WORLD VISION is a Christian, child focused and community-based organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.
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In the frame of the “Let’s Keep Children in Families” project, 47 children were reunified with their families.

979 health care providers were capacitated through trainings on child screenings, nutrition, and common disease management.

134 kindergarten staff members were trained on inclusive education.

1,234 households and 189 school teachers were reached for positive discipline skills.

Youth involved in WV Armenia Programmes implemented a total of 99 community projects, reaching around 27,000 community members.
Overall **20,171 children** were engaged in Spiritual Nurture initiatives, such as Christmas celebrations, schools, and meetings with the community priest.

**883 mothers** participated in food preparation sessions, conducted in 40 newly established parental schools.

Our **6 community-based services** helped **560 children** with alternative child care services.

**346 vulnerable households** were reached by child protection related Church led services delivered to the community.

Around **377 youth** were actively engaged in advocacy aimed at solving common interest issues through participation in a series of trainings on State entitlements, human rights and use of information and communication technologies in advocacy, research methodology and different types of advocacy campaigns and actions.
In 2015 World Vision programmes in the South Caucasus brought direct and indirect benefit to the wellbeing of 131,053 children and youth living in Armenia and Georgia, including Abkhazia. Additionally, World Vision contributed to policy and systems reforms in Armenia and Georgia benefiting 825,200 children.

The application of vulnerability mapping tools is increasingly enabling World Vision and its partners to detect children that are invisible to current state services. In 2015 alone, World Vision identified 10,500 children in such marginalized situations and integrated them into existing social, health and educational government support mechanisms. Moreover, together with state and non-state actors, Individual Development Plans were elaborated for 750 children and their families, based on which state services now provide tailored assistance for these children’s wellbeing.

In Abkhazia for example, the vulnerability mapping indicates that children with disability are most susceptible to discrimination. To address this, World Vision supports three community-based Child Development Centers where, based on social models of rehabilitative services, parents and trained personnel restore equity and inclusive services for nearly 300 children with disability.
Working with networks further enables World Vision to raise and influence the need for reforms. In Georgia, such collaborative efforts led to the development of a full methodology that specifically addresses school re-integration of children living and working in the streets; this includes lifeskills development and basic literacy and numeracy. The Ministry of Education has now adopted this methodology and made resources available to introduce it into all 6 day care and crisis centers for children living and working on the streets. An estimated 2500 children currently live and work on the streets in Georgia, 10% of them are already benefiting from this methodology and either back in school or on their way to it.

Similarly, in Armenia supported the Ministry of Education and Science to include into the educational process provisions for transparency and accountability. This is reflected in the 2nd Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership and resulted in legal acts endorsed by the Minister of Education which now ensure transparent election of school governance bodies and accountability of school budget to service users. 520 000 children now benefit from increased quality education as a result of these actions.

None of the above would be achievable without the engagement of over 250 highly committed staff and their love for children. We are also thankful to institutional donors and thousands of private sponsors in Canada, USA, Germany, France, Switzerland, UK, Hong Kong and Taiwan who generously donate resources to advance child wellbeing in the South Caucasus.

“In 2015 World Vision programmes in the South Caucasus brought direct and indirect benefit to the wellbeing of 131,053 children and youth.”
World Vision Armenia (WVA) developed its strategy for the period 2015-2018 with the aim of ensuring maximum focus on the needs of children. We have applied a lifecycle approach, putting the needs of children and youth at the center. Our strategy targets the age group 0 to 29 years, starting from newborn boys and girls and reaching young parents of newborns.

WVA continues to implement its Area Development Programmes (ADPs) in six regions of Armenia as well as in the capital. We serve over 200 communities, working closely with both families and children. We have more than 30,000 registered children in our sponsorship programming.

Working through the lifecycle approach enabled us to focus on early childhood development and to work with parents of children aged 0 to 5, raising awareness on the importance of childcare in a comprehensive way, on the role of the father in a healthy family, and rights and responsibilities in the health care sector. We also work with primary health care workers and preschool teachers to make sure the provided services are of good quality.
The work with children of the age group 6-14 is determined by an intention to eliminate unjust polarization and isolation of vulnerable groups and to seek the wider inclusion of boys and girls to live in a safe and non-abusive environment.

Our Child Protection (CP) programme is also focused on the importance of having social workers at the community level, for which World Vision Armenia is currently advocating at the national level with the relevant government decision makers.

Our strategy enabled us to serve the most vulnerable children and families and to make sure all children have right to education, a healthy environment and families.

One of the most prominent innovations of our new strategy is the prioritization of youth participation and inclusion. WVA will provide youth with the opportunity to raise their issues and concerns and become important players in various fields such as child protection, health, education, democratic governance etc. In our 25 years working with children and youth we have learned that a more structured approach for youth programming is necessary. Youth over 18 are the potential young parents, the ones that should be able to provide for themselves, to bring positive change and make Armenia a home for children and youth living with hope, love and dignity.

World Vision Armenia is also working with a producers group, increasing their awareness of the existing opportunities and building their capacities through market facilitators.

All this would be impossible without our donors in different countries throughout the world. I would like to thank especially our donors in the USA, United Kingdom, Canada, Taiwan, Germany, Switzerland and France, who make a huge difference in the lives of our children. I would also gladly mention that during the last year we have witnessed increased interest from people living in Armenia in supporting us in addressing various child well-being needs, and I thank all the individuals and corporations who generously continue to provide support and assistance to the children of Armenia.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

World Vision first came to Armenia with emergency aid for the victims of the devastating December 1988 earthquake that hit the northern region of the country. Within the first few months of the response, nearly US$3 million in medical supplies and relief was delivered. Since then, World Vision’s projects have transitioned beyond meeting the demands of crisis situations to supporting and promoting the positive development of communities. In 2014 WVA launched its fourteenth ADP in the country, making WVA programmatically engaged in 209 communities in seven Armenian provinces.
In 2015 World Vision Armenia (WVA) worked in 14 dedicated geographical regions in Armenia: Gyumri, Ijevan, Kapan, Sisian, Vardenis, Stepanavan, Talin, Gavar, Yerevan, Alavedi, Aparan, Tchambarak, Amasya, Noyemberyan. These regions are referred to as Area Development Programmes (ADPs). ADPs are regions where World Vision has assessed high levels of need and vulnerability amongst children and youth populations. With an extensive understanding of priority needs in these regions, World Vision makes a 12-year commitment of support through child well-being programmes with the overarching goal to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children.

34,086 children were registered within WVA’s Sponsorship Programme in 2015. Among them 28,199 with “sponsored” status. All Sponsored Children live within World Visions’ ADPs and are linked directly to an external sponsor that provides monthly financial support to that child’s community. Consequently, World Vision’s work does not extend solely to sponsored children. Our inclusive and holistic approach to programming means that financial support received for sponsored children goes towards entire communities within ADPs.

World Vision recognises a sustainable approach whereby the improvement of a child’s well-being is inextricably linked to the improvement of that child’s family, education facilities and the overall communities’ ability to provide for the child.
The overall goal of World Vision Armenia (WVA) is: *Armenia – a Home for Children and Youth Living with Hope and Dignity.*

In 2015, WVA implemented activities through the following three Strategic Objectives:

**SO1. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH ENSURED FOR ALL**
(AGE GROUP: 0-5)

22,715 children benefited

**SO2. NON-ABUSIVE AND INCLUSIVE FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE**
(AGE GROUP: 6-14)

41,550 children and youth aged 6-14 benefited

**SO3. YOUTH DRIVING DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING**
(AGE GROUP: 15-29)

7538 youth benefited

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMPACTED:**

71,630 children and youth living in Armenia had direct and indirect benefit from WV Programming.
“The overall goal of WVA is: Armenia – a Home for Children and Youth Living with Hope and Dignity.”
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH ENSURED FOR ALL

Early childhood is a time of special importance in terms of the health, physical, cognitive, emotional, spiritual, and social development affecting a child’s overall well-being. It is widely recognized that young people are the most important human capital for the future sustainable development of any country.

World Vision is committed to improving the health and nutrition of women and children in the areas in which it works. In 2015, World Vision Armenia (WVA) continued its activities in this direction.

979 health care providers were capacitated through trainings on child screenings, nutrition, and common disease management. Without knowledgeable and skilled nurses, timely identification of growth or development deviations, and improvement of stunting rate, is impossible due to the fact that only nurses serve nearly one-third of communities. Thus, community nurses were trained how to counsel mothers on child nutrition and how to perform child screenings. At the same time, doctors participated in trainings covering new management approaches for the most common diseases (anaemia, acute respiratory diseases, diarrhoea, etc.).

Overall, 8980 parents participated in ECD-related training sessions. 3025 parents were involved in public events aimed to raise awareness on the importance of healthy nutrition especially within the first 1000 days of life. Events included contests between community mothers, educational and entertaining performances with celebrity mothers,
“Early childhood is a time of special importance in terms of the health, physical, cognitive, emotional, spiritual, and social development affecting a child’s overall well-being.”
and a photo exhibition of professional and amateur photographers with photos aimed to deliver child care and nutrition messages.

883 mothers participated in food preparation sessions, conducted in 40 newly established Parental schools. During these sessions, community mothers, especially those from the most vulnerable families, learned how to prepare healthy and age-appropriate meals for children under 2 from locally available and affordable ingredients, and they received practical manuals with concrete recipes. Moreover, they had chance to watch video lessons guiding food preparation.

WVA intensively worked on educating pregnant women about healthy pregnancy and newborn care and initiated the development of five video lessons. Through these lessons pregnant women could receive information on pregnancy stages, healthy lifestyle (nutrition, physical activity, harmful habits, etc.), breastfeeding, newborn care and rights of pregnant women. The Health Ministry approved these video lessons and placed them on their own website for countrywide utilization. Overall, 800 DVD copies were distributed to Motherhood schools in Armenia.

WVA piloted the Early Childhood Development programme “Go, baby go” model to train young mothers/ caregivers on early stimulation skills for children. Through interactive sessions 1,124 mothers learned how to influence their children’s social-emotional development and learning capability. They learned to prepare homemade toys from available materials. This was especially important for the most vulnerable families who are not able to purchase toys for their kids.
“Overall, **8980 parents** participated in ECD-related training sessions. **3025 parents** were involved in public events aimed to raise awareness on the importance of healthy nutrition especially within the first 1000 days of life.”
WVA worked on the promotion of a nurturing environment in families. The Men Engage model, piloted in Yerevan and Amasia Area Development Programs (ADPs), encourages paternal involvement in child-upbringing and preventing violence against children. Awareness-raising sessions with 114 participants (couples with children) contributed to the change of attitudes in families. During reflection sessions, many of the male participants confirmed their perception change regarding their role in childrearing and relationship with their spouses. Evaluation of pilot results confirmed the efficiency of the model.

According to a UNFPA report (Survey on Sex Selective Imbalances in Armenia, 2012), Armenia is the third worse country in the world for sex ratio at birth. Prenatal sex selection entailed a boy/girl ratio of 114/100 at birth against a normal ratio of 104-106/100.

In total, 350 community members passed trainings and were actively involved in advocacy planning as well as implementation at a local level. This resulted in the active participation of the communities and an increased initiative and sense of ownership in solving their problems through local resources. WVA started to see an increase in commitment and constancy in communities to achieve desirable outcomes through the implementation of concrete actions on a Community Development Plan.
“The Men Engage model, piloted in Yerevan and Amasia Area Development Programs (ADPs), encourages paternal involvement in child-upbringing and preventing violence against children.”
In 2015, World Vision Armenia (WVA) continued working on the problems affecting the most vulnerable children, aiming to identify and protect them from violence, abuse and discrimination. We increased our afford to target government-level decision makers in order to ensure that the child care system in Armenia significantly reduces reliance on large-scale institutions through the establishment of a network of community-based alternative social services.

In 2015, in the frame of the “Let’s Keep Children in Families” project, 47 children were reunified with their families. Our 6 community-based services helped 560 children with alternative child care services.

WVA established new mechanisms in 12 communities that enable us to identify Child Protection (CP) cases and to refer them to state bodies for future processing.

It is also prioritized that all children in the WV programme area are enrolled in and receive basic education. Local level advocacy activities were conducted related to both inclusive education and home education. During meetings with school directors, the leading specialist in the field presented the idea of inclusive schools and the necessary
“In 2015, in the frame of the “Let’s Keep Children in Families” project, 47 children were reunified with their families. Our 6 community-based services helped 560 children with alternative child care services.”
steps needed to receive the status of ‘inclusive school.’ The directors and school representatives were enthusiastic about the topic and expressed willingness to start the process in their schools. A further advocacy activity related to the realization of home education for children with special educational needs, taking into consideration that home education is not encouraged and somehow goes against the idea of inclusiveness. Home education is advised only in cases when children have prolonged illnesses and are physically unable to go to school for a long period of time. Directors assured that the necessary resources will be allocated to ensure home education in such respective cases.

**99.5% of children were involved in education in 2015.**

In 2015, all WVA ADPs focused on ways to strengthen formal and informal social support to vulnerable households. In the frame of informal social support for Child Protection (CP), the Church can be an influential and extremely effective partner in addressing child protection issues at local and national levels. WVArmenia especially recognizes and affirms the essential role of the Church in contributing towards CP within families and communities.

In 2015, clergies with social workers were engaged in developing joint action plans for reaching vulnerable groups of the community, in particular conducting home visits, facilitating group-work with key CP stakeholders, individual spiritual talks, reporting, referring and responding to cases of Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) in cooperation with local CP mechanisms.
346 vulnerable households were reached by CP-related Church led services delivered to the community. The major problems in the Child Protection sector still relate to child abuse, neglect, and all other forms of violence, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable children. The trainings on positive discipline among parents and teachers are important milestones for achieving the desired behavioural change and resulting in a decrease in the proportion of parents practicing physical punishments as well and in an increase among teachers who think that a child should never be beaten. **1,234 households and 189 school teachers** were reached for positive discipline skills.

In 2015, WVA conducted vulnerability mapping and updated the MVC database. We identified **4,500 vulnerable children** in communities. 2,376 out of 4450 are MVCs.

Overall, **622 Individual Development Plans** were developed to reach MVCs aged 6-14.

During the reporting period, in 2015, 55 out of 618 IDPs were funded by local marketing and 3 private companies donated to help us reach MVCs. The same year 50 child-led initiatives were implemented, aimed at community care and protection. Children designed mini projects on environmental, child protection, and Disaster Risk Reduction issues.

In addition, **1,175 children** were involved in permanently established community-based life skills programming such as “Peace Road” clubs, Sunday schools, and more.

“Peace Road for Children” methodology has been implemented with 11 -14 years old children, the application of which helped boys and girls through games, discussion and other activities to
build five core competencies in life skills: critical thinking, emotional management, communication, relationship-building and social responsibility. About 3,400 children participated in the WVA Christian Summer Camp where they had an opportunity to spend time with their peers and, in the framework of “Peace Road,” to participate in fun and meaningful games.

During the reporting period, overall 20,171 children were engaged in Spiritual Nurture initiatives, such as Christmas celebrations, schools, and meetings with the community priest.

**ADVOCACY**

World Vision Armenia (WVA), in close collaboration with partners, has always advocated for school budget transparency and participatory planning and reporting of those budgets. This is directly linked with quality education and accountability as schools always highlight the lack of allocated budget versus required obligations, yet it is hard to monitor this if the process is not transparent and we have to rely solely on what the school directors tell us.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP, see below for details) framework has been a real opportunity to suggest solutions to the above-mentioned. The WVA advocacy team was heavily involved in the working groups initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science in the framework of OGP and we had a very important role in
“1,175 children were involved in permanently established community-based life skills programming such as “Peace Road” clubs, Sunday schools, and more.”
World Vision Armenia (WVA) provides youth with the opportunity to raise their issues and concerns and become important players in various fields such as child protection, health, education, equality and empowerment, human rights and democracy, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Along with the international and national youth policy developers and implementers, WVA places great emphasis on involving youth in developmental processes and sustainable peace creation.

2015 was a big year for this particular Strategic Objective. A total of 13 Area Development Programs (ADPs) across the country started implementation of this Strategic Objective at maximum capacity and have already demonstrated tangible results, with the youth of the ADPs engaged in empowerment interventions as well as community care and advocacy actions as detailed below.

Around 950 youth have been engaged in a total of 33 IMPACT and SKYE clubs across 11 APs (Stepanavan, Alaverdi, Ijevan, Vardenis, Gavar, Tchambarak, Aparan, Talin, Yerevan, Sisyan, and Kapan). Through experiential learning methodology, 80 hired volunteer club leaders, together with the club members, obtained knowledge, skills and abilities in the sectors of Active Citizenship, Employability, Leadership and Entrepreneurship.
“Around 950 youth have been engaged in a total of 33 IMPACT and SKYE clubs across 11 APs.”
The youth implemented a total of 99 community projects, reaching around 27,000 community members. The IMPACT and SKYE club members were able to raise some USD 5,000 to match WVA seed funding for their projects. During the reporting period, the costs of this project model decreased and sustainability of the project increased as a result of the training of local trainers. WVA has a pool of around 25 local trainers who are able to contribute to the effective implementation and scale up of the model.

During the reporting period, Gyumri, Sisian, Ijevan and Kapan ADPs implemented innovative projects with youth which resulted not only in the promotion of innovative thinking among youth but also in the implementation of specific innovative projects by youth in the sector of IT and recycling.

Innovative thinking and increased chances of employability were also promoted through the attendance of some 150 youth at Engineering Labs and the TUMO Creative Technologies Centre, where young people learned web design, software development and robot-making.

The Ijevan, Alaverdi and Yerevan ADPs have three youth advocacy groups. Around 377 youth were actively engaged in advocacy aimed at solving common interest issues through participation in a series of trainings on State entitlements, human rights and use of information and communication technologies in advocacy, research methodology and different types of advocacy campaigns and actions. Among a number of issues raised and solved by the youth, were five cases of Most Vulnerable Children that youth found and addressed through their advocacy actions.
105 young people engaged in the Programme participated in professional orientation trainings in their schools whereby they learned how to choose a profession according to their characteristics and the labour market demand. While this skill will increase their employability in future, from 14 MVCs who participated in the vocational trainings, 10 were already employed in Yerevan and Gyumri.
In 2015 World Vision Armenia (WVA) undertook a major task to identify where the most vulnerable children are in all 14 Area Development Programmes (ADPs).

According to the results:

**2370 of the Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) are living in 14 ADP areas.**

Of those, **46.5%** are girls and **53.5%** are boys.

Of those, **1664 (70.5%)** are already participants within World Vision’s Sponsorship programme.

Many of the identified children have been invisible to state services due to their extreme marginalization and lack of access to services. Together with state and non-state actors 590 Individual Development Plans have been developed and are in the process of implementation for these children and their families.

World Vision Armenia measured children’s vulnerability based on four indicators: 1) violence against children, 2) extreme poverty, 3) discrimination and 4) impact on man-made/ natural crisis and disaster.

WVA developed its vulnerability mapping tools together with respected partners- community social workers and regional CP units. Every year the country programme conducts vulnerability mapping to update the Most Vulnerable Children’s databases and to track the progress.
“World Vision continues to develop and introduce leading approaches to baseline assessments in the region and strives towards accessing the most vulnerable children.”
BEING ACCOUNTABLE
TO OUR COMMUNITIES, PARTNERS AND DONORS

INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT:

World Vision has made financial transparency a fundamental management principle. The organisation’s objective is to be able to account for the utilization of the funds entrusted to it at all times. In addition to its own system of internal control, it undergoes numerous external audits. Moreover, financial reports are drawn up on the utilization of the funds granted by institutional donors and these are often subject to external audit.

World Vision’s Performance Capability and Performance Review (PCPR) is a rigorous internal assessment tool that was developed by the World Vision Global Partnership and is implemented twice yearly within World Vision Armenia’s programme.

This assessment tool looks at all internal processes, including financial mechanisms and programme impacts and ranks our procedures with the overall aim of ensuring that funds are being allocated in a transparent and effective manner.

INTERNAL RISK BASED AUDITS:

In addition, World Vision is intentional about donor accountability and continuous efforts towards improving the internal controls and risk management. For the past three years World Vision globally shifted to a Risk-Based internal audit approach which seeks to identify risks with the greatest potential impact, focusing on value-added audit.
“All programmes were developed, designed and re-designed with the active and regular participation of the communities we work with.”

World Vision continued to adhere to all necessary donor reporting and auditing throughout 2015, but, with additional tools such as the PCPR and the Internal Risk-based audits, we are confident that our self-evaluation methods guarantee the highest quality of accountability to our donors, partners and to the communities we work in.

CONSULTING WITH COMMUNITIES:

All programmes were developed, designed and re-designed with the active and regular participation of the communities we work with. Participation with the relevant communities was encouraged and facilitated across 14 regional programmes formerly involved in the design and re-design phase of programmes in 2014.

WORKING HAND-IN-HAND WITH PARTNERS:

On October 10, 2015, the Yerevan municipality awarded World Vision Armenia a Yerevan Gold Medal, recognizing it as one of the best charitable organisations working in Armenia. The municipality on its 2797th anniversary awarded three gold medals to international charitable organizations for the positive impact they have had in Armenia. The “Hans Christian Kofoed” Armenian-Danish Charitable Foundation and the “ARDA” Foundation also received gold medals. World Vision works for vulnerable children, raising community voices and empowering youngsters. Armenia is home for children and youth living with hope and dignity.
The total operational budget for FY 2015 was **USD 7,410,262**.

**Funding from World Vision Support Offices Around the Globe:**

- **Australia:** 0.2%
- **Canada:** 16.1%
- **Caucasus - Local Income:** 2.6%
- **United Kingdom:** 16.5%
- **France:** 6.7%
- **Germany:** 5.8%
- **Switzerland:** 6.6%
- **Taiwan:** 15.0%
- **United States:** 30.5%
WITH THANKS TO OUR EXTERNAL DONORS WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE:

- USAID
- UNICEF
- Orange
- Monitis
- Individual Donors
- WVA Gift Catalog
- HSBC
- Local Governments

TOTAL BY FUNDING SOURCE:

- 90% WORLD VISION RESOURCES
- 8% EXTERNAL DONORS
- 2% LOCALLY RECEIVED FUNDS
Almost two years ago, World Vision Armenia, VivaCell MTS, Cronimet Charity Foundation, Counterpart International Armenia and the Union of Information Technologies Enterprises (UITE) implemented the ArmRobotics programme in Yerevan and regions of Armenia with the aim of developing and conducting robotics educational programmes in schools and universities.

“At first Students were not interested in the programme, and those that joined it came mainly for fun. But now they don’t play games here; they create games,” says Yeghishe Amiryan, leader of the Robotics Club, proudly.

Students usually come with an unclear image about their future careers, but after some classes in the Robotics Club, the want to become programmers, developers or professionals in IT.

“I’ve been a member of the Robotics Club in Talin for 1.5 months, but I already know how to create simple games, and even give commands to robots. My dream is to become a good programmer,” says 14 year-old Gevorg.

Membership of the Club is absolutely free. No mathematical or physics background is required, however, there are some age limits (10-18) and a lack of resources. Currently, Talin’s Robotics Club has only 4 LEGO packages, which is obviously not enough for larger groups. That’s why a number of students wanting to learn are currently on a waiting list.

The leader of the group provides the classes on a voluntary basis.
“I’ve been a member of the Robotics Club in Talin for 1.5 months, but I already know how to create simple games, and even give commands to robots. My dream is to become a good programmer.”