



World Vision Afghanistan Annual Report 2016



Annual Report for 2016

World Vision Afghanistan

This annual report provides an overview of the work carried out by World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) from October 2015 to September 2016.

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



Table of Contents

Country Coordinating Team.....	3
National Director's Message.....	4
Who We Are.....	5
Programme Sectors Overview.....	8
Health and Nutrition.....	8
Education.....	10
Livelihoods.....	10
WASH.....	12
Child Protection.....	12
Empowerment of women in partnership with religious leaders.....	13
Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA).....	14
Advocacy.....	14
Voices of our beneficiaries.....	15
Publications and Research.....	18
2016 Budget Allocation.....	18
2016 Donors and Partners.....	19

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National Director's Message

We are pleased to once again provide an annual report highlighting World Vision's work in Afghanistan during 2016 and the results achieved as we continue to pursue our aspiration: 'Committed to inspiring hope and creating a better future for Afghan children, their families, and their communities.'

World Vision, like other agencies in Afghanistan, faces a variety of challenges due to the context in which we work. This is a context where more than 35 years of ongoing conflict has resulted in so many people, especially children, continuing their struggle to survive, let alone make progress towards a sufficient level of well-being. However, it amazes me that each time we produce an annual report, we can see the difference that can be made. Our motto is 'Planting Seeds of Hope in the Hearts of Afghan Children.' As you will see from this report, those seeds are not only being planted but being watered as well. Seedlings of hope are being nurtured and fruit is being harvested. The lives of some of the most vulnerable children in the world are being changed – not only for today but in ways that will continue to benefit them in the years to come.

Perhaps more than ever we are aware that we have only a part to play, albeit an important part, and that without our partnership with others and the collaboration, resources, energy and ongoing commitment they provide to better the lives of these children, our efforts would simply not be enough or even be possible. Together with my highly dedicated colleagues, I want to thank all of you.

But most of all we want to thank the Afghan people themselves – the supportive government representatives we work with, local partner organisations, faith and community leaders, parents and children – for their determination to take ownership of their own development and their future. To say World Vision is here for the Afghan people is not correct and certainly not sufficient to understand and fully appreciate the kind of changes we report in this publication. We are here with the Afghan people, labouring together to plant and nurture hope in the hearts of children in this country.

Jim Alexander
National Director
World Vision Afghanistan



Who We Are

About Us

In 2001, World Vision began working in Afghanistan, a country ravaged by decades of bitter war and devastated by natural disasters. For more than a decade, World Vision Afghanistan (WVA) has been providing both emergency relief and longer-term development assistance to those affected, as well as supporting those whose livelihoods have been seriously impacted. To date, WVA's programmes have expanded to development sectors such as health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education, and empowering women to engage in civil and social change through interfaith partnership. WVA targets the most vulnerable in its interventions, including children, women, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnee refugees, as well as the most impoverished and marginalised families.

Our Call and Aspiration

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



Six Programmatic Impact Areas



Improving the health status of mothers and children



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



Programme Sectors Overview

Health and Nutrition

18 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) centres and four stabilisation centres providing nutrition services to severely acute malnourished children were established through the Maternal and Under 5 Nutrition and Child Health (MUNCH) project in the last year.

As a result, 11,000 children were enrolled to get services through moderate malnutrition care services and 91 per cent of those enrolled increased their weight. Additionally, 4,726 children admitted due to SAM were fully cured.

51,011 people (8,143 men, 8,557 women, and the remainder children) in eight IDP settlements in Herat Province received basic health services through WVA mobile health clinics, with severe cases being referred to hospitals. Through the mobile health clinics, nine Family Health Action Groups (FHAG), comprised of 10 to 15 female members, were formed and trained to support community mobilisation and hygiene maintenance.

Proportion of women of child-bearing age with accessibility to reproductive health services has increased from 38% to 86%. (*Emergency Health and Protection Project, Herat Endline Report*)

48,045 individuals (16,235 men and 31,810 women) were reached through health education and awareness-raising activities. And, for the first time in Afghanistan, the project deployed the new 2015 Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) Humanitarian Intervention Guide for standards of care in mental health and psychosocial support. 1,157 consultations were carried out, with IDP patients supported through psychosocial counselling and referrals, thereby helping families face hardships with more confidence and hope for a better future.

Through the Street Children Centre, 3,591 street working children (1,954 girls and 1,637 boys) received health treatment and medicine from the clinic and 159 patients were referred to hospital for treatment. The centre is the only affordable health service provider for street children in Herat.

Table 1: MUNCH Project Beneficiaries in 2016

Clients	Herat	Badghis	Ghor	Total
Boys under 5	6,290	4,146	1,642	12,078
Males over 5	7,591	2,341	1,398	11,330
Girls under 5	6,037	4,079	1,880	11,996
Females over 5	23,423	12,141	4,765	40,329
Total	43,341	22,707	9,685	75,733



Education

210 children (107 girls and 103 boys) benefitted from early childhood education centres in three provinces in the western region of Afghanistan. 210 caregivers, including the fathers of these children, have also been sensitised to child protection and the importance of education through the Celebrating Families curriculum.

85% of targeted households reported that education is equally important for both boy and girl children. (Emergency Health and Protection Project, Herat Endline Report)

21 small libraries have been established in the provinces with assistance from community shuras (village councils) and schools, which has helped improve literacy and creativity among 899 children.

621 street working children have been supported by tutorial classes, with 70 per cent of them showing an improvement in the school subjects they had a problem with.

Livelihoods

Intensive activity in rehabilitating existing kariz irrigation systems, as well as constructing new kariz systems, intake dams and canals, and the installation of solar pumps has benefitted 15,000 households (105,000 individuals) in Badghis Province to become food secure.

142 women members of 19 water management groups were empowered by training on how to properly utilise water for food production, especially vegetables, as well as learning techniques for taking care of their irrigation infrastructure.

Households with year-round access to sufficient food for the family's needs increased from 0.29% at baseline to 72.66%. (Badghis Sustainable Livelihoods Project, final evaluation).

20,717 women, including female heads of households, were supported with food production capacity development, including poultry rearing and beekeeping, as well as inputs such as tomatoes, okra, onions, and potato seeds, all of which resulted in an abundant harvest, providing nutritious food, especially for their children.

19 more Savings Groups (comprised of 22 women in each) have been organised and trained and have accumulated enough income to start small businesses such as village shops and selling fuel.

2,491 farmers have benefitted from agriculture development and technical training through WVA's Australian government funded livelihood projects in Badghis and Ghor provinces, and most of them are now linked to agriculture markets as well. These farmers also received assets such as tools and improved seeds that have resulted in increased household incomes.

Mean sales income of women from agricultural products increased from 9,408 Afs to 34,860 Afs (Badghis Livelihood and Community Resilience Project, Mid-term review)



WASH

Overall in 2016, 26,678 people (12,831 in Ghor, 13,847 in Badghis) have been provided with clean and safe drinking water through the construction of 80 boreholes (7 in Ghor, 73 in Badghis), 120 rainwater collection catchments and 6 reservoirs with spring protection (Badghis), the installation of 61 community water tap systems (8 in Ghor, 53 in Badghis), and the rehabilitation of 118 water systems (10 in Ghor, 100 in Badghis). Furthermore, 110 schools (10 in Ghor, 100 in Badghis) have been provided with improved water systems and 15,424 households (2,266 in Ghor, 180 in Badghis, 12,978 in Herat) were provided with household water treatment technology.

The improved access to clean and safe drinking water has contributed to a reduction in diarrhoeal diseases which are a significant contributor to malnutrition and child mortality. Community members have expressed how happy they are to have access to safe drinking water and have reported that the level of disease caused by unsafe water usage has been reduced. The construction of water systems in close proximity to the households has also reduced the time taken for women and children to fetch water.

Occurrence of diarrhoea among children <5yrs reduced to 13% as compared to the baseline value of 45%. (WASH, Badghis Endline Report)

Child Protection and Participation

Through WVA's Street Children Centre, 1,188 children received group counselling and life skill training, and 875 of them received individual counselling throughout the past year. **This enabled young children** and their caregivers to receive emotional support which, in turn, helps to build confidence to face life's challenges.

The children at the centre are able to use recreational items such as sports equipment, drawing materials and dolls at any time they wish. Playing in these safe, friendly spaces is something they enjoy immensely.

The boys' football team (formed through the Street Children Centre) has proven their strength and confidence by winning the **30 team** tournament held in Herat. A significant achievement!

8 youth clubs were established among the IDP population of Herat district and street children centre beneficiaries. This was done for boys and girls separately to ensure girls had an equal opportunity to participate. Youth clubs were established for children aged 6 to 12, and for adolescents aged 12 to 18. In total, 2,247 children (1,144 boys and 1,103 girls) participated in the clubs throughout the past year. As a result, children are now more confident and able to express their creativity through the various activities facilitated by project staff.

Empowerment of women in partnership with religious leaders

'Enhancing Women's Civil and Political Participation and Empowerment in Herat' projects have worked with women and religious leaders in seven districts of Herat to promote women's rights, gender equality and to increase women's participation in civil society.

24 Community Change groups (comprised of 30 members each) have been formed, consisting of both men and women, which are facilitating awareness activities on gender inclusion and empowerment. Community members are now aware of the importance of both women's and men's roles to enrich family life and to engage in their community's development.

40 lead mullahs have been trained to train others, resulting in 760 more mullahs in Herat being trained on gender inclusion and women's empowerment. This has even resulted in religious leaders speaking on the value of a women's contribution in society at Friday mosque prayers.

38 literacy courses were organised and carried out, benefitting 760 youth and adults. Learning the basics of reading and writing enables them to voice their opinions and contribute towards decision-making in their communities.

Through the Faith in Social Change (FiSC) project, 1,488 faith leaders, 35 Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) members (27 men and 8 women) and 71 WVA staff (43 men and 28 women) in Badghis, Ghor and Herat provinces were trained through curriculums such as Celebrating Families, Community Change, Channels of Hope HIV/AIDS, and Protecting Afghan Children. Such education has built understanding among community members of sensitive cultural issues and barriers which have not been addressed in the past, but are now being discussed and implemented to bring about change.



Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA)

WVA recognises that building resilience in communities to absorb shocks and supporting traditional coping mechanisms is a key component to not only successful project implementation, but also to long-term community empowerment.

Drought-affected populations in Ghor and Badghis provinces were assisted through the distribution of 400 metric tons of food provided by World Food Programme (WFP) for the 2,971 beneficiaries under the Economically Stressed Rural Population (ESRP) project.

Advocacy

WVA focuses its advocacy efforts on its overall strategic goal of improving both the survival and well-being of Afghan girls, boys and their communities.

WVA uses advocacy to help achieve specific child well-being outcomes in each of its primary programme sectors of health, livelihoods, education and protection. Some of these initiatives include:

Adding a nutrition module in the national community midwifery education curriculum: WVA has advocated that there is a pressing need to add a comprehensive nutrition module in the community midwifery education curriculum, as graduating students who are then deployed to clinics need to not only deliver antenatal care, postpartum care, delivery, family planning and newborn care, but also need to carry out growth monitoring promotion, nutrition counselling and other associated interventions. This issue was discussed in several meetings at ministry level and, as a result, it was added to the nutrition standard operating procedures and is now included in the training of midwives.

Establishment of Family Health Houses in the areas where there is no clinic providing newborn delivery services: This began as a pilot initiative of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in Afghanistan, but WVA has carried out advocacy among donors for further scale up. The concept was shared with World Vision Japan and they have secured funding for the establishment of 25 Family Health Houses in the western region of Afghanistan that will be set up by WVA.

Setting up of an inter-agency scheme with UNICEF to address the needs of Street Working Children: There has been a significant gap in government capacity to address issues related to an estimated 8 to 10,000 street working children in Herat city. Through the collaborative work of WVA and UNICEF, a consortium of other non-governmental agencies and government department representatives engaged in designing an integrated Theory of Change for sustainable improvement of the lives of street working children and their families. A scheme concept was then developed by WVA and funding is now being sought. As a result of this effort, the Herat Provincial Governor has taken this initiative into his own performance action plan to follow up and support implementation within the coming years.

Voices of our beneficiaries



Health

'The first two of my children were born premature, they died after two days,' she says. 'The three others were aborted and I didn't know the reason then.'

<http://wvi.org/afghanistan/article/how-world-vision-saving-lives-afghanistan>

Education

'I used to find paper and pens in the rubbish when I was collecting plastic bottles,' says Negina. 'Then I would come back home at night and paint a picture of my parents, a home, children in school uniforms and food.'

<https://www.worldvision.com.au/global-issues/work-we-do/poverty/resources-in-afghanistan>



Livelihoods

'I raised my children by sewing,' Sakina says, wiping tears away with her scarf. 'I was sewing until midnight. I didn't have any other relatives to help me. I was a single woman [caring for] four kids.'

<http://wvi.org/afghanistan/article/world-vision-afghanistan-re-shaping-life-stories>

Child Protection

'I remember the sound of gunshots and the sound of my mother crying [while she] hugged my sisters and brothers and prayed,' remembers Narmagul.'

<http://wvi.org/article/youth-clubs-restore-hope-dreams-adolescents-afghanistan>





Women's Empowerment

'As long as I can remember, a man always made the decisions. When I was told to allow my wife to participate in the sessions I was furious and asked 'Why?''

<http://wvi.org/afghanistan/article/reviving-forgotten-roles-women>

WASH

'We had to wait until night when all the men and young boys went home. Then we went to an **open air** toilet,' says Bibigul, 40.

<http://wvi.org/afghanistan/article/latrines-sanitation-afghan-communities>



HEA

'Each year we are certain to have a wildfire. It is because of high temperatures and drought. Wheat and pistachio trees are very dry and fire-prone crops in the summer months, so they easily catch fire.'

<http://wvi.org/afghanistan/article/badghis-safe-place-live>



Publications and Research

WASH Assessment

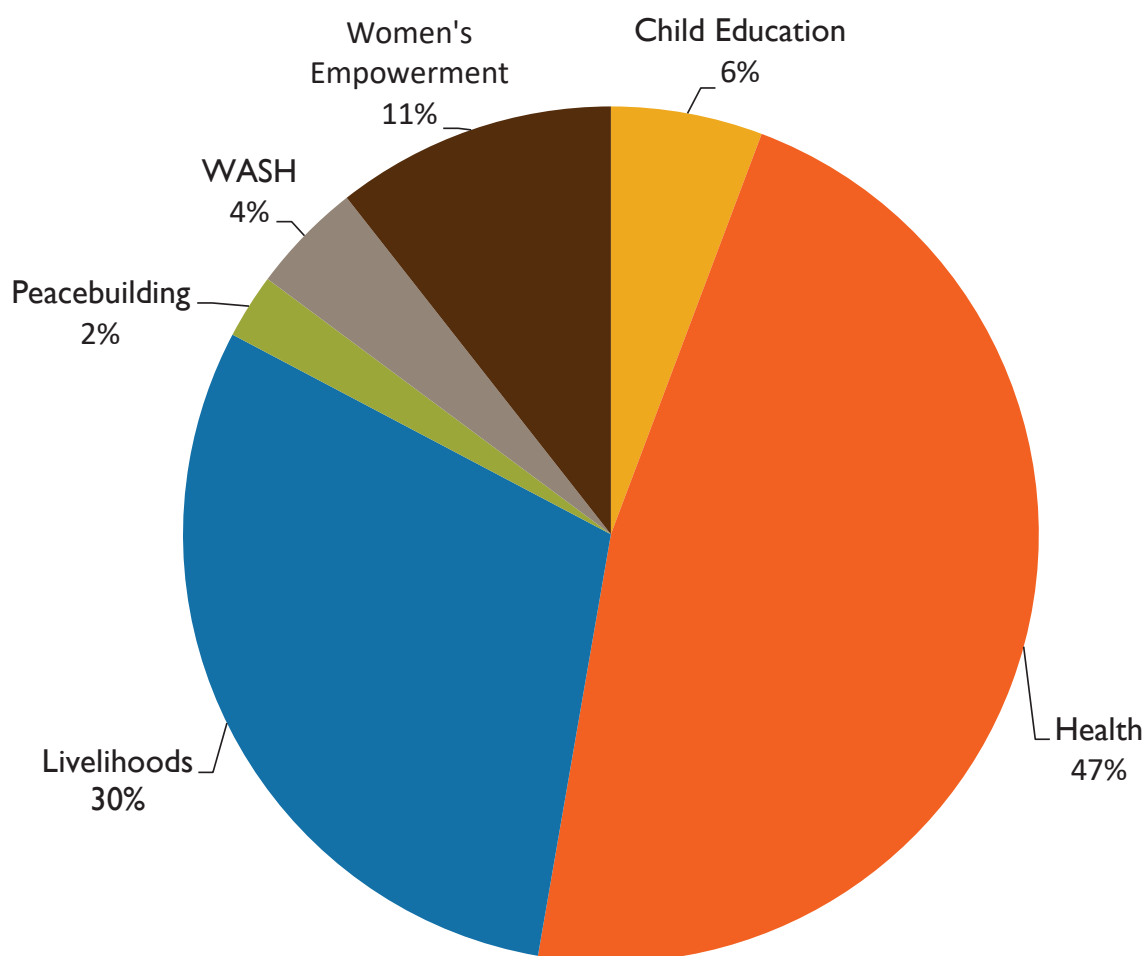
Badghis Sustainable Livelihoods Project Assessment

WVA Programmes meta-evaluation

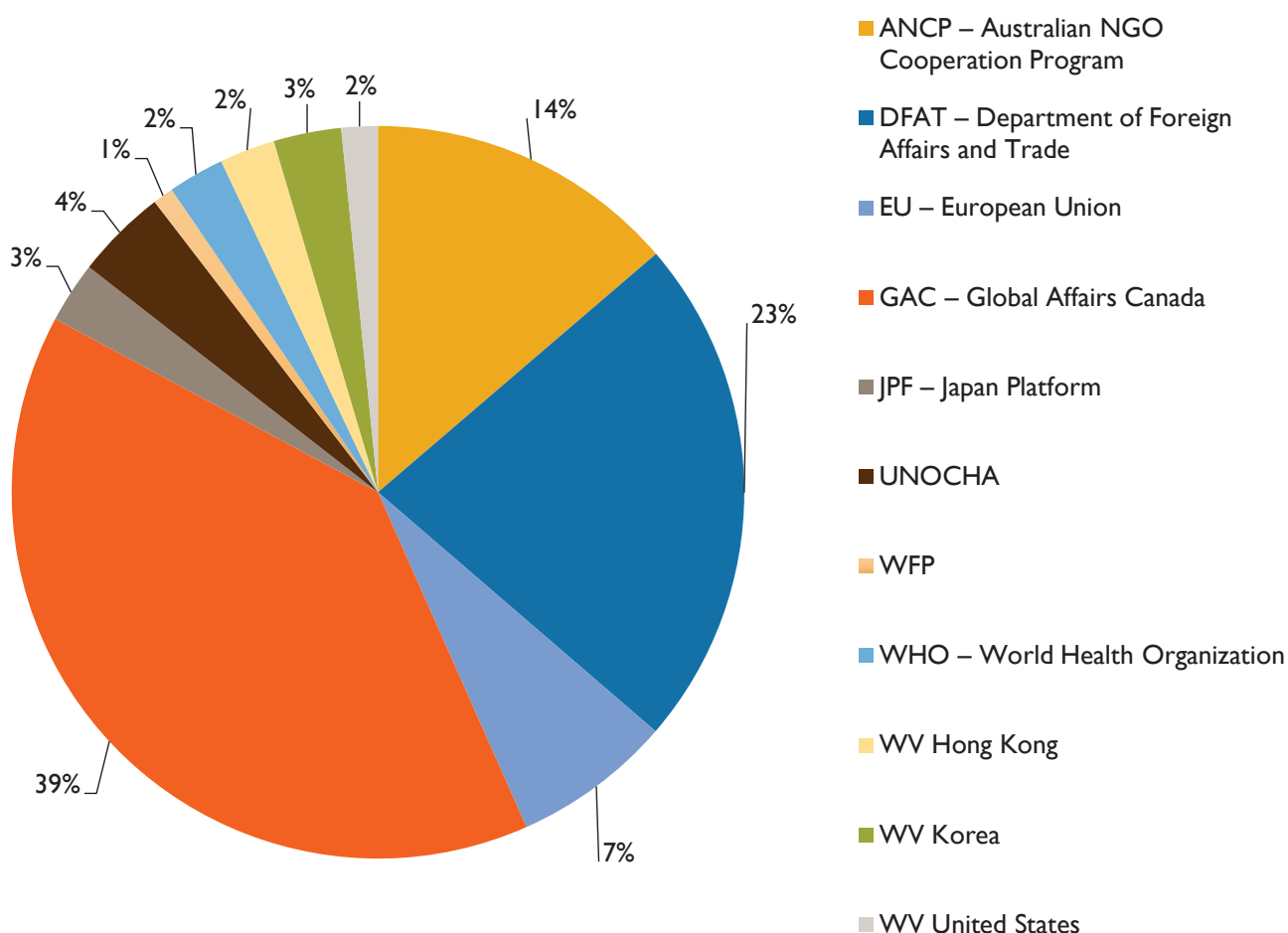
If you are interested in reading these reports please contact Rashindu De Mel, Programmes Manager.

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2016 Budget Allocation per Sector



2016 Donors and Partners



Total FY FY16 Expenditure: \$8,312,965 including World Vision support offices' contribution.

Note: The financial figures include both cash and the cash value of gifts-in-kind (GIK).

WV support offices active in partnership with WVA:

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

Thank you for
making it all
possible



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www.wvi.org/afghanistan

World Vision is a 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