

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

WORLD VISION MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE

Capacity Statement

Context

Communities across the Middle East and Eastern Europe (MEER) face persistent challenges that undermine livelihoods and economic stability of vulnerable population, affecting the well-being of millions of children. Protracted crises, conflict, displacement, climate hazard and economic shocks have left households without reliable income sources, with youth and women disproportionately affected. In this context, World Vision MEER operates in 15 countries and territories, addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable children by promoting sustainable climate-adaptive livelihoods, resilience, and inclusive economic opportunities. In financial year of 2025, World Vision MEER Field Offices spent over 19 million USD on livelihoods programming.

Technical Approach

World Vision adopts a systems-based, market-driven approach to livelihoods programming, addressing root causes of vulnerability and poverty. It is anchored in the principles of resilience, local ownership, and integrated programming, ensuring that interventions are contextually relevant and sustainable.

Livelihoods interventions aim to bring household level economic change by empowering extremely vulnerable individuals with the skills, knowledge and the financial means to meet the development needs of their children and families long after World Vision has left their communities.

MEER Field Offices work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, tailoring their technical models to diverse fragility-, climate crisis- and conflict-affected contexts, as well as relatively stable settings. Key elements of our approach include:



Market Systems Development: Analysing and strengthening local markets to create inclusive climate-resilient economic opportunities.



Built in agility: Designing solutions that adapt along with changing context and needs, acting on Nexus principles.



Skills Development and Employability: Providing youth and adults with vocational training, life skills, financial literacy and entrepreneurship support.



Social Protection and Cash Assistance: Delivering targeted cash and voucher assistance assets and services to meet the immediate needs and support recovery.



Gender and Social Inclusion: Ensuring women, youth, and marginalised groups are empowered to participate in and benefit from livelihoods interventions.



Partnerships and Localisation: Collaborating with local actors, private sector, and government to scale impact and ensure sustainability.



Building resilience and social cohesion: Strengthening community bonds, social connectedness and breaking down dependency mindsets.

Core Livelihood Project Models and Approaches

Inclusive Markets for Communities (M4C): Helps marginally poor families raise incomes and provide better for their children, through adopting a green climate-resilient and gender-responsive Inclusive Markets Systems Development (iMSD) approach.

Savings for Transformation (S4T): Community-based savings and lending groups that build financial resilience and support microenterprise.

Ultra Poor Graduation (UPG): Sequenced support for ultra-poor households, combining cash transfers, training, and mentoring to achieve sustainable self-reliance.

Microfinance (MF): Provides the formal financial inputs that vulnerable families need to generate a sustainable livelihood, as means for age-appropriate care for their children.

Additional Models and Approaches

Cash for Work and Vocational Training: Short-term employment and skills-building initiatives that restore livelihoods and promote social cohesion.

Youth IMPACT+ and Life Skills: Empowering young people with employability skills, civic engagement opportunities, and pathways to decent work.

Women's Economic Empowerment: Targeted interventions to increase women's agency and their active participation in economic activities.

GIFT (Gender Inclusive Financial Literacy Training): A curriculum to assist in developing a joint decision-making mindset within households around financial planning and management.



Evidence of Impact

In 2025, World Vision's livelihoods interventions reached over **821,415 individuals**, including **232,489 women** and **301,916 children**, across 15 countries.



In 2025, **89% of families**, reached by our projects, reported improved access to livelihood support services in Lebanon and Syria Response.

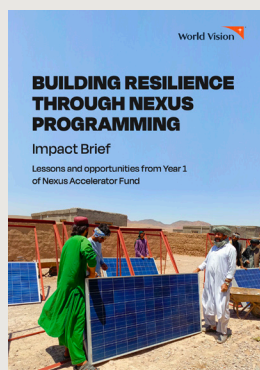


Publications

Cash Waves: A multi-country cash and voucher study



Building Resilience Through Nexus Programming



Environmental Stewardship and Climate Adaptation Capacity Statement





> Ongoing projects



IRAQ: Safe Returns



The ANCP programming in Ninewa Governorate has been implemented through two complementary phases. Phase I (2020–2025), delivered under the Safe Returns Project, supported conflict-affected returnees and vulnerable communities to rebuild their lives through integrated interventions in psychosocial recovery, livelihoods, social cohesion, and environmental resilience. The project strengthened MSMEs and smallholder farmers, promoted gender-transformative and peacebuilding approaches, and supported climate adaptation initiatives, including drought-resistant tree planting.

Phase II (2025–2030), implemented under Sustainable and Resilient Future – Ninewa, builds on these foundations to deepen and scale impact by addressing protracted conflict, climate change, water scarcity, displacement, and socio-economic marginalisation. Phase two focuses on **climate-smart agriculture, inclusive economic development and access to finance**, disability-inclusive WASH rehabilitation, strengthened local advocacy and social accountability, and youth-led environmental initiatives through DPO and WLO partners, contributing to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable community recovery.



Donor: DFAT/ANCP



GEORGIA: Focusing on ultra-poor



The SIDA-funded project supports poverty reduction and strengthens the resilience of ultra-poor households by building sustainable pathways out of extreme poverty across five regions of Georgia. The project adopts a **human rights-based, holistic Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG)** model to address both economic hardship and social exclusion, while integrating poverty reduction strategies at both national and municipal levels. Through the project, ultra-poor households improve their socio-economic inclusion, resilience, and technical skills, as well as knowledge and capacities to access existing social and financial services, markets and networks. Women, in particular, gain greater economic agency through asset transfers and livelihood and entrepreneurship training. Participants are also supported through **financial literacy training and coaching**, and are linked to formal financial services, improving their ability to manage risks, accumulate assets, and withstand future shocks.



Donor: Sida



LEBANON: AGRIFORWARD



The BMZ-funded AgriForward focuses on strengthening livelihood **resilience and social cohesion** across three of Lebanon's most vulnerable governorates, supporting both, host communities and displaced populations, to navigate compounding economic and social crises. Agricultural workers and farmers develop stronger technical and soft skills that enable them to adopt more climate-smart, sustainable farming practices, manage productive assets, and make purposive livelihood decisions that contribute to improved food security and income stability at the household level. Program promotes women's expanded roles in non-traditional agricultural sectors. **Producer groups** benefit from improved access to market information, value chain development support, and business advisory services that increase the competitiveness and sustainability of their livelihoods. At the community level, social cohesion programming fosters dialogue, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding between host and displaced communities, reducing tension and building the mutual trust necessary for collective action. Awareness sessions on gender, GBV, PSEA, and safe referral pathways contribute to safer community environments, particularly for women and girls. The project facilitated the establishment of business councils across each region, empowering local stakeholders to advocate for a supportive business climate and to foster improved farming opportunities and greater market inclusion through productive meetings and public events.



AFGHANISTAN: Climate-smart agriculture



The Nexus Accelerator Fund project implements integrated, **nexus-oriented interventions** that link humanitarian response with early recovery and development outcomes in earthquake affected communities. Cash-plus approaches combine cash-for-work with skills training, agricultural inputs, and community-led planning to restore productive assets and strengthen household shock-coping capacity. **Climate-smart agriculture**, crop diversification, and on-farm technical support improve food security and income generation, while support to livestock keepers and Community Animal Health Workers stabilizes livestock-based livelihoods amid drought and pasture loss. Dairy value chain support, including the establishment of milk collection centres, improves market access, reduces post-harvest losses, and increases household incomes by linking small-scale producers to reliable buyers. Finally, women-focused home-based livelihoods, clean energy solutions, community-based disaster risk management, and climate-resilient infrastructure enhance income opportunities and preparedness for future shocks.



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