



# Saving lives by tackling diarrheal disease in Zambia

## World Vision is tackling diarrheal disease in Zambia

through an integrated health project in collaboration with the Zambian Ministry of Health in Luwingu district in northern Zambia. The project was designed to improve childhood health outcomes, including **preventing and treating diarrhea** in children under 5. World Vision increased access to safe drinking water and sanitation, which is critical for diarrhea prevention. World Vision also distributed oral rehydration salts to households and community health workers, which helps prevent cases of diarrhea from becoming life-threatening. As a result, diarrhea rates are down, and children who do get sick are treated more quickly and effectively.

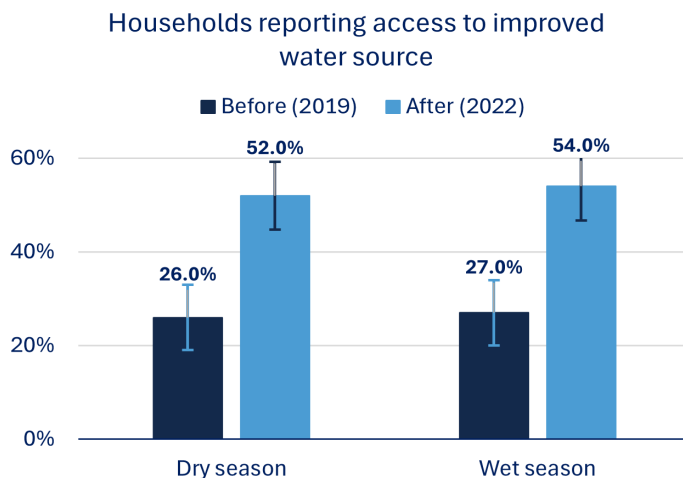


*“People have been taught to build toilets and maintain them to avoid flies leaving the toilet and seating on food causing diseases; that has also helped in the reduction of diseases and deaths.” - Parent in Luwingu district*

## Key metrics for diarrhea prevention and treatment have improved since 2019.

- **Reduced rates of diarrhea:** The percentage of households reporting cases of diarrhea in the last two weeks among children under five decreased from **23% to 20%**.
- **Cleaner household environment:** the percentage of households that were free from trash and feces around the home increased from **68% to 87%**, reducing potential contamination pathways.
- **Increased diarrhea treatment:** The percentage of children with diarrhea who were treated with oral rehydration salts increased from **39% to 50%** (branded packets) and **23% to 42%** (homemade).

### Access to safe water doubled in both the wet and dry seasons.



### Community health workers had key medications on hand to treat diarrhea.

