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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WHERE WE WORK

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Key Directions:
- Child Protection and Welfare
- Youth Engagement and Empowerment
- Early Childhood Development

Crosscutting Activities:
- Inclusive Education and Increasing Awareness of Disability
- Faith & Development

Projects:
- Gender Based Violence
- Bee Keeping Development
- Keeping Children Safe Online

SAMTSKHE - JAVAKHETI

Key Directions:
- Child Protection and Welfare
- Youth Engagement and Empowerment
- Early Childhood Development

Crosscutting Activities:
- Inclusive Education and Increasing Awareness of Disability
- Faith & Development

Projects:
- Gender Based Violence
- Keeping Children Safe Online

SAMEGRELO

Projects:
- Cross-border cooperation for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Impact Mitigation

AJARA

Projects:
- Cross-border cooperation for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Impact Mitigation

1,500 registered children

2,500 registered children
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- Faith & Development

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- Bee Keeping Development
- Keeping Children Safe Online

TBILISI:
Key Directions:
- Child Protection and Welfare
- Youth Engagement and Empowerment

Projects:
- Family Support Services for Child well-being
- Regional Education Action Learning
- A Stronger Coalition for Child and Youth Welfare
- Reaching Highly Vulnerable Children with a Focus of Children Living or Working on the Street
In 2014, World Vision Georgia directly reached over **52,916 people** - of whom **10,589** were **children/youth** and **42,327** were **adults** - through advocacy, development and Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs programming.

**350 children** living and working on the streets received access to essential services, and a safe and caring environment to promote their health, educational and human rights.

**Up to 600 people**, including the most vulnerable children and their family members enjoy social integration and benefit from effective child protection and family support services.

**6000 youngsters** were involved in different non-formal education activities with the aim of enhancing and empowering their voices within their communities and at national level.

**820 people** including children with disabilities and their parents, school teachers and community members were supported through developmental activities and psychological counseling.

**More than 34,000 people** including migrants, mobile populations and people living with HIV and AIDS were reached through information and media campaigns on HIV prevention, treatment and care services.
946 empowered youth took action to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

World Vision Georgia expanded its number of school-based youth clubs to 40, uniting more than 1200 youngsters.

2 mobile outreach teams were established in Tbilisi to conduct street outreach work, to provide direct assistance, such as the provision of emergency health care and clothing, and referral to various welfare services, to children living on the streets.

100 youngsters participated in debate competitions, meetings and public hearings at both the local and national level, increasing youth confidence and youth voices in their communities.

Under World Vision’s youth programming initiative to improve healthy lifestyles among youth, more than 500 youngsters participated in demanding outdoor physical activities (such as: hiking, camping, etc).

170 girls and boys in the Imereti area participated in the advancement of their own child protection systems and well-being.
In 2014 World Vision positively touched the lives of over 500,000 people in the South Caucasus (Armenia and Georgia). A further 1,800,000 children benefitted from strategic advocacy efforts that focused on improved well-being. Through strategic and collaborative engagement with targeted stakeholders and decision makers, positive reforms and structural changes were implemented at national policy levels, further benefitting large-scale numbers of children within the South Caucasus. In Armenia, World Vision was directly involved in the introduction of the law: “Promotion of Breastfeeding and Regulation of Marketing of Infant Food”. This law will drastically improve breastfeeding rates amongst infants and directly improve favourable nutrition statistics in the country. In Georgia, World Vision worked with the Ministry of Education and supported the groundwork for the development of a School Curriculum for 5-year-olds - prepared to internationally recognised standards that include the vital importance of Early Childhood Development.
Simultaneously, World Vision introduced an operating model in the South Caucasus which is responsive to specific issues of child welfare in individual countries while staying firm and efficient in its centralized support functions. Programmes carried out in eighteen geographical regions across Armenia and Georgia are the anchors of our community presence from which we draw grass-roots experience. Four Child Well-being Aspirations - Children Educated for Life, Children Enjoy Good Health, Children Cared for, Protected and Participating, and Children Experience Love of God and Neighbours - provided strategic orientation to our work, which in the South Caucasus specifically promotes strong welfare systems for children, youth empowerment, as well as safe, healthy and resilient communities. Strong technical expertise in World Vision’s operations builds practice and learning from field experiences which then shapes policies and reforms to leverage child welfare on national scales. Our programmes and support reach all children regardless of race, gender or religion. World Vision could not achieve the above without the engagement of highly motivated, passionate and committed staff, driven by an organisational vision to achieve life in all its fullness for every child in the South Caucasus. We are also thankful to institutional donors and thousands of sponsors in Australia, Austria, Canada, USA, Germany, Switzerland and Hong Kong who generously donate financial resources towards our endeavours.
As a youth representative to the United Nations, it is very important to have strong and active youth in the regions here in Georgia. It is a key issue for me. We have very many active young people and it is essential to keep them motivated for the development of the country as a whole.

Throughout 2014, it was a great pleasure for me to collaborate with World Vision Georgia (WVG), an organisation that gives enormous encouragement to young people across the whole country, especially in the regions. The WVG team is always ready to get involved and the results can be clearly seen. When I meet very active youth with high public awareness, it is evident that they are proud to be members of WVG’s youth clubs or youth councils. I remember a very memorable meeting in Baghdati, in January 2015. The meeting was with the youth union “Youth 2 Georgia”. I talked with the union representatives about very innovative and creative initiatives.

My mandate is more powerful because of the support and encouragement I get from WVG. They are always in the process of working on something valuable and important for their beneficiaries and they have developed flexible approaches for young people which give an opportunity for everyone interested to get involved. This is an organisation which has successfully developed a whole system of non-governmental, international, civil society organisations and governmental institutions working together with youth. I was delighted to observe how motivated and inspired school students are by World Vision Georgia.
I am quite frequently asked by youth whether or not my planned activities will productively address key issues related to youth in Georgia. This is a key question which needs to be answered by all institutions and organisations working for youth in the country. I am very proud to have World Vision Georgia’s office in my country. It is an organisation, which not only takes care of youth participation, but also encourages youth to implement and to put their own ideas and initiatives into practice.

“I am very proud to have World Vision Georgia’s office in my country. It is an organisation which not only takes care of youth participation, but also encourages youth to implement and to put their own ideas and initiatives into practice.”
2014 was a demanding but dynamic and strategically effective year for World Vision Georgia. There were several changes to the Country Program framework with two strategic aims in mind:

1. To enable our programmes to reach the most vulnerable children;

2. To achieve sustainability in our actions at all levels of our work with communities, local authorities and national-level partners.

Our National Program, implemented through our presence and commitment on the ground in four geographical regions (Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Imereti and Gldani-Nadzaladevi) serve the overarching goal to promote the safety, protection and well-being of children in Georgia, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Project interventions were tailored in three core strategic directions: Child Protection and Welfare, Youth Engagement and Empowerment, and Early Childhood Development.
There was a strategic shift towards more cohesive programming, concentrating efforts that intentionally targeted the most vulnerable children and families across all programmes in World Vision Georgia. This empowered us to effectively reach out and assist those children who demonstrated some of the highest levels of vulnerability in the country. Efforts to achieve sustainable change were concentrated on at community, local administrative and national levels. With interventions that focused on direct service provision, frontline staff capacity-building, and advocacy on local and national levels, a holistic approach with long-term perspectives was established. While our national strategy has a 4-year life cycle, World Vision Georgia also develops yearly implementation plans in order to keep its finger on the pulse of local and national developments. It is with this flexible and proactive approach that, in 2014, we strategically contributed to the building of healthy, active and inclusive societies that supported the well-being and welfare of 52,916 of the most vulnerable people in Georgia.

“It is with this flexible and proactive approach that, in 2014, we strategically contributed to the building of healthy, active and inclusive societies that supported the well-being and welfare of 52,916 of the most vulnerable people in Georgia.”
IN BRIEF

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

In 1994 World Vision opened an office in Georgia’s capital, Tbilisi, in response to the country’s dire need for economic assistance and intervention in the lives of Georgia’s poor and vulnerable. Today, all of World Vision Georgia’s projects are built around two core competencies: children and youth, and poverty reduction. They build local capacity, contribute to the development of local and national policies, and are community-based and sustainable.
Area Development Programmes (ADPs):

In 2014 World Vision Georgia (WVG) worked in four dedicated geographical regions in Georgia; Imereti, Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and now, Tbilisi. Consequently, World Vision is now present in most of the regions of Georgia, regions which 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.

Sponsored Children:

7500 children were registered within WVG’s Sponsorship Programme in 2014, among them 5600 with “sponsored” status. All Sponsored Children live within World Vision ADPs and are linked directly to an external sponsor that provides monthly financial support to that child’s community. However, 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.
In 2014, WVG directly reached over **52,916 people** - of whom **10,589** were ***children/youth*** and **42,327** were ***adults*** - through advocacy, development and Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs programming. Furthermore, the advocacy efforts of WVG mobilized other local and international organisations and advocated towards decision makers at different levels for greater influence and impact on **1,046,500 children and youth** across the country.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

The overall goal of WVG is for children in Georgia to live in a healthy and active society that is inclusive, tolerant and provides equal opportunities for all.

In 2014, WVG implemented activities through three Strategic Objectives:

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:**
**STRENGTHEN CHILD WELFARE THROUGH SERVICES AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT**

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:**
**ENHANCE YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN ORDER TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGES AT INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEVEL**

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:**
**STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN**

The following report highlights the achievements accomplished within the above established objectives.
“The overall goal of WVG is for children in Georgia to live in a healthy and active society that is inclusive, tolerant and provides equal opportunities for all.”
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:
STRENGTHEN CHILD WELFARE THROUGH SERVICES AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Within this objective in 2014 we worked towards two priority strategic outcomes, as follows:

#1 Enhancing service access and delivery to respond to children’s needs and rights for health, education and protection;

#2 Improving the effectiveness of child welfare and protection policies and programmes (on local and national levels) to ensure inclusion of the most vulnerable children in mainstream society.

In 2014 World Vision set a major precedent by opening the very first set of innovative services for children living and working on the streets. WVG’s efforts to outreach and assist the most vulnerable children significantly progressed in 2014. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs under the EU/UNICEF project “Reaching Highly Vulnerable Children and their Families”, WVG launched two daycare/crisis intervention centres for children living and working on the streets in Tbilisi. Two mobile outreach teams were established in Tbilisi to conduct street outreach work, to establish a rapport with children living on the streets, and to provide direct assistance to them, such as the provision of emergency health care and clothing, and referral to various welfare services.
“In 2014 World Vision set a major precedent by opening the very first set of innovative services for children living and working on the streets.”
350 children living and working on the streets received various services through our mobile outreach team. The support services provided included healthcare (through the provision of emergency health and social fund in medical care); the obtaining of personal identification documentation, clothing, medicines, and the small repairs of homes. Referrals to daycare/crisis intervention centres, schools and other services were also given.

Two daycare/crisis intervention centres were opened in Tbilisi in 2014 and served 60 children from the street child population, assisting them in the process of meeting their basic and developmental care needs.

One mobile outreach team was launched in Kutaisi (West Georgia) to assess children living and working on the streets and to start their preparation for enrollment into various services. In 2014, this team reached out to approximately 80 children.

World Vision’s Family Support Services project for infants and toddlers continued to successfully provide day care services in Tbilisi for 25-6 year olds. This vital service supported vulnerable mothers, empowering them to sustain employment while child care for their children is provided. In an environment where mothers were often forced to leave their children in order to work, this initiative continued to promote the protection of the family unit.
52 member organisations of the Child and Youth Welfare Coalition (of which WVG is a founding member and current board member) continued a successful advocacy campaign on local and national levels in 4 key directions: prevention of child entry into the state care system; development of policy and programs for youth exiting the state care system; strengthening the juvenile justice system; and the protection and rehabilitation of victims of abuse. The Coalition is recognized as a key player in the field of child protection in Georgia. The most successful campaign conducted by the Coalition included combating the opening of a new large scale institution in Adjara, thus ensuring that an institution that was planned without recognition of basic child protection standards was not opened.
In 2014 World Vision Georgia (WVG) expanded its number of school-based youth clubs to 40, uniting more than 1200 youngsters. 6000 youngsters were involved in different non-formal education activities with the aim of enhancing and empowering their voices within their communities and at the national level.

In 2014, Georgia’s Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs updated its “National Youth Policy,” with WVG playing a major role in the working group that contributed to this strategic development. In 2014 WVG had a number of projects supported by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia in an ongoing effort to roll out its overall approach for 2014 to build sustainable and high impact results through strategic partnerships at community, local and national levels.
“In 2014 World Vision Georgia expanded its number of school-based youth clubs to 40, uniting more than 1200 youngsters.”
One of WVG’s major achievements in 2014 was the structuring and establishment of youth clubs and councils at various levels. School-based youth clubs were established in communities and youth councils were formed within three of World Vision’s ADP regions. These clubs and councils provide forums for the empowerment of youth, developing their skills and confidence and successfully giving them a voice at regional and, at times, national level. One of the most significant achievements that WVG accomplished in 2014 was the establishment of a strong network amongst former school club members (graduates who had moved on and enrolled in Tbilisi universities).

These youth, with skills and capacities developed by the school clubs, began to return to the “network” of clubs and mentor newer members. They even went so far as to establish their own initiative called “Youth for ADP” (Aim, Direction and Progress). World Vision actively supports this initiative.

Promoting non-formal education through outdoor activities became one of the priorities for the youth programme. A variety of sporting activities, summer camps and hiking were encouraged amongst young people. More than 500 youngsters participated in outdoor activities in the summer of 2014.
In addition, within WVG’s Kakheti programme, debate clubs for youth that promoted advocacy, confidence and strategic thinking were piloted. Up to 100 youngsters participated in debate competitions, meetings and public hearings at both the local and national level.

A lot of progress was made towards the building of capacities amongst youth in an effort to establish better environments of accountability within local and national authorities. Through a number of projects, skills were identified and enhanced that enabled youth to demand more from relevant authorities and seek more open and participatory policies-development approaches that will ultimately impact on their own well-being.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:
STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIROMENTS FOR CHILDREN

Human learning and development starts from the moment we are born and continues for the rest of our lives. Children need positive early learning experiences to help their intellectual, social and emotional development, laying the foundation for later school success. The positive impact of early and preschool education and care goes far beyond school performance. Economic research provides ample evidence that investment in Early Childhood Development (ECD) has one of the highest economic returns to affecting social skills, educational attainment, (including university attendance), professional advancement, and earnings. Therefore ECD Care is the bedrock of a person’s formation as a productive member of society.

In an ongoing effort to roll out WVG’s overall approach for 2014 to build sustainable and high impact results through strategic partnerships at community, local and national levels, we established a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and its partner organisations: UNICEF and the Open Society Institute (OSI). Collaboration areas covered policy development in the areas of the ‘Early and Preschool Education Strategy’, ‘Curriculum for 5-year-olds’, and ‘Preschool Service Standards’. Development of policies and frameworks in these areas were actively supported throughout 2014 by World Vision through the facilitation and organisation of national and regional workshops, meetings and focus groups.
“WVG continued its work, in 2014, as an active contributor and advocate for the implementation of Early Childhood Intervention services for children with disabilities and/or special needs, promoting inclusive approaches within the system of preschool education.”
Most significantly, WVg supported the groundwork for the development of a curriculum for 5-year-olds - prepared by international and national consultants of UNICEF. WVg will continue to support the process of curriculum validation and piloting.

In 2014 WVg focused a lot of attention on existing preschool services in the targeted project areas. To this end we conducted a comprehensive mapping of the needs of 42 kindergartens in Kakheti (19), Imereti (14) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (9).

Through the mapping exercise, existing capacities and gaps (such as teacher qualifications), and curriculums were identified and respective training topics and perspectives were determined to be conducted in the following year. This extensive and vital baseline survey lays the foundation for improved levels of service within over 42 kindergartens in Georgia, ultimately effecting the positive development and care of over 1,500 children.

Furthermore, WVg continued its work, in 2014, as an active contributor and advocator for the implementation of Early Childhood Intervention services for children with disabilities and/or special needs, promoting inclusive approaches within the system of preschool education. The above mapping of kindergartens also included an understanding of gaps in the provision of basic necessary services for children with disabilities and/or special needs. This laid the groundwork for World Vision to support, in 2015, the equipping of childcare facilities and schools with necessary inclusive infrastructures and materials.

In 2014 a priority focus was put on the skills development of parents of children with disabilities.
In the scope of the project two five-day camps were held for children with disabilities and their parents – one for parents in Samtskhe-Javakheti (held in Bakuriani in August) and one for those in Imereti (held in Kobuleti in November).

Parents met successfully employed people with disabilities and received psychological counseling and information on working with children from an occupation therapist, neuropsychologist and physiological therapist. They also underwent several hours of group counseling. At the same time, their children were occupied with developmental activities under the supervision of specialists. Based on the knowledge and bonds developed during the trainings, parent clubs were formed in both regions and monthly meetings held. A variety of specialists were invited to empower and help the parents to advocate their children’s rights.
One of the major achievements in 2014 was the implementation of WVG’s first vulnerability mapping tool. With the support of the Georgian Association of Social Workers, WVG developed a tool for vulnerability assessment. To date, the tool has been applied in the Kakheti region with the plan to replicate the assessment in three additional areas.


Most interestingly, the tool was used with both groups of children currently within World Vision’s Programmes and with groups who are not. It was shown that 81% of children in the New Group (children not currently within World Vision’s programmes) are at high risk of vulnerability and require immediate intervention, whereas the respective percentage for the Old Group (children currently within World Vision’s programmes) is 33%.
The results demonstrate that while existing programmes are having measurable and positive impact with regards to vulnerability levels, there are persisting high-level needs in this region that World Vision can now access.

With this rigorous approach, WVG continues to develop and introduce leading approaches to baseline assessments in the region and strives towards accessing the most vulnerable children.

“Through rigorous survey development, distribution, data collection and analysis, WVG reached 1300 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 Georgia’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 2014, 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 relevant communities was encouraged and facilitated with a total of 308 people (including 52 youth) across three regional programmes formerly involved in the design and re-design phase of programmes in 2014.

WORKING HAND-IN-HAND WITH PARTNERS:

Clear and established Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with all World Vision Georgia partners in 2014, with the aim of establishing partnerships that will protect, support and promote the well-being of children. In addition, all partners were selected through rigorous screening processes that ensured their programmatic and financial approaches were in-line with established international best practices. Partners also have the reverse benefit of adding a level of accountability to WVG throughout the programme design phase. Their constant participation brings external expert analysis to the process, ensuring needs are relevant and actions are effective.
FUNDING FROM WORLD VISION SUPPORT OFFICES AROUND THE GLOBE:

TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR 2014 WAS USD 3,632,579
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR 2014 WAS USD 3,632,579

WITH THANKS TO OUR EXTERNAL DONORS WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE:

- UNICEF
- European Commission (EC)
- Australian Development Agency (ADA)
- Tbilisi Mayor’s Office
- State Municipality
**Providing Shelter and a Family Environment to Georgia’s Most Vulnerable Children**

Giorgi, 15, was living alone in a 10 square meter room, without electricity or running water, before coming to World Vision Georgia’s Crisis Intervention Centre. He had been spending the majority of his time on the streets of Tbilisi selling small icons and earning money for food. He had never attended school. If the mobile group members had not approached him and explained the option of staying in better conditions, in a friendly environment and having a chance to study, he would be still on the streets.

“I’m very happy I came here,” Giorgi says. “Here, I study reading, drawing and am also respected by people. I already have friends and I feel that I’m not alone anymore.”

“If left to their own devices these children could end up in prison, selling drugs, committing petty crimes or in prostitution. Without help they will never leave the streets,” - said Maya Mgelashvili, World Vision’s Child Protection, Services and Advocacy Manager.

World Vision Georgia aims to assist and support children and youth living or working on the street. This initiative is funded by the European Union, led by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, and UNICEF, and implemented in cooperation with partners Caritas and Child and Environment. In the frame of the project three mobile groups work on the streets with children, trying to earn their trust so that their messages of encouragement to leave the streets for shelters and then build new lives are heard and heeded.
“I’m very happy I came here,” Giorgi says. “Here, I study reading, drawing and am also respected by people. I already have friends and I feel that I’m not alone anymore.”
World Vision Georgia

#18/17 Imedashvili Street, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia.
Phone: (+995 32) 215 75 15
Fax: (+995 32) 215 75 16

World Vision Georgia
http://www.wvi.org/georgia