

Protecting Afghanistan's Women and Children



Children

WHAT WE DO

World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) works to improve the protection of children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence in the three provinces of Herat, Ghor and Badghis.

HOW WE DO IT

WVA's child protection interventions are mainstreamed as a core part of all our projects to empower children, families, communities, government and other partners to prevent and reduce risks to children's holistic well-being, thereby promoting an enabling environment for realizing children's rights and empowering systems to respond to child protection issues.

APPROACH

WVA's approach for child protection mainly focuses on mobilizing the community through faith leaders and other influential community groups to improve the awareness and address negative attitudes toward child care and protection through using Celebrating Families, Community Change and Child Protection training modules. In addition, a system for reporting incidents related to child protection infringement has been adopted throughout WVA's operations.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We are providing psychosocial support through counselling and life skills training for children, youth, survivors of abuse or gender-based violence, and other vulnerable groups. Through these services, children are empowered to protect themselves and help protect each another.

Concurrently, training for teachers, community members and government representatives have been provided on child protection, psychosocial support and mental health care. As a result, eight youth clubs have been established and equipped in nine Internally Displaced People (IDP) settlements where 1,406 women, girls, boys and men have benefited from counselling services provided by WVA.

879



Community and religious leaders, community development council and Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) members have been trained to identify and address root causes of child

protection issues, as well as to strengthen social mechanisms to create violent free, caring and protective home and community environments for children.



4,120

Street children (2,136 boys, 1,984 girls) and 1,681 of their **parents/caregivers** have received psychosocial support through individual and group counselling services. Now they have the skills to better deal with life's challenges.

Women

WHAT WE DO

Violence against women is one of the most widespread of human rights abuses in Afghanistan. One out of every three Afghan women experience physical, psychological or sexual violence. World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) works to break this cycle of violence by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

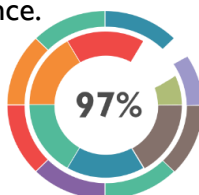
HOW WE DO IT

WVA has targeted faith leaders, Department of Women Affairs (DoWA), women elders, and women activists to strengthen and enhance women's political and civil engagement. Women in the communities are also supported to create additional income, to become literate, and to become organized in community-based working units to effectively manage and run their small businesses.

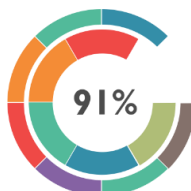
ACHIEVEMENTS

In livelihoods, WVA's programs particularly engage women who in many cases are confined to their homes due to cultural factors, and supports them to earn income and to strengthen their influence at the household and community levels. One such program has established more than **75 Female WASH Groups** in targeted areas. Today, they are working to train other community members on hygiene, rehabilitating water resources and to provide material for simple pit latrines.

The **Women's Beekeeping Association** is a great example of change in the lives of women and vulnerable households in Badghis province. WVA has trained 240 women beekeepers who have been empowered to earn income close to their homes. These women report that this activity has helped them to achieve sufficient income to provide for the health and education needs of their children, as well as to improve their self-esteem and greater social acceptance.



Of women beekeepers trained by WVA have reported an increase in their incomes.



Of women beekeepers are able to pay for their children's health/education costs without other assistance.



WVA trained midwives in a training conducted by one of WVA health project.

Moreover, our livelihoods program has provided training in vegetable gardening, poultry raising, marketing, branding, and pesticide control for more than 3,000 women farmers who are mostly widows or female heads of households. Now these women have an increase in their income and food supplies to benefit their children.

Family Health Action Groups (FHAGs). WVA established 28 FHAGs with 308 female members in 2015. These women are playing a vital role in improving household health practices and helping Afghan mothers and children to access health services with a view to reducing mortality rates.

Vocational Skills Training. WVA provided literacy and income generation activities for 1100 female youth to build their self-esteem, and enable them to increase family income.

Women's Empowerment. WVA works with DoWA to strengthen and enhance women's political and civil in empowerment through engagement of women's district shura (women elders) to effectively implement The National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan. This new program has so far trained 40 lead mullahs to become Gender in Islam trainers.