

World Vision Georgia

YOUTH Programs



Population: 3,971,970

World Vision Georgia (WVG) recognizes that young people are powerful catalysts for change at local, national, regional, and international levels. Engaging youth, especially those who are socially and economically disadvantaged, in meaningful activities not only empowers them but also strengthens social cohesion.



As a result, WVG prioritizes **Youth Empowerment** as a core strategic objective:

ENHANCING YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE AT ALL LEVELS.

To achieve this, WVG has established long-term partnerships with the Parliament of Georgia, local self-governments, central government entities, and local NGOs/CSOs. Through open dialogue and cooperation, WVG creates an enabling environment that promotes sustainable approaches to youth engagement.

Since 2013, WVG has been implementing a comprehensive Youth Program that successfully cultivates youth groups as the driving force of inclusive governance, reinforcing social accountability in targeted regions of Georgia. Operating in seven regions and Tbilisi, WVG has involved nearly **5,000 children and youth** in extracurricular activities designed to empower them. In Georgia, the age range for considered to be youth is defined as **14 to 29 years old**.

For over a decade, WVG has facilitated the establishment of youth groups, equipping them to lead advocacy initiatives. The youth programming focuses on developing leadership, team-building, communication, and participation skills, preparing young people to advocate for a better quality of life in their communities. These skills enable youth to emerge as local leaders and to initiate positive changes at school, community, and even national levels.

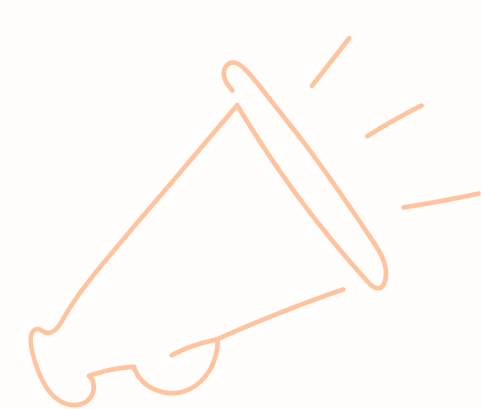
To support this process, World Vision Georgia uses different distinct Advocacy approaches and Models at the **local, municipal and national levels**:

LOCAL LEVEL:

Over the years, through its programming and donor-funded projects, World Vision Georgia has consistently applied evidence-based models to foster civic education and youth empowerment at the grassroots level. These initiatives include **mentoring opportunities, volunteerism, community actions, and challenge sub-grants**, all aimed at nurturing active citizenship. WVG has implemented a wide range of youth activism and civic engagement projects, focusing on vulnerable youth as well as youth-led civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and community initiatives.

Leveraging its long-standing community presence and extensive experience in the civic space, World Vision Georgia is uniquely positioned to lead the youth empowerment process, supporting both traditional CSOs and newly emerging formal and informal youth civic groups. To date, the organization has supported **120 school-based youth clubs** and community groups. The following models have been used to strengthen youth work at the local level:

- Y-Empower Model
- Peace Road Model
- SKYE model
- Community Voice and Action (CV&A)
- Participatory Budgeting (PB)



MUNICIPAL LEVEL:

In 2016, World Vision Georgia piloted a **Municipal Youth Policy Development model** in two targeted municipalities. The success of this initiative led to its adoption and expansion by the National Youth Agency, which scaled the model to **30 municipalities** across the country. Additionally, WVG established Youth Advisory Councils in 15 municipalities and organized 20 Youth Advocacy Forums, further empowering young people to influence policy and advocate for their needs at the local level.

CENTRAL LEVEL:

By strengthening youth engagement and advocacy at the local and municipal levels, World Vision Georgia has established itself as a leading organization in youth engagement and advocacy at both local and municipal levels, significantly influencing national youth policy.

WVG is an active member of the **National Youth Forum**, an umbrella organization addressing youth issues at the national level. It also participates in the **Youth Sub-group of the Eastern Partnership National Platform in Georgia** and maintains a strong partnership with the National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia (NCYOG), working together to lobby for youth needs with key stakeholders.

In collaboration with the National Youth Agency, World Vision Georgia launched a pilot **Youth Workers Certification Program**, aimed at professionalizing and enhancing the skills of those working directly with young people. Additionally, WVG partnered with the Institute of Public Affairs of Georgia (GIPA) to introduce "**Youth Policy**" as an **one-semester elective subject**, offering students a comprehensive understanding of youth-related issues and equipping them with the tools to influence policy and drive change within their communities.

Through **Youth-led Advocacy** on local, municipal and national levels World Vision Georgia is strongly positioned in the country as the leading organization in the field of youth policy development, youth engagement, civic participation and advocacy. By empowering young people to take an active role in shaping their communities and influencing policy, WVG has become a key player in driving positive change and fostering a culture of active citizenship among Georgia's youth.

- 5,000
Young people
- 70
SKYE clubs
- 120
School Based Youth Clubs
- 30
Municipal Youth Strategy
- 15
Municipal Youth Council

World Vision Georgia

Story of Success



NINO'S JOURNEY: A TRAILBLAZING PATH OF LEADERSHIP AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUTH

Nino, a 19-year-old young girl from the charming village of Kvemo Khodasheni in the Telavi district (East part of Georgia), has a story that embodies resilience, growth, and the power of community. Growing up, Nino completed her schooling in her village, but her journey was uniquely shaped by her early and transformative connection with World Vision. All changed at the age of six when a World Vision Georgia (WVG) representative visited her family and informed them that Nino had been enrolled in the sponsorship programme. This connected her with a personal sponsor abroad who was eager to learn about her life and provide the support needed. Nino fondly recalls the moment when she took her first photo clutching a small piglet. This photo marked the beginning of a life-changing journey.

As she grew older, Nino's involvement with World Vision programmes deepened. WVG representatives started creating school clubs in villages focusing on various topics like youth participation, bullying prevention, personal development, and many more. Active and enthusiastic, Nino was one of the first to participate in these activities. There she learned how to manage her emotions. She discovered that life is full of stress and anxiety but there are many strategies how to cope with stress and resolve conflicts. Understanding and controlling her emotions became a cornerstone in her development, helping her navigate life's challenges more effectively.



Our organisation instilled in Nino the values of humanity, equality, and empathy. She learned that everyone deserves help and support, and this philosophy guided her actions. Later on, Nino became an integral part of her school's anti-bullying committee, conducting trainings, creating engaging games, and working tirelessly to reduce bullying in her community. Her efforts paid off, and within a year, there was a significant decrease in bullying cases—a testament to her dedication and leadership.

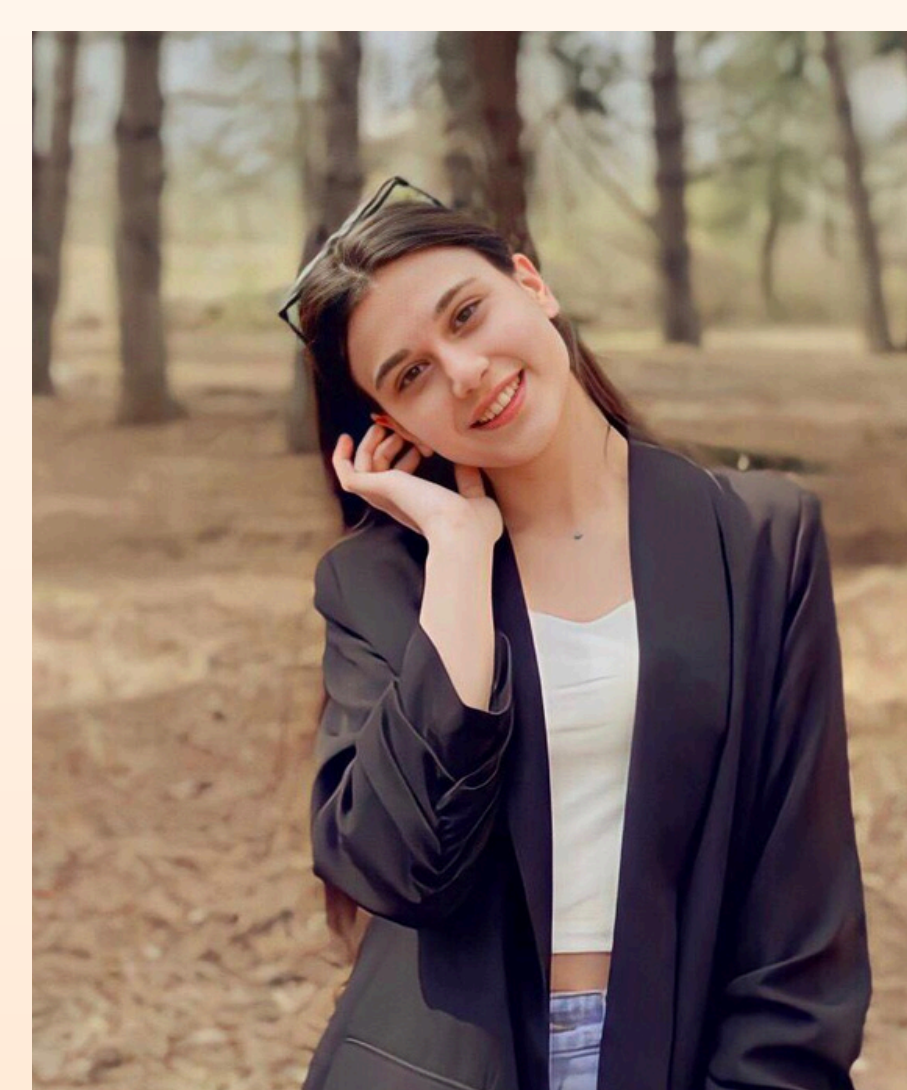
“World Vision was not just an organisation in my life; it was a catalyst for my growth and success. Recently, I participated in the competition and was selected as a SKYE Leader within the EU-funded project SKYENet,” – says Nino.

Now she leads the SKYE youth club in Kakheti, empowering other young people through skills development and mentorship. Here she is gaining valuable experience working with youth leaders from different regions to share experiences and understand the existing needs of young people to better respond and advocate for their rights.

SKYENet project aims to empower young change-makers and provide them with the tools to turn their innovative ideas into sustainable social businesses. The project focuses on accelerating youth-driven social entrepreneurship, with a particular emphasis on green and digital economies. So every week she mobilises local youth and leads the planned sessions on leadership, team building, entrepreneurship and other thematic topics. With great enthusiasm, she devotes herself to bringing positive change to her community, inspiring those around her with her passion and commitment.

Despite her responsibilities, Nino excels academically. She is a dedicated student of food technology in winemaking at Telavi University. This field is close to her heart, as winemaking is a cherished tradition in Kakheti, where almost every family has a vineyard. Nino's family is no exception, and she has been involved in the grape harvest and pressing process since childhood. Following her father's advice, she chose this profession and is now excited about the prospect of developing the family business alongside him. Her father has always been a pillar of support, helping her achieve her dreams.

“I am deeply thankful for the opportunities World Vision has provided me. I truly believe that my life would have taken a completely different path without your support. Your organisation opens up excellent opportunities, and we, the young people, are eager to seize and utilise them for our growth and development. Today, I am a strong, independent person, striving to make a positive impact in my community and beyond,” – says Nino.



Nino's story is a testament to the power of community, support, and determination. Her journey from a small village to becoming a leader and role model for others is truly inspiring. She remains grateful and committed to giving back, showing that with the right support and a strong will, anything is possible.

Recommendations

LOCAL LEVEL

- **Capacity Building of Youth Clubs Leaders** should be on-going basis. They should have at least basic competencies of Youth Worker.
- **Experience sharing working meetings** between club leaders should be at least be-annual. This creates platform to youth to raise challenges and learn from their peers.
- **Small Grants** component should be incorporated in each club annual plan, to ensure gained knowledge is utilized into practice.

MUNICIPAL LEVEL YOUTH COUNCIL:

Supporting a municipal youth council effectively involves several key strategies to ensure its impact, engagement, and sustainability, as demonstrated by 15 municipalities under World Vision Georgia. These include:

- **Clear Objectives and Mission:** Define clear, achievable goals and a mission statement that aligns with both municipal and youth interests.
- **Inclusivity and Diversity:** Ensure diverse representation and implement inclusive practices, such as accessible meetings and resources for disabilities.
- **Effective Recruitment and Retention:** Use outreach programs and meaningful projects to attract and retain members, maintaining engagement through regular feedback.
- **Training and Development:** Provide skills training in team-building, leadership, public speaking, project management, and advocacy.
- **Supportive Environment:** Offer administrative support and create a safe, respectful space for youth to express ideas.
- **Communication and Visibility:** Keep the council informed about municipal activities and promote their achievements through various channels.
- **Celebrating Successes:** Recognize and celebrate the contributions of council members through events and awards.