

COUNTRY PROFILE

WORLD VISION AFGHANISTAN



WHO WE ARE

World Vision began its operation in Afghanistan in 2001, launching an emergency response to address the urgent needs of children and families affected by natural disasters and conflict. Thereafter, World Vision Afghanistan expanded to long-term development programming in the western part of Afghanistan.

World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) strives to ensure all children experience good health, are educated for life, and are cared for, protected, and participating in efforts to fulfil their basic needs. WVA is proud of our activities, our team, and our reputation among Afghan communities across the four provinces in which we work.

At the same time, we understand that lasting change requires collective effort and that collaboration and partnership – especially with affected communities themselves – are preferences, not compromises.

WHERE WE WORK

Our work is well established in Herat, Badghis, Faryab, and Ghor provinces in the western region of Afghanistan. We work closely with all levels of society including children, parents, teachers, village councils, religious leaders, ministries, provincial departments, and other national and international agencies.

Children's Wellbeing at the Heart

Every child deserves to grow up nourished, safe, and full of hope, yet too many in Afghanistan grow up lacking these basics. Not least, too many are hungry or live with malnutrition.

Incorporating the objectives of World Vision's global ENOUGH campaign, which seeks to end child hunger and malnutrition, WVA is seeking to realise this outcome through its own activities as well as building a coalition for tackling food insecurity and malnutrition.

Throughout, WVA stands alongside Afghan families to ensure children have the food, care, and protection they need to flourish. Thanks to our deep-rootedness in the west and northwest of the country, each day, our teams get to know communities, listen to parents, and respond with creativity, commitment and compassion where the need is greatest. Through well designed, evidence-based interventions, but also through these simple, human moments, we work to restore a sense of security and dignity where they are lacking, helping children feel seen, supported, and strong enough to imagine a brighter tomorrow.



Education

In alignment with the current regulatory framework, which mandates that education services are implemented through local or national actors, World Vision partners with Afghan NGOs to deliver education where access is difficult or impossible. These programmes support children's physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development while ensuring their protection. Our "Educating Children for Life" strategy uses evidence-based models and approaches that engage families, caregivers, and communities to promote children's participation and safeguard educational spaces.



Child Protection

Child Protection is central to World Vision Afghanistan's strategy. Mainstreaming protection across our activities, WVA also delivers dedicated protection work by strengthening Child Protection Units and community-based monitoring systems, to prevent child abuse. Our Child Wellbeing Programme supports vulnerable children at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence, including internally displaced and returnee children in urban, rural, and hard-to-reach areas.



Food Security and Livelihood

World Vision Afghanistan's Food Security and Livelihoods sector provides lifesaving support to the most vulnerable and communities hit by climate shocks and disasters, while looking at the systems that promise long term viability and tackle the drivers of hunger and malnutrition. We address urgent needs through cash and in-kind food assistance while fostering long-term resilience.

Our efforts include:

- Rebuilding livelihoods and restoring infrastructure through cash-for-work programmes.
- Risk mitigation strategies to protect families from future shocks.
- Sustainable livelihood initiatives



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

World Vision Afghanistan's WASH interventions deliver more than clean water: they deliver sustainable livelihoods, viable communities, and healthy families. We provide safe drinking water, handwashing facilities, latrines, and essential sanitation and hygiene services in communities, healthcare facilities, and schools.



LOCALISATION

World Vision Afghanistan is committed to properly contextualised localisation. In all of our engagements with local actors, both NGOs and other entities, we seek better to understand the aspirations of local communities, and support the opportunities for local agency can be exercised where it enhances child wellbeing. WVA is expressing this in three main ways:

- Through the UK-funded DAWAM Consortium, equality of decision-making between Afghan and international NGOs is a key principle of governance.
- Through a willingness to partner with capacitated Afghan organisations outside of our main operational areas and within, WVA is avoiding unnecessary duplication and promoting the effectiveness of local actors.
- Through its NAMU Incubator, WVA is identifying local potential and then investing in its growth (namu, in Persian). Depending on the starting point of civil society actors, WVA is supporting them through a progressive journey towards greater resilience and effectiveness: Nurture, Activate, Maximise, and Unleash.

Our Impact



Expanding Reach, Transforming Lives

From 2021 to 2025, World Vision Afghanistan reached a total of 6,949,227 individuals across Herat, Ghor, Badghis, Faryab, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces.

In 2025 World Vision Afghanistan achieved remarkable milestones:

- Reached 47 districts and 367 villages
- Supported 1.2 million individuals — 44.8% of them children
- Strengthened community engagement through dynamic social media platforms

LOOKING FORWARD

World Vision Afghanistan enters 2026 with a renewed commitment to improve the wellbeing of the most vulnerable children and families through community-based, integrated, and multisectoral programming. Its strategy envisions children who are healthy, strong, safe, educated, and resilient, supported by empowered families, local partners, and accountable community systems.

Afghanistan continues to face overlapping challenges, including the large-scale returnee crisis, economic fragility, gender inequality, climate shocks, and limited access to essential services. WVA will respond through integrated and adaptive programming in health, nutrition, WASH, education, livelihoods, and child protection, applying a nexus approach that connects humanitarian response, resilience building, and sustainable development. Localisation and sustainability are central, with Afghan leadership, local organisations, and community structures driving implementation and long-term ownership of the results.

Between 2026 and 2030, WVA aims to reach more than three million children, focusing on the most vulnerable communities. Over the five years, the organisation plans to mobilise about \$150 million from bilateral, multilateral, and private donors. Partnerships and joint advocacy with government, UN agencies, NGOs, and local actors will be strengthened to influence policy and collective action for children.

Community-based disaster risk reduction will be embedded across all programmes, supporting local disaster committees, early warning systems, and community preparedness. Gender equality, inclusion, safeguarding, climate adaptation, and child participation will be integrated throughout programming.

Proven World Vision Core Project Models, including Community Health Worker and Family Health Approach, Positive Deviance Heart, WASH in Communities, Building Secure Livelihoods, Parenting in Crisis, Celebrating Families, Child and Youth Resilience Programming, Fragile context programming approaches (FCPA) and Unlock Literacy, will guide program quality and impact. Through locally led action, sustained partnerships, Nexus programming linking emergency response, recovery, and longer-term actions and evidence-based implementation, WVA will strengthen community resilience and ensure Afghan children grow in safety, dignity, and hope.

A quote and photo from programmes participant



When I'm not hungry, I feel free to run, read, and play like other children.

- Spozhmay, 14, Herat

Changing children's lives today,
shaping Afghanistan's tomorrow

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