

The World Vision logo, featuring the text "World Vision" in a black sans-serif font, with a small orange triangle containing a white star to the right.

CHILD PROTECTION

ANNUAL REPORT » October 2017 to September 2018

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CHILD PROTECTION

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Thank you for caring about vulnerable children. You are making a crucial difference in children's lives by helping to protect them from all forms of violence.

The threats to children's well-being around the world are vast. Millions of children—especially girls—are confronted with various forms of violence every day. As children, they are forced to work; marry too early; undergo painful procedures that harm their bodies; endure neglect and emotional abuse; and engage in sexual acts. These experiences are traumatizing and shape every aspect of their identity for years to come. In especially tragic cases, some children are never allowed to be born (as a result of prenatal sex selection) or do not survive harm, such as with the horrific form of witchcraft called child sacrifice.

The protective systems around children, including in their families, communities, and societies, have clearly failed children in countless ways. Sometimes this happens unintentionally through lack of knowledge or in order

to survive extreme poverty. Othertimes it may be in adherence to harmful cultural practices. Local and national structures may be overburdened and in need of greater support. Change takes time, but the time to begin is *now*, for the future is at stake for these children.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to protect children from all forms of violence. Our projects in Armenia, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam), and Uganda are tackling some of the worst forms of violence against children.

In Bangladesh, we removed 224 children from hazardous labor and helped their parents increase their income so their children will not have to work again. In India, we created nine Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers in seven red-light

districts, giving 483 children a safe place to play and learn.

Other highlights from our work include engaging more than 700 Kenyan children in alternative rite of passage training to educate about the dangers of female genital mutilation and cutting, and helping 114 parents and caregivers in Cambodia to better nurture their family relationships. In Armenia, we helped faith leaders to promote gender equality and reduce gender-based violence, including prenatal sex selection.



1,924,172 **PEOPLE, INCLUDING 848,151 CHILDREN,** have benefited from our child protection projects since they began. These numbers include beneficiaries from the Mozambique project (not featured here) and other child protection projects that have already closed. In FY18, 567,898 people benefited.

21,244 children in Uganda participated in children's clubs, where they learned about human rights, how to protect themselves from violence, and how to advocate for change.

2,295 parents and caregivers in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam were trained in positive parenting, which taught them how to discipline, not punish, their children and support their needs.

377 faith leaders in Uganda were trained in Channels of Hope for Child Protection, enabling them to join other trained faith leaders in promoting violence prevention messages in their communities.

ARMENIA

The strong preference for sons over daughters in Armenia is deeply entrenched in society and stems from the country's patriarchal structure. With the advent of modern technology to determine the sex of a baby before birth, as well as a declining birth rate, many parents have chosen to undergo prenatal sex selection—an egregious form of gender-based violence. Over time, this practice has led to Armenia having a skewed birth sex ratio.

The Armenia Child Protection Project has been working at a community and national level to address gender-based violence. At the local level, 460 service providers were trained to respond to domestic violence and 291 youth participated in youth groups to learn about gender equality. More than

150 families learned how to strengthen their family relationships through Celebrating Families.

On a national level, World Vision advocated for the proper implementation of the newly adopted Law on Prevention of Violence Within the Family.

The project increased public awareness about gender stereotypes and the impact of gender-based violence on society through various media opportunities. In addition to the broad public campaign, the project trained journalists on avoiding stereotypes in marketing.

The national birth sex ratio (which is now 100 girls to 110 boys) continues to move incrementally toward the

biological norm of 100 girls to 106 boys. Research conducted in the project areas show that an even greater change toward a more balanced birth sex ratio is taking place there than at the national level.

Thank you for partnering with us to inspire change in Armenian families.



176,191 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 2,399 CHILDREN, have benefited from the project since it began in October 2015, including 56,429 people in fiscal year 2018.

737 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities

Four-year target: 1008

73%

754 parents and caregivers showed that they better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline

Four-year target: 1110

68%

11 faith leaders mobilized their communities to take action to protect children

Four-year target: 11

100%



"Before this project, I did not know that boys and girls had the same rights. I knew that boys were more privileged, and this wrong perception came from people around me," said Eliza Harutyunyan, left. With the knowledge she has gained, she can now "analyze and understand that girls have the same rights as boys and can use them."

BANGLADESH

When children are forced to work, the long-term impact is physically, emotionally, and mentally detrimental. At its worst, child labor destroys children's dreams and their development, and deprives them of their education and basic rights. Sadly, many children endure abuse and health problems on a daily basis. They are unable to escape from their plight, because doing so can threaten their family's ability to survive.

Thanks to supporters like you, the Bangladesh Child Protection Project is making significant strides toward caring for and protecting children suffering the worst forms of child labor; abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. We are partnering with parents, community members, leaders, and the Bangladeshi government to raise awareness about

children's needs and basic rights.

Over the past fiscal year, the project withdrew 224 children from hazardous labor. Two hundred children were enrolled in school and are getting an education that will give them knowledge, life-skills, and confidence.

To ensure that children no longer have to work, we equipped families to support themselves in sustainable ways. The monthly grants, lasting for one year, are to be used for school expenses and will offset lost income from child labor. The project also helped 185 families gain the skills to earn a better income, with the most successful businesses being

neighborhood-based groceries and tea stalls.

Your generosity is making it possible for children to gain back their dreams, their childhoods, and their hopes for a better future.



29,696 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 11,688 CHILDREN, have taken action to end child labor since October 2016, including 20,187 people during fiscal year 2018.

358 girls and boys withdrawn from hazardous labor

Four-year target: 274

131%

1,420 parents equipped and mobilized to protect their children from harm

Four-year target: 1,940

73%

8,993 children armed with knowledge on their rights

Four-year target: 16,060

56%



"I enjoy my time being at home in preparing my homework, playing with my friends, looking after my younger siblings and helping my mother," said 14-year-old Sadia, who returned to school after previously dropping out to work in a shrimp factory. "Thank you, World Vision, for the gift of love and kindness that allowed me to go to school again."

GUATEMALA

The Community Roots Project seeks to address the underlying causes of violence and irregular migration in some of Guatemala's most vulnerable regions. It works directly with 20 municipalities in 80 communities.

Violence prevention progress has been reported in areas where the Community Roots Project is operating. And although there are likely additional factors contributing to a decrease in violence, the progress reports are encouraging.

For example, in Coatepeque in 2017, there were 44 registered homicides, and one year later, the number had dropped to 20 homicides.

Similarly, Colomba Costa Cuca registered 37 homicides in 2017 and reported 10 in 2018 (through October).

Two municipalities in Chiquimula registered a decrease as well: San Juan Ermita and San Jose La Arada.

Communities and local governments have been eager to work with the project to address migration from their communities, establish prevention commissions, and develop prevention plans. At the opening of a commission planning meeting in Quetzaltepeque, Chiquimula, one leader said "They tell us they're coming back but they never do. [Until this project] We have never been able to organize ourselves as a municipality." Meanwhile, the number of Guatemalan families apprehended at the U.S. border increased by 79 percent from 2017 to 2018, indicating the continued need for programming that addresses the root causes of migration.

As the project moves forward to fiscal year 2019, it is incorporating the Channels of Hope for Child Protection approach, which is World Vision's program methodology for engaging with faith communities to address child well-being. The model motivates and builds capacity in faith leaders to implement and promote actions to

protect children from violence in their own spheres and in the communities in which they work. Several project staff were trained on the approach during a week-long workshop in March 2018.

Another highlight from this year was supporting the National Civilian Police with logistics and materials to implement violence prevention interventions in 55 schools (45 elementary schools and 10 secondary schools), benefiting 8,705 students. Topics included personal values, bullying, and the different forms violence can take.



139,583 **PEOPLE** have participated in project activities since the project began in December 2016.



"With the support we've received from the Community Roots Project, we have seen a change in our municipality," said the mayor of Colomba Costa Cuca. "Proof of this is that no homicides have been reported for the past 40 days, a huge milestone for this municipal corporation."

HONDURAS

Thank you for supporting the Honduras Child Protection Project. Many youth in Honduras face various forms of violence, including in their families, at school, and in their communities. The project aims to help vulnerable youth protect themselves from physical, sexual, psychological, and community violence with the support of their families and communities.

Over the last year, the project created seven Peace Clubs to engage 144 new young people (including 95 girls). Four clubs targeted 10 to 17 year olds and three clubs engaged 18 to 24 year olds. In total, 186 young people participated in Peace Clubs, where they gained greater awareness of how violence affects them and their peers.

Through the Peace Road curriculum, more than 210 youth developed new skills and knowledge in managing emotions, making good decisions, reducing risk behaviors, and promoting a culture of peace in their communities. They also learned how to organize community events, which engaged 2,912

other young people. This enabled them to put into practice their leadership skills for the benefit of their communities. Eight youth from the Peace Clubs served as members of the Municipal Child Protection Board, which seeks to promote the right of children to participate in local decision-making.

In addition to empowering youth, the project also established three Child Protection Committees. The Committees play a crucial role in preventing and responding to incidences of abuse and exploitation. The 39 members were trained in child protection and children's rights.

The project also trained 96 faith leaders in the Parenting with Tenderness methodology. The trainers then trained 415 parents and caregivers (95 men and 320 women) in how to nurture their children, which will impact 2,083 children.

Another achievement from this year was training representatives from governmental and non-government agencies on the Municipal Policy on Children and Adolescents, the municipal-level legal framework for the protection of children, in partnership with the Child Protection Roundtable of San Pedro Sula.

We thank you for partnering with us to improve the lives of young people in Honduras.



3,648 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 100 CHILDREN, have benefited from the project since it began in June 2017.



"Before, in my community, I was not aware of the problems I was suffering. The truth is that it did not interest me ... Little by little, I learned that my community needed help and a change," said Angel, 16. "I liked what I learned, how to improve my self-esteem and gradually eliminate violence against children by focusing more on the needs of my community."

INDIA

The India Child Protection Project was launched to prevent children from being sexually exploited and to help restore the lives of those who have survived trafficking. Red-light districts are no place for a child to ever be, but unfortunately many children spend their days and evenings there because they live with their mothers, who are exploited in prostitution. Their children are highly vulnerable to being trafficked and becoming involved in prostitution themselves.

The project established nine Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers in seven red-light districts, serving 483 children. The centers offered children opportunities to play and learn in safe environments, under the close watch of caring staff. In addition to helping children catch up on their schooling through remedial classes, the centers helped to enroll children in school and provide after-school tutoring. A supportive network such as this will decrease children's

vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

The project also empowered girls to defend themselves from violence through 82 Girl Power groups. Seventeen-year-old Rajina, a member of one of these groups, has learned how to speak out about abuse. She said previously, "We kept quiet about things we saw in the community. We kept it in our heart."

Through 30 Men Care groups, the project trained men to be advocates of child protection. Individually, the Girl Power and Men Care groups each prevented two child marriages. On their own initiative, they began to collaborate to maximize impact and were able to rescue one girl from trafficking.

To promote broader awareness of trafficking, the project organized street dramas in 100 villages and 50 other events to inform communities about how traffickers operate.

Along with grass-roots efforts to mobilize communities to lead change, the project strengthened the North Bengal Anti-Trafficking Network to combat trafficking on a regional level. Through this network, the project is able to advocate for policy change and assist government agencies in rescue and repatriation. Over the last four months, 32 trafficking survivors were rescued.

With your support, lives are being changed in India.



41,711 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 22,056 CHILDREN, have benefited from the project since it began in October 2017.



"I want to teach other children, become a teacher when I grow up," said 8-year-old Srabanti, who was sexually abused by a 60-year-old man when she went to a private tutoring session. "Teach them everything. Maybe even math."

KENYA

With your support, the Kenya Child Protection Project is fighting harmful cultural practices that hurt children, such as female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage. The project sought to enhance formal child protection systems by forming and training 10 Area Advisory Councils (AAC). Reporting and referral systems were strengthened by training service providers and duty bearers (those obligated to protect child rights), addressing gaps, and implementing child protection incident preparedness plans.

In addition to public awareness efforts about the harmful effects of violence against children—reaching nearly

150,000 people through 17 community events and 10 radio shows—informal child protection systems were strengthened. For example, the project trained 30 faith leaders to mobilize their churches to promote child protection and strengthened congregational teams that are providing care to vulnerable children.

The project also helped 868 children to receive birth certificates, conducted life-skills education with 270 children, provided 171 scholarships to vulnerable children, and engaged more than 700 children in alternative rite of passage training.

Thank you for your support to vulnerable children in Kenya. We are grateful for your partnership.



Community Change meetings prompt discussion of issues affecting child well-being.

886,371 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 492,301 CHILDREN, were reached through child protection initiatives since the beginning of the project, including 128,620 people in fiscal year 2018.

3,145 girls and boys report taking action to prevent violence against children in their communities

Four-year target: 2,187

144%

11,462 parents/caregivers are committed to reporting abuse against children

Four-year target: 10,400

110%

249 faith communities are mobilized and taking action to protect children

Four-year target: 210

119%



"I am so glad that World Vision Kenya identified me as an ambassador of change and has given me a platform to fight against social injustices within my community," said Selina Kipkerker Samich, mother of six. "I did not have a chance to go to school, but look, I am facilitating conferences and reaching many children and people."

SOUTHEAST ASIA

With your support, the Southeast Asia Child Protection Project is working to transform attitudes and behaviors to better protect children from all forms of violence, including trafficking, in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

In addition to teaching life skills to children to help them navigate dangers that they may face, the project equipped parents to better nurture their children through positive parenting training. The Celebrating Families approach helped 114 families to strengthen their relationships so children can thrive.

The project has observed that leading broad systemic change requires directly working with families but also providing multiple ways for the general public to learn about child protection and act on abuse.

The project conducted many events in Vietnam to raise awareness about preventing trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of violence, which

were attended by 13,586 people and 6,173 students. In Cambodia, radio broadcasts reached 161,000 people while concerts, which raised nearly \$10,000 for vulnerable children, reached 22,512 adults and 10,556 children. In Myanmar, the project held its annual event for trafficking survivors, which enabled 34 survivors to advocate with the government for increased protection and improved quality of services upon their return.

With local-level advocacy being an important driver of sustainability, the project engaged 2,056 children in six events in Cambodia, which led to the adoption of community action plans to reduce the use of corporal punishment. On a broader level in Cambodia, the project collaborated with other organizations to prompt the government to: enact a national law on child protection, adopt a policy on child protection in schools, create a child protection guidebook for the Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC), and

endorse a manual that will enable CCWCs to be more effective and accountable on child protection issues.

Thank you for investing in the future of children in Southeast Asia. May the words of this 65-year-old man from Cambodia ring true: "I hope the next generation will become good caregivers and leaders for the nation."



Parents in Myanmar share about the impact of the new parenting techniques they have learned.

156,157 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 71,204 CHILDREN, have benefited from the project since it began in October 2016, including 78,420 people in fiscal year 2018.



"My husband and I have tried to practice what we have learned from the [Celebrating Families] sessions," said Hong Bolla. "I am really happy to see my husband's behavior being transformed. I commit to being more encouraging and motivating to my husband."

UGANDA

When violence happens in families, schools, and communities in Uganda, children are robbed of their right to good health, education, and well-being. With your support, the Uganda Child Protection Project is bringing about sustainable change by empowering communities to strengthen informal and formal child protection systems, such as child protection coalitions.

Child participation in community activities was high this year with more than 21,200 children participating in children's clubs. Children learned how to advocate for their needs and took advantage of Child Parliament sessions to communicate with government leaders about how they are affected by violence. Parents and teachers were empowered to develop

stronger relationships with children by learning about the benefits of positive discipline and the harm that corporal punishment inflicts. Faith leaders played a crucial role in leading behavior change, beginning with themselves; at the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, 212 faith leaders agreed to address harmful social norms that perpetuate child marriage and child sacrifice.

The mobilization of community members, along with public campaigns (e.g., 40,000 listeners were reached through a school radio talk show), has increased awareness of the need to prevent violence against children and to respond appropriately when it occurs. Of the 171 households that were oriented on the Amber Alert

system, 159 of them reported child protection concerns to authorities. More than 830 children who had been abused reported that they were supported by adults after reporting their experiences.

Thank you for loving these children.



235,331 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 144,941 CHILDREN, have benefited from the project since it began in October 2016, including 119,029 people in fiscal year 2018.

19,047 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities

Four-year target: 15,832

120%

1,067 parents and caregivers showed that they better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline

Four-year target: 2,700

40%

1,232 faith leaders mobilized their communities to take action to protect children

Four-year target: 1,237

99%



"We presented a petition to the district council and they acted upon it. This has made us become leaders," said 15-year-old Michael, speaker for the Children's Parliament. "I think I am aspiring to become the president of this country. As a speaker, I have learned that we can influence the decisions of adults. All parliamentarians are learning how to speak before adults."



A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

A young girl finds redemption in starting school again

"I remember that time. Life was so hard and we were suffering so much until I asked God what we had done for Him to allow that," said Mary,* 15. Despite loving school, she had to drop out to support her family, which struggled when her father's alcoholism worsened.

Soon, her father demanded that Mary undergo female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) to make her "ripe" for marriage, which fellow villagers said would help him to withstand poverty. Mary refused him and later rejected the older man who paid a dowry of cattle to her father in exchange for her.

But then one day she was abducted by a group of men and taken to the man's house, where he had another wife.

"My parents accepted the dowry so I was made a wife by force. Since I had refused to be circumcised, the man who was now my husband agreed to marry me first then make me go through FGM once I was in his home," she said.

Mary describes that day as the worst and lowest moment in her life. Tragically, it was also the night that Mary was sexually assaulted by her husband.

In the face of so many obstacles, Mary did not want to accept her new life. "I couldn't believe that my dreams of having a good life were over. I was now going to go through the same life of suffering, poverty, and abuse that my mum had. That was just too much," she said.

She hatched an escape plan to run as far away as she could so no one could find her. Four days after the abduction, while accompanying a group of girls and women to fetch water, she took her chances and

escaped. "I asked them to go ahead as I tethered the donkeys that we normally used to carry water. Then, when they were gone, I ran fast in the opposite direction and disappeared."

She slept in trees and survived because of "good Samaritans" who sympathized with her. In the last home where she was welcomed, Mary heard of a school known as Morpus that has a dormitory open to girls and boys who have survived or are vulnerable to various forms of violence. On her own again, she fled to the school.

Mary describes the school as one she dreamed of in her head, where she would be welcomed and supported. She says the guard keeps them safe, teachers check in on them, and they have all the supplies they need. In short, "This place is like the way a good home should be."

Through the alternative right of passage training, Mary has learned about the adverse impact of FGM/C, such as infections, severe bleeding, increased risk to HIV, and birth difficulties. This has strengthened her resolve to become an anti-FGM/C advocate.

Mary claims that with God's help, she will succeed and one day be able to help children in her community who have suffered like her.

She believes God was watching over her when she was alone in the forest, saying that she kept meeting people who wanted to help her. "That must have been God watching over me all the time."

**Name changed to protect identity*



As I was suffering,
I used to wonder
where God was. But
now I know that He
never left me."

—Mary, 15



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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