

The World Vision logo, featuring the text "World Vision" in white on an orange background with a white star icon.A white rectangular box containing the text "CHILD PROTECTION" in white, uppercase letters, set against a background of a smiling girl in a rural setting.

WHERE MOST NEEDED FUND »

SEMIANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2018 TO MARCH 2019

Prepared July 2019

CHILD PROTECTION

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Thank you for investing in the futures of vulnerable children. Their lives are changed through your belief in a better world for them and your generosity.

Every day, children in every nation of the world face the threat of violence. Whether it takes the form of domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, or mutilation, including child sacrifice and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), violence is always wrong and it harms children in innumerable ways. It takes a village to raise a child, as the saying goes, but it takes a world to end violence against children. Thank you for joining us in that fight.

Our projects in Armenia, Bangladesh, Honduras, India, and Kenya are tackling some of the worst forms of violence against children in those contexts. In Armenia, it is prenatal sex selection—the denial of a child's birth because of a preference for a child with a specific sex. In India, it is child sex trafficking—the illegal transporting of a child from one area to another for sexual exploitation. In every project, World Vision aims to empower

children, youth, and families to improve their well-being, as well as to work with faith leaders and the government.

Alternative rite of passage events, life skills education, and improved access to school helped children resist FGM/C in Kenya. Families in Bangladesh were encouraged to withdraw their children from child labor and help them catch up with their education through Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers while improving their household income through cash grants and income-generating assistance. The centers also helped children in India to momentarily escape the hazards of living in a red-light district to play and learn under the care of trained staff.

We also mobilized faith leaders in Armenia to combat gender-based violence and worked with parents in Honduras to teach them how to improve their parenting to decrease

household violence.

You are helping to change the lives of children facing serious physical, emotional, and spiritual pain. With your support, we can inspire communities to fiercely defend the rights of children and to ensure they all have opportunities to thrive in their families, schools, and societies.



Children with disabilities in India learned about their rights through life skills education.

2,322,197 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 1,060,168 CHILDREN, have benefited from our child protection projects since they began. In FY19, 396,282 new people benefited. These numbers include beneficiaries from projects not featured in this report or that have already closed.

The following are significant achievements from this year:

- 832** young people in Kenya participated in annual rite of passage events, which educated them on the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and cutting.
- 100** parents/caregivers in Bangladesh who had withdrawn their children from jobs received income-generating assistance to start up their own businesses and increase their household income.
- 60** Christian faith leaders in India were trained in Channels of Hope for Child Protection and formed church action teams. More than 130 Muslim faith leaders participated in the Islamic version.

ARMENIA

World Vision is focused on deepening its relationship with the Armenia Apostolic Church, sensitizing youth and couples on gender violence, and promoting gender equality among the general public during the last year of the Armenia Child Protection project.

In addition to empowering faith leaders to support the unique needs of their communities, the project collaborated with the Armenia Church in commissioning two new research studies that will support the development of its social doctrine.

More than 160 youth participated in youth groups to improve their knowledge in gender violence, prenatal sex selection, and gender stereotypes. Inspired to improve gender relations in their communities, the youth

groups shared their learnings with 250 people through various awareness-raising events. This included leading discussions on the daily challenges in their lives as a result of gender stereotypes and marching through the streets with posters that read "Every child has an equal right" to promote equitable opportunities for girls and boys.

To improve equality in their relationships, 161 couples engaged in couples' groups. The project's success with the couples' groups led to recruiting more social workers to lead 12 new groups for 82 people. The groups hosted seven community events, which reached about 450 people.

The project used social media, television, and radio to communicate

messages about the equal importance of boys and girls, engaging men in raising children, and harmful social norms.

Thank you for believing in a better future for Armenians through your commitment to this project. With your support, lives are being changed.



Participants in the couples' groups spoke about transformed attitudes on a radio program.

208,906 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 3,189 CHILDREN, have benefited from ministry activities since October 2015, including 32,715 new people during fiscal year 2019.

874 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities

Four-year target: 1,008 **87%**

1,076 parents and caregivers showed that they better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline

Four-year target: 1,110 **97%**

14 faith leaders mobilized their communities to take action to protect children

Four-year target: 11 **127%**



"There are many changes in my family," said Liana (right), who participated in a couples' group along with her husband (left). "I started working and it means a lot to me; there was also violence in my family but many things have changed thanks to this project."

BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Child Protection project has made a difference in the lives of vulnerable children by removing them from hazardous jobs, helping them to prepare for and enroll in school, and equipping their parents to better provide for them through increased household income.

From the start of the project, 529 children have been withdrawn from work, and more than 660 children who attended a Child-Friendly Center for Learning and Recreation (CFLRC)—either because they had been withdrawn from child labor or because they were at risk of it—have enrolled in school.

The continued success of the project is due to economically empowering 472 families, educating 17,893 people

on the long-term harm of child labor, and strengthening the formal child protection system. This year, nearly 150 cash grants were given to families on the condition that they continue sending their children to the CFLRCs and school, and 100 families who had withdrawn their children from jobs received income-generating assistance to build their capacity to operate their own small businesses.

People have come to realize that any development in their communities will be a result of their own action. Four neighborhood development committees were formed to monitor the progress of families who withdrew their children from jobs and received income-generating assistance, the quality of the CFLRCs, and school attendance and progress. Advocacy

from members of child forums prompted the Khulna city mayor to dedicate budget to supporting child protection initiatives and strengthening child protection committees.

Thank you for investing in children and their families in Bangladesh. Through your help, children have a greater chance of improving their health, education, and overall well-being.



38,663 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 15,829 CHILDREN, have benefited from ministry activities since October 2016, including 8,967 people during fiscal year 2019.

1,495 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities



1,432 parents and caregivers showed that they better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline



60 faith leaders mobilized their communities to take action to protect children



“My grandmother and I peeled shrimp in a factory for two years to feed a family of five members while my grandfather became sick of brain stroke and could not work,” said Chandni, 11. “I am so happy to return to school again. I get good care from my grandparents and aunt, along with good food and the beautiful dresses and pocket money I need.” She added, “Thank you, World Vision, for helping us to fight poverty.”

HONDURAS

In the areas where the Honduras Child Protection project is working, children face grave threats of violence—especially from gangs in territorial disputes—that severely restrict their mobility within their communities and cause them to live in fear for their lives. Although project staff work in very difficult circumstances, and risk their own safety, they are committed to creating an environment of peace in their neighborhoods.

Forty children participated in the Children's Protection Board in San Pedro Sula, through which they led advocacy initiatives that influenced the planning process for the Municipal Board for protecting people in their community. Children were also active in eight Peace Clubs; the addition of four new clubs gave a total of 250 children opportunities to develop leadership skills. "Since I joined the club, I have learned a lot about [building] a culture of peace," said Allison, 15. "Now I know how to apply the rights of children and how to help others, which I like a lot ... I know I can make a change."

The project strengthened its relationship with churches by partnering with 21 of them to implement activities. For example, 178 leaders from churches were trained in facilitating the Parenting with Tenderness workshop to help parents better care for their children.

To strengthen the child protection system to better serve children, the project formed five new Child Protection Committees at the community level and trained 67 people on how they function. Additionally, five new committees at the municipal level were created. The committees coordinate action plans for protecting children from all forms of violence.

Finally, the project held a security planning meeting with 128 people, including children and partners, to conduct a risk analysis and update the security strategy to enhance safety for those involved with the project.

People are beginning to realize that the responsibility for protecting their children belongs to families, communities, and the state. Knowledge sharing, skills strengthening, and the establishment of formal protection structures will contribute to sustainable development.

With your support, lives are being changed in Honduras. We sincerely hope communities will one day be safe enough for children to play, learn, and live freely.



4,507 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 503 CHILDREN, have benefited from ministry activities since June 2017, including 859 new people during fiscal year 2019.



"I feel very good because now I am working to help more children and, above all, making the children's voices heard," said 11-year-old Norman, who learned about human rights at a Peace Club (such as the one pictured left) in the dangerous area of San Pedro Sula.

INDIA

In the second year of implementation, the India Child Protection project has built upon the strong foundation that was set by focusing on education, training, and mobilization. A few of the achievements were establishing an additional Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Center to give a total of 459 children in red-light districts a space to play and learn, and training members of 125 Child Protection Committees to strengthen the protective environment around children who are vulnerable to exploitation.

More Men Care and Girl Power groups were formed (engaging 3,727 new girls and 1,419 new men) to broaden the network of people who are educated on how to prevent and respond to trafficking. The men received training on what constitutes criminal behavior and the repercussions of engaging in them, while the girls were trained in advocacy to equip them to act on behalf of children at risk of abuse.

With their newfound knowledge on

how to support the most vulnerable children, the project mobilized the girls to identify children with disabilities in their communities, a task that has been difficult to do without assistance from the government. The project then provided life skills education to 39 children with disabilities, who are especially at risk of being trafficked. The children learned about their inherent dignity and their rights, and they remarked that this was the first time they had been invited to participate in a program such as this.

Other achievements from the year include improving the physical and mental health of survivors in government-run homes, teaching 185 mothers (women who were involved in prostitution) positive parenting techniques, and leading 82 families from red-light districts through Celebrating Families.

Faith leaders, who are trusted figures in their communities, began to take a lead role in helping families fight harmful social norms. Sixty Christian faith leaders participated in Channels

of Hope for Child Protection and subsequently formed 27 church action teams. Furthermore, 131 Muslim faith leaders participated in the Islamic version of Channels of Hope for Child Protection. Soon afterward, a trained Muslim cleric stopped a child marriage. At a festival in a red-light district, faith leaders shared messages of reconciliation and hope.

Thank you for investing in the children of India, who dream of a better life for their families. We are grateful for your partnership, which is making an incredible difference in some very dark areas.



Young girls in Girl Power groups learn how to protect themselves from exploitation.

104,323 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 63,246 CHILDREN, have benefited from ministry activities since October 2017, including 62,612 new people during fiscal year 2019.



According to Amos Tshering, a World Vision employee, "A lot of children go missing each year, and most of them don't return." Jahana (left) might have been one of those children had Girl Power group members not intervened to save her from being trafficked.

KENYA

To prevent children from experiencing harm, the Kenya Child Protection project is equipping communities with the knowledge and skills to safeguard children's rights.

Education is a powerful tool for fighting child marriage and female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) because it encourages informed decision-making and opens a pathway out of the desperate poverty underpinning the harmful practices that threaten children's well-being. The project engaged 832 young people in alternative rite of passage events, provided 207 children with life skills education, and awarded 204 scholarships.

The project also educated thousands of people on the impact of FGM/C and child marriage through mass communications and advocacy. Community Change discussions for 405 people and public barazas (celebratory community events) provided platforms for sharing personal experiences of being impacted by FGM/C. Another achievement this year was registering the births of 177 children, which will help in verifying their age if they are threatened with child marriage and enable them to enroll in school.

Communities have begun reporting fewer cases of FGM/C and children dropping out of school. One community member said, "My

perception of [FGM/C] has changed because I am able to link it to education and the future of our children." He has since helped a girl to avoid FGM/C by influencing her parents.

Thank you for your kind support.



Girls from Morpus Primary School receive financial support to cover their school fees.

1,061,569 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 578,370 CHILDREN, have benefited from child protection initiatives since October 2015, including 175,198 new people during fiscal year 2019.

3,618 girls and boys report taking action to prevent violence against children in their communities

Four-year target: 2,187

165%

14,162 parents/caregivers are committed to reporting abuse against children

Four-year target: 10,400

136%

293 faith communities are mobilized and taking action to protect children

Four-year target: 210

140%



"My brothers and father informed me that I had to stop learning so I could get circumcised and be married off," recalled Cherop, 14. Now that Cherop is a student at the Morpus Primary School, she said, "I feel safe and protected. I know that I will finish school."



MAKING IT HOME AGAIN

Trafficked sisters and a friend are rescued and eventually reunited with family

“The girls were laughing and smiling, unaware of the dangers,” said Amos Tshering of World Vision. “They didn’t realize they were being trafficked.”

Two Nepali sisters, 14-year-old Savi* and 17-year-old Sonali,* were standing with their friend, 17-year-old Rashmi,* and a couple of adults at a bus stop in Siliguri, India, waiting to travel at least a full day south to the state of Bihar. The Nepali girls wore makeup and short dresses despite the cold weather.

“It is uncommon for girls from the hills to travel with people from the plains, and because of their young age, it raised our suspicion,” said Vinay, a social worker.

A representative from the Anti-Trafficking Network approached the group and immediately determined that the girls were minors and potential trafficking victims. The network is staffed by representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who keep watch at major bus stops and railway stations in Siliguri. Police were called and the suspected traffickers were arrested.

The girls were excited about the trip, having been lured by the false promise of good jobs as orchestra dancers at weddings.

“In Bihar, weddings normally end with orchestra dancing, and it goes on until the early morning. It is not a good place for children. It can lead to sexual abuse,” said Mr. Tshering.

According to Pankaj Thapa from the Pradhan Nagar police station, Siliguri is a transit point for Nepal, Bangladesh, and parts of India: “Human trafficking is common and a major problem here.” The

state of West Bengal accounts for 44% of the nation’s human trafficking reports.

“Traffickers target minors from the poorest and dysfunctional families,” said Mr. Thapa. “We work closely with the NGOs to get information and to stop trafficking.” He shared that the station receives about six missing children reports every month that are filed by families who are unfamiliar with human trafficking trends and desperate to find their children. Sadly, it is not uncommon that these children are victims of trafficking.

The Nepali sisters were vulnerable to being trafficked because their parents were unable to provide for their needs, and their friend Rashmi lived with her grandparents because her widowed mother couldn’t look after her.

The gravity of the situation only hit the girls later, after they received counseling. “I thought I would quickly earn some money. I didn’t think much [about it],” Rashmi shared.

“I just wanted to see new places with my sister,” said Savi.

The suspected traffickers were sent to court and, at the order of the Child Welfare Committee, the girls were sent to a government shelter home. World Vision helped to coordinate and manage their care, ensuring that they were safe and well-provided for while at the facility. Then, World Vision helped to ensure their safe return to their families.

Many victims don’t get second chances, especially in West Bengal, where only one-third of trafficking victims are rescued. But these girls did.

* Names changed to protect identities.

“A lot of children go missing each year, and most of them don’t return.”

—Amos Tshering,
World Vision employee



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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