



STRONG WOMEN
STRONG WORLD



*the end of
poverty begins
with her.*

PROGRESS REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2016 TO SEPTEMBER 2017

Prepared February 2018



Thank you for your commitment to empowering millions of women and girls. You are helping to ensure they have opportunities to reach their potential and build healthier families and communities. Your support of a full range of interventions—from water, food, health, and education to economic development and child protection—allows communities to work toward solutions, improved lives, and renewed hope.

During fiscal year 2017, (October 2016 through September 2017), the following four projects were supported by the Strong Women Strong World Fund:

World Vision's Mother and Child Health initiative strives to ensure healthy pregnancies for mothers and full, healthy lives for children. From October 2016 to September 2017, more than 366,000 women and children in Somalia, Uganda, and Zambia gained access to maternal and child health and nutrition services. For example, in Somalia, more than 2,500 children under 5 were successfully treated after suffering from severe malnutrition. In Uganda, approximately 4,000 children benefited from care groups that taught their mothers improved health and nutrition practices. Zambia programs have trained nearly 3,500 community health workers. Each is active in her community.

The **Zambia Education** project, which began in November 2016, serves girls who have survived or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence, and helps girls gain skills and resources for work and life. More than 3,000 girls have benefited so far. Building off of World Vision's Empowerment, Respect, and Equality project, which ended in September 2016, the Zambia Education project supports vulnerable girls to complete their education and pursue their dreams. In some cases, this means scholarships and safe housing alternatives. The center photo above shows three nurses in-the-making. Each received a scholarship that allowed her to continue her nursing education.

The **Bangladesh Child Protection** project, whose focus through September 2020 is on reducing child labor, aims to remove children in the division of Khulna from exploitative and hazardous work and keep those at risk from engaging in such work. Through September 2017, more than 9,500 women and girls had taken action to end child labor. Thanks to your faithful support, the project opened all four of its planned Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers, and was able to open an unplanned fifth center in the sub-district of Rupsha. The project staff is working closely with families and schools to ensure that the children attending the centers, and those who have been reintegrated into the formal school system, are adjusting well to their new environments. The teachers report that the children's health and abilities are improving day by day.

The **Kenya Child Protection** project works to protect children from female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), child marriage, and other forms of abuse, exploitation, and violence. As children and adults learn about children's rights, a growing number of abuse incidents are reported rather than ignored. Thanks to a new reporting and referral system, the project provided care to 118 children last year: 64 required crisis interventions and 54 received longer-term support. Meanwhile, 125 children who were rescued from FGM/C, child marriage, or child labor received scholarships for their secondary school fees, 15 youth received vocational training scholarships, and 148 children who were vulnerable to harm received scholarships, 28 of which were for vocational training.

The following pages highlight major activities and accomplishments for these four critical projects.

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

SOMALIA, UGANDA, AND ZAMBIA

Your support of the Mother and Child Health initiative is helping to make childbirth the joy it should be, instead of a potential tragedy for families in some of the most challenging places World Vision works.

In fiscal year 2017, this initiative trained thousands of community health workers to teach families the importance of nutrition, vaccinations, safe water and hygiene, prenatal care, and delivering babies in a health facility. We bolstered that with extra training for nurses and midwives to be better prepared to handle complicated and difficult births.

Faith leaders learned how to teach their congregations the importance of providing pregnant women, infants, and young children with healthcare and good

nutrition. These trusted voices have a strong influence and are a vital tool in efforts to educate communities and change long-held beliefs and practices.

All this is working together to create a safer world for mothers, babies, and young children. A shining example of this is a recent random sampling of beneficiaries in Uganda that showed the percentage of women having their babies in a health facility increased from 55 percent to 71 percent, and families with access to safe water improved from



A Ugandan community health worker uses an app on her phone to provide timely health counseling messages to a new mother.

59 percent to 86 percent. Thank you for sharing your blessings to provide these tools for transformation. Your gifts are making a difference.

366,591 PEOPLE* were provided with access to maternal and child health and nutrition services, which included 197,079 children younger than 5 during fiscal year 2017. Since these projects began in FY16, 475,443 women and young children have benefited.

*These beneficiary numbers include people in Somalia, Uganda, and Zambia who might have received more than one service. For example, women who delivered their babies in a health facility often also received prenatal care services. These numbers also include beneficiaries from projects supported by our corporate and foundation partners.

Trained 4,746 community health workers to provide frontline care

FY17 target: 2,388 **199%**

Trained 597 faith leaders on the importance of maternal and child healthcare

FY17 target: 422 **141%**



Somalia: Since she received training on providing specially timed health messages for pregnant women and young children, World Vision community health worker Habibo Farah says, "Prevention is better than cure, which is why we need to get the right message to the right person."

Habibo understands the value of her training, saying, "I have started applying it to my family and my community. I'm extremely appreciative to World Vision for giving me this opportunity, and very lucky to have attended the training." She added, "I am now engaged with my village elders and primary health unit staff," to remove barriers to accessing health services for mothers and young children.

ZAMBIA EDUCATION



Precious, 19, is the youngest of four girls in her family, and still lives with her parents. Recently, Precious' mother became sick, and the family channeled all their resources to pay for her care.

"There were no resources for me to further my education," Precious says. "My story changed when the Zambia Education Project was introduced. This project brought hope in my academic career. It was a prayer answered by God. I was selected to be assisted through the scholarship program. Because of this project I'll achieve my goal of becoming a doctor whose mission is to help the sick. My prayer is that this project continues to help the underprivileged like me."

Thanks to your ongoing support, more adolescent girls in Zambia have access to education, opening their world to economic opportunities and improved well-being. World Vision is pleased to be able to continue this work through the Zambia Education Project, which launched in November 2016.

The project has three target outcomes through September 2019:

- Increase the number of girls who progress from primary school to secondary school
- Provide high school students with training in life skills and workforce readiness
- Help vulnerable girls graduate from high school

From November 2016 through September 2017, the project benefited 3,083 people, including 1,146 youth, against a target of 6,080 beneficiaries by September 2019.

In partnership with communities and local partners in the Kapululwe, Magoye, and Sinazongwe areas, we are supporting vulnerable girls by providing them with scholarships to attend secondary education, or to attend college or vocational programs. The project provides housing and care to girls who have survived or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence.

Additionally, the Youth Ready program equips children in grades 10-12 for life by providing literacy learning, life-skills training, and livelihood preparation and support. This evidence-based approach to youth development prepares adolescents and youth for economic opportunities and to contribute to the wider good and care for others as active, engaged citizens.

We also are working with youth and adults to create village and youth savings groups. The proceeds pay for items like school materials and fees.

During fiscal 2017, key activities included the following:

- 220 girls received scholarships to cover the costs of their education.
- Three Homes of Hope provided safe housing for 61 girls. The homes are managed by World Vision's partner, Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- 112 savings groups served 1,864 members, with 34 people trained as community agents to collect and manage data.
- A community survey showed that 5,220 parents are willing to invest in their girls' education after primary level, exceeding project targets.
- 519 adults and 1,469 children from 14 schools attended meetings on gender-based violence and the importance of both girls and boys receiving an education.
- 82 PTA savings groups implemented a *Help A Child* fund, with the proceeds paying for school fees, school uniforms, and materials.
- 20 vulnerable children at risk of dropping out of school received emergency retention funds to pay for school fees.

BANGLADESH CHILD PROTECTION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH EDUCATION

Education is core to World Vision's Child Protection work in Bangladesh. To change hearts, minds, and behaviors, people must know which practices are harmful and why, learn what alternatives exist, and gain confidence in the power each person has to help change the world for children.

In this project, World Vision is using a multifaceted approach that includes public events to raise awareness, small group trainings, and individualized coaching. Together, these conversations are building momentum among children, parents, business owners, government leaders, and other community members.

From feedback provided by parents, project staff reported, "Previously (parents) did not think that child labor was a problem, but now they realize

that child labor is a big problem for their children."

During fiscal 2017:

- 5,889 adults and children participated in 20 community events aimed at increasing the awareness of children's rights.
- 3,164 children learned about child labor and other protection issues at education sessions.
- 3,716 adults were educated on children's rights through group trainings.
- 280 children ages 12 to 17 attended life skills classes and youth clubs to learn how to be agents of change in their communities.
- 440 parents were trained in child protection and are now interested in withdrawing their children from their jobs.
- 94 parents and 22 youth older than 14 received vocational training and financial support to start their own businesses, which included grocery stands, tea stalls, sewing, transportation (rickshaws), and raising cattle.
- 56 business owners learned the labor laws intended to protect children; most are now cooperating with project staff to withdraw children from labor.
- 20 faith leaders engaged in group education events and child protection committees.

9,509 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 4,197 CHILDREN, took action to end child labor from October 2016 through September 2017.

Gender Equality

In Bangladesh, women and girls are traditionally considered less important than men and boys. They have very little authority in the decisions that affect their lives, and are often denied access to essential services, including healthcare. This gender imbalance is linked to high rates of child marriage, violence against women, female malnutrition, and persistent poverty. The Bangladesh Child Protection Project promotes gender equity by including women and girls in all activities, enabling them to experience their full range of rights and freedoms.





“

World Vision provided me parenting skills training that helped me to understand my role as a good mother...My children are precious to me. I love them with all my heart.”

—Fatema, pictured with
her children, Jannatun
and Nasir

NO LONGER AFRAID

Jannatun dreamed of friends and school while living in fear and loneliness as a domestic slave. In 2017, her simple, yet seemingly unreachable dreams came true—thanks to your support.

Until recently, 12-year-old Jannatun lived and worked as a contemporary house slave in the slums of Khulna City. After her father passed away, she was forced to drop out of sixth grade to earn income for her family, along with her mother and two brothers.

Jannatun's mother, Fatema, was doing all that she could to keep her family from starving, but her meager wages were never enough. She sold vegetables on the streets, which earned about 62 cents per day, and worked as a day laborer at a fertilizer plant, as a domestic helper for various families, and even as a construction worker whenever she could. On the days she couldn't find work, she begged on the streets. But on those days, the neighbors often yelled at her and drove her away.

“I feel unsafe without having a husband at home and my co-workers speak bad words to me at the workplace. I am an unfortunate mom, who could not send her kids to schools,” said a grieving Fatema.

Jannatun's older brothers, Al Amin (21) and Nasir (17), help support their mother and sister with their wages from a steel-furniture shop. Together, they earn \$10 per week.

As a full-time domestic servant, Jannatun received two meals per day and \$3.75 per month. She cared for the family's infant, cleaned the house, did the laundry, and cooked. She had no rights, and there were no rules to govern how her employer treated her. Jannatun was constantly scared of her employer. She dreamed of being back in school, playing, laughing, and learning with the other girls in her community.

Jannatun's dreams started to come true in April 2017, when World Vision staff met Jannatun and helped her return to school. Your support of this project provided her with a uniform and school supplies, and is helping with her school fees. Jannatun is also attending a life skills class to learn positive behaviors for dealing with the challenges of everyday life.

“Now I know how to think critically, make decisions, solve problems, communicate effectively with my mom and friends, coping with stress and coping with emotions,” Jannatun reported.

Fatema attended an education session for parents where she learned about the negative consequences of child labor. “World Vision provided me parenting skills training that helped me to understand my role as a good mother, taking good care of my children and set up positive examples for them to replicate. My children are precious to me. I love them with all my heart,” said Fatema.

Project staff helped the family create a plan to feasibly earn enough income for three meals each day, provide ongoing education for Jannatun, and maintain a peaceful home life. Fatema received technical training and materials to expand her vegetable business. She now also sells fabrics.

Armed with new knowledge, skills, and income, Fatema and her sons are committed to protecting Jannatun from child marriage. Jannatun no longer feels lonely or afraid, and now has opportunities to play with her friends. She hopes to become a teacher when she is older, so that she can help other children in poor communities learn and thrive.

KENYA CHILD PROTECTION

396,695 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 234,071 CHILDREN, reached through child protection initiatives since the beginning of the project, including 212,030 people in fiscal year 2017.

4,104 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities.

Four-year program target: 4,158

99%

8,762 parents and caregivers better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline.

Four-year program target: 10,550

83%

219 faith leaders mobilized their communities to take action to protect children.

Four-year program target: 210

104%

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Through your faithful support, we are seeing meaningful reductions in the number of parents who approve of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and in the number of girls who are forced into this procedure. In addition, an increasing number of children are learning how to read, write, do math, and communicate in English.

Over the past year, girls learned their rights and how to protect themselves, and boys learned new ways to value the health and well-being of their future wives. Parents learned that they have alternative options for their children that don't require FGM/C, committing their girls to child marriage, or pulling their children out of school. Importantly,

community leaders took a stand for children's rights, which created significant momentum for child protection initiatives across West Pokot.

Through your faithful support of this project, 1,690 students are regularly attending classes at the five project schools: 331 students at St. Catherine Girls Secondary School, 389 students at St. Elizabeth Girls Secondary School, 348 girls and 281 boys at Morpus Primary, 100 girls and 106 boys at Tipet Primary, and 135 students at Mtelo Girls Secondary School.

In addition, the project formed a life skills club for boys and girls at each of the five schools. Nearly 850 young people are



This project is helping women, who used to perform FGM/C procedures for a living, gain new skills and income opportunities.

gaining self-confidence and are learning how to express themselves, manage their time, and maintain healthy habits.



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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