

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION AND POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Capacity statement



MEER CONTEXT

In the Middle East, young people between the ages of 15-29 make up around 30 percent of the population and face the fastest growing youth unemployment rate in the world¹. In Eastern Europe, young people make up around 16 percent of population and despite the access to health and education² services, show alarmingly low rates of employment and civic participation.

World Vision considers meaningful participation of children and positive youth development (PYD) as cornerstones for locally-owned sustainable change.

TECHNICAL APPROACH

World Vision seeks to strengthen the meaningful participation of children and youth in three key domains:

Programming: We equip children with the crucial skills to be active citizens in their communities, who listen to each other and work alongside adults to improve lives of vulnerable children.

World Vision Decision-Making Processes: We purposefully engage children and youth in the decisions that World Vision makes at local, national, and international levels.

Advocacy: We equip children to advocate for their rights and the rights of others through approaches such as child-led research and mobilisation, and local to national advocacy. We also equip young leaders to speak at high-level forums to influence policy makers and governments.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT MODELS



IMPACT+

A life skills intervention that considers establishing youth clubs that nurture skills, behaviours and attitudes of adolescents, necessary for participation in social, civic and economic life.



PEACE ROAD

A life skills intervention aimed at helping adolescents to protect themselves and their peers, treat others with respect, be active citizens and collectively act to improve their communities.



CITIZEN VOICE AND ACTION

A local advocacy approach designed to improve the relationship between communities and government, in order to improve services, like health care, education, and child protection.

¹ <https://arabstates.unfpa.org/en/topics/youth-participation-leadership>

² <https://data.europa.eu/en/publications/datastories/understanding-youth-engagement-europe-through-open-data>

CORE INTERVENTIONS



Nurturing school-based youth clubs and advisory councils



Supporting child-led research and story-telling initiatives



Ensuring child-friendly community feedback and response mechanisms



Sustained global presence of children and young people in high-level forums



Annual children's consultations and meetings with WV leadership

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

>150,000

youth benefitted from positive youth development interventions in 2024



CHILDREN ADVISORY BOARD
in Albania

WV Albania excelled at creating networks of child representatives that are already involved in their local communities, by establishing a Children Advisory Board comprised of 15 young people from different regions of Albania, who care about social causes. The representatives gather to speak to specific overarching issues that are affecting young people, advise WV on strategy and programme design across all sectors, and share feedback back with their peers at the local level.



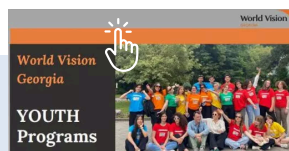
CHILD-LED RESEARCH
in JWG

WV JWG empowered children with disabilities (CwD) in Tubas to conduct their needs assessment, results of which they presented to the governorate office for Education during a summit for the International Day for PwD. 15 children representing 191 CwD shared findings from this consultation, influencing both, WV's and governorate's strategic choices, as well as interventions design for the new Area Programme.



MUNICIPAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS
in Georgia

WV Georgia piloted a Municipal Youth Policy Development model in two targeted municipalities, which involved establishing local youth advisory councils. 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. As a result, Youth Advisory Councils were established in 15 municipalities and 20 Youth Advocacy Forums were organized, further empowering young people to influence the state policy and advocate for their needs at local level.



NO LOST GENERATION
in Syria

WV Syria Response co-chaired the No Lost Generation (NLG) initiative for Syrian refugee children and young people together with UNICEF MENA from 2018 to 2024. In 2022, a Youth Advisory Council was formed with more than 20 Syrian refugee youth from across the region who had been volunteering with the various NLG member organizations. Many of them have spoken at youth panel events that were co-organized with UNICEF and ECHO at the 7th and 8th Brussels Conferences on Syria and the region.

