

Gillings School of Global Public Health

World Vision

Saving lives by improving maternal and child health in Zambia

World Vision is improving maternal and child health in Luwingu district in northern Zambia through a collaborative project with the Zambian Ministry of Health. The program was designed to improve maternal healthcare attendance and child health outcomes by **strengthening healthcare facilities and the surrounding communities.**

World Vision upgraded water, sanitation, and maternity infrastructure in 19 healthcare facilities throughout the district and established community health education programs — including supporting Safe Motherhood Action Groups and training community health workers — to encourage care-seeking and improve early detection and treatment of childhood illness. As a result, healthcare facilities in program areas saw an uptick in follow-up antenatal care visits, a critical step toward safer pregnancies and deliveries.



"Looking at the antenatal coverage, it has really improved... especially with the community volunteers that have been trained, because of the information that has been disseminated in the community in guiding the mothers to access health facilities. *– Health promotion officer, Luwingu district*

Key metrics for maternal healthcare delivery improved following the Survive to Thrive program.

- **Increased follow-up antenatal care visits:** The average monthly number of follow-up antenatal care visits at program healthcare facilities increased to **nearly three times that of non-program facilities** during the three years after the intervention (incidence rate ratio: 2.95).
- **Sustained effect across analyses:** The increase in follow-up antenatal care visits held across multiple sensitivity analyses, suggesting there is strong evidence World Vision's program dramatically improved antenatal care attendance.
- **Routine health data sources support learning and evaluation**: By leveraging routine data from Zambia's health management information system, we examined program impacts without the need for expensive independent data collection.

Controlled interrupted time series analysis: Follow-up antenatal care visits in World Vision supported facilities and matched comparator facilities.

