

CHILD MARRIAGE IN AFGHANISTAN

16 years is the legal age of marriage for girls in Afghanistan.

35% of Afghan girls are married by the age of 19 (UNICEF, 2017).

370 registered against women per month in the first ten months of 2017, (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission), of which

VIOLENCE

25% were assault and battery.

CAUSES

Cultural norms
Illiteracy and lack of awareness
Weak implementation of laws and policy
Poverty

CONSEQUENCES

Health complications
Domestic Violence
Denial of right to education

World Vision's RESPONSE

GOAL

To contribute to a reduction of child and forced marriage among Afghan girls.

APPROACHES

Through empowering children and youth, carrying out advocacy, and partnering with a wide spectrum of other activists and religious leaders to engage in community-based preventive actions.

PARTNERS

Religious leaders
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Ministry of Women's Affairs



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND FAITH LEADERS

World Vision Afghanistan believes that faith leaders are key agents for bringing about transformational change in their community, therefore we actively engage them in our development activities to bring the community together, to mobilise the community for positive social change, to transfer sensitive messaging regarding gender based violence, early child marriage, the education of girls, and so on.



ACTIONS TAKEN BY FAITH LEADER PARTNERS

AWARENESS RAISING

With knowledge gained, during the Friday prayers Imams are raising awareness on gender equity, human rights, violence against women, protection within families and community, early and/or forced marriage, and the rights of girls to education. Imams are also sharing these topics in small meetings in communities, schools, and institutions such as the military and police.

PRAYER FACILITY FOR WOMEN

A Lead Imam has gone as far as to build a facility for women next to the Mosque so women can come and listen to the Friday prayers and discussions.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Seven campaigns for communities about Child Marriage and Social Justice were conducted by World Vision trained Imams.

FACILITATION/ INTERVENTION

Imams are facilitating interchange between male and women shuras (elder groups) regarding social issues that affect women and girls. Furthermore, Imams are intervening in their communities on such issues they have been exposed to from our interaction with them.

WHAT WORLD VISION HAS DONE SO FAR

SIGNED

an MoU with the Ministry of Religious Affairs providing government sanction and collaboration.

CONTEXTUALISED

UNDP's Gender and Islam and three World Vision Social Action curriculums for the Afghan context.

ESTABLISHED

24 community change groups with 450 women members.

TRAINED 4,158 Imams in 'Gender in Islam' and other World Vision curriculums since 2015.

IMPLEMENTED

a pilot project for innovative approaches to reduce child marriage.

LAUNCHED

our national It Takes A World to end violence against children campaign for rescuing the childhood of Afghan girls.

85%



of trained
IMAMS

indicated increased confidence, understanding and commitment to generate community support for women's empowerment and rights.

have spoken publicly on behalf of women's political and civil empowerment and rights.

