



CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP FUND

» SEMIANNUAL REPORT: October 2019 through March 2020

Prepared July 2020

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Thank you for joining World Vision in ministry and helping children and youth around the world to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Because you give to World Vision's Christian Discipleship Program, families are able to participate in Celebrating Families, Channels of Hope, and Raising Children with Tenderness (see Our Approach on page 2). They learn from pastors, church leaders, and other faith members who, with love and kindness, help nurture their spiritual growth and deepen their faith.

In the first half of fiscal year 2020 alone, Christian Discipleship projects reached nearly 440,000 children and adults, and trained more than 2,400 church leaders to facilitate discipleship programs.

Our International Bible Fund also provided families and churches with 45,000 Bibles to encourage them to grow their faith through the study of God's Word.

By the close of the reporting period, COVID-19 and related government-imposed closures and restrictions began to impact operations. Our national offices took action, adapting project activities and creating new opportunities to reach more vulnerable children and families through virtual platforms.

These achievements were made possible because of your faithful support. As you continue reading this semiannual report, it is our prayer that you will be blessed and encouraged to see the impact you have helped make on families worldwide.



Junior, 9, shares a smile after gathering for morning prayer and Bible reading. His grandmother, Joyce, began holding family prayer after she attended a Celebrating Families training provided by World Vision in Kenya. This family practice is a source of strength for them, especially in times of uncertainty like the current COVID-19 pandemic.

GLOBAL UPDATE

4 MILLION PEOPLE benefited from ministry activities since October 2015, including 439,985 people during the first half of fiscal year 2020. This includes children, parents/caregivers, and community members benefiting directly and indirectly.



357,097 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 43,104 new participants during the first half of FY20.



23,080 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 2,414 new participants during the first half of FY20.



3,659 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, including 486 new churches during the first half of FY20.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND*

169,264 Bibles provided (45,000 in FY20), benefiting 846,320 people (225,000 in FY20)

31%

Seven-year target: 400,000

*Bibles provided through this fund are often distributed for use in the Christian Discipleship Program but are funded and accounted for independently.

GOAL AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Five-year program goal through fiscal year 2021: Provide access to activities that strengthen the faith of children and youth for:

2.5 MILLION PEOPLE*

*Includes children, parents/caregivers, and community members benefitting both directly and indirectly

Expected outcomes:

Empower children's ministry workers to facilitate spiritual nurture of children

Strengthen households to provide a loving and caring environment for children

Improve capacity of faith leaders to address spiritual and socioeconomic challenges in their communities

Our Approach

Christian Discipleship: Our proven Christian discipleship programs equip and empower children, young people, and the influential adults in their lives.

- **Celebrating Families and Raising Children with Tenderness** programs use biblical principles of raising children, forgiveness, and healthy relationships to equip parents to be loving contributors to their children's faith.
- **Channels of Hope for Child Protection Program** provides training for Christian leaders, equipping them to lead a Christian response in addressing vital community issues that affect children and in doing so, nurture the spiritual growth of parents and children.

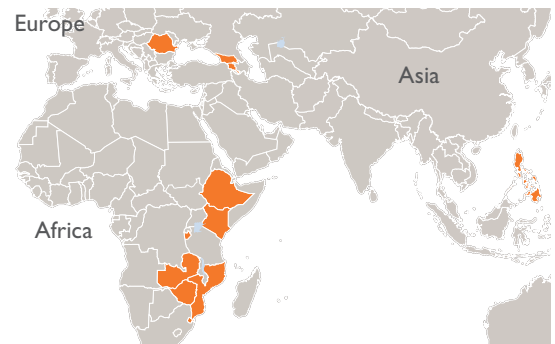
Additionally, we partner with churches and schools to develop or strengthen age-appropriate programs. For example, World Vision provides materials for Sunday schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Bible clubs, youth ministry, church camps, and training for leaders and youth mentors.

International Bible Fund: World Vision provides families access to Bibles to grow in knowledge of God and relationship with Him. This is done in partnership with local churches using our International Bible Fund.



GLOBAL OUTREACH

World Vision Christian Discipleship (CD) Program and International Bible Fund (IBF) Program locations:



LATIN AM. AND CARIBBEAN
 BRAZIL (IBF)
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (IBF)
 EL SALVADOR (CD, IBF)
 GUATEMALA (Planned IBF)
 HONDURAS (CD, IBF)

AFRICA
 BURUNDI (IBF)
 ESWATINI (IBF)
 ETHIOPIA (CD)
 KENYA (CD, IBF)
 MOZAMBIQUE (Planned IBF)

ZIMBABWE (Planned IBF) (CD)
ZAMBIA (IBF)
ASIA
 PHILLIPINES (CD)

EUROPE
 ABKHAZIA REGION (IBF)
 ARMENIA (IBF)
 ROMANIA (IBF)

Note: Planned IBF indicates location for future Bible distributions pending finances.

COVID-19 AND CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The COVID-19 crisis is impacting every country where World Vision operates, and especially communities which 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.

Christian discipleship activities such as spiritually nurturing children and training pastors to wisely communicate with their congregations 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 training pastors and leaders and strengthening every young person in their Christian faith.

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.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. ... Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff, they comfort me.
—Psalm 23:1-4, NIV



- Please pray for families affected by COVID-19, either through sickness or loss of work or lost opportunities for school and church involvement. Please pray that parents will be able to continue to nurture their children's faith, even in the face of daily challenges.
- Please pray for strength and adaptability of World Vision project staff, who are juggling concern for their own families during COVID-19 times while also finding creative ways to adjust project activities to continue to reach children and youth.
- Please pray for children and youth and that they remember to lean on God's love and care to relieve their fear as they go through this uncertain time.

CENTRAL AMERICA



Selvin, 7, and Alex, 2, have tagged along with their mother to their church in Yamaranguila Area Program (AP), Honduras. She is completing the final session of Raising Children with Tenderness training. In the background, parents are praying to God, asking for strength to show their children a better way to live.

In Central America, children are often surrounded by violence on the streets and at home. World Vision and local churches are working to change this, so children can live life in all of its fullness.

During the reporting period, in Honduras, we engaged 2,468 parents and caregivers in parenting workshops, teaching them to show love and tenderness while raising their children. Parents are now practicing good habits to reduce violence at home. Also, 70 parents participating in training were formerly incarcerated and later said the training helped them restore broken relationships with their families.

In El Salvador, 82 teachers were trained on Raising Children with Tenderness

and said the training helped strengthen their teaching methods, served as a strategy to implement the school peace policy promoted by the government of El Salvador; and helped heal relationships with their own children.

We also equipped 410 church leaders to better serve vulnerable children and communities. They attended workshops in Raising Children with Tenderness, Kid Story, and values with Christian principles. Likewise, in El Salvador, 109 church leaders learned to teach children using play and child-friendly methodologies.

Please pray Numbers 6:24-25 for families and ministries in Central America.

68,206 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 9,213 in FY20.

Five-year target: 75,000

91%

4,994 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 955 in FY20.

Five-year target: 2,200

227%

471 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, including 35 in FY20.

Five-year target: 600

79%

Maria dedicates her life to serving God and pursuing well-being for children

María Sánchez (pictured at right in forefront) lives in the Cuyultitán Municipality in El Salvador and serves on the leadership team of the El Trapiche Association. The association provides pastoral care of children through school scholarships and parent support services. But Maria knew their services were not enough and was overjoyed to learn of World Vision's trainings for churches.

"Meeting [with] World Vision was an oasis in the desert, it was what I was looking for," exclaimed María. "... the trainings that I received on child protection, values, and child-raising with tenderness made me change my vision about children ..." Maria went on to integrate the lessons she'd learned into their existing programs, seeing immediate change. "... the tutors who were in charge of the children, [and] in the parents, became more interested in the children ... They became more affectionate." In 2020, Maria joined the World Vision family as a training facilitator: "... I love being part of this team ... because it is a job that I have always done at God's service, always the call to this mission of working for children."



ETHIOPIA



Thanks to your support of the Christian Discipleship Project in Ethiopia, vulnerable families living in rural areas were able to participate in and benefit from discipleship ministry. This reporting period:

- 1,887 children (49% girls) were provided with opportunities to gain knowledge about the love of God

and neighbor through trainings, workshops, service opportunities, and outreach ministries. The trainings they were provided included Roles and Responsibilities of Children and Children's Character Formation.

- 1,161 youth (42% girls) participated in trainings to learn leadership skills, to serve as peace agents, and to organize church and community service events. Helen, a grade 9 student and training participant shared, "The training on Youth Leadership and Life Skills training is unique in its kind from any training I have had before. ... I could understand how to interact with others and how I am needed by my

family, friends, and the community at large."

- 1,364 parents and caregivers (54% women) received training in Celebrating Families, Marriage and Positive Parenting, Children's Character Formation, and Christian Formation for Children and Youth.
- 162 members of faith-based organizations and church leaders (22% women) participated in workshops and trainings on Leadership in a Diverse Context and Celebrating Families for Trainers of Trainers.

Please pray Jeremiah 29:11 for families and ministries in Ethiopia.

78,483 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 5,945 in FY20.

Five-year target: 30,000

262%

2,163 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 278 in FY20.

Five-year target 3,000

72%

207 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, continuing on from previous years.

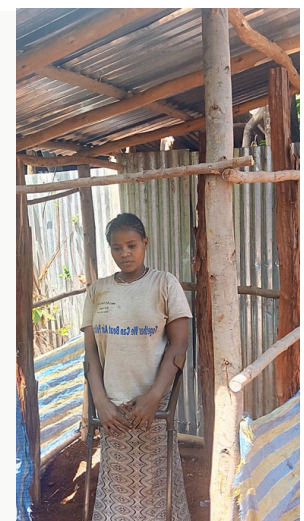
Five-year target: 140

148%

Shure's hope is restored as a youth group builds her a latrine and she receives training

Shure Diga lives in Sire town with her mother and child. She is disabled and has for many years suffered because of inadequate sanitation facilities. Thankfully, the Youths of Sire Mekane Yesus church chose to serve her in their volunteer activity. "Youth volunteers have constructed [a] latrine for my family and me. So long, I have [never] experienced where youths are acting as they have done for us now. This is due to the project intervention and the behavioral change impacts observed by the youths. Thus, the project intervention has trickled down to my family and me. "

Shure also received training. "People like me are usually overlooked and [do] not get access to trainings and public events. However, this project has really focused on most vulnerable children and youths and physically and socially disadvantaged groups. I also have counseling service ... As I came to training, I have rebuilt my hope and become positive to my child."



KENYA



With the support of World Vision, local churches and schools engaged more than 10,200 children and youth in Christian discipleship activities, helping to nurture their spiritual growth.

In Changamwe AP, 801 children and youth (57% girls) were reached through

Bible clubs and Sunday school. "Since I joined Upendo [Bible] club, my life has really changed," said Juliana Malemba, 18. "I used to have bad company and [we'd] do things that did not please God. But since I joined the [Bible] club and was taught the word of God, now my life has completely changed."

In Isiolo Oldonyiro AP, we partnered with local churches and a radio station (Radio Shahidi) to raise funds to conduct a youth camp. A total of 404 teens (78% girls) attended camp, learning value-based life skills, leadership skills to help nurture the spiritual growth of others, and child protection skills.

In Mwatate AP, we joined with churches, school clubs, and parents to

hold rallies that reached 1,597 children (52% girls). Children participating in discipleship activities led the rallies to encourage other children (as well as parents in attendance) to get involved, and study their Bibles frequently and live it fervently.

Parents and caregivers benefited from our Celebrating Families training—4,710 participants learned to value every member of their household. They declared to forgive, forget, and begin a new family foundation built on the seeds of goodness, and said they now felt equipped to nurture their children's spiritual growth and well-being.

Please pray Ephesians 3:20 for families and ministries in Kenya. May God bless them.

70,403 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 10,208 in FY20.

Five-year target: 75,720

93%

2,551 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 93 in FY20.

Five-year target: 2,050

124%

838 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, continuing on from last reporting period.

Five-year target: 750

112%

Equipping churches to serve as child protection advocates

World Vision's Channels of Hope for Child Protection builds capacity in faith leaders and faith communities to address child protection issues. In a safe environment, faith leaders and faith communities from various denominations and/or religions gather to discuss challenging issues related to violence against children, and then learn to respond in meaningful ways. Churches trained in Channels of Hope for Child Protection then form Congregational Hope Action Teams (CHATs) as part of their child protection ministries. During the reporting period, 20 previously formed CHATs in Changamwe AP reached 670 community members (48% women) with child protection messages. In Kakuma AP, three churches developed their child protection policy to address child neglect and child labor witnessed by parents in local communities.



PHILIPPINES



In the past, Paul Rosario, 20 (pictured above), struggled in his relationship with Christ. He pretended all was well and kept busy with church work. Then he attended a Dare to Discover workshop. "One particular lesson [in the workshop] is on release and surrender. It was simple. ... I felt (God's) grace [at] that

moment. ... It was as if God and I were the only ones talking in that place. ... my tears fell continuously. I will never forget that." Now, Paul leads a children's community service group, facilitates Dare to Discover workshops, and recently raised 13,000 pesos (\$260) and gifts-in-kind to provide hygiene essentials to vulnerable children, pregnant women, and the elderly, to prevent contracting COVID-19. (See full story on page 10).

World Vision has helped to engage more than 14,600 children and youth, like Paul, in Christian discipleship activities in the first half of FY20. We equipped churches and schools to nurture the spiritual growth of children, and integrated discipleship activities into our programs across APs. In schools, Bible lessons were integrated into early childhood

and elementary classes, while Dare to Discover workshops were offered at a local college. Also, the Department of Education in Malabon approved the use of Scripture Adventures materials in schools due to their promotion of positive values.

For parents and caregivers, we helped provide Celebrating Families sessions led by church partners, school-based discipleship activities that included parents, and devotions through World Vision's programs. A total of 7,012 parents and caregivers were reached during the reporting period.

Please pray Philippians 4:19 for vulnerable children and families living in the Philippines, as well as for our ministry partners.

82,557 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 14,613 in FY20.

Five-year target: 118,000

70%

1,237 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 16 in FY20.

Five-year target: 300

412%

363 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, including 16 in FY20.

Five-year target: 300

121%

Midterm evaluation shows effectiveness of the Christian Discipleship Project

During the first half of FY20, a midterm evaluation was conducted to assess the long-term impact the Christian Discipleship Project has had during the initial three years of the five-year project. Findings showed that more children have (1) good to excellent spiritual well-being (increased from 64% during baseline to 67% at the midterm evaluation); (2) an understanding and awareness of God (rose from 98.6% to 99.3%); and (3) have opportunities to demonstrate awareness and understanding of God (increased from 61% to 66%) than reported at the beginning of the project.

Parents also shared they were now able to nurture the spiritual growth of their children through activities such as family prayer, Bible study, regularly attending church services, and being a daily example of Christ.

The evaluation also showed needs for improvement, such as providing more activities for children to practice and live out their awareness and understanding of God. We are in discussions on ways to best meet this need.

ZIMBABWE



During the reporting period, the Christian Discipleship Project in Zimbabwe made great strides in outreach to youth, engaging 328 young people (52% young women) in Dare to Discover (D2D) workshops provided in seven wards in the Buhera AP. Young

people between 16 to 25 years of age gathered together to reflect on their identity, gain a greater awareness and appreciation of their dignity and worth, gain a deeper understanding of their realities and influencers, articulate their hopes and dreams, and make wise choices in life to realize their dreams. One D2D participant shared, "I realized that despite the challenges that I face in life, there are great opportunities for me to develop and excel in life."

We also identified 120 caregiver groups across four APs for potential future partnerships. These groups have influence with 360 caregivers in communities and are involved in farming initiatives, goat keeping and sheep project groups, savings groups, sewing clubs, gardening clubs, and volunteer

reading camps. The project has shared information on the Christian Discipleship initiatives and will continue to work to cultivate relationships with these community leaders.

Lastly, we provided Channels of Hope for Child Protection training to 138 church leaders (35% women). Participants learned about child protection issues, and how to support and advocate for children's rights, promote positive discipline, prevent violence against children, and foster a wider enabling environment to strengthen support for the child protection system.

Please pray Psalm 23: 1-2 for families and ministries in Zimbabwe. May God supply every need.

33,915 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 3,125 in FY20.



1,360 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 839 in FY20.



415 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, including 312 in FY20.



Phillies finds hope after attending a Dare to Discover workshop

"It is hard to take care of a child and a husband when you are a child yourself," said Phillies, 17, mother and wife. Phillies married at the age of 15 and never finished high school. "My husband was not employed and is still unemployed and he was struggling to support me and our baby. Due to the current harsh economic conditions, I was planning to migrate to the urban areas to seek employment. At some point I thought of running away from my child, but then I realized that it would cause more future problems."

Phillies was invited to participate in a Dare to Discover training where she learned of her self-worth and to make wise decisions. "I have realized that I can still change my life. I have decided to go back to school so that I [can] fulfil my dreams and my father is willing to pay school fees for me. I believe that education is the key to success. The [training] helped me to accept my situation and accept correction from people who wish to bring my life back despite the bruises that were made."

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND



During the first half of FY20, with your support, the International Bible Fund provided God's Word to families and churches in Guatemala.

World Vision joined with Alianza Evangélica de Guatemala to launch the New Testament of Tenderness Scriptures, which includes commentaries

with Raising Children with Tenderness principles. We also provided Raising Children with Tenderness workshops. Our goal: To encourage churches to actively serve as childhood protection advocates. Both the New Testaments and Raising Children with Tenderness workshops were well received by participating churches. We also:

- Introduced the New Testament of Tenderness to partnering churches in Huehuetenango, providing them with 70 copies; and provided copies to Cardinal Álvaro Ramazzinni and bishops in Guatemala.
- Organized a Bible training for 38 teachers and executives from Fe y Alegría, a local church partner. We also provided copies of the New

Testament to teachers serving at the 53 educational centers of Fe y Alegría; and conducted orientation for more than 1,000 teachers and management staff. Teachers later reported having begun reading Bible texts to their students and preparing Scripture posters for the students to read and memorize. The educational centers serve 15,200 students.

In March 2020, the President of the Republic of Guatemala declared a public disaster state due to COVID-19, and imposed restrictions to prevent the spread of the disease. World Vision is limiting operations to food delivery and plan to include the New Testament of Tenderness and its User's Guide with the next delivery of meals. This will be done in partnership with churches.

169,264 Bibles made available since July 2016 (45,000 in FY20).

Seven-year target: 400,000

42%

“At school, it came through reflection during community praying; the carrying out of mercy acts among peers and/or people in economic need; every day there was a small act according to the book. In addition, it has help[ed] us to get close and to be willing of discovering ourselves and sharing with others without differences.”

—José Flores Vidal, Teacher, Fe y Alegría Educational Center, Olopa, Chiquimula

“The New Testament has taught me about the immense love God has for us and how He created us in His own image and likeness. Through it I have got[ten] closer to my family and have strengthened my relationship with them.”

—Adela Guerra, Teacher, Fe y Alegría Educational Center, Olopa, Chiquimula



YOUTH LEARNS BUSYNESS IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOD

From emptiness to a heart flooded with God's grace, a Filipino youth becomes a Christ-filled community organizer after participating in a Dare to Discover workshop.



Paul, now 20, grew up in an impoverished neighborhood of Malabon City, where children's only play areas are dark alleys and street vendors struggle to earn enough to buy a few pounds of rice for their families.

As a sponsored child, Paul always tried to do the right thing, participating in World Vision's events. He even took on a leadership role as a child facilitator for the group. But inside, Paul felt empty, substituting busyness with Christian activities for a true connection to Jesus. "The feeling is something I couldn't discuss with people," he said. "I begin to question the value of my existence. ... Why do I need to be like this? I wish I am not like this."

He hid his doubts from others, putting on an act of confidence. So much so, that when the World Vision children's association was failing and needed new leadership, the other teens elected him as president.

In his ongoing inner turmoil, he didn't want the responsibility. He vowed his revenge on those who'd elected him. He decided the best punishment was to overwhelm them with work.

Paul's plan failed in the best possible way. By working closely and continually together to revive the organization, Paul and the rest of the group developed strong and nurturing friendships. Paul also began to get answers to his questions about his purpose in life as he discovered he had a gift for organizing and motivating others. But it wasn't until he participated in this project's Dare to Discover workshop that he felt God's grace flooding into his heart to fill his emptiness.

"I felt truly connected to Him and everything around me did not matter," Paul said. "It was as if God and I were the only ones talking in that place. It's been a long time since I cried, but during the Release and Surrender session, my tears fell continuously."

Now fully committed to living his life for Jesus, Paul is using what he learned from World Vision to care for vulnerable children and advocate for children's rights. He's founded a group, called Alibata, in which children learn to be the hands of Jesus in their community (see photo above). Their most recent project, called Go, Give, Let's Stop COVID, raised \$260 to provide basic hygiene supplies (soap, masks, alcohol) for children, pregnant women, and elderly adults.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM-TO-DATE SPENDING

Program Spending October 2015 through March 2020

\$11,262,352 program-to-date
funding

\$10,100,895 spending-to-date

90%



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.

worldvisionphilanthropy.org

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