



World Vision®



A photograph of four children in a rural setting. On the left, a girl in a purple tank top with a white pattern and a blue skirt. In the center, a boy in a red and white checkered dress with a white collar. On the right, a girl in a white long-sleeved shirt with a floral pattern and a patterned skirt, and another girl in a red and white checkered dress. They are all smiling and laughing. The background shows a simple building and lush greenery.

CHILD
PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION FUND

» SEMIANNUAL REPORT: October 2019 through March 2020

Prepared July 2020

CHILD PROTECTION

GLOBAL SUMMARY

World Vision is grateful for your partnership to help end violence, abuse, and loss of opportunities for children in some of the most challenged areas where we work.

Across the world, children are experiencing many forms of violence, including child marriage, physical punishment, sexual abuse, and child labor. The root causes stem from harmful cultural traditions, parents' lack of education, and poverty.

With your support—and through partnerships with children, families, and communities—we are stemming the tide of violence against children in **Bangladesh, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Kenya.**

Children are being pulled from often-dangerous jobs and returning

to school, sometimes in formal settings, and sometimes in special alternative educational settings. Girls are learning to advocate for their rights to an education and to avoid child marriage. Adults are learning those same lessons.

Growing networks of community partners are taking on more of this life-enriching work, ensuring children are better able to live up to the full potential God intends for them. Thank you for your willingness to come alongside children and families to help make this happen.



Students in Guatemala receive school supplies to help them learn and thrive in school.

GLOBAL UPDATE

3,043,867 PEOPLE, INCLUDING **1,497,178 CHILDREN AND YOUTH**, have benefited from our child protection projects since they began. So far, **628,764** people have benefited in FY20. These numbers include beneficiaries from projects not featured in this report, and projects that already have closed.

The following are just a few significant achievements from the first half of the fiscal year:

- 32** alternative education centers operated in Guatemala by our partner, Funcafe, benefited **849** students who enrolled in the second cohort of courses. Funcafe also provided classes to help parents learn how to best support their children's education, with **211** parents participating.
- 39** radio shows broadcast by three Kenyan stations reached an estimated **156,000** listeners, who learned about child protection issues, including female genital mutilation and child marriage. This helped us continue to engage with communities after the pandemic disrupted some activities. (See more on our COVID-19 response on Page 8.)
- 530** child survivors of trafficking and other forms of violence are living in **three** aftercare homes in India, where they benefit from activities promoting psychosocial health that include dance, sports, self-defense, and using storytelling as a healing tool.

BANGLADESH

Thanks to your faithful support of this project, more children than ever are going to school instead of to work, avoiding jobs that often put their health and lives at risk.

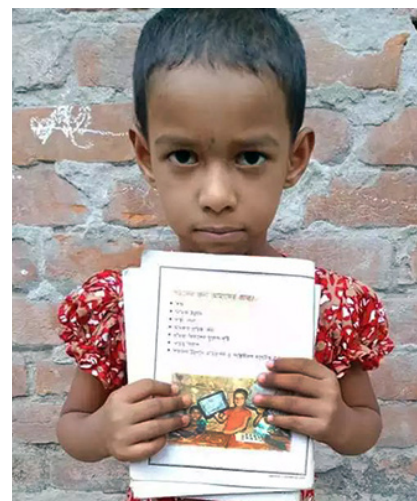
In just the first half of FY20, 140 children who were either involved in the worst forms of child labor or at risk of being placed in a dangerous job, were instead enrolled in school. The parents of those children created a family development plan to help establish an environment in which they won't have to send their children into the workplace.

Before COVID-19 restrictions postponed many planned activities,

some educational events designed to teach communities the dangers of child labor and how to protect children were held, reaching more than 2,000 people. Another 4,000 people heard similar messages through street drama productions.

We join young Meem, who has thrived in a project learning center, in thanking you for your support of this project.

"I love coming to [the center] every day. I have books, notebooks, many beautiful pencils from World Vision, and also a beautiful blanket. Many thanks to World Vision for the beautiful gifts," the 5-year-old said.



Meem attends early childhood care and development classes at a World Vision Child-Friendly Learning Resource Center.

55,524 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 26,088 CHILDREN AND YOUTH, have benefited from ministry activities since October 2016, including 4,920 people during fiscal year 2020.

15,289 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities.

Four-year target: 16,060 **95%**

1,480 parents and caregivers showed they better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline.

Four-year target: 1,640 **90%**

326 children were removed from some of the worst forms of child labor and enrolled in school.

Four-year target: 280 **116%**

Your support is enabling children and youth like Ashikur to leave jobs that often are dangerous and return to school. This project helped his grandparents pull him from jobs at a fish market and a masonry and enroll in catch-up

education programs, and then in regular schooling. A grant provided funds for tutoring, transportation, and food.

His grandparents also learned valuable parenting techniques and benefited from training

and resources to open a grocery store, which helps support the family.

Ashikur is thriving in school, and said, "If I am not educated, I cannot become a police officer when I am grown."



GUATEMALA

The Community Roots Project* addresses the underlying causes of violence and irregular migration in 80 communities throughout 20 municipalities, which include some of Guatemala's most vulnerable areas.

During the first half of FY20, the project continued to gain momentum, broaden its reach, and more fully engage children, youth, parents, community leaders, the National Civil Police (PNC), and local business partners.

By the end of FY19, each of the project's 80 communities had completed ADAPT Plus—a robust, community-wide process that involved all ages in the effort to identify, analyze, and prioritize key local issues. Based on learnings from the ADAPT Plus process, official plans were developed to help prevent irregular migration and violence. By 2020, those plans, unique to each community, were put into action.

Given the success of the ADAPT Plus methodology, the project trained PNC officers, who now are taking the lead in scaling up ADAPT Plus nationwide.

Since FY19, when a child protection referral and support network was established in each municipality, 5,586 high-risk children and youth have been identified and referred to services, including 1,129 (615 female, 514 male) who were referred in the first half of FY20.

The number of equipped community centers grew from 16 to 21, as the project increased its reach by providing young people with vocational training and enriching, free-time activities; offering classes for parents; and conducting family-oriented learning circles.

In FY20, partnerships with community organizations grew from two to 13. And the Youth Ready Program—a World Vision model that supports



Community Roots provides alternative education with flexible schedules for students who cannot otherwise attend classes due to work or other family responsibilities.

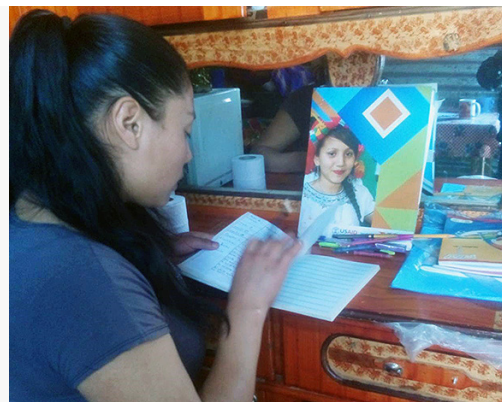
youth to further their education, entrepreneurship, or employment—was launched in Chiquimula.

Sub-grantee Funcafe awarded 2,631 scholarships to youth for alternative education.

239,832 PEOPLE have participated in project activities since the project began in December 2016, including **49,203** new people during fiscal year 2020.

In mid-March, the government of Guatemala announced a national state of emergency in response to the threat of COVID-19. To comply with physical distancing and stay-at-home orders, all Community Roots Project staff members began to work from home, and all in-person activities were suspended. Efforts were made to keep as many activities as possible going using remote approaches.

In the photo at right, a student from one of Funcafe's alternative education centers reviews a module and completes assigned exercises, using remote learning methods.



** This project is generously funded by the United States Agency for International Development, with private partners contributing additional funds to support children, youth, and their communities.*

HONDURAS

Roberto, 16, chose to become a barber rather than a gang member.

Juan, 15, overcame his shyness and started serving on a children's council to help make his community a safer place.

Jonathan is serving as a peacebuilder in his neighborhood and attending a music program.

These changes occurred during the third year of the Honduras Child Protection project, which is working with children, parents, churches, and local governments to create a safer environment for children.

"I am grateful to God," Juan says, because World Vision "is in my colony helping us young people and many young people in my community with the trainings we received [that]

are strengthening our vision of the future and leadership."

From October 2019 through March 2020, 1,187 children in 34 peace clubs learned how to better protect themselves, 163 parents learned how to raise their children with tenderness, and 57 church leaders learned how to teach the Parenting with Tenderness curriculum.

Community awareness and enforcement of children's rights increased through public assemblies, operation of child protection committees in six municipal districts, and strengthening child protection systems in 12 communities.

The project's 50 current church partners are playing a critical role in training parents and supporting children



Jonathan (center) is involved in a peace club and attending a music program supported by World Vision.

through their involvement in child protection committees.

To date, 2,800 children have directly benefited from project activities, and 5,458 children have indirectly benefited through training for their parents. Your gifts are helping create brighter futures for these families.

9,742 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 2,137 CHILDREN AND YOUTH, have benefited from ministry activities since June 2017, including 1,519 people in the first half of fiscal 2020.

368 girls and boys report taking action to prevent violence against children in their communities.

Five-year target: 900

41%

174 parents and caregivers show they better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline.

14%

Five-year target: 1,275

50 churches are taking action to protect children.

Five-year target: 55

91%

The Honduras Child Protection project works to strengthen children's participation in peacebuilding and violence prevention.

"I have surpassed myself as a person," says Juan (right), who joined a peace club and a children's council in Tegucigalpa. "I did not know that I could be a leader."



HONDURAS YOUTH READY PROGRAM



Gabriela Flores, 23, works as a cashier at Café Tano Coffee Shop—a permanent position secured after her Youth Ready internship.

Youth are advancing as they plan for the future and pursue fulfilling lives.

World Vision is helping vulnerable young people in Honduras to discover their potential, plan for their future, and gain the skills, support, resources, character, and confidence they need to succeed in both work and life.

In October 2019, World Vision launched a second phase of the Youth Ready program, which creates improved economic opportunities for youth by positioning them to find jobs, self-employment, continued education, or education reintegration opportunities. An additional 5,000 youth are targeted over four years in the cities of Choluteca, La Ceiba, and Tegucigalpa, following a prior phase that reached 1,773 youth.

In the first half of fiscal 2020, we sought greater engagement from religious and community leaders and identified prospective partners to help with outreach to marginalized populations. Gleaning from lessons learned in the first phase, we offered daycare to training participants with children.

In mid-March 2020, the global COVID-19 health crisis reached Honduras, resulting in countrywide closures. World Vision developed an alternative implementation strategy to ensure continued services. We digitized the curriculum and are using WhatsApp as a mobile software tool to communicate, follow up with, and monitor youth progress.

376 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 313 YOUTH from ages 15 to 25, began a new phase of the Youth Ready program, in which they will be trained on topics including communication, decision-making, and other soft skills to prepare them for employment, entrepreneurship opportunities, or continued education.

The prayers of mentors make a difference for José

José, 15, is ready to make a change and is not afraid to ask for help. At age 11, he dropped out of school after experiencing a serious, months-long illness. Later, he fell into severe depression and started consuming drugs and alcohol with friends on the streets. When the Youth Ready program became available in his neighborhood in Tegucigalpa, José decided to participate. He said an initial workshop “helped me to be clear about what my focus should be,” and he committed to continue. “I will begin to congregate in the church, thanks to the mentors who came to pray for us.”



Moving from fear to action for a better future

When Glenda, 19, a victim of extensive bullying during her childhood, shared her life story with a small group of peers during a Youth Ready workshop from the first phase, she was overcome by the positive response. “I feel like the queen of this group, because I had never been told that I am a precious jewel,” she said. Glenda, who aspires to become a lawyer, has resumed her studies and is now pursuing a college degree, thanks to a scholarship from the INTUR Foundation.



INDIA

The India Child Protection project reached 9,000 girls and empowered them to take action to protect themselves and their peers from sex trafficking, abuse, and forced marriage. Twenty-four child marriages were stopped with help from Girl Power and Men Care groups and Child Protection committees. In addition, 20 adolescent girls who were at high risk of trafficking received help to return to school and continue their education.

During this reporting period, 524 children of women involved in prostitution received protection from potential harm. We created eight anti-trafficking networks in West Bengal to help increase awareness and bring more attention to the project.

Girl Power groups have emerged as a formidable force in helping to end gender-based violence and trafficking. These groups are growing and are in the process of becoming more

sustainable. Most group members have completed life skills and personal safety education. Upcoming training and education on safe migration and personal safety will further contribute to their empowerment.

World Vision continues to gain community confidence and trust. All children attending Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers have completed education and personal safety training, and life skills education is ongoing.

More children are participating in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy as well as case management. Vocational training has been a



Students received supplies aimed at helping them start the school year strong and preventing them from dropping out.

challenge for children in aftercare homes, but now children who dropped out of school because of exploitation and abuse are given a fresh start to resume their schooling by attending catch-up education courses.

Thank you for your continued partnership with World Vision in helping to reach the most vulnerable in India.

186,547 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 147,811 CHILDREN AND YOUTH, have benefited from activities since October 2017, including 60,266 new beneficiaries in FY20.

Storytelling workshop gives confidence and peace to survivors

Survivors sometimes struggle sharing their story because it can be a reminder of the abuse. A workshop taught survivors different ways to tell their stories, such as creating a mask or drawing a picture. Then, with those created pieces, they shared their experiences in small groups.

"The workshop was very useful for me," said Anita (not her real name). "I had a lot of pent-up emotions regarding my past, and it has been a struggle [to] talk about it. Through mask-making, I was able to share why my identity was not my vulnerability. I was able to write about my abuse and how it impacted me. Through [small groups], we were able to share [our] stories, and I feel at peace with myself. I don't feel alone anymore."



KENYA

The launch of the Kenya Big Dream project in FY20 featured introductory community meetings, a baseline study, life skills training, and wide promotion of World Vision's latest efforts to reduce violence against children.

The new project expands and deepens the Kenya Child Protection project that finished in FY19. Kenya Big Dream continues efforts to reduce female genital mutilation, child marriage, and physical violence against children.

It also works to strengthen livelihoods, heal family relationships, and promote education.

Kenya Big Dream serves children and families in nine wards in West Pokot and Baringo counties—triple the wards and double the counties from the previous project.

Although some of our work preceded the COVID-19 pandemic, restricted travel, closed schools, and banned gatherings followed, making girls more vulnerable. While this affected our planned activities, we made adjustments to serve participants in a safe manner.

Thanks to your partnership, children can better reach their potential and community members can learn to take action to protect children.



167,499 PEOPLE, 31,588 OF THEM CHILDREN AND YOUTH, were provided access to child protection activities since the beginning of the project, all during the first half of fiscal year 2020 (October 2019 through March 2020).

135 AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS were trained to ensure that children are protected from all forms of abuse at community levels.

45 FAITH LEADERS were trained on Celebrating Families to reflect the benefits of the healthy relationship model, practice good parenting skills, and train groups in their congregations.

270 PEOPLE joined 44 Savings for Transformation groups, saving money collectively to improve their economic situations and reduce the financial incentives of child marriage.

Jane has a new life and hope for the future, thanks to you

Jane (not her real name) never went to school, and after her mother died, her father viewed her solely as potential income—a bride price. In late 2019, she was forced to undergo female genital mutilation and then married off to a man for seven cows, 40 goats, and two camels. After a week with her husband, she fled to an aunt's home in another village, where she has since been enrolled in school and is making great progress.

Jane, at left in the photo, is happy with her life and her potential for the future. School "is the best place to be," the 15-year-old said. "I am now secure and protected, and I can learn and achieve my dreams."

Your support of our work in Kenya has been instrumental in protecting girls like Jane, enabling them to dream, and giving them the tools needed to realize those dreams.





World Vision employees in Guatemala are making food deliveries to households that have had their livelihoods affected by COVID-19.



In Kenya, staff members are making sure residents in our program areas understand the importance of wearing masks and washing hands.

COVID-19 AND CHILD PROTECTION

The COVID-19 crisis is impacting every country where World Vision operates, including Bangladesh, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Kenya, where communities in which we work are highly vulnerable to economic and social shocks.

Since the very beginning of the outbreak, World Vision has leveraged our 70-year history of emergency response to help children and families by scaling up prevention and relief efforts across the globe. Our staff is collaborating with local partners and training faith leaders so they can quickly reach families with tools to prevent coronavirus infections. We are helping set up public hand-washing stations. We are supporting health systems and health workers with personal protective equipment, treatment supplies, and clean water:

Equally important, World Vision is combating secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that are putting millions of children at risk—from heightened food insecurity, to

shuttered schools, to increased violence or neglect.

In the countries where we are implementing child protection projects, activities such as equipping community and faith leaders to respond to violence against children and provide psychosocial support to caregivers, are crucial to helping children and their families not only survive this pandemic, but emerge resilient, with durable hope for the future.

While disruptions and necessary restrictions related to the spread of COVID-19 will delay aspects of our work, we remain committed to reducing violence for more than 2 million children by 2021.

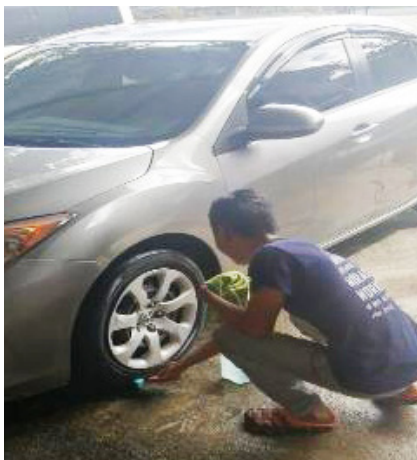
Thank you for partnering with World Vision and responding to God's call to care for our neighbors, near and far. We are truly grateful for your choice to stand with us as we face this unprecedented challenge.



Children participating in project activities in India are given masks to help protect them from the coronavirus.



A Guatemalan staff member shows a child how to properly wear his mask to protect himself and others from transmission of COVID-19.



FLEXIBLE HOURS MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO STUDY AND WORK

Young Guatemalans face multiple challenges as they search for decent jobs in their communities and try to complete their education so they can achieve a better future. Lack of work and study opportunities have been linked to the poor economy and high unemployment, creating a gap between the skills young people have and those required by the labor market.

“ [I thought] I had to choose between my work or my studies.”

—Brayan Reyes,
a youth who found
he could balance
both work and
school due to the
flexibility provided by
Community Roots

Aware of the pressure that unemployment places on young people to resort to irregular migration or criminal activity, Community Roots works with project partner, Funcafe, to grant alternative education scholarships to vulnerable youth who need further education and skills training to enter the workforce.

Sixteen-year-old Brayan Reyes found himself in a difficult position when he began a good job at a car wash, and his new employer had no intention of giving him a flexible work schedule. Brayan knew this would seriously affect his ability to continue studying.

“When they offered me the job, I felt like I had achieved what I wanted. It didn't matter what the job was; all I thought about was getting ahead and making a better life for myself. But when my boss told me the hours, I got really sad. I didn't know what to do. I had to choose between my work or my studies. I finally decided to keep working ... ” says Brayan.

But his dreams began to change after a friend told him he'd heard from a community leader there would be a chance to study on weekends. Brayan began investigating and learned what his friend said was true.

Brayan approached his boss and told him about the opportunity Community Roots and Funcafe were offering young people and asked if it would be possible to work only on

weekdays, so he could take advantage of this opportunity to continue his studies.

“When Brayan approached me, the truth is that I didn't think a young worker would be so anxious to do both things—study and work. Normally, when they start working, they drop out of school. But when I saw how enthusiastic he was, I just had to accept the deal. As a community businessperson, I have the obligation to provide opportunities to my neighbors—if they benefit, so do I. I am committed to be a part of my community's development and stopping families from falling apart because they migrate to another country,” says the owner of the car wash.

Currently, Brayan is studying middle school courses at the alternative education center in Esquipulas. He says he feels fortunate for the chance he was given and hopes to finish the year with good grades.

The scholarship program gives young people a chance to continue their studies and aspire to find a decent job that will help them remain in their communities and reduce the risk of irregular migration.

Notably, a higher percentage of females than males has enrolled in these programs, which Community Roots Project staff members believe indicates that these alternative education programs can play an important role in closing the gender gap in educational attainment in Guatemala.



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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