

## SUMMARY

Thank you for partnering with World Vision to empower women and girls worldwide. When you give to the Strong Women Strong World (SWSW) Fund, you help women and girls gain equal access and opportunity, drive progress throughout their communities, and advocate for lasting social change.

In fiscal year 2021, your investment helped make the following possible:

**Kenya Big Dream** - empowered and equipped communities to overcome the harmful cultural practices of female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. See an Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) celebration [here](#).

**Finish the Job Zambia** - brought 111,736 women and girls clean water, 163,698 sanitation, and 137,967 hygiene in their homes. This is part of our plan to reach everyone,

everywhere we work in Zambia by 2025. See more [here](#).

**Mother and Child Health in Niger and Zambia** - trained and equipped more than 300 community health workers to educate and support pregnant women and their children, and brought clean water and improvements to health clinics. See a community health worker in action [here](#).

**Economic Empowerment in Malawi** - worked with thousands of women farmers and community members, bringing practical training and tools to help them begin to move from surviving to thriving. See THRIVE in action [here](#).

On the following pages, you will find a summary of each of these projects and examples of the women and girls whose lives are changing because you made the decision to generously give.

Thank you.



*“My house is more than just a house; it tells a story of how I changed from a hopeless being to a hard worker.”*

*—Elasi Banda, a single mother, farmer, and Malawi THRIVE participant who's celebrating being able to build her first home*

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



PAGE 3

111,736 women and girls in Zambia gained access to clean water in FY21



PAGE 4

116,331 pregnant women, newborns, and children under 5 received health services in FY21



PAGE 5

12,251 women in Malawi have improved their livelihoods from October 2016 to September 2021

# KENYA BIG DREAM

## SUMMARY

World Vision's Kenya Big Dream project empowers women and girls by eliminating the root causes of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Using a multi-sector approach, we work to change harmful social norms, strengthen household economic conditions to reduce financial incentives for child marriage, and promote education and life skills training for girls.

### Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP)

FGM—also known as cutting—symbolizes the transition from girlhood to womanhood. In areas of Kenya, FGM is traditionally seen as a precursor to child marriage, but both FGM and child marriage can have devastating physical and psychological effects for girls.

To provide a safe alternative to FGM, the Kenya Big Dream project offers Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) trainings to students to celebrate and

respect the culture without affirming harmful traditions like FGM. These trainings help communities to value girls' God-given identities, to have positive perceptions of girls who have not undergone FGM, to expand future opportunities with life-skills education, and educate parents on the importance of keeping their daughters in school and delaying marriage.

### Increasing economic opportunities to prevent child marriages

A daughter's perceived worth can be tied to her bride price, money that can be the difference between survival and starvation for families living in poverty. The Kenya Big Dream project offers families training in alternative livelihoods (such as bee keeping and poultry farming) to help meet household income needs, and encourages participation in savings groups to ensure resilience and financial stability—all efforts to prevent child marriages.



*"I am very happy to have participated in the alternative rites of passage class, which has motivated me to stand against FGM and child marriage. I will study hard until I graduate and become a doctor then come back here in my community to save the lives of mothers and children."*

*—Valen (pictured above), 16*

## KENYA CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

**608,035** **PEOPLE** (including 250,233 women) have accessed child protection activities and/or partnered with local stakeholders (such as communities, faith leaders, and governments) to address the root causes of violence against children since October 2019, including 304,546 in FY21 alone.



**1,187** people (781 women) enrolled in classes about community change in FY21.



**495** children (300 girls) graduated from Alternative Rites of Passage ceremonies in FY21.

# FINISH THE JOB ZAMBIA

## SUMMARY

The global water crisis hits girls and women the hardest. They spend an estimated 200 million hours hauling water—hours they cannot spend getting an education, learning a skill, or earning an income. Also, inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, particularly in public places, such as in schools, means girls face challenges in maintaining their menstrual hygiene, resulting in increased absenteeism in schools (World Bank, 2018).

World Vision intentionally focuses on women and girls in every aspect of our work because we know that when women and girls reach their potential, everyone wins.

In Zambia, World Vision brings clean water close to home which frees up precious hours for girls and women. We also provide access to clean water and menstrual hygiene management facilities to help girls stay in school.

*“I used to miss class for close to a week when attending to my period for fear of*

*messing myself up while at school,”* said Prudence (pictured at right), a seventh grader at Malambo community school in Zambia.

In FY21, thanks to World Vision and our partners, 54 schools received clean water facilities (including Malambo school), and 16 schools are now equipped with menstrual hygiene management facilities for girls to wash, change, and dispose of menstrual waste.

*“I am so happy to have clean water at our school and to see students, like Prudence, smile because of this clean water,”* said Veronica, a teacher at Malambo community school.

In fiscal year 2021, World Vision reached 213,274 people with clean water, 307,635 Zambians with dignified sanitation, and 265,195 people with handwashing facilities at home to support healthy hygiene practices—and more than half of those accessing WASH services were women and girls (52%).



*Each year, World Vision works alongside communities, schools, and health facilities to ensure women and girls have access to clean water, dignified sanitation, and healthy hygiene practices—all foundational to their well-being.*

*Note: The water point seen above was funded by Golf Fore Africa, which partners with World Vision to provide WASH services in Zambia.*

## ZAMBIA WASH UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

**1,112,280 PEOPLE** (including 574,366 women and girls) have been provided with access to clean water since October 2015, including 213,274 people (111,736 women and girls) in FY21.



**1,129,169**

people (591,875 women and girls) gained access to household sanitation since October 2015, including 307,635 people (163,698 women and girls) in FY21.



**1,132,221**

people (601,936 women and girls) gained access to hygiene promotion/handwashing facilities since October 2015, including 265,195 people (137,967 women and girls) who gained access to handwashing facilities in FY21.



# MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH IN NIGER AND ZAMBIA

## SUMMARY

Despite progress during the past few decades, there is still a massive gap in basic health care in poor rural communities. For example, every day, nearly 14,000 children under the age of 5 still die from things they should not have to: birth complications, pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria—all largely treatable and preventable (UNICEF, 2021). Also, 830 women die every day from preventable causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth. In World Vision project areas, half the health clinics do not have clean water, and 84% do not even have basic handwashing facilities.

World Vision is committed to focusing on the health of mothers and their children. Already in FY21, our Mother and Child Health projects in Niger and Zambia launched an initiative to improve WASH services in project health facilities. In Niger,

all 10 health centers targeted for improvements received hygiene and sanitation equipment and supplies, helping to keep the facilities clean and safe for patients and staff members. In Zambia, improvements were made at several health facilities, including water systems at seven of nine clinics.

Additional accomplishments of note during FY21:

- 10,784 Zambia children were screened and treated in their homes by community health workers who received the supplies and medicines needed for cases of malaria (6,969), diarrhea (1,751), and pneumonia (2,064).
- 67,500 children younger than 5 in Niger have better access to healthcare, thanks to a cadre of 303 trained community health workers serving in 206 villages.



*Elizabeth Banda washes her hands after treating a patient at the Kasonde-Kombokombo health facility. Seven mechanized water systems added 15 taps at health facilities in Zambia, bringing clean water to critical points of care, such as delivery and exam rooms and bathrooms. Water supply has improved cleaning of equipment and all areas of the clinics. Fikonkota Health Post reported that improvements there led to an increase from an average of 15 deliveries a month to 20.*

## MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

**1,034,054** **PREGNANT WOMEN, NEWBORNS, AND CHILDREN UNDER 5\*** in Africa have received essential healthcare, nutrition support, and treatment since October 2015, including 116,331 in FY21.



**7,883**

community health workers and volunteers in Africa were trained to provide health information and basic care to their neighbors since October 2015.



**834**

nurses and midwives in health facilities in Africa received training to improve the quality of care they provide since October 2015.



**162**

clinics in Africa received support to provide improved mother and child healthcare, such as water, hygiene, and sanitation facilities; training; and equipment since October 2015.



**993**

faith leaders in Africa were trained to advocate for the use of mother and child healthcare services since October 2015.

\*The total number of direct participants reflects some people 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 reflect our active work as well as projects in Somalia, Uganda, and Zambia that have been completed, and similar projects in Kenya and Zimbabwe that were funded by a foundation donor.

# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN MALAWI

## SUMMARY

In Malawi, your prayers and support have helped empower 17,098 farmers (including 12,251 women), equipping them with the mindset, tools, and training they need to move from dependence toward resilience and flourishing. As parents use their God-given gifts and skills to provide for their families, 50,122 children are also getting the nutritious meals, education, and medical care they need for their growth and development. Thank you for your partnership in the work of Malawi THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments).

### Multiplying savings groups

With the addition of 27 new groups in this reporting period, there are now 1,272 Savings for Transformation groups with 16,415 members (11,494 of whom are women), surpassing the target of 16,000. Members had a cumulative savings of \$1,131,643 to expand

their businesses, purchase assets like livestock, and care for their families.

### Expanding market access

In total, 9,294 farmers (including 4,688 women) have combined their harvests to command a higher price, yielding \$1,150,372 in sales, a 67% increase compared with 2020. And farmers can find purchasers for their produce more easily, with over 340 entities having registered as buyers through Farm Concern International, a partner of THRIVE.

### Building resilience

Since 2017, THRIVE has engaged with 17,098 farmers—exceeding the target of 16,000. Today, thousands of families are building their futures by practicing sustainable farming methods, investing in their children's education, saving for emergencies, and expanding their businesses.



*Zindaba Kumwenda (above) inspects the corn in her garden for signs of pests or disease. Through THRIVE, Zindaba received training to develop a mindset of empowerment; joined a savings group; and accessed loans from VisionFund, World Vision's global microfinance network—all of which equipped her to purchase a car and a motorcycle to start a transportation business. Today, Zindaba has multiple income streams, achieving a significant milestone in building resilience.*

## MALAWI ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

**17,098 PEOPLE** (including 12,251 women) have been empowered to build improved and resilient livelihoods from October 2016 to September 2021.



**\$1.15**

million in gross sales was achieved by 9,294 farmers (including 4,688 women), by reaching expanded markets since October 2016.



**\$1.13**

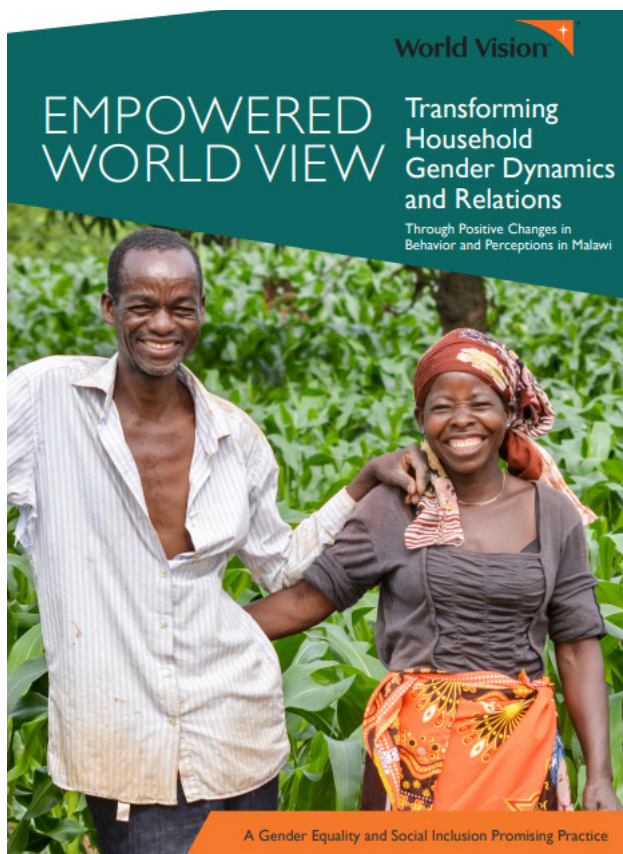
million saved by 16,415 members (11,494 women) of Savings for Transformation groups since October 2016.

## STRONGER TOGETHER: EMPOWERING WOMEN, FAMILIES THROUGH EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW

World Vision's Empowered Worldview model helps people understand their own worth and how they can utilize their full potential by employing their talents, knowledge, capacities, and the resources available to them to drive social change for sustainable development in their own contexts. The Empowered Worldview model is implemented alongside our THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) economic empowerment programming. THRIVE is a comprehensive and systematic approach that empowers the most vulnerable households to move from dependence to dignity by building improved and resilient livelihoods for smallholder farmers.

Recently, we took a closer look at how our Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach is integrated within our Empowered Worldview model/THRIVE program in Malawi, and examined evidence of impact. We considered evidence of impact as transformational along five domains of access, participation, decision-making, systems, and well-being. We learned:

- The Empowered Worldview component played a critical role in building more equitable gender relations and shifting mindsets and reshaping perceptions on women's and men's roles in society.
- There were positive shifts in gender roles, norms, and behaviors, particularly in how society perceived women's roles in production and men's participation in domestic activities, as well as positive changes in gender relations within households. *"In the past, I used to wait for my husband to tell me what to do in the farming. I was just thinking that my role as wife is to cook food for my family only. Now, I am able to make decisions on my own,"* said one participant.
- Some married/coupled men noted the changes in their relationships with spouses and others within their households and communities. According to group discussions with men, having compassion for one another, sharing with others, and being inclusive in decision-making were among the most significant changes experienced because of participating in Empowered Worldview training.



Visit [online](#) to read the full report and additional testimonies of women empowered to reach their full potential.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for partnering with World Vision through Strong Women Strong World. When you give, you invest in the lives of women and girls worldwide, making possible services to empower and strengthen them as agents of change, powerful leaders, and trailblazers that pave the way for a stronger world. You are making a difference.



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For more information visit:  
[worldvisionphilanthropy.org/women](https://worldvisionphilanthropy.org/women)



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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