

# GENDER AND PROTECTION

## Capacity statement



## MEER CONTEXT

Gender inequity and gender-based violence are hampering both, human rights realization and economic growth worldwide, but especially in the Middle East and Eastern Europe (MEER), with sobering statistics on femicide, violence against women and gender-based discrimination<sup>1,2</sup>.

World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe operates in 16 countries, where gender equity and protection needs and priorities span from the basic right to education<sup>3</sup> to gaps in women's political decision-making<sup>4</sup>.

## TECHNICAL APPROACH

World Vision International's (WVI) **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy** mandates Field Offices to mainstreaming gender and protection in development, humanitarian and nexus field interventions, organizational practices and advocacy efforts<sup>5</sup>.

WVI GESI Approach includes five core programmatic domains:

- **access** (to assets, resources, opportunities, services, benefits, and infrastructure)
- **decision-making** (at individual, household, community, and societal levels)
- **participation** (in societal affairs and systems of power)
- **systems** (availability of equal and inclusive systems)
- **well-being** (living free from gender-based violence, enhancing sense of worth, dignity, safety, health, psychological, and spiritual well-being).



## GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE

## PROJECT MODELS



### CHANNELS OF HOPE FOR GENDER

equips faith and community leaders to respond to core issues of gender injustice, through exploring the sacred religious texts and addressing harmful cultural norms and misperceptions.



### CELEBRATING FAMILIES

is faith-based model, that equips faith leaders to guide couples in establishing equitable and caring relationships within families, allowing each family member to thrive spiritually, socio-emotionally, and physically.



### MEN ENGAGE

recognises the key role that men and boys play in addressing gender inequalities and invites them into the transformational change process in families and communities.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, *Violence against women*, 2024

<sup>2</sup> World Economic Forum, *Femicide census*, 2020

<sup>3</sup> UN Women, *Women in Afghanistan*, 2023

<sup>4</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality, *Romania Gender Equality Index*, 2022 Universal

<sup>5</sup> Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## CORE GENDER AND PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS



Inclusive WASH that focuses gender-responsive WASH infrastructure and accessibility for Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH), especially in humanitarian settings



Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) through evidence-based and gender-responsive livelihoods' models and approaches



Partnering with with the national women-led and/or GESI-focused organizations



Girls' empowerment in a school and youth club settings



Mothers' empowerment through strengthening community care systems, parents' clubs and counselling services



SEA mitigation and response through participatory research and gender-responsive accountability



Capturing gender-transformative change and gender-responsive evidence



Regular organizational GESI self-assessments and action planning

## EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

>500,000

individuals (among which 400,000+ are women and girls) benefited from gender and protection-focused interventions in 2024



1 in 4

projects in MEER is working towards transforming harmful gender norms

9 in 10

projects in MEER addresses implications of gender inequity on targeted population

### EMPOWERED AID



Ongoing partnership with Global Women's Institute at George Washington University to scale up SEA mitigation methodology that brings together participatory research, GESI and Safeguarding.

### ADDRESSING SGBV



Women's economic empowerment and resilience project in Iraq, that addresses water crisis through climate-smart agriculture and creates safe spaces for women and girls, while raising communities awareness on SGBV.

### UNITED WE STAND



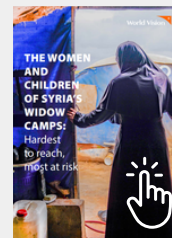
EU-funded project that builds on Channels of Hope for Gender methodology to partner with faith leaders, women and youth in combating VAC and GBV in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



CHILD PROTECTION AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE:

Perception, attitudes and practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo, 2023



## CONTACT

Kate Kobaidze, Strategy & Ministry Quality Director  
email: [Kate\\_Kobaidze@wvi.org](mailto:Kate_Kobaidze@wvi.org)



@WorldVisionMEER



@WVMEERO