

OUR WORK IN YOUTH

Our goal

Provide space for young people to express themselves; to build competencies and skills; to help them advocate for and bring changes in the social and economic conditions of the most vulnerable.

Our priorities

We work with thousands of young people in more than 200 communities where their lives are severely limited by the lack of employment opportunities. In 2014, 34.5 % of young people aged 15-29 years old were neither in employment nor in education or training;¹ 70 % wanted to emigrate. Many say they feel disconnected from their communities and excluded from decision-making processes. World vision also recognizes that these feelings of disconnection are of great concern and is working with faith based organizations to combat a worrying threat of youth radicalization.

In the middle of this context, WorldVision Albania is working to help young people reach their full potential, realizing that any investment in youth is an investment in the future of Albania. In order to accomplish this goal, we are helping the Ministry of Sports and Youth to develop National Youth Centres in Albania, so that young people can have their own spaces for freedom and creativity.

Youth in numbers

70% of young people say they want to leave Albania and live in another country²

46% of the Albanian population is under the age of 30³

Only
16,1%
of young people say they feel good about themselves

30% of the total population is between 10-25 years³

Only
11,9%
of young people feel they use their time constructively

32,3% of youth (age 15 -29) is unemployed⁴

Through
1,500
youth in our programme were reached other

24,461 children by youths coordinating activities in their communities aimed at bringing change to the places where they live.

¹ INSTAT, 2015

² Ibid

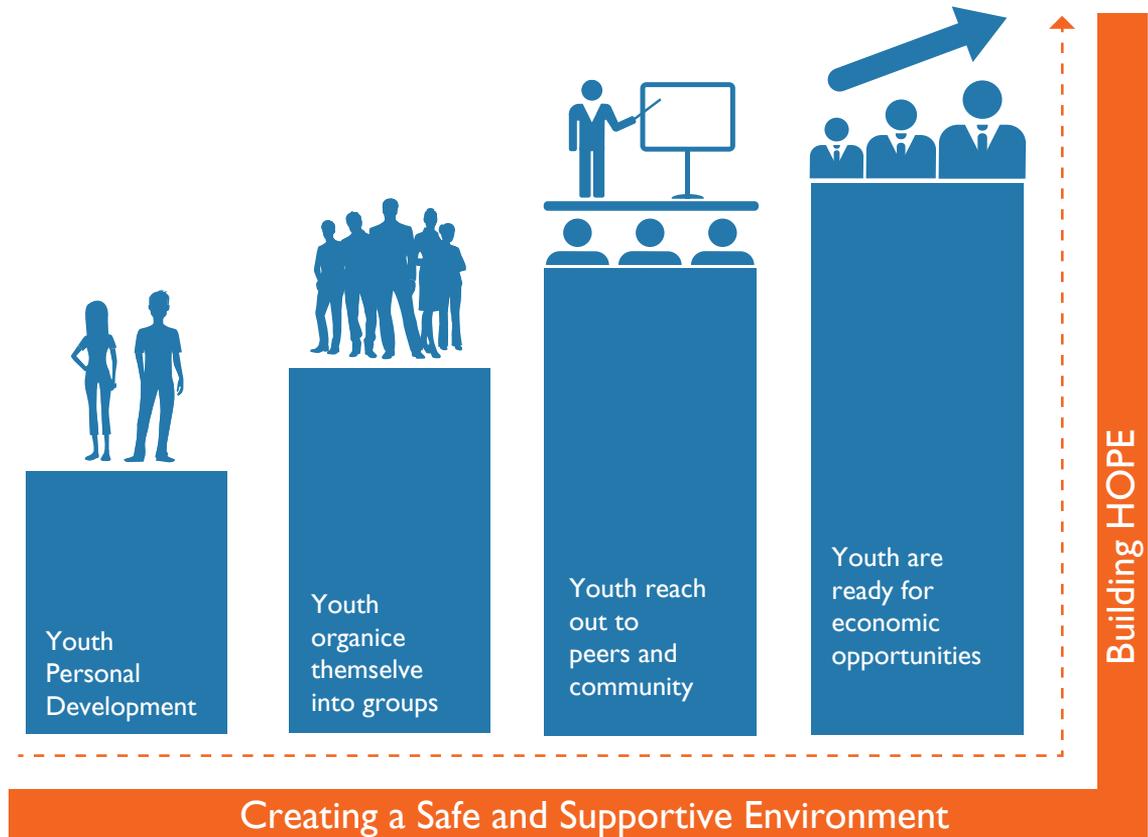
³ Census

⁴ INSTAT, 2015

*All data from World Vision Albania unless otherwise stated

How we will reach our goal?

WorldVision has developed specialised approaches to working with young people, based on the principle that they should learn by doing. These programmes are tailored to individual communities and individual needs and work with young people to build character and develop knowledge and skills along with positive attitudes and values. They are based on four pillars: active citizenship; leadership; social entrepreneurship and employability.



Step 1: Me

We work with thousands of young men and women to enable them to develop and strengthen essential life skills and grow as people. We teach them skills to allow them to build constructive relationships, develop critical thinking and manage their emotions.

Step 2: Me and my group

We encourage young people to organise themselves into groups, where they have a common aim. We help them to develop a vision, a mission and an action plan, to achieve the goals they set themselves. We give them the skills they need to function as a team and work with them to collect relevant data, apply facts and design a strategy on the topic they are advocating for. We also support groups in networking and building contacts between themselves and provide mentoring for younger groups.

Step 3: Me and my community

Young people tend, by nature, to be socially active. We help them to plan and engage in projects aimed at bringing social change. We create an environment in which they feel confident enough to make their voices heard on behalf of their communities. And in doing all this, they build morals and learn and they help foster a culture where human rights are understood, defended and respected.

Step 4: Me and my livelihood

World Vision Albania is taking innovative steps to improve youth employability. Working with some of the country's most disadvantaged young people, we look at their needs and aspirations and help them to improve their skills, behaviors and attitudes to make them valued members of society and attractive to the labor market. We are helping young people to start businesses, build businesses or find waged employment.