

# World Vision Afghanistan Annual Report 2018

A one-year journey among Afghan communities



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This annual report provides an overview of the work done by World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) from October 2017 to September 2018.

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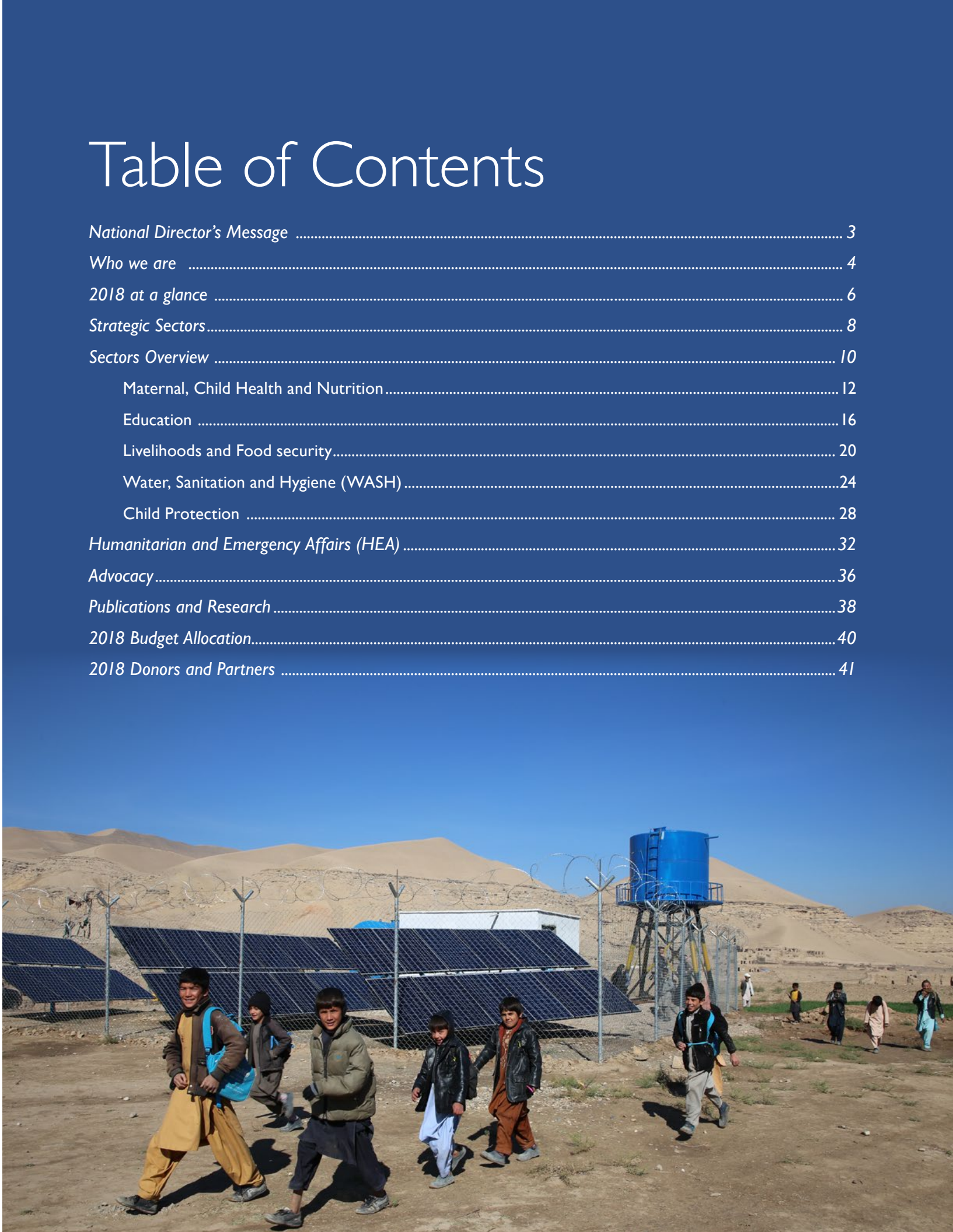
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# National Director's Message

**T**HE STRATEGIC GOAL of World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) is: 'improved survival and well-being of Afghan girls and boys, building the foundations for a better future for them, their families, and their communities.' In this annual report you will find clear examples of how we pursued that goal in 2018 and the programmatic results that have benefited hundreds of thousands of some of the world's most vulnerable children and their families.

Just prior to the start of the year we became aware that the agricultural land (upon which nearly all Afghans in the remote areas where we work depend upon for survival) was too dry for the winter planting season. Several months later it was determined that those crops had failed. Several months after that it became apparent there would also be no spring planting season. The worst drought that farmers had seen in their lifetime led to the destruction of up to 75 per cent of family livestock; food reserves were quickly depleted, water wells dried up, mother and child malnutrition rates skyrocketed, and hundreds of thousands of people were displaced – forced to leave their homes and lands in order to survive. 20 out of the country's 34 provinces have been affected. More than 17 million people live in the provinces most severely affected by drought, of which 10.5 million have been affected and 4 million require an inter-sectoral response to survive.

Given our National Campaign of ending early child marriage for Afghan girls, it was of great concern to us that one provincial drought-related rapid needs assessment indicated that 52 per cent of families had, or were considering, marrying off their young daughters as a way to cope with the lack of food caused by the drought – bride price income, and one less hungry child to feed.

World Vision and its partners WFP and the UNOCHA Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund were first responders to the developing crisis in the hardest hit areas that no other organisations had access to. In a matter of a few months we scaled up and emerged as a lead agency carrying out rapid emergency response in the western region of the country through food security, WASH, and life-saving mobile health care activities, while at the same time continuing to attend to our core business of long-term sustainable development.

We have been stretched by rapid growth but not overcome; we have been heartbroken by the degree of suffering we encounter on a daily basis but not dismayed, because we are not alone in responding to it. To all our partners, within the global World Vision family and beyond, who have stood with us, supported us, and who chose not to turn away from the plight of the Afghan people, we extend to you our deepest appreciation.

Jim Alexander  
National Director  
World Vision Afghanistan





# Who we are

IN 2001 WORLD VISION began its work in Afghanistan with an emergency response.

Within a few years the organisation moved toward rehabilitation and then on to long term development programming. Since 2011, WVA has focused its operations in Herat, Ghor and Badghis provinces in the western region of the country, including Bamiyan. WVA strives

to ensure all children experience good health, are educated for life, are cared for, protected, and are participating in efforts to achieve these basic needs. We are proud to say that we have an excellent reputation among Afghan communities and feel privileged to be widely accepted in the provinces in which we work. WVA views project implementation as a partnership.





## 2018 at a glance

### Where we work

*In the western region of Afghanistan including Bamiyan.*

*Working in four provinces: Badghis, Herat, Ghor, Bamiyan  
16 districts  
819 villages*



### Our staff

*208 regular staff  
(35 women, 173 men)  
157 stipend staff  
(123 women, 34 men)  
453 daily labourers  
(90 women, 363 men)  
8 international staff  
(4 women, 4 men)*



**852,391**

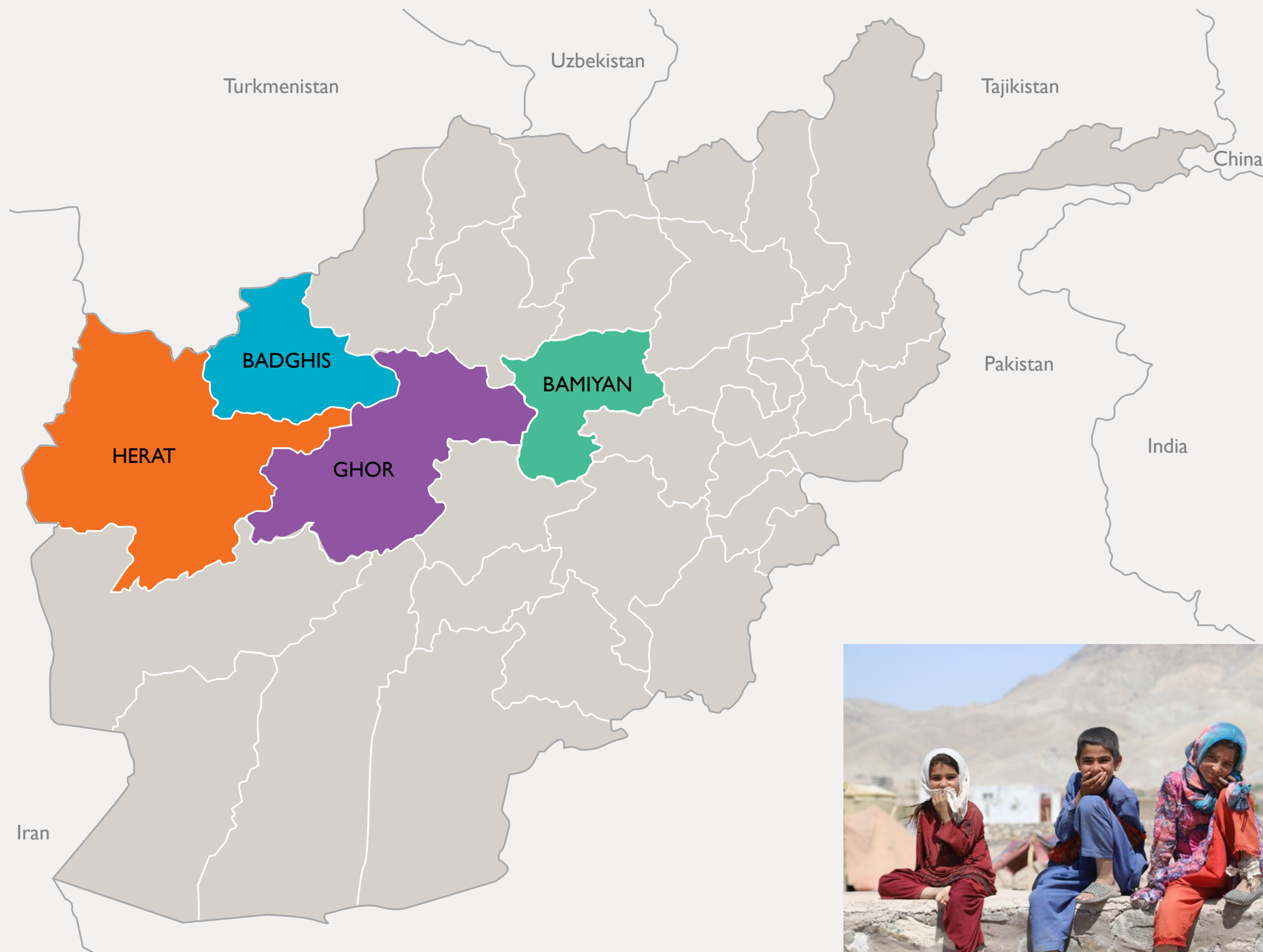
*individuals directly benefited from our work.*



**33 projects**



**9 funding partners**







## Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and WASH

that benefits girls and boys under 5.



## Education

with a primary emphasis on the reading and writing skills for primary school age and out of school girls and boys, especially girls.

## Child Protection

to empower girls and boys, families, communities, government and other partners to prevent and respond to exploitation, neglect, abuse, and other forms of violence, especially affecting girls.



# Strategic Sectors

## Livelihoods

that enable families to feed and provide for their girls' and boys' needs, particularly related to their health and education.





# Sectors Overview





# Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition



We address the cause of malnutrition, with special focus on children under 5, as well as women of childbearing age. This includes programmes on maternal and child health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), midwifery trainings, as well as strengthening health care systems. We also focus on building the capacity of the Family Health Action (FHA) group members and female community health workers (CHWs) on home-based lifesaving skills in order to save lives in remote and isolated communities.

Furthermore, World Vision provides psychosocial support for protracted internally displaced persons (IDPs). Interventions are implemented based on international best practices and evidence, such as the provision of primary health care services, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), community midwifery education, home-based lifesaving skills (HBLSS), and integrated WASH approaches.



**4,914 children**  
0 to 59 months admitted  
for treatment of acute  
malnutrition.



**1,600  
individuals**  
trained in Psychological  
First Aid.



**1,540 pregnant  
women**  
attended by a skilled  
birth attendants.



**49,959  
caregivers**  
received infant and young child  
feeding counselling training.



**27 health  
professionals**  
trained on management  
of acute malnutrition.



**10,591  
individuals**  
participated in community  
health and awareness sessions.



**2,566 trained FHA  
group members**  
provided pregnant & lactating  
women and newborn care  
services according to HBLSS  
approaches.



**106,120 vulner-  
able individuals**  
received lifesaving primary  
health and nutrition care  
services.



**819 malnourished  
pregnant &  
lactating women**  
received a fortified super  
cereal as part of a Targeted  
Supplementary Feeding  
Programme.

**Beneficiaries in 2018: 147,493 individuals**





**Impact:** 2,756 malnourished children (1,531 girls, 1,225 boys) treated .

### Partners

- Ministry and Departments of Public Health
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Department of Labour and Social Affairs

Nasima was on the verge of death when Gulbibi, in an act of desperation, took her to the World Vision mobile health clinic that serves the IDP area. The little girl looked pale, was in turn restless and lethargic, and was suffering from malnutrition. At the mobile clinic she was given Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Gulbibi was instructed on proper hygiene practices. Since her visit over a month ago, Nasima's weight has increased from 8 kilograms to 8.5. 'I don't know her exact weight,' Gulbibi says with a smile, 'but I can feel she is getting heavier day by day.'



# Education




We work to increase access to quality learning for out of school children, children in remote and under-served communities through community-based education (CBE), remedial education and early childhood development (ECD) programming and mobile technology. To sustain positive values

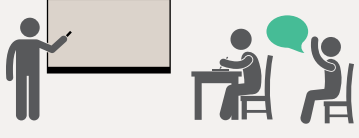
and behaviour changes, we train parents, primary caregivers and community leaders on psychosocial support. We also work with teachers to foster child-centered, play-based methodologies, and positive disciplinary methods to improve the attainment of basic literacy, numeracy and learning outcomes.


  
**40 community  
-based ECD  
centres**  
established



  
**10 CBE centres**  
established, providing  
CBE in targeted  
communities

  
**960 children**  
currently attending ECD  
classes

  
**114 teachers**  
completed training in subject  
based, learner-centred  
pedagogical approaches and  
psychosocial support training

  
**300 children**  
currently enrolled and  
attending a structured learning  
institution of CBE


  
**935 parents/  
caregivers**  
received parental  
education



  
**70 ECD manage-  
ment committee  
members**  
trained on Community  
Change model

  
**184 community  
leaders/actors**  
trained in child rights  
protection issues (violence,  
early marriage, child labour  
exploitation, etc.)

  
**2,920 community  
members**  
reached through awareness-  
raising sessions and access to  
education information

  
**89% of last year's  
ECD children**  
successfully participated in  
Grade 1 in primary schools

**Beneficiaries in 2018: 13,035 individuals**





**Impact:** For the first time, in addition to conducting regular training sessions for mothers, we trained 420 fathers on ECD and positive parenting in 2018. Recognising the role of male caregivers in parenting (and especially in early childhood development) has helped families of children in ECD spaces to adopt a holistic, similar approach on child rearing.

### Partners

- Ministry and Department of Education

Nazifa, 8, is one of the lucky girls who was able to participate in ECD classes two years ago. Today, she is one of the best students in her second grade class at the local public school. 'I am very proud to be a parent of a child that attended and completed the ECD programme,' says Nazifa's mother. 'The programme prepared my daughter for school with indispensable educational knowledge. It also taught her lifelong everyday knowledge essential to surviving in today's society. I really hope that I can include my younger son in ECD class and I hope that Nazifa, like you [WV staff], will help children in-need in future.'



## Livelihoods and Food security



World Vision works with families to strengthen their food and income security to enable them to meet the needs of their children. To achieve this, World Vision works with communities and government departments to develop irrigation infrastructure, as well as supporting farming families in the use of improved agricultural practices such as using drought-tolerant, high-yielding, short season seed varieties, and enhancing the participation of farmers in formal

and informal crop and livestock value chains. World Vision is also working with communities on sustainable natural resource utilisation, including the sustainable extraction of groundwater for irrigation purposes; flood protection, and tree planting. World Vision utilises people-centred learning methodologies to increase farmers' knowledge and skills on agricultural production, as well as other non-agricultural-based livelihoods.



**1,499 families**  
reached with livelihood  
productive assets/inputs  
(crop seeds, fodder,  
agriculture tools, etc.)



**24 irrigation  
schemes**  
rehabilitated



**4,824 families**  
gained access to irrigated land.



**2,950 farmers**  
trained in agriculture  
practices/technologies



**25 local producers' groups**  
formed for promoting  
agriculture production and  
marketing



**271 producers/  
farmers group  
members**  
trained in marketing skills



**399 farmers**  
sold 100% of produce in the  
market through producer  
groups

**Beneficiaries in 2018: 201,318**



## Partners

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



Nazbibi, 10, runs quickly to the other side of the yard and returns with her hands full of grass. She takes a step toward where two goats graze and puts the bunch of grass close to their mouths. Nazbibi and her family recently received the female goat and her two kids from World Vision. She and her five siblings will be able to harvest the milk and make other products. Before, Nazbibi's mother says, the family couldn't afford to regularly buy milk or other dairy products, but since they have received the goats they have fresh yoghurt almost three days a week. 'I am looking forward to spring!' she says, smiling. '[With a greater amount of milk] I can make different things such as butter...and dried whey, which I can [send with] my children to school to eat during breaks.'



# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Our WASH work focuses on providing children and families with access to safe drinking water through the construction of water supply networks, reverse osmosis (RO) drinking water treatment units, and the rehabilitation of wells with solar and hand pumps. We improve sanitation by constructing/rehabilitating latrines in schools and health facilities. We also encourage households to construct their own latrines and celebrate communities that become

‘Open Defecation Free’. Positive hygiene behaviours are promoted through information, education, and hygiene campaigns. World Vision is a partner of Sesame Workshop and started implementing the Sesame Street WASH Up! programme in World Vision ECD centres, community-based schools, and the Street Children Enrichment Centre, in order to encourage children to adopt positive hygiene practices.



**43,019 people**  
provided access to clean  
drinking water



**5,234 people**  
provided access to  
improved latrines



**1,000 new house-  
hold latrines**  
constructed in Badghis  
Province



**20 communities**  
were declared ‘Open  
Defecation Free’



**50,672 people**  
participated in hygiene  
behaviour change  
programming



**12,677 people**  
provided with clean drinking  
water and hand washing  
facilities in 13 schools



**135 Islamic faith  
leaders**  
trained on hygiene topics to  
share during Friday prayers



**13,677 people**  
gained access to improved  
latrines in schools



**25,858 medical  
facility patients**  
have been provided with  
access to clean water,  
hygiene and sanitation

**Beneficiaries in 2018: 93,691**



**Impact:** There is a significant decrease (58.7%) on the prevalence of diarrhea among children under 5 in the surveyed households from 39.1% to 16.1% in the end-line survey. The surveyed families mainly attribute this change to the project interventions, use of the purifying packets and the improvement in the quality of water, particularly for those households in the villages where they are accessing water from RO systems built by the project. Based on the survey, there is an improvement in people's knowledge regarding health-seeking behaviours for children who have diarrhea compared to the baseline, particularly in sending children to health facilities, buying medicines, and giving oral rehydration solution (ORS) to children.

### Partners

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

**Innovation:** This year World Vision partnered with Emory University to conduct a large-scale assessment of health care facilities in Afghanistan to determine Afghanistan's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators for WASH in health care facilities. It was the first large-scale assessment in Afghanistan measuring SDG progress for WASH in health care facilities. WV also constructed 4 large water catchments to capture runoff from rainfall and snow-melt so that the water can seep down into the ground and recharge the aquifers. This is important to support the sustainability of aquifers, particularly under recent drought conditions.



After listening to Elmo and Raya, Meraj learned that the blister on his hand could be easily healed or even prevented by simply washing his hands.

When he worked on the street salvaging garbage, he would take food from people and eat it automatically without thinking about the grime on his hands. 'Now if someone gives me something, I will eat it after washing my hands,' he says. Something that wasn't a priority before has become a habitual part of his life



# Child Protection



World Vision integrates child protection into all of its programme cycles (assessments, design, implementation and monitoring). The World Vision child protection programme focuses on empowering girls and boys by enhancing the knowledge of relevant stakeholders to fulfil children and youth’s rights for their survival, protection, development and participation. We strengthen families and caregivers to be the first line of protection and care for children by growing social support networks, and equipping them with positive parenting skills through the implementation of our global best practices and evidence, such as Community Change, Celebrating Families, Protecting Afghan Children, and peacebuilding approaches.

We catalyse communities to change behaviours and end harmful practices such as child marriage and harmful child labour. We engage government and faith-based entities to ensure protection of girls and boys by educating local leaders and stakeholders. Children who have been exploited are brought into the process of healing through medical and psychosocial services, and provided with life skills development and education opportunities. We work to reunite street children with their families and communities when possible and appropriate.

 <p><b>504 community leaders/actors</b> trained in ECD</p>	 <p><b>184 community leaders/actors</b> trained on child rights protection issues</p>	 <p><b>940 children</b> are members of children/adolescent clubs/groups</p>
 <p><b>4,551 adolescents</b> gained skills to be positive change agents in their community</p>	 <p><b>1,029 street working children</b> received group counselling</p>	 <p><b>687 street working children &amp; 834 men</b> (fathers, teachers) received counselling</p>
 <p><b>382 faith leaders</b> trained in peacebuilding and social norms change-oriented curriculums such as gender in Islam, protection, prevention of early child marriage</p>	 <p><b>347 trained faith leaders</b> engaged in providing awareness of child protection issues, peacebuilding, etc.</p>	 <p><b>24 community change groups</b> actively working in changing negative harmful practices for children (early marriage, child violence, etc.)</p>
<p><b>118 initiatives/ events</b> undertaken by Community Change groups to address negative social norms (early marriage, child protection issues, etc.)</p>	 <p><b>5,766 community members</b> reached by awareness sessions/ events on children’s rights, child protection, prevention of early child marriage, gender, etc.</p>	<p><b>351 Civil Society Organisations’ staff</b> and targeted key community members (including women leaders) participated actively in discussion about issues that may give rise to conflict.</p>

**Beneficiaries in 2018: 15,125**



**Innovation:** To ensure meaningful participation of children in the assessments, World Vision initiated a Children Mapping Exercise by involving children in an emergency rapid assessment. This assessment aimed to capture the unreported protection issues of girls and boys.

World Vision, with support from UNICEF and in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (as the child protection focused ministry in the country), developed a strategic implementation framework (2018-22) aimed at ensuring that girls and boys who are vulnerable and exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation are better protected by institutional and legislative frameworks through a responsive and efficient child protection system in Afghanistan.

As an important part of this strategic framework, World Vision initiated the development and piloting of comprehensive training guidelines on:

- Child Protection
- Social Work
- Case Management

### Partners

- Ministry and Department of Labour and Social Affairs
- Department of Religious Affairs



*Yesterday, Amana learned that her father had arranged for her to marry one of his relatives. Overwhelmed with the hardships she had suffered and the pressure her father was putting her under, Amana finally gave in and accepted the decision. It wasn't until she decided to walk into World Vision Afghanistan's street children counselling room that she discovered there was someone who could rescue her from a hopeless future. She is excited about what the future holds. 'I want to be a doctor!' she says. 'If I [had been] a doctor...maybe I could have treated my mother so she would be alive to see her daughter in a school uniform, a daughter [who] can read and write and knows a lot of poems and stories.'*





## Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA)



### Afghanistan Drought Response

Since November 2017, World Vision has been responding to the needs of drought-affected communities in Afghanistan. As a consequence of La Niña conditions, a precipitation deficit of 70 per cent has been registered across Afghanistan with a

record low snowpack compounded by insufficient seasonal rain. This situation has resulted in severe drought in 20 provinces across the country, triggering major food, livelihoods and water shortages for over 10 million people.

#### Partners

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

*10.5 million  
affected by  
the drought*



Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Response:

55,573 people (including 19,613 IDPs) assisted with emergency water trucking



1,823 disaster-affected people participated in hygiene promotion activities



16,396 disaster-affected people benefited from the distribution of basic hygiene items

such as buckets, jerry cans, and soap.



120 disaster-affected and displaced people benefited from construction of emergency latrines



63,314 disaster-affected people received emergency drinking treatment



(P&G Purifier of Water sachets plus accessories – buckets, filter cloths, mixing spoons, and soap).

WASH Total # of disaster-affected beneficiaries: 137,226

Emergency Food Security

Response:

5,654 families (39,578 individuals) provided with livelihood productive assets/inputs (wheat, vegetable and other crops seeds, fodder, agriculture tools, etc.)



201,318 people received food items/assistance



Food Security Total # of disaster-affected beneficiaries: 206,972

Emergency Health and Nutrition

Response:

3,102 children under 5 with Moderate and Severe Acute Malnutrition treated.



1817 pregnant women reached through mobile health teams



28,403 drought-affected IDPs recieved emergency life-saving health and nutrition services through 7 mobile health teams

Health Total # of disaster-affected beneficiaries: 37,531



## Advocacy



### Mother, Child Health and Nutrition

Under our health sector we are advocating at national level to revise the National Health Strategy in order to upgrade World Vision established Family Health Houses (FHH) to sub-health centres. A sub-health centre is a type of service facility under the Ministry of

Public Health structure. Once FHHs are upgraded to sub-health centres, World Vision's newly graduated midwives will be employed by the ministry and receive monthly salaries.

### Child Protection

**Peacebuilding:** Since August 2017, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, World Vision has included peace education in the curriculum at targeted schools (three in Herat and two in Ghor) as a pilot initiative. While this is still a work in progress, following a final evaluation, it is likely to be integrated into the education system as a main subject.

World Vision is also supporting the implementation of Afghanistan's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) by increasing the capacity of the Departments of Women Affairs in Herat and Ghor provinces. Through these capacity-building programmes the staff are able to find any gaps and challenges in implementation of NAPWPS in all government departments of targeted provinces and make an action plan accordingly. So far most of the challenges that have been identified or observed by these members were related to budget shortages.

**It Takes A World:** In 2017 we launched World Vision's global campaign It Takes A World (ITAW) to end child and forced marriage of Afghan girls at the local level. As a result, a pilot project (Rescuing the Childhood of Afghan Girls) was initiated to implement interventions to reduce child marriage incidents. We aim to support the implementation of the National Action Plan to Eliminate Early and Child Marriage in Afghanistan (2017–2021) through this campaign.

We have built the skills of 412 school students through life skills sessions and equipped them with knowledge in decision-making, child rights and responsibilities, and child and forced marriage. These children participate in actions to protect and prevent child and forced marriage in their communities.

*Utilising different World Vision programme models such as Community Change and Celebrating Families has given voice to members of the community and with the guidance of religious leaders, helped them to expose the misconceptions and false beliefs often held in traditional villages regarding child marriage and the role of women in social activities.*

We empower faith leaders and other community members to collaborate and advocate for the prevention of child and forced marriage. As a result, 16 Community Change groups were formed, and 22 Community Change Facilitators (10 male and 12 female) were selected and trained on Community Change process methodologies and effective facilitation. The members are working to address cultural norms, attitudes and practices underlying child and forced marriage in their communities.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

World Vision worked with 135 Islamic faith leaders on hygiene topics to share during Friday prayers. The faith leaders encouraged participants through Friday prayers (as well as individual meetings) to share hygiene messaging with their communities and to construct household latrines. Through this advocacy

effort 1000 latrines were constructed in 2018 in Badghis Province by 1000 households, benefiting 5,234 people. This contributes to achieving the Afghanistan Government's goal of achieving an 'Open Defecation Free' Afghanistan by 2025.





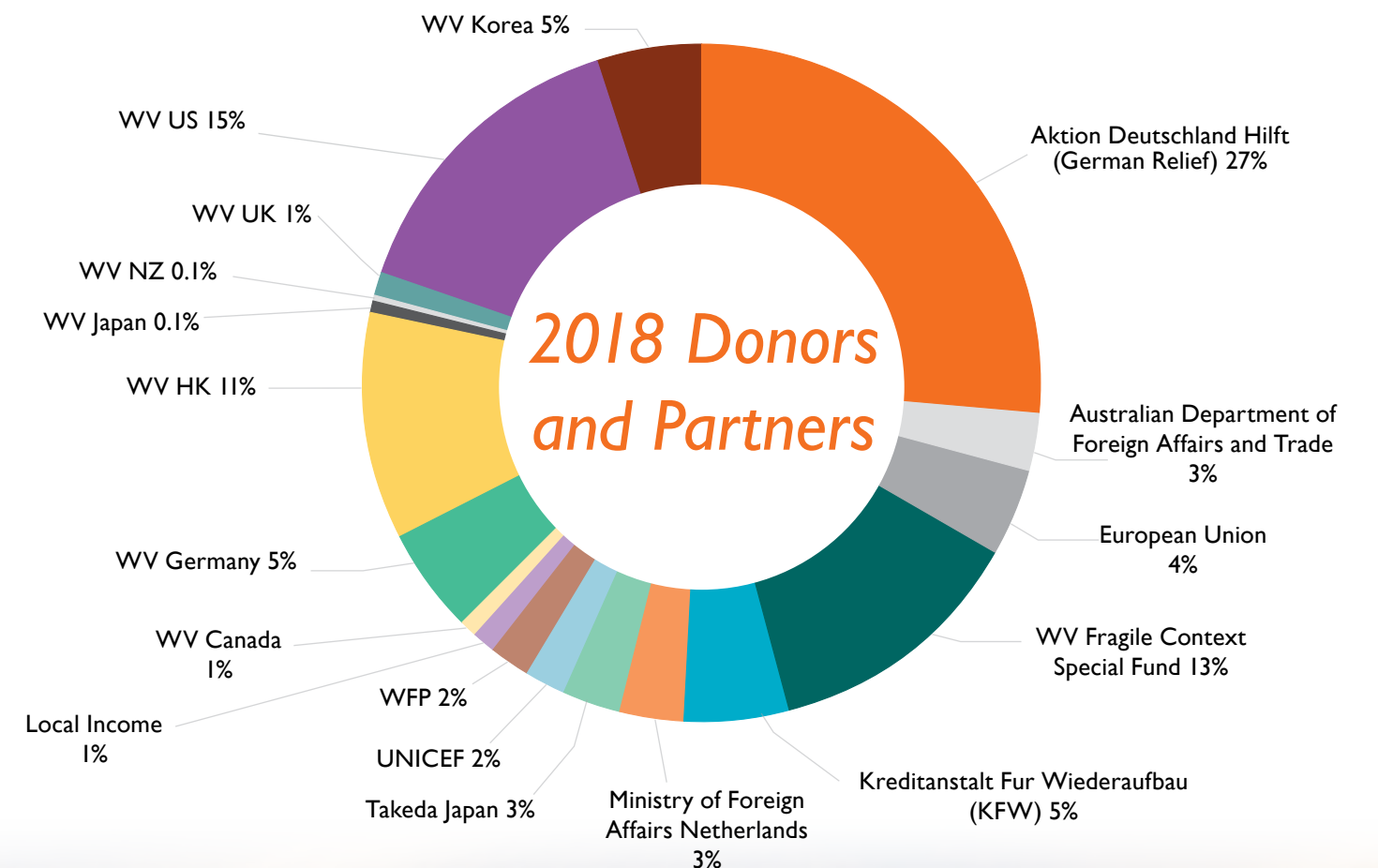
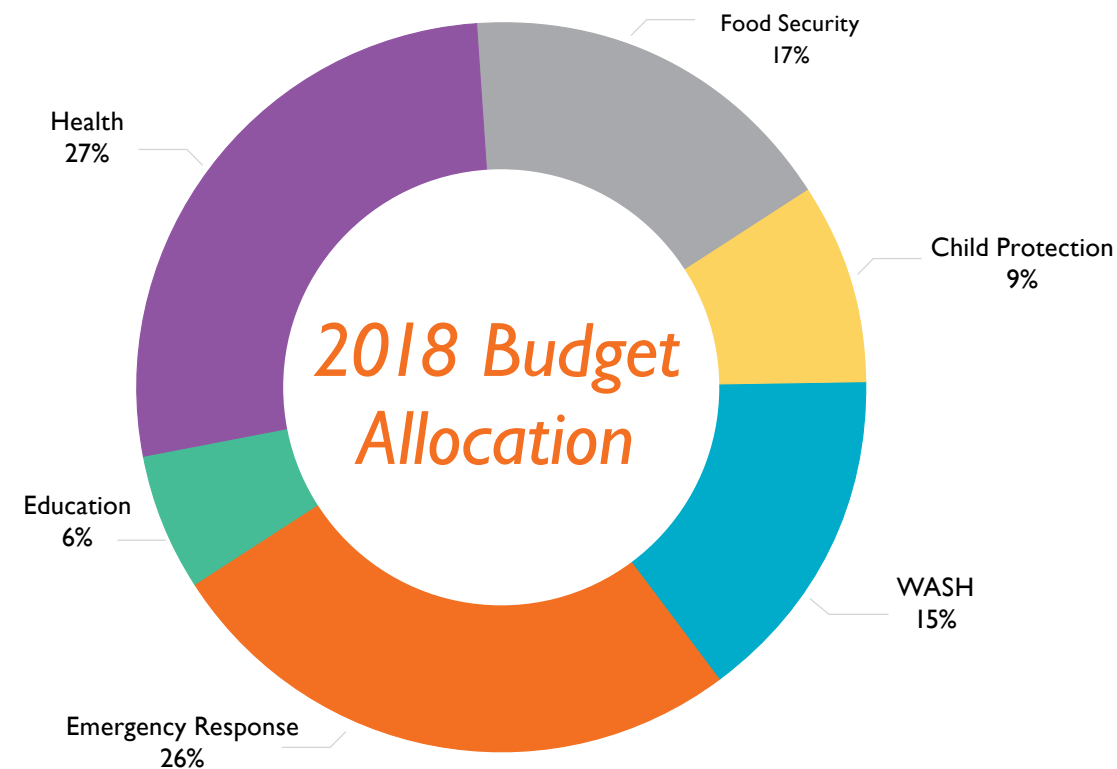
# Publications and Research

- WASH in Health Care Facilities Assessment Report
- Rescuing the Childhood of Afghan Girls Baseline Survey
- World Vision Afghanistan Vulnerability Mapping
- Herat Province Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment Report
- Badghis Province Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment Report

If you are interested in reading these reports, please contact:  
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**Total FY18 Expenditure: US\$12,614,867** including contributions from World Vision support offices.  
**Note:** The financial figures include both cash, and the cash value of gifts-in-kind (GIK) funding.

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

- |                    |                  |                     |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| • WV Australia     | • WV Korea       | • WV Germany        |
| • WV Canada        | • WV Japan       | • WV United Kingdom |
| • WV United States | • WV New Zealand |                     |
| • WV Hong Kong     | • WV Netherlands |                     |

**Funding Partners:**

- |  |                                 |                  |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • UNOCHA                                   | • Patrip Foundation             | Organization     |
| • Aktion Deutschland Hilft (German Relief) | • Takeda Pharmaceutical company | • European Union |
| • World Food Programme                     | • DFAT (Australian Government)  | • UNICEF         |
|  | • Food and Agriculture          |                  |



*Thank you for  
making it possible.*

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.

[www.wvi.org/afghanistan](http://www.wvi.org/afghanistan)





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