

Investing in Women's Economic Empowerment in Iraq

Project Overview

In alignment with the Iraq National Strategy for Empowering Women, World Vision International in Iraq (WV Iraq) implemented a livelihood and women's economic empowerment project in West Mosul entitled, "Building Resilience through Inclusive Economic Recovery Interventions in West Mosul," from October 2019 to December 2020 funded by World Vision Australia. The project aimed to target 62 vulnerable households through cash transfers, micro-grants, business literacy training and nutrition assistance to support them in generating income through employment opportunities.

The planned project outcomes were:

- Outcome 1: Improved the income-generating capacity, productivity and competitiveness of women entrepreneurs through a number of livelihood activities
- Outcome 2: Improved financial and social inclusion of vulnerable women
- Outcome 3: Evidence generation and advocacy for women economic empowerment.

The ultimate goal of the project was to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable women through economic empowerment in West Mosul in line with World Vision's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (WV GESI) framework. The final evaluation of the project therefore took into account the WV GESI domains of access and participation, decision-making, systems and well-being, notably for the most vulnerable women and displaced populations to judge the effectiveness of the approach.

Project Rationale

The socio-economic situation for Iraqi women has declined steadily since 2003. Conflict, climate change, and most recently COVID-19 have diminished the livelihoods of millions of Iraqis. Women have been disproportionately affected by these events as they are exposed to higher rates of poverty and food insecurity due to lower overall income levels, and less access to quality education, employment, and adequate shelter.

What we learned from the project

During the life of the project, 89% of the women who provided feedback were appreciative about the project and positive about the results. An impressive result of this project was that WV helped link women entrepreneurs to suppliers and markets and assisted them to generate savings totaling USD 13,280.79 that would have otherwise been spent on more expensive goods, services and suppliers.

Project Evaluation along the lines of the WV GESI Domains

The evaluation for the Women's Economic Empowerment project in West Mosul overall has shown positive results in transforming the lives of women on a number of GESI Domains as follows in the coming page:

¹16 sewing, 15 grocery, 5 livestock, 5 kitchen cooking businesses, 5 cosmetics, 4 electrical device maintenance shops, 3 hair dressing, 3 stationery and photocopy shops, 2 taxi cars, 2 bakeries, 1 spice shop, 1 textile shop

