



World Vision Afghanistan

DROUGHT RESPONSE CAPACITY STATEMENT



OVERVIEW AND COVERAGE

World Vision (WV) is a relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. WV is currently reaching more than 100 million people in nearly 100 countries, serving all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

The organization is registered with the Government of Afghanistan (Registration No 115) and has been working in Afghanistan since 2001. Initial programming aimed to address the urgent needs of children and families affected by drought and decades of conflict.

Today, World Vision International - Afghanistan (WVA) manages 27 projects located in three provinces in the Western Region of Afghanistan: Herat, Badghis and Ghor. We also have a project in Bamyan and currently positioning to work in Faryab and Daykundi. WVA's work impacts 488,609 children and with an annual operating budget of around US\$9 million. A total of 391 staff members, including 385 national staff and 6 international staff are working to bring positive changes in the lives of vulnerable Afghan communities.



WVA's major areas of intervention are mother/child health and nutrition, WASH, child protection and education, food security/livelihoods, as well as empowering women to engage in civil society and social change in partnership with religious leaders. WVA targets the most vulnerable in its interventions; including children, youth, women, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnee refugees, those living with a disability, as well as the most impoverished and marginalized families.

RAPID EMERGENCY RESPONSE

When disaster strikes, we are on the ground. We help people affected by complex emergencies and natural disasters such as drought and flooding. WVA is a lead responder to the current crises caused by drought, assisting both IDPs and seriously affected people in their places of origin so as to prevent displacement.

We are a member of the Afghan National Disaster Management Team and are represented in the humanitarian clusters, both at a regional and national level. Early Warning Systems have been established in Badghis province through our projects delivering community level disaster preparedness training and equipment. Emergency Management System (EMS) training has been conducted for WVA staff at both national and zonal office level.

In emergency response, our relief efforts provide for acute health and hygiene needs, the provision of safe drinking water, child protection interventions, and food assistance through both cash-based programming and food commodity distribution, and non-food items.

Cash Programming: Internationally, WV is the world's second leading NGO in cash transfer programming with cash-based programming being utilized in 33 countries. WV at both an international level and in Afghanistan has dedicated cash programming subject matter experts. We have proven expertise implementing food security and cash based programming. We have experience with cash based programming through cash for work and cash for food grants totaling over US\$40 million. Between December 2016 and May 2017, we responded to the needs of new IDPs/Returnees in three districts of Herat Province through provision of US\$303,600 Electronic Vouchers to 1,100 households (7,700 individuals).

We are currently reaching approximately 238,609 people in Badghis and Herat through private funding sources and donors.

Food Distribution: In addition to cash programming, WV internationally and in Afghanistan has extensive experience with food commodities and integrated cash/food commodities distributions. WV is a preferred partner for the World Food Programme (WFP) globally and is implementing WFP food commodity distribution projects in Afghanistan, currently assisting 146,503 severely drought affected people in the northern districts of Herat province and in five districts of Badghis province.

Mobile Health Teams: The health, hygiene and nutrition status of IDP families is very poor and there is no regular system to provide health and nutrition services to these populations. Therefore, in partnership with the ministry of public health we established 7 mobile health teams in IDP areas in Herat and Badghis provinces. In the near future we will also deploy additional teams to assist people in their place of origin so that together with food and water assistance, we will address the acute needs that lead to displacement.

Water Distribution: Internationally, WV is the largest NGO-provider of clean drinking water in the world, supplying life-saving drinking water to people in need in both emergency and development settings. Due to World Vision's strong local presence and high WASH capacity, we are able to rapidly deploy water tankers to disaster-affected populations. In July 2018 alone, we provided one month of water trucking to 4,900 drought-affected IDP families in Badghis Province, at the urgent request of the Provincial Governor. We also have experience deploying pre-positioned hygiene, latrine and water kits to displaced populations.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

WVA not only provides emergency relief to affected families, we also engage in solutions to rebuild their lives. Our recovery activities are focused on rehabilitation, social cohesion, recovery from trauma, access to basic services, and re-establishing livelihoods, with a focus on 'building back better'. We begin recovery activities as soon as possible after the initial crisis, but also in tandem with emergency response when possible. We not only have experience of dealing with drought, but also flooding through the construction of flood protection walls, and water source contamination protection in Ghor and Badghis provinces.

Food Security: In line with the Food and Security and Agriculture Cluster priorities, we provide life-saving food assistance to increase vulnerable drought-affected households' access to nutritious food. We provide drought-resistant certified seeds for farmers, including initial training. To reduce the loss of livestock, we provide fodder seeds. Through our food/cash for assets programming we assist communities to re-build and construct additional infrastructure to strengthen resilience, reduce risk from future disasters, and to increase livelihood security while doing so, especially for youth and women.

Experience in implementing Cash for Work and Cash for Food grants totaling over US\$40 million

Water and Sanitation: To increase access to safe drinking water, we construct solar-powered mechanised water systems, gravity-fed drinking water supply networks, household water reservoirs, and reverse osmosis water treatment systems for locations with high salinity groundwater. Hand pump rehabilitation is also conducted; however, it is limited to the few locations where the water table is high enough. Community Water Management Groups are established to provide day-to-day maintenance as well as to collect user fees to fund system maintenance. In order to support water source sustainability, we construct check dams and macro-catchments to recharge groundwater as well as implementing water source protection measures. We also

support efforts to eliminate open defecation through Community Led Total Sanitation and provide training on personal and environmental hygiene for communities.

Maternal and Child Health: We provide timely life-saving services for children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women who suffer from malnutrition. We have established mobile nutrition and health teams to provide outpatient lifesaving treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition among children and mothers. We conduct community mobilisation and case detection training for key community members such as Community Health Workers and Family Health Action Groups. In all of our activities we use visual and pictorial materials such as videos to ensure that everyone, including those who cannot read and write benefit from our programs. We are also able to deliver emergency counselling training about infant and young child feeding to health care providers.

LONG TERM COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DEVELOPMENT

WVA prepares communities to anticipate hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions and shock. Activities, such as disaster preparedness - which includes prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery - are key steps toward resilience. Through our sustainable development programs, we partner with communities to meet acute ongoing humanitarian needs for the longer term, and also provide wraparound services. We not only have experience of dealing with drought, but also flooding through the construction of flood protection walls and water contamination mitigation interventions in both Ghor and Badghis provinces. Our long-term community resilience interventions include:

Health/WASH: We increase access to health and nutrition services for vulnerable communities living in remote areas, IDPs, and returnees through our mobile health teams. As a result, 20,935 IDPs received curative health services so far in 2018. We conduct awareness-raising sessions for mothers on the subject of infant and young child feeding and provide counselling services for them related to child health and care. We construct improved drinking water systems together with communities, schools and health care facilities. We also assist in constructing latrines and hand washing stations in health and education institutions and facilitate education programmes on positive water, sanitation and hygiene practices. In 2018 so far, over 66,538 people have benefited from our Health and WASH programming.

Livelihoods: We work together with vulnerable farmers to increase their agricultural production through constructing and rehabilitating irrigation infrastructure. We distribute high-yield, drought-tolerant wheat seeds to farmers that have resulted in a 50% increase on average in their yields, contributing to household food security. We facilitate the formation of producer groups that serve as a platform for effective engagement in the market through collective bargaining and enhanced representation. We have facilitated the establishment of the first ever women-centred market for 40 female entrepreneurs in Badghis province, the majority of whom are our producer and savings groups' members who are now earning an average monthly income of US\$176. We have enabled farmers to gain large yields of fruit year after year through the establishment of 994 privately owned fruit orchards. We have also established pistachio tree gardens for 1200 farmers. These farmers are able to earn an income of US\$2400 per year. We transformed 1280.9 Hectares of rain feed land into highly productive irrigated land in Badghis Province. The income of each benefited farmer has increased from almost zero to US\$500 annually. In 2018 so far, 3,770 people have benefited from our Livelihoods programming.

Education: We have years of experience in establishing and running Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Herat, Ghor and Badghis provinces. We assist highly vulnerable children to develop their physical, cognitive, language, and social-emotional domains and skills, and help them prepare for primary school. The play-based methods applied in the ECD centres has greatly improved the performance and socialization of these children in school. Through the centres we also conduct literacy and positive parenting classes for mothers and caregivers to address the wholistic needs of their children. In 2018, we adapted the ECD initiative for an emergency context and established an additional 16 ECD centres in Badghis and Herat IDP settlements. As well, we provided access to primary education for out of school IDP children through 10 Community Based School grade I classes. We have a pilot project for improving access to non-formal education through innovation mobile technology to improve the lives of 720 illiterate women living in remote areas of Herat and Badghis provinces.

At least 40% of Herat street working children are IDPs. We have been assisting them with tutorial and remedial classes since 2011. In 2018 so far, 3,803 people have directly benefited from our Education programming.

Protection: We have integrated Child Protection Protocols into all our programming interventions. We work with the most vulnerable children and adolescents to increase their resilience through developing their life skills in areas such as problem-solving and decision-making. We continue our child-friendly enrichment centre for street working and internally displaced children, providing them with safe opportunities for developmental play and interaction with their peers. We have established peace promoter taskforces and have trained teachers and communities in peacebuilding skills for transformational development, all of whom are now transferring these skills and messages to students and other community members. In 2018 so far, we have reached 4,391 people with protection needs in our Child Protection programming.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Learning through Evaluation with Accountability and Planning (LEAP) is WVA's approach to program-level design, monitoring, and evaluation. We have capacity and experience for quantitative and qualitative baseline development, monitoring and evaluation for health, food security, WASH and child protection and education interventions. We use community-based monitoring approaches such as action research, appreciative inquiry, organizational self-assessment, and Participatory Learning Action. We also have proven capacity to conduct multi-sector rapid and thorough assessments during and after interventions to determine both emergency and long-term needs of affected populations.

TECHNICAL AND PROGRAMMATIC CAPACITY

WVA has more than 15 years of experience and proven expertise in Health/WASH, Protection, Education and Livelihoods in Afghanistan. In terms of surge capacity, we are able to draw on WV's global resources of expertise in all key sectors. We are currently implementing 8 projects funded by UNOCHA CHF, WFP and WV's own private funding in response to the critical needs of drought affected families for health, protection, WASH and food security, with a total cash budget of US\$2,315,505, and US\$2,017,492 Gifts in Kind (GIK).

For longer-term resilience building, we are implementing 19 projects valued at US\$14,249,424 across 4 provinces to help targeted communities better cope with challenges in maternal-child health, child care and protection, literacy and education, livelihoods, chronic WASH needs, and income generation.

COLLABORATION

We work in partnership with UNOCHA, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, national and regional clusters and other agencies including national and international NGOs to respond to the needs of IDPs, returnees and deportees in the Western Region of Afghanistan. In determining humanitarian needs, we coordinate with OCHA and other partners and agencies to conduct joint needs assessments.

We also work in partnership with donors, government ministries, private sector, civil society organizations, sector working groups, local communities, and local government entities, including provincial Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livelihoods, Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Department of Women's Affairs, Department of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Department of Hajj and Religious Affairs.

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