

Country Brief

WORLD VISION ARMENIA



World Vision is a humanitarian and development non-governmental organisation that serves in more than 100 countries around the world to support the wellbeing of millions of children and their families.

World Vision started its operations in Armenia right after the devastating earthquake in 1988 by delivering humanitarian aid. Later, along with the humanitarian support, World Vision started implementing development projects.

In 2000, World Vision launched its first 'Child Sponsorship' programme in Gyumri marking the start of long-term community development interventions.

Today, World Vision operates through 12 'Navak' Child and Family Development Community Centres and Area Development Programme offices in Armenia, and more than 110,000 children throughout the country directly benefit from the organisation's development projects.

World Vision successfully cooperates with major donors

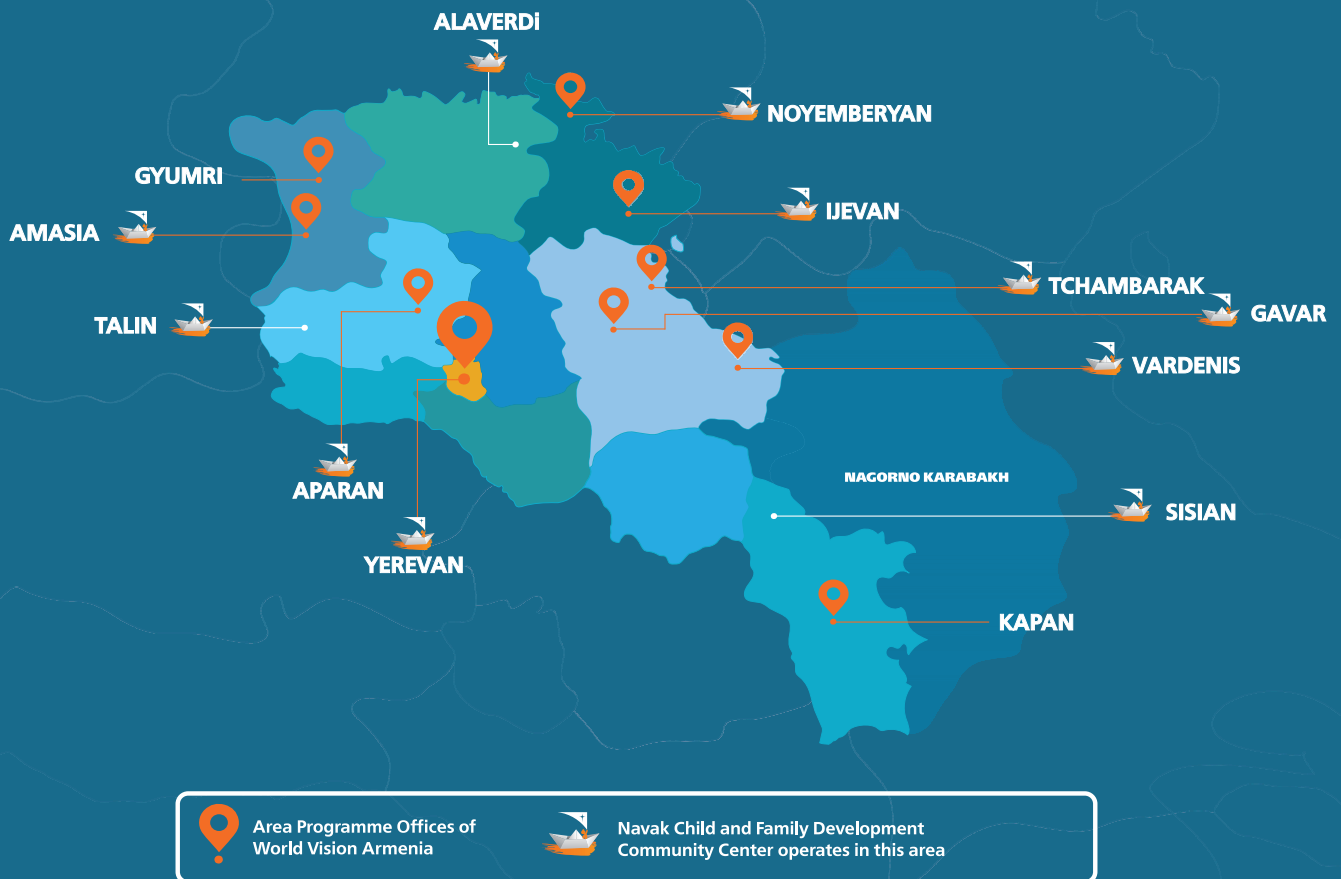
and international organisations in Armenia, including USAID, US Department of State and the European Union, and implements large-scale projects that build the capacity of local institutions and systems and result in policy changes.

As a Christian faith-based organisation, World Vision is positioned to engage and establish trusted relationships with Armenia's faith leaders to exercise their unique role and influence and achieve lasting change while working with impoverished communities and families.

For years World Vision's ministry priorities in Armenia have been:

1. Age-appropriate child development and comprehensive child rights protection with quality professional community-based services;
2. Youth empowerment and employment;
3. Economic empowerment of families to result in increase of resilience and poverty reduction.

WORLD VISION ARMENIA'S AREA PROGRAMMES



ACHIEVEMENTS



110,000
children benefit from the organisation's development projects



26,892
In 2020, World Vision served 26,892 children in Armenia through its 'Child Sponsorship' programme.



87
communities in Armenia currently employ community social workers



503
children living in institutions reunified with their biological families in 2020



400
households are currently involved in Poverty Graduation Approach across Area Programmes



4
residential institutions transformed to provide community based alternative care units and three are closed.



38,357
people benefited from social assistance programming through community social workers in 2020



1,600
In 2020, 1,600 young people directly benefited from World Vision's youth empowerment programmes



Main Donors
European Union, USAID, US DoS, ADH, UNICEF, UNHCR, Government of Armenia



4,200
In 2020, 4,200 families in six marzes of Armenia benefited from initiatives in response to COVID-19 pandemic.



58,636
World Vision supported 11,413 families with 58,636 individuals affected by the recent Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict.

FOCUS AREAS



Child Protection and Advocacy

WorldVision Armenia seeks to empower children, families, communities and partners to prevent and respond to exploitation, neglect, abuse and other forms of violence affecting children, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.

The most vulnerable children (MVC) are at the core of the overall strategy of WorldVision Armenia. WorldVision in cooperation with the key stakeholders is committed to ensure 100% of MVC are identified, creating individual development plans elaborated based on professional needs assessment.

WorldVision targets government-level decision makers to ensure that child care and protection system in Armenia significantly reduces reliance on state residential institutions through the establishment of a network of community-based alternative social services. These services aim to:

- Support children reunited with their families or placed in family environment on their way to reintegrate into the communities and families;
- Prevent the flow of children into residential care facilities, and enable the reintegration of children back into their own families or into alternative family-based care.



Social Work

Promoting the establishment of community-based social services in Armenia is one of the key priority areas for WorldVision Armenia. WorldVision introduced community-based social worker position within local government enabling communities to identify, prevent and address their social issues. The project builds on the existing policy priorities and initiatives of Government of Armenia particularly promoting state institutionalisation of the community-based Social Worker's role and strengthening the capacity and cooperation of key social protection actors at local and regional levels in Armenia.

WorldVision particularly aims at:

- Established community-based social worker's position within communities;
- Communities are able to identify, prevent and address their social issues.



Poverty Reduction and Resilience

WorldVision tackles the multidimensional and nuanced problems of the ultra-poor — food insecurity, poor health, social stigma, limited skills, assets or savings through its 'Poverty reduction and resilience' programme that exercises evidence-based 'Poverty Graduation' approach to empower the ultra-poor to engage with markets and their own communities and graduate from extreme poverty. The approach targets to:

- Identify the most vulnerable households within a community;
- Help families plan their livelihoods and transfer their productive assets;
- Develop their ability to save money as a tool to build resilience;
- Enhance their technical and entrepreneurial skills through livelihood training.



Youth Empowerment

WorldVision Armenia recognises the big potential and huge underutilised capacity among youth for the benefit of communities and the public, in general. WorldVision tries to eliminate factors having negative effect on the youth welfare and then empower them to act as agents of change.

WorldVision works with the youth to become drivers of change by promoting them to use their maximum potential as citizens and as economic subjects and ensuring youth transition well into adulthood with the skills, capacities and sustainable livelihoods to take care of their children.

WorldVision employs diverse range of mechanisms and platforms where youth may exercise authentic participation, voice up their concerns and share their vision.



Economic Development and Livelihoods

Economic development is essential to WorldVision's goal of sustained well-being of children. World Vision recognises that for children living in poverty, life in all its fullness begins with this sustained family well-being. Hence, when there is improvement in the conditions of economic justice along with positive change in parents' incomes and assets, it paves the way toward enhanced household economic well-being.

WorldVision focuses on securing sustainable income for families by means of job creation and entrepreneurial activities. This is being achieved through accumulation and diversification of assets, along with stronger and diverse livelihoods thus building resilience in households, in the communities and in the nation.

THEMATIC FOCUS



'It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children' campaign

Violence against children has an adverse effect on the child's development, health and education. At the same time, it slows down economic development, causes damage to the human and social capital of a country.

World Vision Armenia unites efforts with stakeholders to combat violence against children thus leading the Armenian initiative of the global campaign of the same content. The joint efforts aim to promote prevention and elimination of violence against children.

Currently, the campaign reaches more than 5,000 parents across the country with educational content on positive parenting and disciplining.



Emergency Response

World Vision is one of the largest humanitarian NGOs in the world and maintains professional teams to assist in relief efforts. Key areas of speciality include food distribution, water and sanitation, child protection and the distribution of non-food relief items. Moreover, World Vision's country wide presence as well as professional teams in 10 marzes of Armenia support have proven capacity to assist rapid relief responses.

Recent Responses

On the very first days of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, World Vision mobilised an emergency response team to support all children, their families and communities who are directly affected by this conflict. World Vision supported 11,413 families with 58,636 individuals affected by the recent Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict. This has been achieved with resources being ensured both by World Vision reallocated funds, grant projects from donor organisations, as well as funds raised from individuals and corporations across the country.

World Vision Armenia commenced its immediate response to COVID-19 pandemic right after the declaration of emergency state in March 2020. Since then, World Vision Armenia has supported more than 4200 families in six marzes and in the capital Yerevan. World Vision Armenia also provided technical equipment and internet connection to the most vulnerable families. Funding for the response came with the grants from international and local donors, as well as from local corporates and hundreds of individual donors.



'Navak' Centres

To support the notion of community-based alternative social services, World Vision established 12 'Navak' Child and Family Development Community Centres in six marzes of Armenia. These daycare centres ensure availability of professional services of psychologists, art and speech therapists, social workers and special educators for the most vulnerable children in the community and neighboring areas. Each 'Navak' centre has the capacity to provide services to some 180 children each month thus preventing their possible institutionalisation into residential care facilities.