World Vision



MID-TERM LEARNING REPORT

NEXUS ACCELERATOR FUND (NAF)

Emerging lessons from the mid-term evaluation of the NAF program across 11 Field Offices

HUMANITARIAN · DEVELOPMENT · PEACEBUILDING

Photo: Democratic Republic of the Congo

World Vision

CONTENTS

1	About the NAF Mid-Term Evaluation	3
2	Methodology	5
3	What we are learning	8
4	Recommendations	25

The mid-term evaluation at a glance

5,273

respondents engaged — 2,908 female, 2,342 male, and 23 with no sex recorded

11

Field Offices, from acute conflict settings to protracted displacement

3,405

people reached through the household survey, plus 433 through other quantitative surveys

133

focus group discussions, alongside 119 key informant interviews

Data collection was conducted concurrently in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Venezuela.

SECTION 1

ABOUT THE NAF MID-TERM EVALUATION

The Nexus Accelerator Fund (NAF) is World Vision's multi-year flexible funding and learning mechanism for implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus using the Fragile Context Programming Approach (FCPA) in fragile contexts. It was established to address the limitations of siloed programming by integrating humanitarian assistance, development interventions, and peacebuilding efforts into a single approach. Through this model, NAF seeks to reduce vulnerability, address root causes of crises, and strengthen community resilience. NAF forms part of the Fragile Context Business Plan (FCBP) 2025–2027, which provides World Vision's overall strategy for working in fragile and crisis-affected settings.

During the FY25-FY27 cycle, NAF supported programming across 11 Field Offices: Afghanistan, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Venezuela. These countries face varying combinations of conflict, displacement, climate-related shocks, food insecurity, and weak institutional systems. The NAF portfolio conducted a Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) in April 2026 to assess progress made midway through implementation of the program outcomes. It also examined the extent to which programming contributed to the Humanitarian (Survive), Development (Adapt), and Peacebuilding (Thrive) pillars.

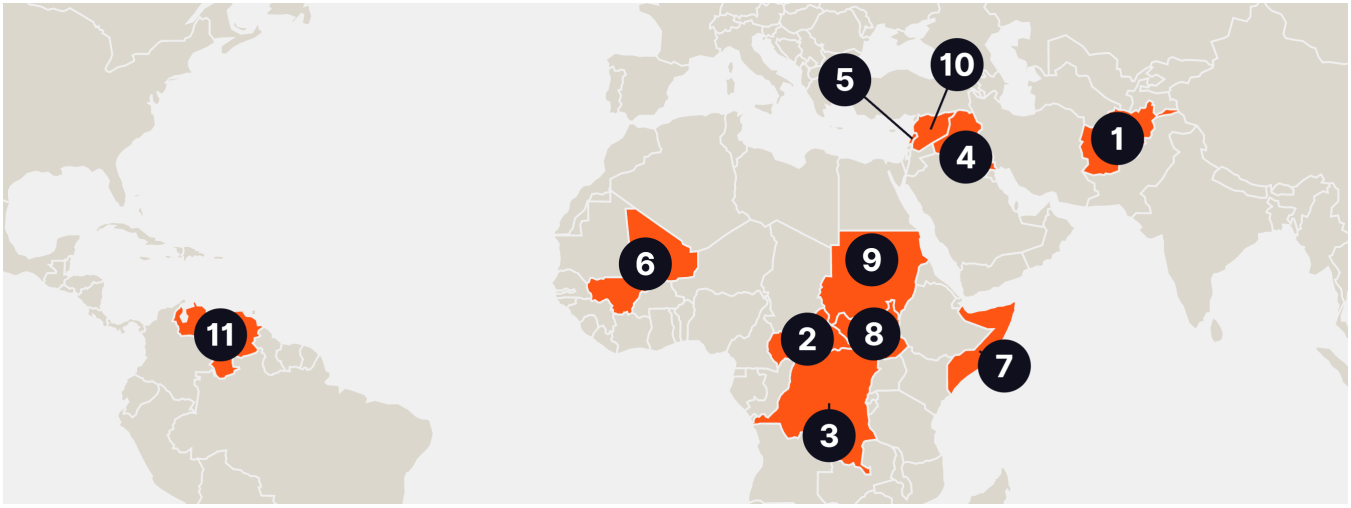
The mid-term evaluation is the largest single evidence-generation effort undertaken across the NAF portfolio to date.

The NAF mid-term evaluation exercise engaged 5,273 respondents (2,908 female, 2,342 male, and 23 with no sex recorded) across 11 country programs, making it the largest single evidence-generation effort undertaken across the portfolio to date. Data collection was conducted concurrently in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Venezuela, spanning acute conflict settings, protracted displacement contexts and complex socio-economic crises.

This report seeks to translate evidence from the NAF mid-term evaluation into practical lessons that can inform program adaptation, strategic decision-making, and future program design, while also demonstrating the value and potential of nexus programming to a broader audience of donors and partners. Drawing on both quantitative (household surveys) and qualitative evidence (FGDs and KIIs) from participating countries, it synthesizes key humanitarian, development and peacebuilding findings, emerging lessons, implementation challenges, and examples of promising practices across the NAF portfolio. It is not a final evaluation of program impact, but it highlights where the NAF approach shows evidence of progress, identifies remaining gaps and challenges, and captures lessons learned that can strengthen implementation for the remainder of the program cycle.

Where NAF works

Eleven Field Offices, FY25–FY27.



1 Afghanistan · **2** Central African Republic · **3** Democratic Republic of the Congo · **4** Iraq · **5** Lebanon · **6** Mali · **7** Somalia · **8** South Sudan · **9** Sudan · **10** Syria · **11** Venezuela

SECTION 2

METHODOLOGY

Mid-term Evaluation Methodology

The NAF mid-term evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach to assess progress and learning across participating countries. Evidence was collected through household surveys, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs) with community members and other key stakeholders. Quantitative survey data were complemented by qualitative evidence to better understand both measurable results and community perceptions of change. Evidence was triangulated across multiple sources, including baseline data, project monitoring information, and secondary documentation where available.

For the household survey component, Field Office teams employed a two-stage cluster sampling approach, selecting geographic clusters and then households within those locations. FGDs were conducted separately with women, men, adolescent girls, and adolescent boys to capture different perspectives. At the same time, KIIs engaged government representatives, community leaders, faith leaders, technical service providers, implementing partners, and other stakeholders with direct knowledge of program implementation.

The evaluation examined program performance across five parameters: Survive, Adapt, Thrive, Change, and Complementarity. Together, these parameters assessed the extent to which NAF activities were meeting immediate needs, strengthening resilience, addressing drivers of fragility, adapting to changing contexts, and aligning with broader development and peacebuilding efforts.

Who took part

Participants included women, men, youth, community leaders, local authorities, implementing partners, faith leaders, technical service providers, and other stakeholders with direct knowledge of program implementation. Overall, 5,273 people (2,908 female, 2,342 male, and 23 with no sex recorded) participated in the Mid-Term Evaluation exercise across 11 NAF Field Offices. This total reach constitutes a representative sample of 3,405 (1,954 females and 1,451 males) who participated in the household survey, 1,316 (668 females, 642 males and 6 without any record of their sex) reached through 133 FGDs, 119 (17 females, 85 males and 17 without any record of their sex) KIIs, and 433 (269 females and 164 males) who took part in other quantitative surveys. The scale and geographic diversity of participation provide a strong evidence base for identifying both country-specific experiences and broader portfolio-level trends, enabling learning that extends beyond individual project contexts.

Mid-term evaluation participation by method

Method	Female	Male	No sex recorded	Total
Household survey	1,954	1,451	—	**3,405**
Focus group discussions (133)	668	642	6	**1,316**
Key informant interviews	17	85	17	**119**
Other quantitative surveys	269	164	—	**433**
All methods	**2,908**	**2,342**	**23**	**5,273**

Figures as reported in the 11 Field Office mid-term evaluation reports. Household survey and other quantitative survey totals are reported without a "no sex recorded" category.

> "My husband has a disability and cannot work in the fields or take daily labor. We rely entirely on our eldest son. When the project provided in-kind support, it was not just food – it was dignity. We did not have to ask our neighbors for help that month."
>
> Women's FGD, Zendajan District, Herat, Afghanistan

Learning Product Methodology

This learning report was developed through a structured review of secondary data and a cross-country synthesis of the NAF mid-term evaluation evidence base. The 11 Field Office level MTE reports and accompanying qualitative summary reports were systematically reviewed and compared to identify recurring findings, areas of convergence and divergence, contextual variations, enabling and constraining factors and emerging lessons across the program. The evidence was subsequently synthesized thematically to identify lessons that emerge across the NAF program and extend beyond individual country experiences.

This approach enabled the distinction between findings consistently observed across multiple Field Offices, the understanding of the factors that influenced results, and the examination of where evidence was strong, mixed, or limited. Quantitative findings were used to show the scale and direction of results, while qualitative evidence helped explain how and why change occurred in different contexts.

How the evidence was used

Quantitative evidence

Household surveys, used to show the scale and direction of results.

Qualitative evidence

FGDs and KIIs, used to explain how and why change occurred.



Photo: Somalia



Photo: South Sudan

SECTION 3

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

1 Strength of HDP Programming: Addressing Immediate Needs While Building Resilience

2 Adaptability Strengthens Community Resilience

3 Local Partners Strengthen Program Effectiveness and Sustainability

4 Local Ownership and Strong Partnerships Drive Sustainable Impact

5 Adapting What Works: Strengthening Resilience through Context-Responsive Approaches

LEARNING 1

STRENGTH OF HDP PROGRAMMING: ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE NEEDS WHILE BUILDING RESILIENCE

Across the 11 Field Offices, communities consistently reported that NAF interventions helped address immediate needs related to food, water, health, nutrition, and livelihoods. Participants frequently described the assistance as timely and relevant, especially during periods of heightened vulnerability caused by conflict, displacement, economic hardship, or climate-related shocks. While many households continue to face significant challenges, immediate support helped reduce pressure and provided a foundation for recovery.

What we are observing

The NAF portfolio offers a unique opportunity to generate evidence on the operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus across diverse fragile contexts. Through simultaneous implementation in 11 countries affected by conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and governance challenges, the portfolio provides valuable insights into how integrated approaches can strengthen resilience, improve adaptive capacities, and support sustainable pathways from survival to thriving.



Photo: Iraq

Across participating countries, evidence from the mid-term evaluation suggests that integrated humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding interventions are contributing to positive changes in communities. Participants consistently linked immediate assistance, livelihood support, preparedness activities, and social cohesion outcomes rather than describing them as separate interventions. Communities frequently reported that support provided through food assistance, livelihoods, agriculture, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), preparedness, and community engagement activities worked together to address both immediate needs and longer-term challenges. While the scale of progress varied across contexts, the findings indicate that communities were beginning to experience outcomes across the Survive, Adapt, and Thrive pathway rather than within a single sector alone. This pattern was particularly evident in South Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, and the DRC, where participants reported benefits across multiple dimensions of the Survive, Adapt, and Thrive pathway.

However, the extent to which needs were considered adequately met varied across contexts. While participants in some countries reported that assistance significantly reduced immediate pressures, others noted that the scale, duration, or coverage of support was insufficient relative to the magnitude of need. In Syria, participants highlighted the value of food vouchers in reducing financial pressure and improving access to food. At the same time, respondents in South Sudan and DRC continued to report challenges linked to displacement, insecurity, and limited access to services. These differences reflect the influence of context, including conflict, climate shocks, economic hardship, and population displacement, on program outcomes.

Why it matters

The findings suggest that the strength of the HDP approach lies in its ability to address multiple dimensions of vulnerability simultaneously. Communities often linked improvements in well-being, preparedness, livelihoods, and social cohesion, indicating that humanitarian assistance, development support, and peacebuilding activities can reinforce one another. Evidence across countries suggests that integrated programming is most effective when immediate assistance is combined with interventions that strengthen resilience, support recovery, and address underlying drivers of vulnerability. Rather than separate stages, humanitarian response, development efforts, and peacebuilding appear to work best when implemented as complementary elements of a broader strategy.

What it implies

The learning points to the continued value of integrated HDP programming in fragile contexts. Future programming should continue to link immediate assistance with resilience-building and peacebuilding efforts, while ensuring that development and peace components are sufficiently resourced to reduce future dependence on humanitarian support.

The findings suggest that resilience-building activities are more effective when households first have the capacity to meet basic needs. When food insecurity, financial stress, or access to essential services improves, communities are better positioned to engage in preparedness, livelihoods, and local problem-solving. The learning therefore points to the importance of combining timely humanitarian response with interventions that protect livelihoods, strengthen resilience, support recovery and address underlying drivers of vulnerability.

Future Nexus programming should continue combining immediate assistance with resilience-building activities. Meeting urgent needs is not separate from resilience; it is often the starting point for it.

COUNTRY ILLUSTRATION — SOUTH SUDAN

Participants linked governance and social cohesion activities with reduced community risks and stronger resilience outcomes. 69 per cent of respondents reported participating in governance and social cohesion activities, while 89 per cent reported reduced community risks. As one participant explained, “the project brought unity among community members,” illustrating how resilience and peacebuilding activities reinforced one another.

69%

of respondents took part in governance and social cohesion activities

89%

reported reduced community risks

> “The project brought unity among community members.”
>
> Focus group participant, South Sudan

LEARNING 2

ADAPTABILITY STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

A consistent finding across countries is that communities report greater awareness of risks and improved preparedness for future shocks. Participants highlighted gains in disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, livelihood diversification, agricultural practices, and early warning systems. Many reported feeling more confident in their ability to anticipate and respond to crises than before the project began. These changes were reported in contexts affected by floods, drought, displacement, disease outbreaks, and economic shocks, suggesting that preparedness gains are occurring across diverse fragile settings. Communities also described applying what they learned through training, awareness sessions, and community structures to make more informed decisions before crises escalated.

What we are observing

These changes were particularly strong in South Sudan, Somalia, and Afghanistan. In South Sudan, awareness of early warning systems reached 78 per cent overall, and participants reported improved understanding of flood preparedness and adaptive livelihood practices. In Somalia, knowledge of climate-smart agriculture increased from 5 per cent at baseline to 67 per cent at mid-term, while participants reported using irrigation systems, mobile climate information, and improved farming techniques to strengthen resilience to drought. In Afghanistan, participation in preparedness drills increased from 69 per cent to 80 per cent, and 71 per cent of participants rated the drills as very useful in helping communities prepare for future shocks.

78%

South Sudan: awareness of early warning systems

5 → 67%

Somalia: knowledge of climate-smart agriculture, baseline to mid-term

69 → 80%

Afghanistan: participation in preparedness drills

Why it matters

Risk awareness and early action are becoming increasingly embedded within communities rather than remaining dependent on external actors. An equally important finding is the growing confidence of communities in acting before crises occur. This shift from awareness to proactive decision-making may be one of the most significant indicators of resilience identified in the evaluation. Early action is particularly important in fragile contexts where humanitarian assistance may not always arrive immediately, and communities are often the first responders when shocks occur. The findings suggest that communities are not only receiving support but also developing the knowledge, skills, and systems needed to manage future risks more effectively. This reflects a shift from reactive crisis response toward a more proactive and resilience-focused approach. However, the evidence also highlights that knowledge gains do not always translate into practice. In Afghanistan, for example, 85 per cent of women received training in post-harvest and climate-smart practices, but only 28 per cent reported applying those techniques, highlighting the importance of pairing knowledge with the resources and assets needed to act on it.

What it implies

Continued investment in preparedness systems, community structures, and anticipatory approaches can strengthen resilience and reduce the impact of future crises. Future programming should continue to build local capacity so that communities are better able to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to shocks, even when external support is limited. At the same time, preparedness interventions may be most effective when training is accompanied by practical support, such as access to equipment, productive assets, financing, or functioning early warning systems.

COUNTRY ILLUSTRATION — SOMALIA

Participants described how climate-smart agriculture and irrigation technologies strengthened their ability to cope with drought and changing rainfall patterns. As one farmer noted, “With a pump motor, you farm at any time,” highlighting how practical innovations enabled households to adapt to climate-related shocks. Climate-smart agriculture knowledge increased from 5 per cent at baseline to 67 per cent at mid-term.

LEARNING 3

LOCAL PARTNERS STRENGTHEN PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Across multiple Field Offices, community members described improvements in trust, co-operation, dialogue, and peaceful problem-solving. Participants frequently spoke about stronger relationships within communities, increased collaboration between groups, and greater reliance on dialogue to address tensions and disputes. These changes were observed in both conflict-affected and displacement-affected settings. Participants frequently linked these improvements to dialogue platforms, peace committees, community meetings, and other activities that brought different groups together around shared challenges. In several countries, improved co-operation was also associated with reduced tensions over resources and services.

What we are observing

Across participating Field Offices, local partners and community structures emerged as critical enablers of program implementation, adaptation, and sustainability. Community committees, peace committees, local authorities, faith leaders, municipalities, and technical ministries were frequently identified as important actors in helping programs reach vulnerable populations, navigate complex operating environments, and maintain community trust. Evidence suggests that local actors played an especially important role in facilitating access, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that interventions remained relevant to local needs and priorities.

Some of the clearest examples of strong local partnerships were particularly visible in Somalia, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and the DRC. In Somalia, peace committees, elders, and district authorities played a key role in resolving disputes and strengthening conflict-mitigation mechanisms. In Afghanistan, Community Development Councils (CDCs), faith leaders, and district authorities supported preparedness activities, community engagement, and program delivery. In Venezuela, partnerships with Civil Protection, education authorities, community actors, and church organizations helped extend program reach and strengthen local disaster preparedness measures.

Several countries also highlighted the role of community-led structures in sustaining outcomes beyond direct project support. Participants in DRC described Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups and Care Groups as important mechanisms for strengthening co-operation, conflict management, and collective problem-solving within communities. Similarly, local actors in Lebanon were viewed as essential partners in supporting interventions in education, psychosocial well-being, and livelihoods.

Why it matters

A recurring lesson is that local partners contribute more than implementation support. In several contexts, local actors also played a critical role in maintaining program continuity during periods of insecurity, restricted access, or operational disruption. They provide local knowledge, legitimacy, and continuity that external actors often cannot replicate. Across multiple contexts, community structures and local institutions helped strengthen participation, improve program relevance, facilitate dialogue, and support conflict-sensitive delivery. The evidence indicates that programs are more likely to achieve sustainable results when local actors are engaged not only as participants or facilitators, but as active partners in program design, implementation, and adaptation.

However, the evidence also highlights variation across contexts. The strength and inclusiveness of local structures differed between countries and communities. In some contexts, participation remained constrained by social norms, limited resources, or unequal representation. For example, the Somalia evaluation noted that women's influence within some local decision-making structures remained limited despite their participation in program activities. These findings suggest that strengthening local partnerships requires continued attention to inclusion, representation, and capacity development.



Photo: Lebanon

What it implies

The learning suggests that NAF programming should continue moving beyond consultation toward meaningful partnership and co-ownership. Strengthening local systems, supporting community-led structures, clarifying partner roles, and creating opportunities for women, youth, and marginalized groups to participate in decision-making can help sustain program gains beyond the life of individual projects. Results from across countries indicate that investing in local partners is not only a sustainability strategy but also a way of improving program relevance, adaptability, and effectiveness.

The MTE evidence suggests that peacebuilding and social cohesion should continue to be intentionally integrated across NAF programming rather than treated as standalone interventions. Integrating peacebuilding considerations into sectors such as livelihoods, WASH, health, and other community-based interventions can create opportunities for groups to work together around shared needs, strengthen trust and co-operation, reduce tensions related to access to resources and reinforce locally led mechanisms for dialogue and dispute resolution.

COUNTRY ILLUSTRATION — SOMALIA

Respondents described how peace committees, elders, and local authorities helped resolve disputes and strengthen co-operation between community groups. One participant noted that “Community members generally trust elders and accept their decisions in solving conflicts.” Conflict mitigation knowledge reached 82 per cent, demonstrating the important role local actors played in strengthening social cohesion and locally led conflict resolution mechanisms.

82%

conflict mitigation knowledge reached across Somalia respondents

LEARNING 4

LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

Communities consistently highlighted the value of local committees, savings groups, community structures, and other locally led mechanisms. Participants reported greater involvement in decision-making, stronger coordination, and increased confidence in addressing challenges through collective action. In many contexts, local structures were viewed as essential to sustaining progress beyond project activities. Participants often described these groups as trusted mechanisms for identifying needs, sharing information, mobilizing support, and addressing community challenges. In several countries, local structures were increasingly viewed as partners in implementation rather than simply recipients of assistance.

What we are observing

The MTE evidence indicates that the NAF program extended its reach and increased its effectiveness by mobilizing local institutions, government structures, emergency preparedness mechanisms, community networks, and complementary sector initiatives. However, the strength of these linkages varied across contexts and was not consistently documented.

Reach

Broader program reach

Efficiency

Greater cost efficiency

Sustainability

Outcomes sustained after direct project support ended

Across the portfolio, leveraging existing systems appeared to generate three distinct benefits: broader program reach, greater cost efficiency, and increased sustainability of outcomes after direct project support ended. The strongest examples were observed in South Sudan, Venezuela, Lebanon, and Afghanistan. In South Sudan, NAF used emergency preparedness funding and coordination mechanisms to support rapid response during crises. In Venezuela, the program combined school rehabilitation, water treatment systems, education support, and collaboration with risk-management institutions, creating benefits that extended beyond a single sector. Lebanon worked through municipalities, education authorities, and implementing partners to deliver education, psychosocial support, and livelihood interventions, while Afghanistan strengthened links with local government structures through relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), and community institutions.

Quantitative evidence also points to the importance of leveraging existing resources and systems. In South Sudan, emergency preparedness funding exceeded planned targets, with approximately US$134,000 disbursed against a planned US$130,000, and emergency response activities reached 97,938 people. In Syria, 70.1 per cent of respondents reported that collaboration improved support to communities, although only a small proportion were aware of other organizations or programs operating alongside NAF interventions.

US$134k

South Sudan: emergency preparedness funding disbursed against a planned US$130,000

97,938

people reached by emergency response activities in South Sudan

70.1%

Syria: respondents reporting that collaboration improved support to communities



Photo: Sudan

Why it matters

Leveraging existing systems and partnerships can increase program efficiency, strengthen sustainability, and expand impact. The NAF program was often more effective when Field Offices built on community structures, government capacities, existing services, or complementary investments rather than creating parallel systems. At the same time, the evidence indicates that internal integration within NAF projects was generally stronger than external complementarity with other programs or actors. This suggests that while collaboration was occurring, it was not always systematically documented or visible to communities.

What it implies

The learning suggests that future NAF programming should place greater emphasis on documenting and strengthening complementarity with external actors, government systems, and broader development initiatives. Deliberately tracking co-financing arrangements, referrals, shared infrastructure, policy alignment, and stakeholder contributions would help demonstrate how NAF is leveraging existing resources and maximizing value across the HDP Nexus.

The findings suggest that sustainable change depends on more than project delivery. Communities are more likely to maintain gains when local structures, leadership, and capacities are strengthened alongside direct assistance. Across multiple Field Offices, local committees, savings groups, and community-led structures were viewed as mechanisms that could continue supporting communities beyond the life of the project. This reinforces NAF's emphasis on local ownership and systems strengthening and highlights the importance of building community capacity rather than creating dependency on external support.

Future programming should continue investing in community-led structures and ensure that women, youth, and marginalized groups have meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making. Strengthening local ownership may be one of the most effective ways of supporting sustainability once project funding ends.

> "Cash-for-work activities helped households meet basic needs while strengthening interaction and participation within the community."
>
> KII-Female, Lebanese, Utopia (partner) representative



Photo: Venezuela

COUNTRY ILLUSTRATION — VENEZUELA

The program worked through education authorities, Civil Protection, VEN 911, church organizations, and community actors to support risk management and school-based preparedness. This collaboration contributed to the rehabilitation of school kitchens, installation of water treatment systems, establishment of school brigades, and the provision of school meals, demonstrating how partnerships and existing systems were leveraged to achieve multiple outcomes. One participant contrasted the program with other initiatives, noting that it "promised and delivered."

Rehabilitation of school kitchens	Installation of water treatment systems
Establishment of school brigades	Provision of school meals

"Thanks to the delivery of snacks it is valuable, the children come to school without eating and with the snack they help each other a lot... we did not receive anything before, now food, snacks, training."

Woman, La Esperanza School.

LEARNING 5

ADAPTING WHAT WORKS: STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH CONTEXT-RESPONSIVE APPROACHES

Despite positive changes, communities across the 11 Field Offices continue to face significant barriers linked to poverty, unemployment, displacement, climate shocks, weak infrastructure, and limited access to services. Participants frequently acknowledged improvements in resilience, preparedness, livelihoods, and social cohesion while also emphasizing that many underlying drivers of fragility remain unresolved. In several contexts, communities described being better equipped to manage shocks than before, but not yet able to fully overcome the conditions that make them vulnerable in the first place.

What we are observing

Several of the most promising results emerged from practical solutions that helped communities respond to local challenges and build resilience. Rather than focusing solely on new technologies, innovations were often simple, context-specific approaches that improved preparedness, livelihoods, service delivery, and risk management. These included climate-smart agriculture, irrigation systems, early warning mechanisms, anticipatory action protocols, school preparedness brigades, savings groups, and integrated service-delivery models. The strongest results were observed when these approaches were linked to community structures, local systems, and access to the resources needed for implementation.



Photo: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Innovative approaches were particularly evident in Somalia, South Sudan, Venezuela, Syria, and Afghanistan. In Somalia, communities adopted climate-smart agriculture practices, irrigation technologies, and mobile climate information systems to improve resilience to drought, while knowledge of climate-smart agriculture increased from 5 per cent at baseline to 67 per cent at mid-term. In South Sudan, anticipatory action approaches and early warning systems strengthened preparedness for floods, with awareness of early warning systems reaching 78 per cent overall. Venezuela demonstrated innovative approaches to school-based preparedness through school brigades, water treatment systems, and partnerships with risk-management institutions, while Syria combined nutrition, health, parenting, and resilience activities through integrated service packages.

However, experiences across Field Offices indicate that these approaches alone are not sufficient to address the structural drivers of fragility that continue to affect many communities. Across countries, participants continued to report challenges linked to poverty, insecurity, displacement, climate shocks, weak infrastructure, and limited access to services. While innovative approaches helped communities strengthen preparedness, livelihoods, and resilience, many underlying drivers of vulnerability remained beyond the scope of individual project activities. These observations highlight an important distinction between helping communities adapt to shocks and achieving longer-term transformation.

Why it matters

The results suggest that locally relevant solutions can play an important role in helping communities manage risk, adapt to changing conditions, and strengthen resilience. Across countries, the most successful approaches were those that responded directly to local needs and could be integrated into existing community systems and practices. The evidence also highlights that successful adaptation is not always about introducing something new; it often involves adapting existing approaches to make them more effective, accessible, and sustainable in fragile contexts. At the same time, the strongest results were achieved when these approaches were accompanied by broader investments in local systems, institutions, and capacities that address deeper drivers of fragility.

> “Seeds and agricultural activities have helped us to resume some crops, but many families still do not have enough land or means to produce properly.”
>
> FGD participant, Nyemba, Democratic Republic of the Congo

What it implies

These findings underscore the importance of continued investment in locally relevant innovations while ensuring that communities have the resources, infrastructure, and institutional support needed to sustain them. These approaches are most likely to produce lasting benefits when they are accompanied by productive assets, maintenance systems, market linkages, financing opportunities, strong local ownership, and longer-term investments that address the underlying causes of vulnerability.

This finding highlights an important distinction between strengthening resilience and achieving long-term transformation. The evidence suggests that NAF is successfully helping communities move from survival toward adaptation by improving preparedness, strengthening local systems, and building community capacity. However, many of the root causes of fragility, such as chronic poverty, weak institutions, insecurity, and limited economic opportunities, extend beyond the scope of individual project activities and often require longer-term investment and systems-level change.

The mid-term findings suggest that successful approaches should be strengthened, scaled, and, where possible, linked to longer-term programming. Continued investment in local systems, livelihoods, and institutions will be critical if resilience gains are to translate into sustained development outcomes and stronger progress toward the Thrive stage of the NAF model.

COUNTRY ILLUSTRATION — AFGHANISTAN

The program introduced climate-smart and post-harvest practices to strengthen livelihoods and resilience. While 85 per cent of women reported receiving training, only 28 per cent reported applying the promoted techniques. This finding highlights an important lesson from the evaluation: innovations are most effective when knowledge is accompanied by the assets, equipment, and resources needed to put learning into practice.

85%

of women reported receiving training in post-harvest and climate-smart practices

28%

reported applying the promoted techniques

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Innovation spotlight

Venezuela — schools as the platform for multi-sector delivery

Three of the 11 Field Offices — Venezuela, Iraq and Lebanon — used schools as the organizing platform for multi-sector delivery. Venezuela's "Pilot School-Centre" approach addressed WASH, food, infrastructure and education at the same time in three prioritized schools. The synergy between NAF and the Educating Together consortium moved the response from an isolated intervention to an integrated model.

South Sudan — from trigger to pre-impact action in about a week

An Adaptive Management Unit anchored on the National Emergency Preparedness Fund lets the National Office convert a detected shock into disbursed funds within about one week. An Anticipatory Action protocol in Aweil was established and activated during flooding — the only mechanism in the portfolio that closes the loop from trigger to pre-impact action.

103%

of planned funds disbursed

97,938

people reached through flood and cholera response

3 of 3

emergency requests approved

SECTION 4

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Strengthen Integrated HDP Programming

Continue designing programs that intentionally link humanitarian assistance, resilience-building, and peacebuilding activities. The evidence suggests that communities experience the greatest benefits when interventions address immediate needs while also strengthening preparedness, livelihoods, and social cohesion.

2 Invest in Adaptive Management

Maintain flexible programming approaches that enable timely adjustments in response to changing needs, risks, and operating conditions. Strengthening context monitoring and community feedback mechanisms can help ensure that programs remain relevant in fragile and rapidly changing environments.

3 Deepen Engagement with Local Partners

Continue investing in community structures, local authorities, faith leaders, community groups, and other local actors. Strengthening local ownership and decision-making can improve program sustainability and help maintain gains beyond the life of individual projects.

4 Strengthen Complementarity and Coordination

Continue aligning NAF programming with national and local priorities, existing services, government systems, and complementary initiatives. Stronger coordination can reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and increase the overall impact of HDP programming in fragile contexts.

5 Support Flexible and Long-Term Funding

Many of the challenges identified during the mid-term evaluation are linked to structural drivers of fragility that extend beyond the timeframe of individual projects. Long-term, flexible funding can help programs adapt to changing contexts while supporting the longer-term investments needed to move communities beyond adaptation and toward sustained resilience.

6 Invest in Innovation and Learning

Continue supporting context-specific innovations and learning initiatives that strengthen preparedness, resilience, and locally led solutions. Innovations are most effective when accompanied by the resources and systems required to sustain them over time.

Meeting urgent needs is not separate from resilience; it is often the starting point for it.

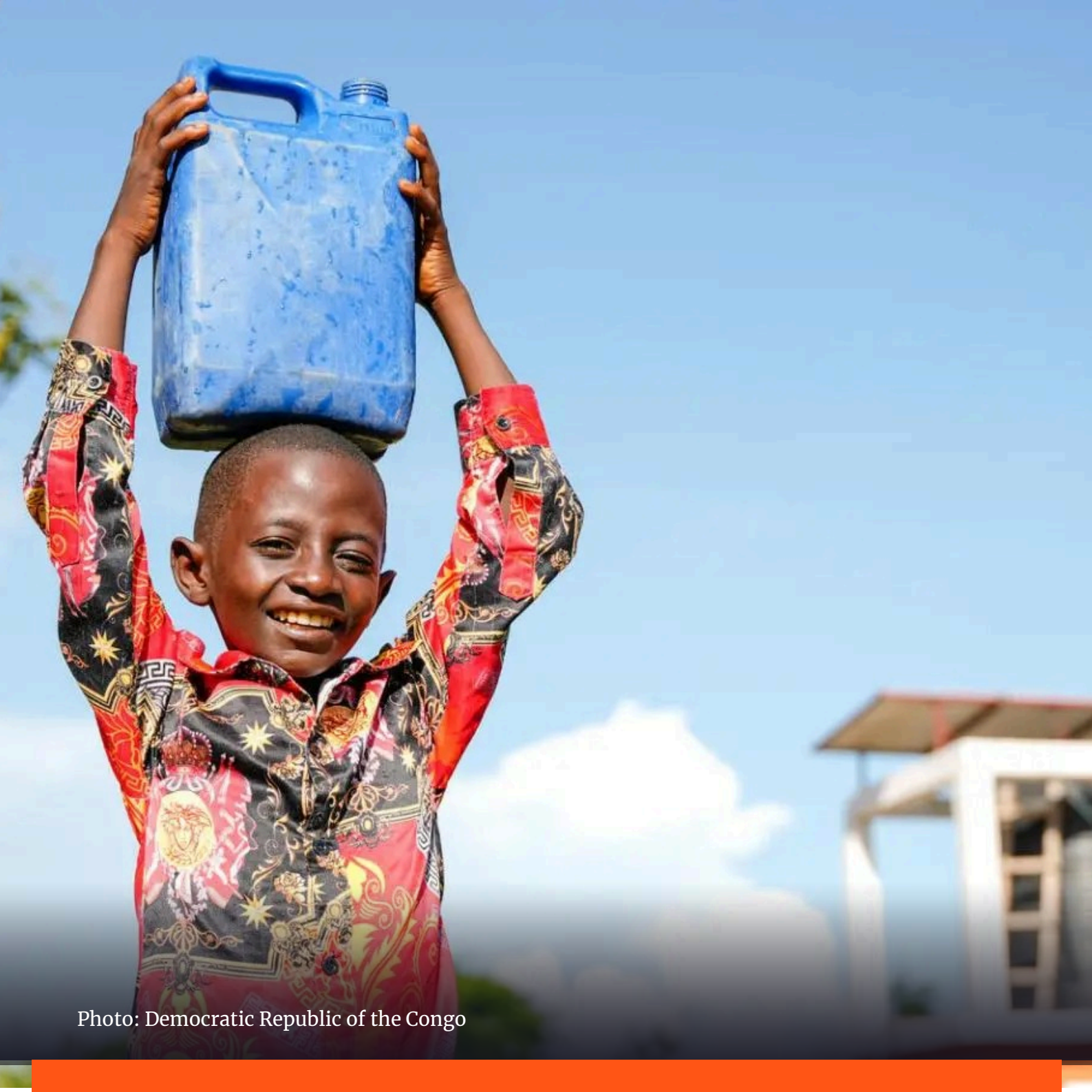


Photo: Democratic Republic of the Congo

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World Vision Canada is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organization. Our focus is on helping the world's most vulnerable girls and boys overcome poverty and experience fullness of life.

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