



# World Vision Afghanistan Annual Report 2017

A one-year journey of transformation

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This annual report provides an overview of the work done by World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) from October 2016 to September 2017.

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A warm thank you to all WVA staff who have contributed to this report.

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## Country Coordinating Team

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## National Director's Message

It is once again a privilege to provide a picture of Afghanistan that is often hidden beneath the news of violence and suffering that most of the world is exposed to through the media. The picture this report intends to bring to light is one of hope – hope taking root in the midst of all this fragility and bearing fruit in the lives (the families, the communities) of some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

It is this seldom seen, positive side of the country, that we at World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) feel so privileged to have been a part of over the past year and I want to express my deep appreciation to all my colleagues who continue to work so hard so that life may be easier for so many in this country. Of course, the many positive outcomes presented in this report would not have been possible without all the generous support and assistance received from others around the world, both within World Vision and in the greater global community. Over

the past year, we have worked closely with various international donors, with caring individuals, with national government and non-government partners, and most importantly, with Afghan community and religious leaders.

I also want to highlight that in 2017 WVA joined World Vision's global campaign *It takes a world to end violence against children*. Through this campaign we are creating a network of individual and organisational social activists to jointly address the issues of early child and forced marriage that affects many Afghan girls. This will enable these girls to enjoy their childhoods, as well as giving them the opportunity to go to school to help prepare them for a better future.

**Jim Alexander**  
**National Director**  
**World Vision Afghanistan**





# Who we are

We, at WVA, are planting seeds of hope in the hearts of Afghan girls and boys. We believe that our loving care can advance the potential of these children, to rebuild the beauty of Afghanistan, making it a place that is once again filled with the joyful laughter of children – a place free from violence and poverty.

For more than 15 years, we have been working for, and with, Afghan children and their families. Fulfilling the physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual needs of children is a fundamental principle we adhere to. We understand that children are precious and wonderful gifts bestowed upon us from God and we recognise the critical responsibility that God has given us to care for these little ones.

We work to educate Afghan children to assure the future social harmony, peace and economic prosperity of Afghanistan. We focus upon quality education to enrich children's curious and explorative minds so that they can acquire the relevant knowledge and skills to be engaged in society and become productive citizens.

We believe that proper health and nutrition is critical for children to grow and develop to their full potential. We want to ensure that they drink clean water and that their bodies are strong to guard against common childhood diseases like diarrhea and pneumonia that take so many of their lives.

We stand with others for the protection of Afghan children. We awaken children, families and communities to safeguard all children from the harms inflicted on their bodies, emotions and minds. We seek the best interests of children and the fulfillment of their rights so that no child is left behind.

We strive towards the fulfillment of every child's most basic needs. We provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for their families to enable them to feed and provide for their children's needs, particularly when it comes to their health and education.

## Our Call and Aspiration

We are committed to inspiring hope and creating a better future for Afghan children, their families and their communities.







## Seven Programmatic Impact Areas



Improving the health status of mothers and children



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)



Improving children's access to quality education



Ensuring children are protected and cared for



Creating livelihood opportunities for the poor and marginalised

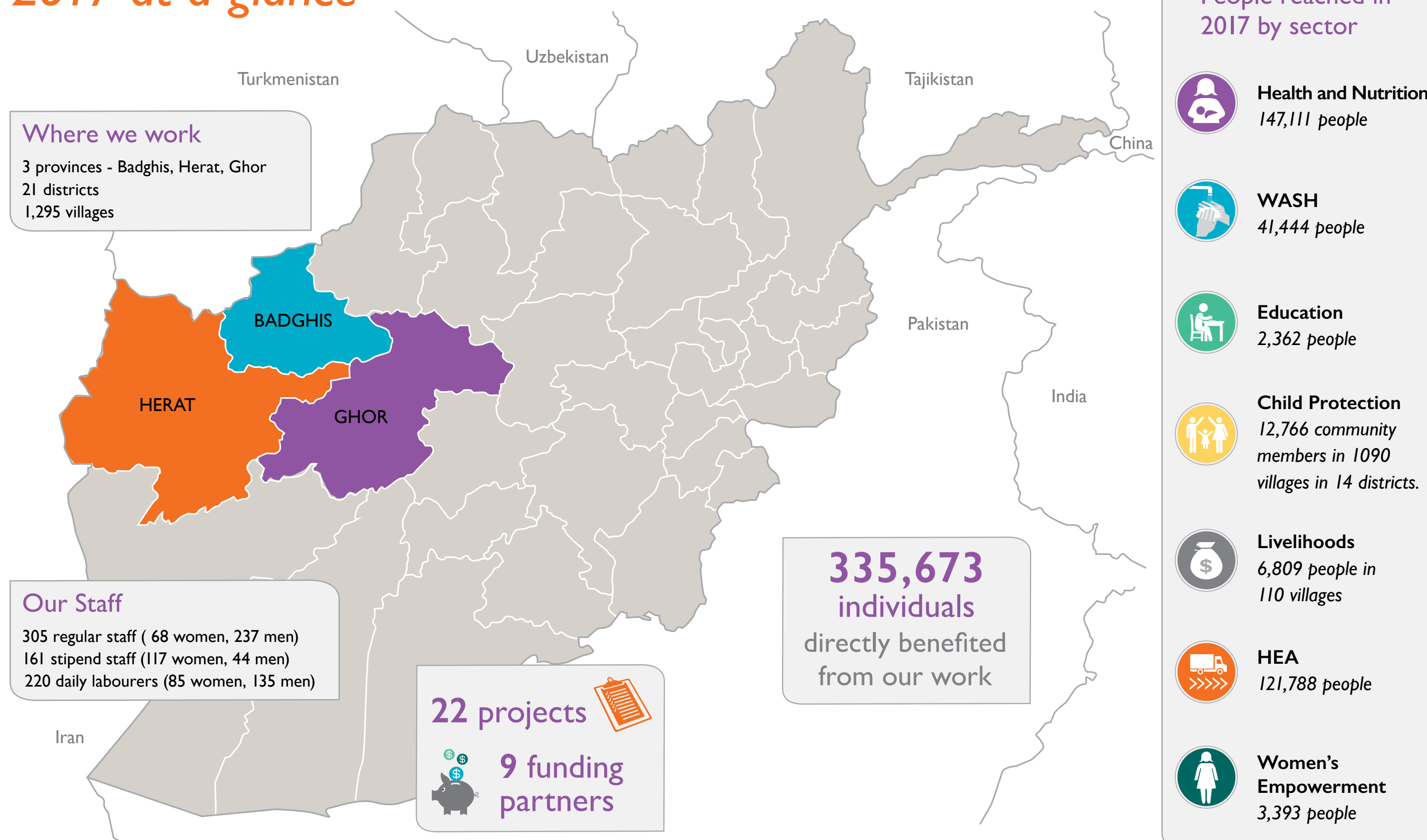


Responding to disaster



Empowering women and religious leaders to engage in social change and civil society.

# 2017 at a glance





## Sectors Overview





## Mother, Child Health and Nutrition

Children and their families enjoy good health and are well-nourished

We work to address the causes of malnutrition with special focus on children under 5, pregnant women and mothers. We aim to ensure mothers and children are well nourished, protected from infection and disease, and have access to essential health services. We focus on community-based nutrition interventions for both mothers and children, helping them to become aware of locally available nutritious food, as well as learning new ways to prepare meals.

We increased access to health and nutrition services to vulnerable communities living in remote areas, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, through 284 mobile health teams which travelled regularly to these locations to provide services.

We continued to provide health services to vulnerable children, working in the streets of Herat City. The number of children presenting with health ailments in our Street Children Enhancement Centre increased this year, driven by the challenging economic situation, as well as the increasing numbers of IDPs and returnees arriving in Herat.

We provided refresher courses for health care personnel to equip them with updated knowledge.

We conducted awareness-raising sessions for mothers on the subject of infant and young child feeding and provided counselling services for them related to child health and care.

**Innovation:** We pioneered the use of the mHealth application and technology for Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Growth Monitoring Promotion (GMP), reporting at the health facility level. Health facilities using the application registered 4,132 children (1,958 males and 2,174 females). This mobile-based health platform has enabled health facilities to analyse and share information with the Department of Public Health (and other partners) at the touch of a button, significantly reducing paperwork.

### Beneficiaries in 2017

147,111 people (44,549 boys, 54,167 girls, 1,095 men, 47,300 women)

**Impact:** Our health programming in three provinces has contributed to a reduction in mortality of children under 5 from 97/1000 live births in 2010 to 55/1000 live births in 2017 .

### Partners

- Ministry and Departments of Public Health
- Department of Labour and Social Affairs



*'I have learned about the importance of vaccinations, handwashing and breastfeeding. My children's appetites have increased and I am noticing [positive] changes.' – Zahra, a mother of two, attending her seventh nutrition session.*



## Education

Children and youth are educated for life

Our work in this sector ensures that children, and especially girls, are educated for life by improving the quality of education and learning outcomes at different stages of their school life. We do this by developing their readiness for entering school, improving the infrastructure of schools, connecting them to remedial education programmes and strengthening school management committees.

We established fourteen Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres for 420 children aged 6 years and their mothers/caregivers. In these centres, children learn basic literacy, numeracy and foundational life skills in a safe environment for nine months as preparation for entering school. The mothers/caregivers also receive extensive lessons in parenting skills and health and hygiene practices during these sessions.

We supported the creation of 32 adolescent groups with approximately 30 members per group, consisting of both in-school and out-of-school children. Through these groups and peer-to-peer sessions, adolescents shared learnings and experiences related to gender, child-protection, self-expression and life skills, among other pertinent social topics.

We assisted highly vulnerable children with tutorial classes and this has greatly improved the performance of these children in school.

**Innovation:** We designed a pilot project which aims to improve access to non-formal education through innovative mobile technology to improve the lives of 720 vulnerable children and their families who are living in remote areas of Herat and Badghis provinces. The technology uses an Interactive Voice Educational System through regular mobile phones, to deliver story-based messages on maternal and child health and nutrition; hygiene and sanitation; positive parenting; and literacy.

### Beneficiaries in 2017

2,362 people (228 men, 768 women, 836 boys, 530 girls)

**Impact:** One of our project assessments showed that 85% of children who graduated from our ECD centres scored above 70% on their school readiness assessment.

Families have increased engagement in supporting early childhood development at home as indicated by the increase in the number of children who have three or more reading materials at home from 14.8% to 45.7%.

### Partners

National and Provincial Departments of Education



*'I used to [physically discipline] my children over small things, but now I know that nothing is more powerful than loving language. I thank World Vision for coming to our village and constructing the centre for our children.' – Atefa, mother of a child attending a WVA ECD centre.*



## Livelihoods

Parents and caregivers have sustainable livelihoods so that they can provide well for their children's needs

Our livelihoods interventions enabled families to better provide for their children through increasing agricultural production, improving livestock management, and small businesses. We also enhanced market access for farmers and entrepreneurs, and equipped women, people living with disabilities, and youth with income generation skills.

In 2017 we helped vulnerable farmers increase their agricultural production by constructing irrigation infrastructure covering 170 hectares.

We distributed high-yielding, drought-tolerant wheat seed to farmers which they reported resulted in a 50% increase in their yields, contributing to household food security.

We facilitated the formation of producer groups which have created a platform for farmers to effectively engage markets through collective bargaining and enhanced representation. The producer groups have been trained on group cohesion as well as key principles related to market engagement.

We conducted an Economic Conference and National Producers' Exhibition in Badghis with the aim of creating linkages between value chain actors, including manufacturers and producers. The conference, which was opened by Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of the Government of Afghanistan,

showcased 36 businesses from Herat and Badghis across three days. The event generated just over US\$9,800 in sales for local businesses including our producer groups. Four companies have now opened branches in Badghis as a result of the conference.

We facilitated the establishment of the first ever women-centred market for 40 women entrepreneurs in Badghis province. The majority of the sellers in the women's market are our producer and saving groups' members who are able to earn an income of US\$176 per month through the selling of jam, pickles, soap and different types of cookies.

### Beneficiaries in 2017

6,809 (682 men, 453 women, 2,780 boys, 2,894 girls) in 110 villages

**Impact:** One of our mid-term evaluation assessments showed that as a result of our livelihoods projects, vulnerable households reduced their months of food insufficiency from 7.53 to 1.0.

### Partners

- Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
- Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
- Department of Labour and Social Affairs
- Department of Women's Affairs
- Community Development Councils

*'Today, I am pleased to be a part of this inauguration of a new venture supported by WVA and made possible by this group of women. These efforts and initiatives will make our women self-sufficient and a role model for other women who have otherwise seen only the four walls of their home. I, in turn, on behalf of these women, will advocate to other agencies to request them to buy their required bread from these women.'* – Zarquan Shirzad, the director of DoWA.





## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Children and their families have access to clean water and sanitation facilities

Our work in WASH focuses on providing children and families with access to clean drinking water, promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices, and the construction of toilets in schools, clinics and communities. We work towards communities becoming 'open-defecation-free' by developing both attitudes and behaviour that results in a healthier environment.

In 2017 we constructed four new drinking water networks, a solar-powered reverse osmosis unit for water treatment, and rehabilitated 14 community water systems that benefited 13,142 individuals (3303 boys, 3826 girls, 2929 men, 3084 women).

We established community structures to manage the constructed water systems through the formation of 15 water management groups. Communities are now taking the lead in maintaining their water systems through community fee collection mechanisms that cover repair and maintenance costs.

We worked with 7 Mullahs in Herat on the development of an Islam-oriented WASH instruction guide that religious leaders can use as a reference for community WASH education.

We assisted community members in Badghis to write submissions to local government for water systems construction.

We provided safe drinking water facilities, toilets, established/rehabilitated handwashing stations for schools and health facilities and facilitated education programmes on safe water use.

We distributed hygiene kits to parents/caregivers and conducted awareness-raising sessions and hygiene campaigns on health-related issues in communities and clinics.

### Beneficiaries in 2017

41,444 people (8,373 men, 11,324 women, 11,597 boys, 10,150 girls) in 15 villages

**Impact:** We trained Mullahs to share key hygiene messages from the Islamic perspective with their communities during Friday prayers. As a result, households in Badghis constructed their own handwashing and toilet facilities.

### Partners

- Ministry and Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Education



'Today, I slept more in the morning and only walked twenty minutes to collect the water from the tap. I had enough time to do my school homework and play with my friends. In school, our biology teacher always said that clean water is tasteless and without colour and smell. Today, for first time, I was able to taste real clean water.' – Suleiman, 14.



## Child Protection

Ensure children are protected and cared for

Our work in child protection focuses on strengthening formal and informal systems in the community through engaging children, families, community and government in discussions about how to prevent and respond to incidents that harm children, as well as the promotion of safe and friendly environments for children.

In 2017 we worked with the most vulnerable children and adolescents to increase their resilience through developing their life skills in areas such as solving problems, decision-making, interpersonal relations, effective communication and peacebuilding.

We continued our child-friendly centre for street working and internally displaced children, providing them with opportunities for play and interaction with their peers. We also provided Psychological First Aid, basic health and remedial education services for street children at the centre. In addition to this, we conducted consultation sessions and trainings for the families of these children, highlighting issues such as the importance of education, positive parenting, child marriage, child labour, corporal punishment and sexual exploitation.

We empowered and worked with religious leaders to be change agents for preventing child protection related incidents, such as child and forced marriage.

We launched a campaign themed 'It takes all of us to end child and forced marriage of Afghan girls'. (Read more information about this campaign under advocacy below).

We established peace promoter taskforces and 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.

### Beneficiaries in 2017

12,766 community members (4,873 boys, 2,083 girls, 2,833 men, 2,977 women) in 1090 villages in 14 districts.

### Partners

- National and Provincial Department of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
- Department of Religious Affairs
- Ministry and Department of Labour and Social Affairs



*'I am studying even harder than before to reach my dream of becoming a teacher. I am so happy. I feel relieved...like something heavy has been lifted from my shoulders.' – Khatema, who was recently relieved of a challenging family-related financial problem.*



## Women's Empowerment

We have emerged as a recognised leader in gender advancement through our innovative approach of partnering with Islamic religious leaders at multiple levels to facilitate the interchange between both male and female community-based organisations, leading to joint identification and actionable responses to issues affecting women and girls.

We trained women in leadership skills such as communication, meeting facilitation, and community engagement. This boosted the confidence of women, resulting in increased participation in political processes and decision-making.

In 2017 we supported women's shuras (councils) in a community engagement process to identify development priorities within their communities. As a result, we disbursed 24 small grants (US\$3,000 each) which were administered by the women's shuras in order to empower them economically. We also helped them to coordinate district-level meetings for women in their communities where they discussed issues affecting them.

We continued with increasing literacy among women, enabling them to read and write.

We worked with the staff at the Department of Women's Affairs in Herat and Ghor provinces on conflict-analysis tools and methods, oriented towards implementing the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security.

We trained religious leaders on gender in Islam, resulting in 61.8% of them now being supportive of women participating in political processes within their communities, as well as decision-making within their households. 69.3% of surveyed community members mentioned that they had attended at least one prayer session where key messages on women's rights and participation had been presented by their religious leader.

### Beneficiaries in 2017

3,393 individuals (1673 Women, 1729 Men)

**Impact:** 38.1% increase in the number of women now participating in decision-making, based on findings from the women's empowerment project evaluation.

### Partners

- Department of Women's Affairs
- Department of Religious Affairs



*'Yesterday, my husband bought me a blue scarf with red flowers on it. I couldn't be happier than I am. My children are going to school. My husband's behaviour has changed towards me and I am participating in a social gathering session where I can talk and share my ideas.'* – Najma, a WVA Community Change Group member, after receiving her first ever gift from her husband.



# Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA)

We bring life-saving support in times of disaster through our long-term rehabilitation programming, helping communities affected by natural disaster or conflict to rebuild their lives. We know that communities in our operational areas are prone to unforeseen, severe natural and man-made disasters, leaving them in need of external assistance. Herat and Badghis provinces also host protracted IDPs who in the past were driven out of their communities by persistent insecurity and have not been able to return. Herat has also become a destination of choice for many returnee refugees from Iran, who are attracted by the hope of getting employment and a better life in Herat City.

In 2017, due to high global acute malnutrition among IDPs and returnee refugees in Herat and Badghis provinces, we provided emergency mobile health services for pregnant and lactating women, and additional nutrition assistance for their children.

We also supported insecure IDPs residing in areas around urban Herat (where there is limited market functionality) by providing emergency food assistance through cash transfers.

## Beneficiaries in 2017

121,788 people (32,976 boys, 34,797 girls, 21,192 men, 32,823 women)

## Innovation:

While we have extensive experience in implementing food and cash-based programming in rural settings, we implemented our first cash-based urban emergency project this year. Through the urban restricted cash transfer project, we managed to combine food commodities and other essential non-food items, particularly those required for food preparation and hygiene on the list of goods allowable for purchase by project beneficiaries. We also partnered with mobile phone service providers who executed the critical role of facilitating monthly cash disbursements to targeted beneficiaries, overcoming the tedious process of printing paper vouchers.

## Partners

- Department of Public Health
- Department of Women's Affairs
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development



*'Today I came here because my youngest child has diarrhea. From my home to here is a 20-minute walk. As soon as I learned that the team had come to the village I brought my children here to be checked!' – Jamila, mother of a three-year-old boy who lives in an IDP area.*



# Advocacy

Advocacy is also an essential element of our work, along with long-term community development and emergency response. Our advocacy work ensures that community transformation is sustainable and scalable. As we work alongside communities to build a better world for their children, we empower them to identify and address challenges in the policies, systems, structures, practices and attitudes that make it difficult for vulnerable children and their families to experience life in all its fullness.

## Child Protection – It Takes A World

In 2017 we joined World Vision's global campaign *It takes a world to end violence against children*. Through this campaign we are addressing the issue of early child and forced marriage which affects many Afghan girls. Putting an end to this practice will enable these girls to enjoy their childhood, as well as giving them the opportunity to go to school to help prepare them for a better future. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Religious Affairs, engaging religious leaders in the push for women's empowerment and the campaign to end child and forced marriage. We also continued our collaborative partnerships with various groups such as university faculties and students, women's council members, UN agencies, community activist groups, health workers and the media, in order to make the campaign actionable on a large scale. To date, religious leaders have extended the campaign to 700 individuals in 7 districts. 50 midwives and doctors have joined the advocacy effort, as well as 1000 school students.

## Mother, Child Health and Nutrition

Under our health sector we successfully advocated for adequate human resources through working groups and meetings at local and national levels. As a result, the Ministry of Health added a nutrition nurse (Nutrition Counsellor) into the standards for the basic package of health services (BPHS structure). These new staff members are responsible for delivering nutrition-specific services and providing consultations to health clinic clients.

## Peacebuilding

Promotion of a culture of peace is an integral part of WVA programming where discussions have been ongoing with the Department of Education in Herat and Ghor provinces to include peace education in schools. Since August 2016, WVA has been working through partners in engaging the Ministry of Education to include peace education as part of the core education curriculum. This will contribute to building a culture of peace and non-violent conflict resolution, leading to peaceful and safe communities for children to live and thrive in. While this is still a work in progress, peace education was included in the curriculum at some targeted schools (three in Herat and two in Ghor) as a pilot subject and, following a final evaluation, it is likely to be integrated into the education system as a main subject.





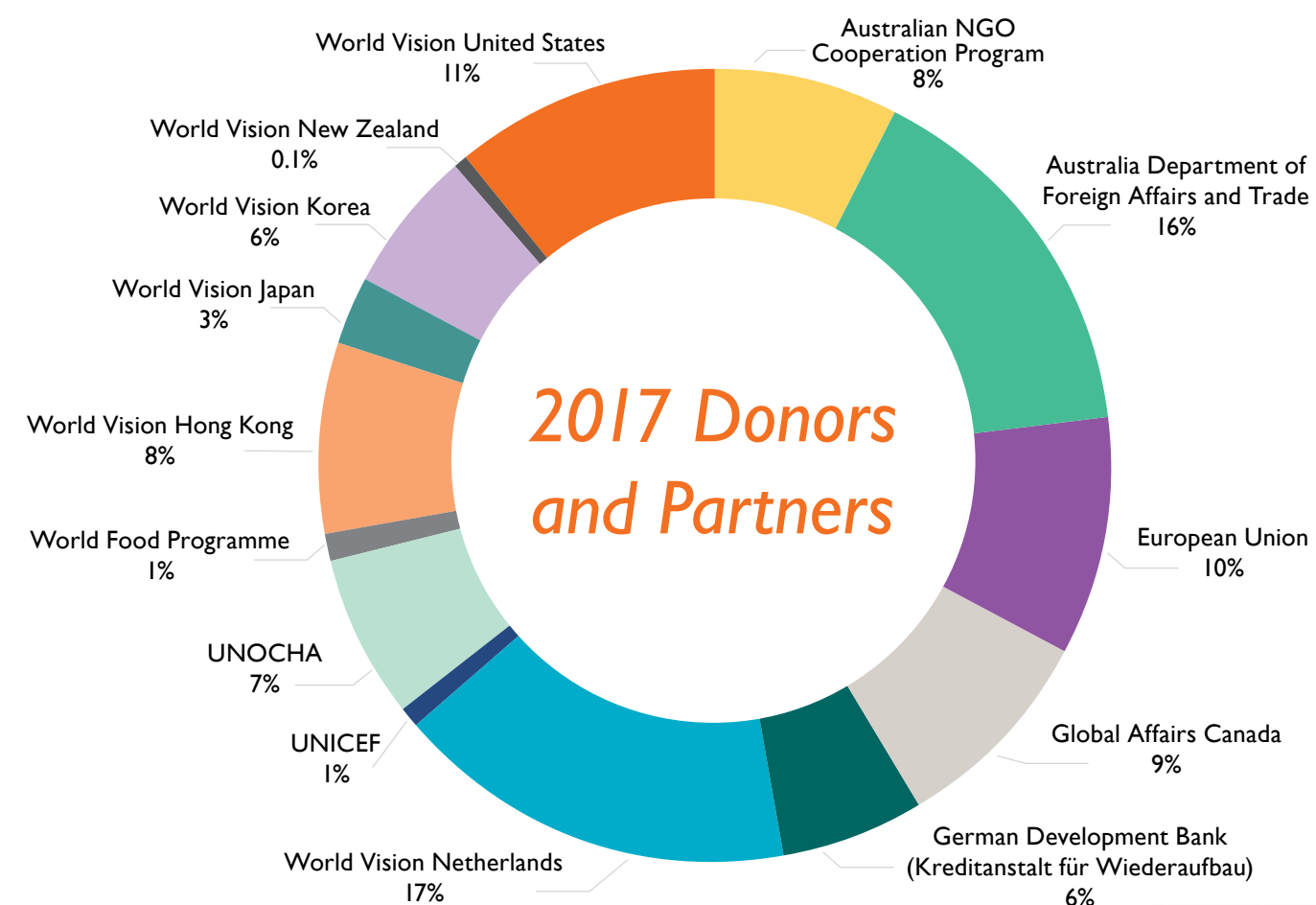
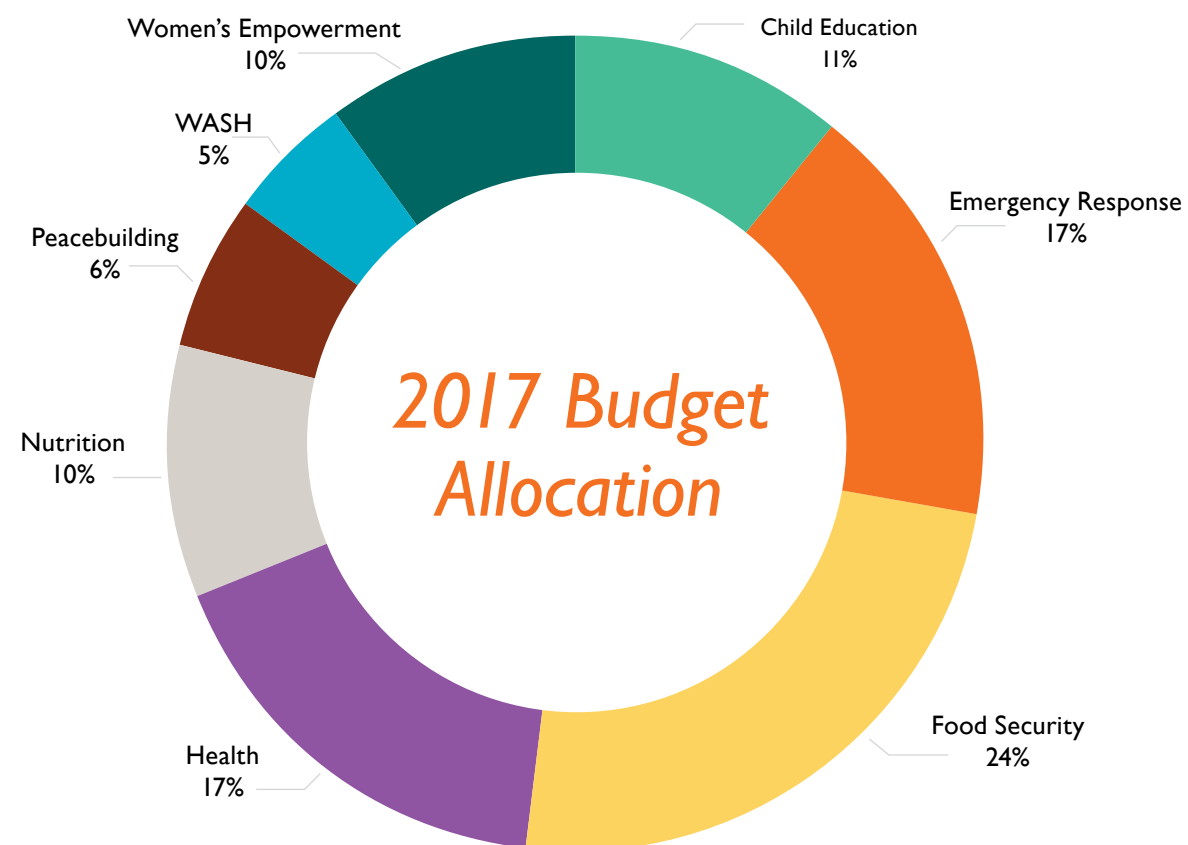


## Publications and Research

- Women's Empowerment Project Evaluation Report
- Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme Midterm Evaluation Report
- Area integrated programme – Badghis (baseline)
- Learning for life project – Herat (baseline)

If you are interested in reading these reports, please contact Jonathan Chifamba, Programmes Manager. Email: [Jonathan\\_Chifamba@wvi.org](mailto:Jonathan_Chifamba@wvi.org)





**Total FY17 Expenditure: US\$7,847,994** including contributions from World Vision support offices.  
**Note:** The financial figures include both cash and the cash value of gifts-in-kind (GIK).

**World Vision support offices active in partnership with World Vision Afghanistan:**

WV Australia	WV Canada	WV United States	WV Hong Kong
WV Korea	WV Japan	WV New Zealand	WV Netherlands
WV Germany			





*Thank you for making  
it possible!*





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World Vision is a global relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.