



LOCAL CAPACITY & CSO DEVELOPMENT

World Vision 

Capacity statement

Integral Part of Civil Society in Eastern Europe

Established in response to natural or man-made disasters/crises in Eastern Europe, World Vision has been prioritizing locally led development to ensure that outcomes are sustained in a long run. Following that trajectory, World Vision invested in civil society development in Eastern Europe and has gradually become one of its natural ingredients being locally led and locally registered CSO in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Moldova (as branch of WV Romania).

Today, World Vision country offices actively support or directly participate in policy processes related to EU accession in candidate countries, implementation of reforms and promoting EU values. Together with other civil society actors and in collaboration with the government, we work tirelessly in empowering children and youth through promoting social entrepreneurship and strengthening CSOs to advocate for and deliver quality services, including via digital and innovative tools and platforms.

How did we get there? Our approach to partnering:

- **Equity**
- **Quality Funding and sharing overheads**
- **Capacity Sharing and Strengthening**
- **Voice & Participation**
- **Visibility & Advocacy**
- **Coordination & Leadership**

Upholding Our Standards Our partnerships respect the standards of each partner. For World Vision, this includes assuring high standards including those related to child and adult safeguarding; to data-protection; to financial management, anti-corruption and anti-terrorism; and to environmental stewardship.

LOCALISATION PILLARS



1. Equitable Local Partnership

Equitable partnerships with local actors create sustained change for children and families.



2. Quality Funding

Quantity and quality of funding for local partners (including overheads) enabling effective partnerships.



3. Capacity Sharing and Strengthening

Strong and sustainable institutional capacities for local actors.



4. Voice & Participation

Local actors ability and reach for fuller and more influential involvement of children, families and communities in decision-making.



5. Visibility & Advocacy

Local actors participate in policy discussions and are given public recognition.



6. Coordination & Leadership

Local actors are included in UN coordination mechanisms and in national level for a with their governments.

ALBANIA

Boosting Decent Employment for Youth and Unemployed People in the Cross-Border Area of Montenegro and Albania

Funded by EU

Through the close partnership with World Vision Albania and with the support of the European Union, we are creating more opportunities for employment and self-employment for young people and local communities in Lezhë. Thanks to this partnership, 20 young people have gained skills and been certified in Digital Skills & Soft Skills, while 15 young people have successfully completed one-month internships in ICT companies in Tirana.

At our school, the Career Pro Hub has also been established, a modern space where young people, women, and the unemployed not only receive information but also guidance and confidence to take more secure steps towards employment. This project shows that local partnerships and international support are essential for delivering tangible change in the community.

Bardh Dedgjonaj

Principal of the "Kolin Gjoka" Vocational High School, Lezhë



GEORGIA

Beyond Institutional Care (BIC)

Funded by European Union

A child-centred feedback and complaints mechanism is not simply a procedure — it is a bridge of trust between children and the system designed to serve them. Invited by the World Vision Georgia, I actively contributed to consultation meetings and the development of practical recommendations to ensure that this mechanism is firmly grounded in children's rights, needs, and lived experiences. Today, in my organization, we use this mechanism annually to better understand children's perspectives, involve them in decision-making processes, strengthen their confidence, and create safe spaces where their voices are genuinely heard. Such a mechanism is not optional — it is a core standard of a quality, dignity-based care system. It strengthens services, safeguards children's rights, promotes meaningful participation, and builds a safe environment where every child's voice truly matters."

Tamar Dvalidze

Psychologist, Master's Degree in Social Psychiatry
Project Coordinator, SOS Children Village's Georgia



ARMENIA

Support to 25k+ Ukrainian refugees in Georgia Funded by UNHCR

Our cooperation with World Vision Georgia has been strategically important and impactful. Through this partnership, we strengthened our institutional capacity while delivering structured, high-quality legal and information support to Ukrainian refugees across Georgia.”

Kateryna Shumei
Program Director, CSO Unite Together

Established by UNHCR in 2023, the Child Protection Sub-Group, chaired by UNICEF and co-chaired shared by World Vision Georgia, was created to ensure efficient information exchange and coordinated case management. The Sub-Group has strengthened the network of agencies working with vulnerable children and families, improving communication, referrals, and follow-up across partners. For example, through this platform, timely information-sharing, with both the Ukrainian community and among agencies, enabled rapid identification of risks and needs, and coordinated support, ensuring more effective and comprehensive protection.

Salome Kusikashvili
UNHCR

Together Against Trafficking in Persons (TATiP) Funded by US Department of State

Human trafficking affects nearly every country in the world, regardless of its level of development. It represents one of the most severe violations of fundamental human rights. Unfortunately, Armenia has not been immune to this phenomenon. Each year, more than a dozen of our citizens fall victim to trafficking, both abroad and within Armenia itself.

Working alongside the highly skilled team of World Vision Armenia, we were able not only to reinforce public understanding of the importance of combating human trafficking, but also to equip individuals with the essential knowledge and practical skills needed to contribute to prevention efforts, victim identification, and the provision of assistance.

Arzuman Harutyunyan
President, CSO Association of Audio-Visual Reporters



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

DIGI:MON - Monitoring and Enhancing Youth status through Digital Youth Centre Funded by European Union

The Digital Centre for Youth (dcm.ba) is a practical example of mainstreaming digitalisation in youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By connecting youth information, participation opportunities, and locally led initiatives in one place, the platform responds to real needs identified by young people and partners through the DIGI:MON project. Designed as a self-sustaining and youth-owned platform, its relevance is demonstrated by the 30 local youth projects presented at the launch.

Berina Ceribasic
CSO Nasa Djeca, Sarajevo, leader





Ensuring protection and access to basic social services for refugee and migrant children
Funded by European Union via UNICEF

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, thousands of unaccompanied and separated children have been placed under guardianship, each carrying difficult personal histories marked by displacement, loss, and uncertainty. Many of these children have travelled through extremely dangerous routes and have been exposed to serious risks, including exploitation and trafficking.

Providing effective protection in such circumstances requires continuous engagement, professional knowledge, and strong institutional cooperation. In this regard, I would like to highlight the important role of the guardians of World Vision BiH. As the only organization ensuring 24/7 guardianship coverage, World Vision BiH has a significant responsibility within the broader child protection framework. Their guardians act as legal representatives of children, advocate for their rights, and work to ensure the best interests of each child... The contribution of World Vision BiH and its guardians is an integral part of the child protection response. Their work reflects both professional dedication and a strong ethical commitment to safeguarding some of the most vulnerable children in our society.

Melisa Hasanovic
 Head of the Social Protection Service, Sarajevo

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

In the financial year 2025, the 5 offices (Albania, Armenia, BiH, Georgia, Moldova) programmed a total of 3.46 M Euro together with 61 local CSOs and 7 international NGO partners. Alongside programmatic interventions, this funding supported strengthening and sharing capacities (e.g. technical approaches exchange, outreach and networking with key stakeholders and policy makers).

Funding to Local Partners (FY25) in Euro

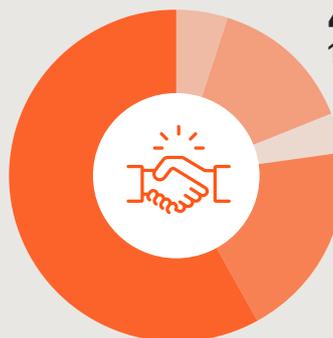
Moldova
1.766.037
 58%

Albania
144.984
 5%

Armenia
434.953
 14%

BiH
102.342
 4%

Georgia
579.938
 19%



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