in **Staff Growth and Engagement** builds capacity, while **Faith Integration** ensures our values guide our work. **Quality Control and Assurance** upholds rigorous WASH standards, while **Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion** improve equitable access for the most vulnerable. **Monitoring** and **Applied Learning** use data to drive continuous improvement, which supports **Reporting and Communication** to ensure transparency.


	Community and Government Engagement		Local Partnerships
	Staff Growth and Engagement		Faith Integration
	Quality Control and Assurance		Monitoring
	Applied Learning		Multisector Integration
	Reporting and Communication		Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion

World Vision in Iraq is committed to excelling in the following program fundamentals:


MONITORING

 *Tracking progress supports learning and enables evidence-based programming decisions that maximize effectiveness.* To improve monitoring in our Iraq WASH Program, World Vision will use digital platforms like mWater and other standardized, context-specific tools. We will train staff and community members to collect data properly, accurately enter data, and follow ethical rules. Frequent data verification will help fix any mistakes early. This data will help us make better decisions, improve programs, track progress, ensure accountability, and enable real-time visibility into community outcomes.

APPLIED LEARNING

 *Incorporating lessons learned into program design and implementation, and sharing learnings across teams and countries strengthens our work.* We will create a system to learn from our work by using feedback, data, and community input. We will regularly review results, fix problems, and share what works. Staff will analyze data and collaborate across sectors to refine approaches. We will test new solutions, scale up what is successful, and share lessons learned with WASH-sector stakeholders through stories, reports, and conferences.

GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

 *Actively involving marginalized groups in decision-making ensures equitable access to WASH services and promotes inclusive outcomes.* We will train and support more women for WASH jobs and leadership opportunities in World Vision and in communities. Projects will include budget for early assessments and evaluations to ensure they meet the needs of women, people with disabilities, and older adults. Child participation and community feedback will guide improvements and promote inclusive decision-making.

KEY INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Women-Centered Design in Rashad

Women and girls are often most affected by lack of access to WASH services, which hinders their ability to be educated and earn income. Through the Beyond Access Program, we prioritize their needs, intentionally linking WASH with economic empowerment and education so they can thrive. We will provide holistic support to 100 women and 3,000 children—half of them girls—in Rashad. Schools in this area currently lack toilets that are disability-friendly and equipped for menstrual hygiene management (MHM), leading to missed classes and hindering girls' educational progress. (Cont'd Page 5)



Program Dashboard

 Budget

\$7,650,000



People Gaining Access to

Water **90,200**

Sanitation **7,620**

Hygiene **9,060**



Schools Gaining Access to

Water **84**

Sanitation **84**

Hygiene **84**



Healthcare Facilities Gaining Access to

Water **29**

Sanitation **29**

Hygiene **29**



KEY INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Women-Centered Design in Rashad

The initiative will improve WASH in 10 schools by adding child, female, and disability-friendly toilets. We also will teach students about hygiene and MHM, and create school WASH clubs to involve girls in decision-making. WASH lessons will be taught through the WASH UP! program and will be added to school curriculum. In addition, women will receive microloans to start small businesses related to hygiene products, sanitary items, or school supplies.



The initiative will take place in Rashad in the Daquq district in the Kirkuk governorate of northern Iraq.



Global WASH Program

For more than 40 years, World Vision has been working together with communities around the world with the vision of reaching everyone, everywhere we work with transformational WASH services. Since 2011, we've reached 37.5 million people with safer, more accessible clean water, equipped 30.2 million people with household sanitation, and empowered 45.6 million people to improve their hygiene. World Vision's 2026 to 2030 Global WASH Business Plan builds on this progress, in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 6, to support quality WASH services across 42 countries by 2030.

Iraq WASH Program Background

World Vision began working in Iraq in 2014 and launched our WASH program in 2015. Impactful WASH services were delivered to vulnerable communities, including internally displaced people, refugees, returnees, and host communities. Interventions include providing clean water, building toilets and handwashing stations, promoting good hygiene, improving water systems and waste management, and building the capacity of local communities and governments. Our 13-member WASH team works in schools, healthcare facilities, households, and emergency settings. We focus on making sure water is clean and available, promoting sanitation and hygiene, providing WASH in emergencies, and working with local leaders to keep these services going. In the past decade, World Vision helped 3.25 million people in Iraq—40% of them children—by improving their access to WASH services. We built WASH facilities in 120 schools and 30 health centers. We also empowered local governments and communities, strengthened gender equality and social inclusion in WASH, addressed water shortages, and encouraged long-term hygiene habits. All of this helped communities stay strong, even in volatile and post-conflict areas.



LEARN MORE
[mappingthebluethread.global](https://www.wvi.org/mappingthebluethread/global)

Khalil A. Hamad, Iraq WASH Technical Focal Point | Email: khalil_hamad@wvi.org

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. © 2025 World Vision, Inc.