

# Country Brief 2024

## WORLD VISION GEORGIA

### EMPOWERING CHILDREN, TRANSFORMING LIVES, BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

World Vision Georgia (WVG) is a steadfast advocate for children's rights, leading transformative initiatives that enhance the lives of vulnerable children, families, and communities. Guided by our core values, we implement impactful programmes that address local challenges, foster resilience, and promote self-sustainability within communities. By operating on multiple levels and combating poverty, injustice, and social exclusion at their roots, we not only empower individuals but also address the broader structural issues that perpetuate vulnerability. We are placing mental well-being at the heart of our work, equipping children and youth with the tools to overcome adversity and unlock their full potential. By adopting sustainable practices, we protect the environment for healthier living and empower our teams to lead with creativity, confidence, and boldness—preparing them to tackle tomorrow's challenges today.

All these efforts and achievements are made possible by the unwavering support of our dedicated donors and partners. With the backing of trusted organisations like the European Union (EU), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) we implement transformative projects that create lasting, positive change in communities. We are proud that our close collaboration with private sector leaders—including TBC Bank, Heidelberg-Cement, Oktopus Fitness Club, ELT Building Development, and Carter's Georgia allows us to expand our impact, bringing joy, hope, and opportunity to vulnerable children. By investing in their future, corporate partners help build a stronger, more inclusive society where every child can reach their full potential.

### OUR VISION FOR EVERY CHILD, LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

**OUR MISSION:** We pursue justice, empower lives, and drive enduring positive transformation for Georgia's children.

Through strategic advocacy and targeted capacity-building efforts at both central and local levels, we have contributed to significant policy shifts and enhanced service delivery, improving the well-being of more than **600,000** vulnerable individuals in Georgia.



### CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS - OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN 2024:

More than **160,000** children and **105,000** adults benefited from our programmes, bringing hope and abundance to vulnerable populations.



Three Day and Night Centres cater up to **100 street connected-children** daily



**9,500** cash-based assistance, vouchers and food/hygiene packages distributed to those in need



**150** deaf and blind children enhanced sign language/braille skills and literacy through school reading clubs



**4,352** (2,602 children, 1,750 adults) refugees benefited from Happy Space – Education and Development Centre services



**More than 1,500** youth empowered through SKYE clubs and youth-led initiatives



**974** frontline staff of Social Welfare Agencies were capacitated, improving services for refugees and people with disabilities



**4560** individuals from **760** vulnerable families supported by the Ultra-Poor Education Model, lifting them out of poverty and empowering them to thrive.



**Over 2400** civil servants trained in providing high-quality healthcare and social services.



**33** civil society, community-based, and refugee-led organisations were strengthened through direct assistance and capacity-building support



**12,089** refugees and asylum seekers received empowerment, integration and social protection services

## STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SYSTEM

WVG's unwavering commitment to child welfare continues to drive systemic improvements, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. Through strategic partnerships with the Government of Georgia, EU, ADA, UNICEF, and other key stakeholders, WVG is supporting meaningful reforms that enhance child protection services, improve coordination between national and municipal actors, and build the capacity of frontline professionals. To strengthen **Child Protection Units** at the municipal level, WVG develops and implements mechanisms that improve case identification, service provision, and coordination. Supervision models piloted in **23 municipalities** enhanced the quality and consistency of social work practices. Capacity building remains cornerstone of these efforts, with 163 municipal social workers trained in gender-responsive child protection, 150 State Care Agency workers in psycho-social counselling, and 320 Mayor's Attorneys in child protection case referral, ensuring a more proactive response at the community level. Our team has developed comprehensive monitoring tools, including a **Parliament Monitoring Mechanism** and an **NGO Monitoring Tool**, to track the implementation of the Child Rights Code. These tools offer insights to policymakers and CSOs, fostering a more transparent and accountable child protection system.

Through three Day Care and Crisis Intervention Centres in Tbilisi and Kutaisi, we provide care, nutrition, medical aid, education, and psycho-social support to over **100 street-connected** children. This holistic approach empowers vulnerable children to develop self-reliance and prepare for independent living. Additionally, a Day Care Centre for toddlers cares for children from vulnerable families, allowing parents, especially single mothers, to pursue employment. With the EU support, WVG assessed **91 children** across seven boarding schools, providing recommendations for systemic improvements. This led to enhanced deinstitutionalization and family reintegration efforts for at-risk children. WVG, in collaboration with UNICEF and the State Care Agency, developed training programmes for foster caregivers, including emergency and therapeutic care. Over **1,800 participants** engaged in mobilisation events to promote foster care and recruit caregivers.

- **5,339 children** were supported by Municipal Social Workers through new child protection measures.
- **2,094 at-risk children** received psycho-social counselling and support



## EMPOWERING VULNERABLE FAMILIES, ALLEVIATING POVERTY, TRANSFORMING LIVES

We strive to transform the lives of vulnerable children and families, lifting them out of poverty and empowering them to thrive. Our work supports the Government of Georgia in its efforts to alleviate poverty, driving sustainable change and fostering long-term prosperity across the country. Our flagship initiative, **ERTAD (Empowerment, Resilience, Transformation, And Development)** is a pilot programme led by the consortium of World Vision Georgia, World Vision Germany, Danish Refugee Council in Georgia (DRC), and LEPL Social Service Agency (SSA), with the financial support of SIDA. Through World Vision's Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) approach, **760 vulnerable families (4560 individuals)** are supported through personalised graduation plans aligned with the four pillars: Social Protection, Livelihood Promotion, Financial Literacy, and Social Empowerment enabling self-sustained living and brighter futures.

- **39 Household Empowerment Consultants** coach **760 families**, track progress, and support skill development and employment.
- **604 families** were successfully integrated into the programmes offered by the government and civil society.
- **3250 referrals** were made connecting vulnerable individuals with state, municipal, and civil programmes;
- **138 families** received economic assets to start small businesses, creating new income opportunities.
- **734 Food and hygienic packages** distributed to families living in extreme poverty.

## ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHILD WELLBEING

Following our mission, we are committed to advancing the well-being of children and vulnerable communities while addressing the challenges of the pandemic's impact on public health. In partnership with the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), we implemented healthcare project focused on resilience, empowering healthcare and social workers, improving sector collaboration, and enhancing service delivery.

To advance the expertise of medical personnel **accredited training program**, "Epidemiology, Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and C, STDs, Key Aspects of Immunization, and Risk Communication", was developed, which was accredited by the Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs. These modules were digitised and made freely accessible online. The modules were also modified for social workers to help them serve their communities more effectively. **755 medical personnel** and **161 social workers** completed certified training, enhancing public health. The UNICEF-developed 0-6 Child Growth and Development Monitoring Electronic Tool was also adapted, to regularly monitor the health and social conditions of **724 children** in Adjara. **2,000 individuals** benefited from **community projects** on immunisation, HPV prevention, and gender issues. Through capacity-building, small grants, and awareness campaigns, we have improved healthcare access and promoted preventive health measures in communities. These efforts were implemented as part of the project **Leave No One Behind – Strengthening Health and Social Systems Affected by COVID-19 in Georgia**, with financial support from ADA.

- **1,776 professionals (1,055 health personnel and 721 social workers)** advanced their qualifications in immunisation, disease prevention, vaccine advocacy, and child protection referral mechanisms.
- **424 school and kindergarten staff** were trained to recognise signs of child abuse and understand referral mechanisms.
- **115 State Care Centres** and **752 vulnerable individuals** received need-based material and technical support.

## ENHANCING SOCIAL PROTECTION, EDUCATION, AND LIVELIHOODS FOR REFUGEES



To enhance the livelihoods of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons from diverse backgrounds, we provide comprehensive support to help them rebuild their lives and secure a brighter future. As refugees continue to face immense challenges in foreign lands, sustained assistance is critical in empowering them to create a safe, dignified environment for their children and families. In 2024, our multi-layered assistance enabled us to deliver **22,917 aid and support services** to children and families in need. These services encompassed health-

care and education access, social and legal support, financial aid, and livelihood development. Recognising the importance of self-sufficiency, we provided targeted financial, material, and informational support to Ukrainian refugees, empowering them to establish and expand businesses in Georgia. Additionally, UNHCR, WVG, and the Gudavadze-Patarkatsishvili Foundation worked together to integrate Georgian language classes for refugee children into the national education system through curriculum development, catch-up classes, and teacher training in 124 public schools. In partnership with the Association of Young Economists of Georgia (AYEG), we enhanced the capacity of **20 Ukrainian NGOs, CSOs, and RLOs**, equipping them with essential tools and knowledge to increase their impact and sustainability. By supporting refugee-led initiatives, we built resilience and empower displaced communities to shape their future, reaching more refugees. Our initiatives were implemented through the **Community Mobilisation and Participation project**, supported by UNHCR and WV Nordic the Ukraine Crisis Response project financially supported by WVI and ADH.



- **8,950 cash-based assistance, vouchers, and education kits** were distributed to children and families in need.
- **1,663 individuals** benefited from skill-building training, career guidance, and employment support, paving the way for sustainable livelihoods.
- **4,352 people (2,602 children, 1,750 adults)** participated in education and psycho-social sessions at our Happy Space Centres in Tbilisi and Batumi.
- **6,402 refugee women** received psycho-social and integration support



## ENHANCING EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

We are dedicated to ensuring that every child, including those with disabilities, has access to quality education and opportunities for personal growth. Children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired often face literacy and education barriers, affecting their learning and social integration. To address this, we empower up to **150 children with disabilities** by equipping schools with essential resources. Initiatives like **Reader's Clubs** create bilingual environments for deaf children, while audio and Braille books support blind children's literacy. We assist deaf and blind children in four schools, contributing to their academic and personal growth. The annual **Deaf Camp**, in cooperation with the Union of the Deaf and Ministry of Education, is WVG's unique initiative that empowers children, parents, and teachers, promotes sign language, and ensures a smooth school transition. We also enhance early childhood education by creating healthy outdoor spaces in kindergartens that promote physical activity, social interaction, and skill-building. This initiative, in partnership **with financial institution - TBC bank**, marks a milestone in corporate investment in child education and development, highlighting the private sector's vital role in creating lasting change. Long-term corporate partnerships are essential for sustaining and scaling efforts that empower children.



## FOSTERING GREEN PRACTISES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At WVG we are committed to **environmental sustainability**, working alongside local partners to integrate eco-friendly practises into our operations, programmes, and advocacy efforts. Our **Green Team** leads sustainability initiatives, including waste management, tree planting, and climate change awareness, with staff actively involved in efforts that inspire behaviour change. Externally, we started supporting sustainable business practises in agriculture, promoting clean energy in construction, and enhancing the value of sustainable vocational education among youth and stakeholders. Through collaboration and advocacy, we foster sustainability, empower communities, and drive inclusive solutions for a greener, more resilient future for Georgia's children.



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

**Empowering youth** is a key priority in Georgia, where young people face economic and social challenges that hinder their education, self-realisation, and employment opportunities. Through a vibrant network of **SKYE youth clubs**, we support young people from various regions by enhancing their entrepreneurial, career management, and digital skills, with focus on innovation and green transformation. Engaging activities, including sessions led by inspiring speakers, mentors, and faith leaders, along with non-formal education programmes, summer camps, and tailored training opportunities, empower youth from rural areas to connect, collaborate, and advocate for a brighter future.



**Youth participation and civil activism** are key to addressing community needs. Through small-scale initiatives, young people drive change, tackling social, educational, and cultural challenges while promoting volunteering, environmental stewardship, and career development. As part of the **SKYE NET** (Skills and Knowledge for Youth Empowerment Network) project, we trained **80 young leaders** in social entrepreneurship, business planning and design. Through SKYE clubs young leaders gain skills to develop innovative solutions and drive change. The 10 most promising social entrepreneurship initiatives will receive funding to implement their ideas and bring positive changes within their communities. The SKYE NET project, funded by **EU** under its EU4Youth Programme, is implemented by WVG, **World Vision Armenia**, **Millenium Training and Development Institute (Moldova)**, and **IRIS Business Incubator (Armenia)**. Such action fosters active participation of youth in both democratic and economic life, fundamental for society's well-being and prosperity.

- **More than 300 youth developed entrepreneurial, digital and life skills through 10 youth clubs.**
- **Up to 1,000 young people benefited from 20 community projects tackling the needs and critical issues in their communities.**

## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

We strive to create a safe, inclusive, and equal society for all. All our initiatives are guided by **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** core principles and we ensure high standards across all our activities. We actively **empower women and girls** through our ongoing programmes, ensuring gender-sensitive practises in our daily activities. Each year, we engage in campaigns against gender-based violence through informational sessions, diverse initiatives, and digital outreach. This year, we expanded our efforts with staff training and youth sessions on psycho-emotional well-being, self-defence, prevention and support services, promoting long-term social change and equal opportunities for all. With such initiatives, we promote a culture of awareness, resilience, and empowerment, ensuring everyone can live in a world free from violence and discrimination.

## CONTACT AND FOLLOW US

 **0102, Tbilisi, Georgia, #78 D. Uznadze str.**

 **WorldVisionInGeorgia**

 **World Vision Georgia**

 **WorldVisionGeorgia**

 **www.wvi.org/Georgia**

 **WorldVisionGeorgia**

 **www.worldvision.ge**