



World Vision®



CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

PROGRESS REPORT: October 2017 through September 2018

Prepared January 2019

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

GLOBAL SUMMARY

A drop of water in a pond creates an ever-widening ripple. Local churches are becoming that drop of water, creating a ripple throughout their communities in sharing God's Word with children and youth.

In El Salvador, our work with churches to prevent violence among children and youth has won a national award.

In Kenya, new youth-focused churches are growing even in urban areas prone to violence fueled by religious conflicts.

In Ethiopia, youth have been energized by this project, eagerly embracing workshops that help them explore God's purpose for their lives.

In Zimbabwe, youth are shaking off their fear and hopelessness as they learn they are made in the image of God, with God-given gifts.

But the impact of this initiative may best be expressed through the words of George, a volunteer facilitator in the Philippines: "With the Christian Discipleship Project, the Word of God is no longer limited inside the church, but is extended to the whole community."



Your partnership is enabling World Vision to have a mighty impact for God's Kingdom as children and youth grow in their Christian faith. Thank you for your faithful prayers and commitment.

GLOBAL UPDATE

1,857,348 PEOPLE benefited from ministry activities since October 2015, including 1,210,063 during fiscal year 2018. This includes parents/caregivers, children, and community members benefiting directly and indirectly.



179,609 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 96,071 during FY18.



17,181 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 3,387 during FY18.



2,607* churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, including 716 during FY18.

(*Our report in July 2018 overstated this number as we incorrectly counted church leaders, instead of the churches they represent, in Central America. That has been corrected in this report.)

PROGRAM-TO-DATE SPENDING

\$7,493,105 program-to-date funding

\$7,310,540 spending to date **98%**

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND

94,791 Bibles made available through the separate International Bible Fund, benefiting 473,955 people.

24%

Seven-Year target: 400,000

CENTRAL AMERICA



The Central America Christian Discipleship Project was built on the foundation of a previous project in El Salvador (2012-2017) that equipped

churches for ministry. We are pleased to report that this foundational project received a national award in 2018 from the National Council for Citizen Security and Coexistence in El Salvador (in cooperation with USAID and the European Union). The project was recognized for its innovative approach in engaging churches to prevent violence among children and youth.

The award has paid valuable dividends for this project, as the credibility gained has influenced many pastors to seek training from World Vision to improve their ministries to children and families. Some key project accomplishments in

FY18 include 3,870 children involved in community outreach, 1,276 youth participating in a Christian leadership summit, and 3,913 parents learning more loving parenting skills.

Pastor Romeo de Manzano (see below) says to donors supporting the Christian Discipleship Project, "I believe that if you could see the impact that you are producing in children's lives, you would be surprised."

Please pray for our church partners to overcome timing and logistical challenges so they can participate in the project's training.

28,147 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities.

Five-Year Target: 75,000

38%

2,645 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.

Five-Year Target: 2,200

120%

314 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth*

Five-Year Target: 600

52%

** In July 2018, we reported reaching 694 churches, however we had incorrectly included the number of individual church leaders rather than the churches they represent. That has been corrected in this report.*

Pastors reach out to walk alongside children in need

Pastors Romeo (pictured right) and Karla de Manzano felt called to care for the needs of children. But they had no pattern to follow in preaching a Christ who walks with His people in their physical, as well as spiritual, needs.

World Vision's training helped them create a vision for how to serve their community. Their church now offers a free lunch program that serves about 50 children daily. As the children eat, parents participate in a weekly talk about creating loving home environments.

"This ministry is of much blessing because ... we work not only with the children, but also with the parents," says Romeo. "When working with parents, the difficult environment in which children live changes."



ETHIOPIA



Ethiopian youth are embracing the project's training as they rarely have special opportunities like this. As a result, we have already exceeded some of the project's five-year targets. Just one example of the ripple effect the project is causing is in Shashego,

where 500 youth were targeted to be trained on topics such as leadership and exploring God's purpose for their lives. The participating youth eagerly engaged in learning and started sharing with their peers, reaching 12,499 additional people—a 25-fold increase in expected impact.

Looking forward, the project will continue to work more deeply with the youth and children that have been reached, helping them grow in their faith.

Some key events in FY18 include:

- In Kolfe Keraniyo, a six-day children's ministry conference drew 600

children and a high-profile official of the Ayer Tena Genet Church.

- In Ambassal, youth leadership training is creating new possibilities for young women. One woman said, "Women are not as such encouraged to serve and participate in leadership. This project is creating good opportunity for us."
- In Sibu Sire, 726 youth participated in events where they heard the gospel, and 121 of these youth committed their lives to Christ.

Please pray for peace, as the security situation continues to be volatile.

48,935 children and youth participated in discipleship activities.

Five-Year Target: 30,000

163%

1,423 pastors and faith leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.

Five-Year Target 3,000

47%

207 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth.

Five-Year Target: 140

148%

Improved Sunday school teaching increases attendance

The children's Sunday school at Kale Hiwot Church near Addis Ababa was struggling, experiencing a 30 percent decline in attendance in just a few years. But since World Vision's training, that negative trend is turning around as children find new energy in their Sunday school classes.

Mekdes Girma, one of the teachers, says she used to preach at the children like they were adults and shouted when they misbehaved. Now she says that "the teaching method I followed was not only wrong, but also confusing to the children. ... [The training] helped me know how I ought to teach the children with love and good understanding." The children see the difference and now participate eagerly at church. Nebiyu, age 11, says, "I'm happy that I'm growing up hearing the story of Jesus."



KENYA



The voices we hear from Kenya are united as they proclaim the impact you have made in people's lives through this project.

"I have developed a liking for the Word of God as I learn something

new whenever I read," says Moses, age 9, in Changamwe.

Reports flow in from our program areas, describing Bible clubs and Sunday schools that are growing exponentially. Pastors and teachers are newly energized for their work.

Some key accomplishments include:

- The Bible club at Kalawa Primary School has grown from 20 to 101 students in two years. "Reviving our Bible club is the best decision we made," said Mr. Wambua, head teacher.
- After-school Bible clubs in the Bamba area increased by

44 percent (from 18 to 26 clubs).

- 10 church leaders trained on Celebrating Families reached 233 people with information on godly parenting techniques, demonstrating the ripple effect the project is having.
- 1,200 youth leaders from 60 schools in Bandaptai participated in training on life skills and decision-making.

Please pray for pastors in the Scott Christian University program. For many, this is their first time to attend this kind of formal training. Pray for God to encourage them when they face challenges.

37,005 children and youth participated directly in discipleship activities.

Five-Year Target: 75,720

49%

2,021 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.

Five-Year Target: 2,050

99%

749 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth.

Five-Year Target: 750

99.9%

Pastors training leads to new church and thriving youth ministry

Pastors Charles and Pamela Mangaga felt God's clear call to minister to youth, but were unsure how to get started. Participating in the Christian Discipleship Project's theological training with Scott University proved to be the turning point they needed, as the topics studied included child evangelism and church planting.

On the outskirts of Mombasa, in an area known for violence, they started a church that specifically focuses on engaging young people like Gideon (at right) in participating in teaching and worship. The robust youth ministry has caused the church to grow to 70 members over three years. Their dream is that this will double in the next two years.



PHILIPPINES



We stand in awe of the work that God is doing in the Philippines. We are deeply thankful that your generous gifts are the means He is using to help Filipino children and youth grow in their Christian faith.

The investment in developing strong relationships with school officials has resulted in hundreds of school leaders trained by World Vision and dozens of schools fully engaged in improving their lessons on values by using World Vision materials.

An innovative approach to family ministry—the FamBam retreat—is playing a vital role in healing families that have had relationships torn apart by drugs or other issues.

Some key accomplishments include:

- Catholic churches in the province of Bohol and on Mindanao and Luzon islands are becoming engaged with the project.

- 3,875 parents/caregivers improved their skills in parenting and guiding their children's faith development.
- The project team participated in the Youth Factor Conference, sharing about the importance of Christian discipleship to 8,000 youth.
- The project and the importance of Christian values is getting wide publicity through radio and a program called Lighthouse Cafe TV.

Please pray for the youth leaders trained as facilitators, that they continue to improve their skills and effectiveness while balancing this volunteer time with schoolwork.

36,684 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities.

31%

Five-Year Target: 118,000

868 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.

Five-Year Target: 300

289%

304 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth.

Five-Year Target: 300

101%

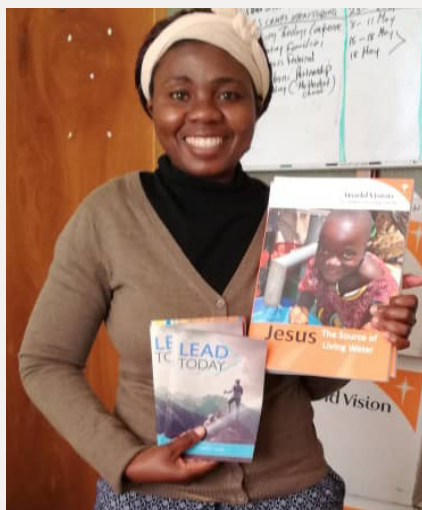
Father hears God's call to forgive

Benny had great anger in his heart and many questions for God. His sister committed a crime, then fled. His 65-year-old father pleaded guilty to the crime to protect his daughter and is facing time in jail. Anger at his sister and fear for his father tested Benny's faith in God, as he asked questions that God seemed not to hear:

At a session on forgiveness at a FamBam event, Benny clearly sensed God's message to him. "I felt my mind cleared ... God answered the many questions I had. He imprinted the words 'forgiveness' and 'trust in Him.' ... My situation is not easy at the moment. I have no work ... But I know He will help me through this."



ZIMBABWE



The Zimbabwe Christian Discipleship Project is moving swiftly forward, already meeting our five-year goal for the number of pastors who have been

introduced to the project and agreed to participate. In future years, we will work more deeply with each of these pastors, increasing their ministry skills over time through additional training.

In addition to completing the project's baseline evaluation (see next page), key accomplishments in FY18 include:

- Training 66 Scripture Union leaders (see photo at left) on creating engaging children's ministry activities for after-school Bible clubs
- Holding six Bible camps for 777 children to participate in games, skits, and Bible quiz activities
- Supporting newly trained youth leaders to form 14 Christian youth

groups, with more than 200 people involved

- Training 127 church leaders on Channels of Hope-Child Protection to help them better understand the Bible's call to take an active role in protecting children
- Training 106 youth as peer mentors for Dare to Discover, an approach that encourages youth to explore their faith and identity in Christ

Please pray for wisdom as we work with the Apostolic and Zionist churches, which mix traditional beliefs with Christian doctrine. Pray for their active engagement in learning to disciple children and youth based on biblical principles.

5,305 children and youth participated directly in discipleship activities.

8%

Five-Year Target: 69,521

521 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.

Five-Year Target: 424

123%

103 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth.

26%

Five-Year Target: 394

Empowered Worldview (EWV) uses Scripture to encourage youth to see themselves as beloved children of God with God-given talents, causing them to grow in their self-confidence and ability to make healthy decisions.

Melusi Nkomo (pictured at right) from Pumula village says that EWV workshops helped him understand his identity as a child of God, despite growing up in poverty after losing his father:

"The I-can-do-anything attitude has driven fear away from my life," Melusi says. And with that confidence, he has started a bead-making business to earn money for his education, saying: "That has been my dream—to further my studies and be a better person."



ZIMBABWE BASELINE EVALUATION

The Zimbabwe Christian Discipleship Project's baseline evaluation was completed in December 2018, creating a foundation on which to affirm planned project approaches and measure impact over the project's five-year life.

As Zimbabwe is predominantly Christian, it's not surprising that nearly all children and youth surveyed had some awareness of God, with 93 percent reporting that they feel God's presence. However, when analyzed more closely, it was apparent that surface-level knowledge doesn't translate to a strong understanding of God's love and faithfulness. Nor do youth have many opportunities to develop a strong faith that will sustain them in making good choices for their lives.

- About 30 percent of youth do not participate in school- or community-based Christian discipleship opportunities.
- Overall, more than one-fourth (28 percent) of youth scored low in an assessment measuring their self-esteem and capacity to achieve their life goals. In some regions, as many as half scored as low. As one caregiver said in a focus group: "Peer pressure is a silent killer. Youth may be able to uphold these values at home, but it becomes difficult for them to uphold in the outside world."

- 60 percent of youth receive no spiritual training in church. A youth from Muzarabani: "The church is mainly concerned with adults. There are no activities for children."

Only half of the youth surveyed report attending Sunday school on a weekly basis. And focus group conversations made it clear that those who did attend were not growing in their faith. Some of their comments include:

- "Some youth go to church, but do not understand why they go there."
- "Some youth go to church, but after and outside church, their actions are very different. We usually see some taking alcohol, some hanging out with boyfriends or girlfriends, and some engage in early sexual activities."
- During church services, "some youth do not cooperate since they will be forced to come to church by their parents or guardian."

The baseline evaluation confirms our approach to focus on methods for deepening and strengthening the faith of children and youth.

Baseline confirms project's focus on family ministry

The baseline evaluation shows that the family is a place where children feel they can learn about God. Ninety-four percent of youth said they can talk to their parents or caregivers about God, and nearly 80 percent of parents/caregivers say they prioritize praying with their families.

However, only one-third of parents/caregivers report praying daily, and 44 percent say they never participate in devotions. While most parents/caregivers are committed to teaching children about right and wrong (65 percent), few ask their children to share their thoughts and questions about God (18 percent), and few have received any training on how to encourage their children to explore and grow in their faith (8 percent).

In focus groups with youth, some agree that their parents encourage them to pray or go to church. However, many of their survey comments paint a different picture. "The challenge is that parents at church pretend to be holy and good, but at home, they act differently," said a youth in the Robert Sinyoka region.

The baseline's confirmation that the family is a central place for Zimbabwean children/youth to grow in their faith affirms this project's approach of using the Celebrating Families model, which focuses on healing family relationships through biblical principles of love and forgiveness. During FY18, the project trained 23 people (primarily church leaders) as Celebrating Families facilitators, equipping them to lead these workshops in their communities. Subsequent workshops were held in four of our program areas (Limpopo, Hwange, Muzarabani, and Gokwe), reaching 175 people.

Pastor Ngoni Mvura, who was trained as a facilitator, said, "The process was awesome as it made us realize our flaws, strengths, and gaps that are there at family level. ... I realized the need to recommit to my family."



INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND



We see God's powerful hand at work in spreading His Word through the International Bible Fund. During the last half of FY18, World Vision made more than 36,000 Bibles available—the most in a six-month period since this fund was created.

In **El Salvador**, the International Bible Fund provided 20,200 children's Bibles to church partners participating in the Central America Christian Discipleship Project. These are being used in Sunday schools, children's outreach events, and peacebuilding programs.

In **Romania**, World Vision staff had prayed and fasted for many months, hoping funding from the International Bible Fund would become available. Based on the funds initially allocated to them, they estimated they would be able to purchase 5,000 Bibles. Instead, they were able to purchase 16,236 Bibles—more than three times their estimate. Your gift and a partnership with the Orthodox church became the answer to their prayers.

Future plans include:

- **Honduras**, about 15,000 Bibles to be used in conjunction with the Central America Christian Discipleship Project and for World Vision-sponsored children throughout the country
- **Guatemala**, about 35,000 Bibles, to be used in partnership with children's and youth ministries of local churches
- Additional distributions planned for **Armenia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.**

Thank you for your generous gift and heart for helping more people hear the good news of Jesus.

94,791 Bibles made available since July 2016.

24%

Seven-Year Target: 400,000

“We are blessed to bring the Word of God to the life of many girls and boys of the community. ... We are very grateful to the donors—sisters and brothers of other churches that make this gift possible. I wish that the Lord Jesus bless you greatly.”

—Pastor Zorina Masferre, Baptist church, El Salvador

The International Bible Fund made Bibles available in Kenya during the first half of FY18 and in FY17—and we continue to receive appreciative notes. Damaris, head teacher of the Samaritan school (left side of photo in the white blouse), said: “On behalf of the school administration, I would like to thank World Vision for the donation of 150 pieces of children's Bibles to our school. ... We had no Bibles in our school library to enable our children to read Scriptures for both spiritual nourishment and academic reference. But through your generous giving, our pupils will grow spiritually, as well as improve their performance in the Christian Religious Education subject.”



AN ANSWER TO PRAYER



I always wanted to have a Bible and read it.”

—Andres, age 13

A young boy’s prayer for a Bible leads him to a church children’s event that opens the door to education and financial support for his whole family.

Thirteen-year-old Andres had a dream—to own a Bible and be able to read it.

But with his mother struggling to provide for the family on her own, Andres had to leave school to care for his two younger brothers and never learned to read. The energetic young boy accepts his lot in life cheerfully, though, because he loves his brothers, saying, “if I do not take care of them, they will be alone and that cannot be.”

The family has a Bible that used to be his grandmother’s, with its cover and many pages missing. That tattered book awakened Andres’ interest to learn more.

“I always wanted to have a Bible and read it,” he said. “I know God loves us all and helps us at all times. I pray with my siblings, almost always, and asked Him in prayer to have a Bible one day and read the stories that are there.”

The answer to Andres’ prayer came when one of World Vision’s partner churches organized an outreach event for children in Andres’ community of El Socorro. After games and an activity with clowns, the church youth told Bible stories and distributed Bibles that were made available through the International Bible Fund.

The youth leaders talked to Andres, asking him where he lived and where he went to school. When they realized the desperate circumstances of the family, church leader Josue Azucar realized the church needed to do more to help them.

The church’s youth lead a literacy program, and they started a new group in Andres’ neighborhood, giving Andres a chance to finally follow his passion for learning. He and his two younger brothers are the most faithful in attendance. Although Andres can’t read his new Bible yet, he is learning fast. And in the meantime, he enjoys learning the Bible stories through the illustrations. The church also is providing a weekly basket of food to Andres’ family to help as their mother works to improve their situation.

Josue doesn’t believe in coincidences—except those orchestrated by God. He is convinced that the church’s choice to hold this activity in Andres’ neighborhood, having the Bibles for the children, and meeting Andres, was God’s way of bringing the gospel—in word and deed—into Andres’ home.

“I firmly believe that the visit to the community was because of them; God took us [there] for them,” said Josue.



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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