



## SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Humanitarian needs in Afghanistan tend to intensify through winter, especially where people are recovering from natural disasters or are otherwise at risk. However, the multiple crises of 2025 have left an alarmingly large population especially vulnerable.

In the aftermath of 2025 cuts to assistance, Afghanistan is seeing a rapid deterioration in the food security and nutrition situation. Many households had avoided more severe outcomes only by maintaining limited food production, retaining livestock, and delaying the use of irreversible coping strategies, supported by large-scale emergency assistance in recent years.

However, with the lack of systemic and developmental investment, duly attentive to local ecosystems and markets, and with the sudden shock of US cuts, these buffers appear to be eroding at speed.

The December 2025 IPC analysis paints a stark picture of Afghanistan's hunger crisis as winter sets in and projections run through early 2026. Acute food insecurity is driven by overlapping climatic, economic, and humanitarian challenges. In the first projection period (Nov 2025–Mar 2026), about 17.4 million people (around 36 percent of the analysed population) face high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including roughly 4.7 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and millions in Crisis conditions; no areas reached Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) but severe needs persist. A second projection (Apr–Sep 2026) anticipates a modest seasonal improvement with around 13.8 million (28 percent) in IPC 3+ as harvests begin, though substantial hunger remains widespread. Key drivers include prolonged drought extending into its fifth year, below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures limiting agricultural yields, weak household purchasing power amid macroeconomic fragility, high unemployment, and the impacts of recent earthquakes.

Sustained reductions in humanitarian food security assistance (HFSA) and limited coverage – reaching only about 2–3 percent of the population – have eroded a critical safety net.

Acute malnutrition continues to be severe, with data indicating millions of children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women at risk, and nutrition services constrained by reduced funding and service closures. The analysis underscores intensified needs among female-headed households and returnee communities, with inadequate road infrastructure and market disruptions exacerbating food access barriers. Immediate scale-up of multi-sectoral support covering food, nutrition, livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential to avert further deterioration.

At present, assistance is reaching only a small proportion of those in need, while economic pressures continue to intensify. Persistent and intense drought, a weak and contracting economy, high unemployment, and the return of over 2.5 million people from neighbouring countries (at least seven percent of the population) in 2025 are placing additional strain on already overstretched services, livelihoods, and local resources.

Nevertheless, World Vision remains fully operational, through the WAFRR response, the East Afghanistan Earthquake Response (EAER) to the Kunar earthquakes, and the wider Sustained Humanitarian Response. Challenges remain with bureaucratic access impediments, especially the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the authorities, but male and female staff are all reporting to work.

Coordination with peers, UN agencies and the authorities is enabling access to at-risk communities in all provinces of operation, albeit with some local bureaucratic impediments. This is in the context of severely underfunded wider humanitarian response. Total international funding for Afghanistan amounted to only 41.2% of the amount estimated to be required by the 2025 Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP).

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

### Overview and approach

World Vision Afghanistan continues to deliver coordinated assistance in health, nutrition, WASH, food security, protection, and education, focusing on the most vulnerable children and families in Badghis, Faryab, Ghor and Herat – as well as Kunar and Nangarhar through its EAER response. Grounded in the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus, WV Afghanistan's approach connects immediate relief with longer-term resilience and community stability. The organisation's strong field presence, trusted partnerships, and adaptive management enable rapid reprogramming and a flexible response to emerging needs. Working closely with UN clusters, government counterparts, local NGOs, and community structures, World Vision promotes alignment, burden-sharing, accountability, and inclusion across all interventions. Guided by its core principles of localisation, safeguarding, and gender equality, WV Afghanistan continues to support communities by protecting lives, empowering families, and restoring hope for those affected by conflict, disasters, and economic hardship.



### Partnership and Localisation

World Vision Afghanistan conducted an operation-related training from 07–11 December 2025 as part of its commitment to strengthening local leadership and institutional capacities under the localisation agenda. A total of 28 participants—15 male and 13 female—from partner organisations took part in the sessions. The training focused on five foundational organisational domains essential for autonomous, accountable, and high-quality local delivery: Finance, Human Resources/People & Culture, Protection & Safeguarding, Procurement, and MEAL. These topics were discussed and delivered for men and women to ensure an inclusive and culturally appropriate learning environment.

Through this capacity-strengthening intervention, World Vision enhanced partners' competencies in financial stewardship, compliance, safeguarding practices, operational management, and evidence-based programming—key areas required for shifting power and enabling local CSOs to lead programme implementation. This initiative directly supports the localisation agenda by empowering Afghan CSOs to take on greater decision-making authority, manage resources more effectively, and deliver principled, accountable, and high-quality humanitarian and development services within their communities.

World Vision Afghanistan is finalised the expression of interest (EOI) in NAMU Incubator under this WV has intention to strengthen the leadership, institutional capacity, and decision-making role of local organizations across Afghanistan.

Through this initiative, WVA aims to nurture, activate, maximise, and unleash the potential of local actors by providing tailored capacity-strengthening support, mentorship, and institutional development assistance.

The Call for Expression of Interest invited Local NGOs/CBOs—particularly those committed to humanitarian response, early recovery, and community-based development—to join NAMU and benefit from enhanced governance, operational readiness, and equitable partnership opportunities. This effort is part of WVA's ongoing commitment to advancing localisation and supporting sustainable, community-driven resilience programming.

## REACH

During the reporting period, World Vision reached a total of 450,542 individuals, including 157,218 women, 107,381 men, 97,402 girls, and 88,541 boys, through multisectoral humanitarian and recovery programming delivered across targeted provinces.

Across sectors, WASH interventions supported 206,415 people with access to safe water, sanitation services, and hygiene promotion. Health, Nutrition and MHPSS programming reached 154,854 individuals, providing essential health and nutrition services, disease prevention, community-based health support, counselling, and life-saving nutrition interventions.

Within the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) portfolio, 2,163 individuals received assistance through F&D activities, while 2,163 individuals benefited from Livelihood support, including income-generation and resilience-building initiatives. CASH programming reached 10,032 people with multi-purpose cash assistance to meet urgent household needs.

Additional sector-specific activities supported vulnerable groups, including 21,79 individuals through Protection services and 704 individuals through Education programming. Furthermore, 285 individuals participated in ESCA initiatives, promoting environmental stewardship and climate-adaptive practices. Geographic and beneficiary data indicate considerable overlap among sectors, as many households accessed support from more than one intervention. This reflects the integrated nature of World Vision's programming, ensuring communities received layered, complementary assistance aligned with their evolving needs.

## FUNDING

During the reporting period, World Vision Afghanistan:

**Secured** \$1,180,791 including:

- HEMAT Center – WV Korea
- ADH Earthquake Response – ADH
- SHIFA – EOM – WVNL

## STAFFING

### No. of current total staff

755 (408 male, 347 female), including 712 nationals (43 new hires), seven expatriates, four deployments)

Regular staff: 282   Stipend staff: 239   Daily staff: 234

## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### West Afghanistan Forced Returns Response

During the reporting period, the WAFRR projects delivered humanitarian assistance to 25,694 of the most affected individuals, with a particular focus on women and children. Health and nutrition services reached a total of 14,569 returnees, including 4,275 adult men, 5,895 adult women, 2,002 boys, and 2,397 girls. 994 people were supported to meet immediate household needs following return through Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Of those assisted, 774 were male and 220 were female beneficiaries, reflecting targeted outreach to vulnerable households, including female-headed families. Helpdesk interventions provided information services to 8,952 returnees including 1,102 women and 7,444 men, while 405 returnees (153 women and 252 men) were supported through phone call services. WASH assistance was provided to 774 returnee households (79 female and 160 male, 294 boys and 241 girls), enhancing access to hygiene kits, family kits and hygiene promotion sessions called 'WASH UP'.

### East Afghanistan Earthquake Response

During this reporting period, notable progress was achieved in supporting earthquake affected communities in Kunar and Nangarhar Provinces through Afghan partner organisations AADA and AWEC. With funding from the Hong Kong Government, a total of 5,880 food kits and 2,500 hygiene kits were distributed across multiple districts in both provinces, alongside WASH and Protection interventions implemented with AWEC. affected communities in Kunar and Nangarhar Provinces through.

Through our partnership with AADA, uninterrupted health and nutrition services continued under the PNS and ADH funding streams, ensuring sustained support to the affected population.



## Health & Nutrition

During the reporting period, World Vision Afghanistan provided integrated health and nutrition services through 59 service delivery points, including Family Health Houses (FHHs), Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs), and static health centers. A total of **201,977 unique clients** accessed essential health and nutrition services across all supported locations, reflecting sustained service utilization consistent with previous reporting periods.

### Outpatient Services:

Outpatient consultations remained the largest service component, with 162,280 consultations delivered to both under-five and over-five populations. Service provision was supported by the continuous availability of essential medicines, ensuring uninterrupted access to curative care.

### Maternal Health Services:

Maternal health continued to be prioritized, with 11,118 antenatal care (ANC 1–4 and other) visits, 2,933 postnatal care visits, and 605 institutional deliveries. Additionally, 6,549 women received family planning services and counselling, supporting informed reproductive health choices.

### Immunization Services:

Routine immunization through EPI platforms reached 1,417 children under five with measles vaccination, 1,383 children with PENTA-3, 1,323 pregnant women with TT2+, and 3,664 women of childbearing age with TT2+. These efforts contributed to strengthened community immunity and protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.

### MHPSS Services:

Mental health and psychosocial support services provided timely counselling and psychosocial support to 7,274 individuals, addressing stress, trauma, and other psychosocial needs across communities.

### Nutrition Services:

Nutrition interventions included screening of 21,914 children under five and 13,216 pregnant and lactating women. Admissions included 676 SAM and 1,905 MAM cases, with successful treatment outcomes recorded for 487 SAM and 1,561 MAM cases. In addition, 18,361 women received MIYCN/IYCF counselling to promote optimal maternal and child nutrition practices.

### Capacity Building:

To strengthen service quality, 136 health workers (18 male, 118 female) participated in refresher trainings on IMAM, IMNCl, and EPI. These trainings reinforced correct differentiation of curative, preventive, nutrition, and immunization services, contributing to enhanced quality of care across all service delivery points.



## Education

To address learning loss and support educational continuity for children affected by instability, the education intervention focused on re-engaging out-of-school and vulnerable children. In December, catch-up and tutorial classes were provided for 204 children (161 boys and 43 girls), representing new registrations into the programme. While activities were paused in January for strategic realignment, the foundational work laid in December ensured that a total of 204 children received structured learning support during this period. These efforts were complemented by ongoing coordination with education stakeholders, ensuring a pathway for the street-connected children in Ghor and Herat to access learning opportunities and reinforcing linkages between community-based educational support and the formal system.



## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Six (06) new water systems and nine (09) Rehabilitation of dysfunctional water systems were completed under AHF, DAWAM and RESTORE fundings in Ghor, Badghis, Faryab and Herat reaching 23,106 individuals. WASH improvement in 18 Health care facilities were achieved through construction and Rehabilitation of inclusive gender sanitation facilities, handwashing facilities, and waste

management facilities in Ghor and Faryab under AHF and RESTORE funding. This massive investment in the community and Health care facilities will improve access to safe and clean water, dignified sanitation facilities and improved behavioural change which will further helps in reduction of public health risk.

While the 76,958-population living within the 18 Health care facilities catchment will have improved access to WASH services at the HCF while receiving health and nutrition services. In efforts to improve on behavioural change towards hygiene best practices, 07 gender balance WASH groups comprising of 42 Female and 42 Male were trained on general hygiene concepts to boost their capacity towards community awareness, sensitization and demonstration.

As a result, 4,773 individuals were reached with hygiene key messages which helped in promoting hygiene best practices. In addition, 481 children in Herat and Ghor were trained on hygiene best practices as champion for the community through WASH UP approach. This effort is tailored towards engaging children as change agent in sanitation and hygiene practices in the community. 310 hygiene kits were distributed to 2,170 individuals to reinforce hygiene best practices among vulnerable households.



## Food Distribution, Cash, Livelihoods

WVA responded to urgent needs through a combination of food assistance, cash support, agriculture and livestock interventions, and resilience-building activities. Immediate needs were addressed through cash for food to support basic nutrition and in-kind food assistance for earthquake-affected households, delivered in partnership with local organizations whose capacity was strengthened to ensure timely and accountable response. For returnees, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) enabled families to meet diverse emergency needs—including food, health, nutrition, shelter, and winterization—while enhancing coordination and communication during rapid-onset crises.

To support longer-term food security, WVA promoted climate-smart agriculture, providing improved seeds, fertilizers, tools, and technical training to increase production, dietary diversity, and household income. Livestock protection through fodder, treatment, and veterinary support helped smallholders avoid

asset depletion and maintain productivity. Resilience was further strengthened through Cash-for-Work activities linked to community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM), improving productive assets and enabling anticipatory action. To reduce dependency on humanitarian aid and expand livelihood opportunities, WVA supported income diversification through business development assistance and livelihood grants for women. Employment pathways were also created through the Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) model, enabling trained community members to generate income while improving access to basic livestock services.



## Advocacy

World Vision Afghanistan worked alongside WV Netherlands and EUREP to follow up WVNL's CEO's secondment to Afghanistan with a meeting in Brussels with INTPA Afghanistan desk colleagues, the first of a series of planned engagements in Q2. The meeting not only sought to build trust and position with EU counterparts but advocated for sound 2026 funding priorities and field engagement and clarified next steps to deepen collaboration and potential implementation.

WVA engaged with the Governor of Herat and NEPA to strengthen collaboration around climate change and environmental activities. The conversation was built on last year's tree-planting initiative to discuss awareness plans for schools, communities, and public spaces and the potential for more formalised cooperation.

WVA expanded the coalition working for the adoption of cross-government nutrition objectives after the ACBAR Advocacy Working Group, which WVA now co-chairs, adopted this as one of its 2026 objectives.

WVA joined the FCDO-hosted NGO conference in Istanbul alongside 35 other NGOs, officials from EU, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye, USA, and the UK, ACBAR, the Resident Coordinator's Office and UNOCHA. In the context of conversations about protecting the operating space for NGOs and women employees in particular, as well as the humanitarian and basic human needs aid architecture, World Vision argued strongly for contextualised localisation, integrated food security and nutrition programming, and long-term flexible funding. The WV-led DAWAM consortium

# World Vision Afghanistan Sustained Humanitarian Response (WVA-SHR)

was held up by other participants as an exemplar. This was followed by a day-long workshop with the FCDO and DAWAM consortium partners, at which Phase Three funding was announced. WVA continued its regular engagements with: the Western Region Nutrition Cluster; the Strategic Technical Working Group for Resilient Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Livelihoods; the Tertiary Education and Skills Development WG; North and West regions WASH cluster meetings; the National Health Cluster; and the National FSA Cluster. During the reporting period, WVA was appointed to the Special Advisory Group of the FSAC.

## Donors



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Of all the seeds Mohammad planted, only the certified wheat seeds supplied by World Vision yielded a harvest.

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