



GLOBAL UPDATE

» ANNUAL REPORT: October 2018 through September 2019

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GLOBAL OVERVIEW

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GLOBAL UPDATE

18.3 MILLION PEOPLE have benefited from work World Vision U.S. donors supported.* Thank you for giving generously to transform the lives of children and families in need.

* In fiscal year 2019, **7.5 million** people benefited. World Vision's deep investment in communities can result in some people benefiting from more than one service. For example, a church leader might have participated in children's ministry training and also live in a community that received access to clean water.



CHILD PROTECTION

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Thank you for investing in the safety and well-being of children. Your generosity is helping to create opportunities in their lives for resilience, healing, and hope.

Each boy and girl deserves a childhood free from violence and exploitation, one in which they are nurtured and encouraged to become the unique person God has created them to be.

Yet many millions of children around the world are victims of circumstances and systems that rob them of their dignity, their rights, their futures, and even their lives. Research demonstrates that traumatic experiences in childhood can lead to long-term negative outcomes in adulthood. By contrast, a safe and supportive environment can help children flourish, even amid difficult conditions.

Through child protection projects in Armenia, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Kenya,

World Vision continues to empower families and communities to keep children safe from all forms of violence and abuse. Working with governments, faith leaders, and other key stakeholders, we also are helping strengthen the systems that must be in place to protect children from harm.

In India, more than 1,500 men joined Men Care groups that addressed gender-based inequality, sex trafficking, and new paradigms for father-daughter relationships. In Armenia, the government and Armenian Apostolic Church were influenced to adopt policies that discourage prenatal sex selection. In Kenya, activities including an alternative rite-of-passage training led to a reduction in female genital mutilation, while in Bangladesh, 1,655 girls and boys participated in

activities to prevent violence against children in their communities. These and other efforts are making an enormous difference in the lives of vulnerable children. Thank you for your dedication to this work.



In India, Men Care groups develop action plans for safeguarding children in their communities.

GLOBAL UPDATE

2.5 **PEOPLE, INCLUDING 1.1 MILLION CHILDREN,** have benefited from our child protection projects since they began. In fiscal year 2019, **443,907** new people benefited. These numbers include beneficiaries from projects that have closed.

1,422 **SCHOOLCHILDREN AND YOUTH** in Bangladesh benefited from 13 education and awareness sessions in FY19 that focused on child labor and child protection.

517 **FAMILIES** in Armenia participated in Celebrating Families activities in FY19, which trained parents to become more active nurturers of their children.

266 **FAITH LEADERS** in India were trained on Channels of Hope for Child Protection, many of whom formed Church Hope Action Teams in FY19. More than 130 of those were Muslim faith leaders who participated in the Islamic version of the curriculum.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Children and youth are hearing God's Word and experiencing His love.

Thanks to your support during FY19, World Vision expanded and deepened our work with children, youth, and their support structures—church ministry leaders, parents, and caregivers—to help all children grow in relationship with Jesus and encourage them to help others do the same.

Our Christian Discipleship program—which includes Celebrating Families, Channels of Hope, and Raising Children with Tenderness—reached nearly 1.7 million people, helping to nurture the spiritual growth of children and youth, and their families. Our International

Bible Fund provided families and churches with more than 28,660 Bibles, helping 143,315 people (mostly children) to nurture and grow their faith through the study of God's Word.

In Central America and the Philippines, projects spearheaded groundbreaking events. At the Growing with Jesus event, more than 200 church leaders in Central America gathered to find ways to strengthen ministry efforts for children and their families. In the Philippines, hundreds of children gathered at the National Children's Summit to testify about the impact



of the Christian Discipleship Project on their lives, and to invoke greater discipleship efforts.

Children experience fullness of life as their understanding of God's love grows. Thank you for supporting them through the Christian Discipleship Program.

GLOBAL UPDATE

3.5 MILLION PEOPLE benefited from ministry activities since the beginning of fiscal year 2016, including nearly **1.7 million** people during fiscal year 2019. This includes children, parents/caregivers, and community members benefiting directly and indirectly.

134,194 CHILDREN AND YOUTH directly participated in discipleship activities in FY19, including Sunday schools, after-school Bible clubs, and school-based Christian studies classes.

3,485 PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS were trained during FY19 on theology and children's ministry, helping them learn to create programs for children that capture their attention and help them learn about Jesus.

566 CHURCHES engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth during FY19, creating or expanding Sunday schools and Vacation Bible Schools, and encouraging children to participate in the life of the church.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND*

124,264 Bibles provided (28,663 in FY19), benefiting 631,320 people (143,315 in FY19)

31%

Seven-Year target: 400,000

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

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Empowered families are breaking the crushing cycle of poverty.

The THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) model continues to deliver life-changing results as a key part of World Vision's global livelihoods strategy and economic empowerment work.

Together with TANGO International (Technical Assistance to NGOs), we have been documenting THRIVE's impact on child well-being in the five project countries: Honduras, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Results from evaluations done in Tanzania and Malawi, where THRIVE has been in place for more than three years, indicate a significant and positive impact on parents' ability to provide for their children's needs through increased household income and assets. The latest evaluation in Malawi indicates households that previously could not

afford the most basic family necessities are now able to provide sufficient year-round food, adequate clothing, improved shelter, healthcare, and education, especially for their children. The Malawi baseline report indicated that 80% of the target population reported income of \$1.25 a day. By contrast, the midterm evaluation reported that the average farmer generates income of \$3.10 a day, while high performers—the top 25%—earn \$10.40 a day (eight times the baseline).

These results were shared in 2019 during the THRIVE Forum in Lilongwe, Malawi. The event attracted interest from private sector partners and bilateral and multilateral organizations, making it a true learning event focused on improved agricultural livelihoods.

We also continued to offer access to vital financial services through



VisionFund, our microfinance network. That work is represented by global funding opportunities focused on women's empowerment and technology, as well as projects in Myanmar and Senegal.

Thank you for your partnership, which is helping hardworking families break the cycle of extreme poverty, transform their lives, and gain hope.

GLOBAL UPDATE

1.3 MILLION PEOPLE* were provided with access to economic empowerment since the beginning of the project, including **324,145** during fiscal year 2019.

*This figure includes VisionFund clients and their families who, through our OneVision Technology project, are able to use mobile money applications to handle their financial transactions, including loans, close to home through loan officers using computer tablets in the field to gather information.

13,801 FARMERS were trained on improved agricultural techniques in FY19.

9,413 PEOPLE were provided with access to financial services in FY19.

11,699 FARMERS gained access to new markets in FY19.

EDUCATION

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Education remains one the most valuable investments we made in children in Nepal, Jordan, Lebanon, and Zambia.

Our education projects in FY19 targeted communities struck by natural disaster, affected by war, and battling extreme poverty. Each of our three projects drew to a successful close in FY19.

Our work in Nepal began following the massive 2015 earthquake that destroyed substandard schools. We've made schools safer and provided teachers with training and other tools to improve the education they provide to their young students.

An evaluation showed that in grades 1 through 3, children reading at grade level grew from 13% to 51% using programs such as Unlock Literacy. The project also built four earthquake-safe buildings at schools as well as ventilated, improved pit latrines that are accessible to students with mobility challenges and have the features required to meet girls' menstrual hygiene needs.

The Syrian Refugee Education project based in Lebanon and

Jordan served children and parents either uprooted from their homes in Syria, or impacted by an influx of refugees in their resource-strapped communities. Project activities focused on helping parents better understand the importance of early childhood development and providing a safe place for young children to learn.

An end-of-project evaluation showed that in our Jordan sites, there was a 22% increase in the percentage of parents of children 3 and younger who reported an improved understanding of and ability to implement activities related to early childhood development. In addition, construction of two early childhood education centers in Lebanon was completed in early FY19, to provide children with a safe play space at each site and well-equipped learning environments, even after the project's completion.

In Zambia, our work focused on ensuring girls in our Kapululwe,



Magoye, and Sinazongwe program areas are attending school.

An end-of-project evaluation showed that the number of parents reporting all school-age children were attending classes rose from 74% to more than 94%. The project also helped improve family income—and the ability to send children to school—through savings groups. PTA members involved in savings groups reported improved assets, with 94% saying they now had money in savings, compared with 88% when the project started.

GLOBAL UPDATE

19,353 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 8,362 CHILDREN AND YOUTH, benefited from ministry activities since October 2016, including 6,495 new people during FY19.

747 CHILDREN IN NEPAL attended reading camps, which provided them with additional opportunities to improve their literacy skills.

1,115 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS IN JORDAN participated in early childhood education programs to learn how to guide their children in activities for developing skills needed to thrive and succeed in school.

1,777 ZAMBIAN PTA MEMBERS were involved in savings groups, supporting 4,843 children, with 2,201 of those children between the ages of 7 and 18 enrolled in school.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

GLOBAL SUMMARY

In 2019, World Vision responded to 132 disasters and humanitarian emergencies in 58 countries, providing humanitarian aid to more than 20 million people, thanks to support from donors and partners worldwide.

Conflicts and extreme climate around the world resulted in 166 million people needing humanitarian assistance—20 million more than estimated at the beginning of 2019.

Thankfully, by God's grace and your faithful partnership in ministry, World Vision provided humanitarian assistance and much-needed relief to children and families facing natural disasters (cyclones in Southern Africa, drought in Afghanistan, earthquakes in Indonesia), conflict (Myanmar

and South Sudan), and disease (the Democratic Republic of the Congo). We provided support services to families displaced from their homes, women and girls experiencing gender-based violence, food insecure populations, and more. Our services included shelter, access to clean water, healthcare, child protection and family reunification, vocational training, and food. "We are very grateful for the support provided by World Vision," said Luisa after Cyclone Idai hit in Mozambique.



During the fiscal year, World Vision and the World Food Program worked together to provide food and other assistance to vulnerable families in 29 countries.

News headlines rarely tell the story of millions of people suffering in silence. Thank you for helping to give families worldwide hope and relief.

GLOBAL UPDATE

65.3 **MILLION PEOPLE** have been reached with emergency relief since FY16 with donor and partner support worldwide. This includes **5.6 million** people impacted by gifts from private donors in the U.S.—with **3.5 million** benefiting during FY19 alone.

584,580 **PEOPLE** affected by floods in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe were provided with clean water, emergency food rations, child protection services, and shelter assistance.

275,364 **PEOPLE** impacted by earthquakes in two areas in Indonesia benefited from school rehabilitation, distributions of emergency relief items (solar lanterns, mosquito nets, and plastic mats), emergency medical services, and more.

371,611 **ROHINGYA REFUGEES** and vulnerable families in camps and host communities in or near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, received support services (such as prepaid food assistance cards, water, sanitation, hygiene, livelihoods and income-generation, and gender-based violence training) and used new learning and nutrition centers and a women's safe space.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

GLOBAL SUMMARY

More than 60% of people living in extreme poverty are women and girls. World Vision is working in many of the communities where women and girls struggle the most.

Solving the puzzle of poverty requires a full plan and a full range of services—water, food, healthcare, education, economic opportunities, and child protection—in partnership with faith

leaders who promote gender equality. Through signature initiatives in these areas, and with your partnership, great progress was made between October 2016 and September 2019.



7.9 million women and girls gained access to clean water, while **5.4 million** gained access to household sanitation and **8.4 million** benefited from hygiene behavior-change promotion.



861,159 women and girls benefited from economic empowerment activities, including access to financial services, savings groups, agricultural training and technology, and access to markets. This includes **16,511** women who received loans through the Women's Empowerment Fund.



418,537 women of child-bearing age and **474,766** children younger than 5 gained access to maternal and child health and nutrition services in places where we are implementing those projects.



13,401 women and girls benefited from education projects, including early childhood development, literacy instruction, life skills and livelihoods, and investments in safe schools in Honduras, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, and Zambia.



869,113 women and girls benefited from child protection programs that empower people to advocate for their rights, equip parents to use positive approaches, and train community members to protect children. In Kenya last year, 39 girls were protected from female genital mutilation/cutting or other abuses, 530 girls attended alternative rite-of-passage events, and 84 girls received scholarships.



1.6 million women and girls in six countries were empowered through Christian discipleship activities in churches and schools, **3,218** women church leaders benefited from training on theology and children's ministry, and **118,248** girls engaged in discipleship activities that help develop leadership skills.



World Vision helped reduce the vulnerability of millions of women and girls to disaster while providing relief assistance in **58 countries**. For instance, in three Rohingya refugee camps this year in Bangladesh, 300 women and girls learned how to protect themselves from harm.

Beneficiary figures for water and emergency relief are from projects supported by U.S. donors and donors from around the world.

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

GLOBAL SUMMARY

The year just ended marks the end of the first phase of mother and child health projects in Somalia, Uganda, and Zambia. End-of-project evaluations have pointed to some exciting changes that are improving—and often saving—the lives of women and their babies. World Vision joins our volunteers, health facility staff members, and the families they serve in thanking you for your support. Your gift has provided training and the equipment and supplies needed to ensure the most vulnerable survive and have a chance to thrive.

In Zambia, we saw a 12% decrease in stunting (low height-for-age) among young children, dropping from 46% to 34%. Also impressive is the drop from 9% to 5% in wasting, or acute malnutrition that causes low weight-for-height in children. The prevalence of underweight children also dropped significantly, from 26% to 10%.

In Uganda, the baseline survey showed 55.5% of women were

assisted by trained medical personnel for their most recent delivery. That rose to 89% by the project's end.

In Somalia, the end-of-project evaluation is not finalized, but preliminary figures for the life of the project show 25,340 children with acute malnutrition were successfully treated and 10,481 children younger than 5 received all recommended vaccinations.



Growth monitoring sessions help identify malnourished children and refer them to the appropriate treatment.

GLOBAL UPDATE

893,303 WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN* were provided with access to maternal and child health and nutrition services, which included 474,766 children younger than 5 since fiscal year 2016. In FY19, **319,205** women and young children benefited from your support, 211,640 of whom were under 5.

*These beneficiary numbers include people who might have received more than one service. For example, women who delivered their babies in a health facility often also received prenatal care services. These numbers also include beneficiaries from two projects that are solely supported by a corporate partner.

76,316 CHILDREN UNDER 5 were screened for malnutrition and received appropriate treatment and care as needed in FY19.

22,169 PREGNANT WOMEN attended prenatal care clinics, most for the prescribed four times, during FY19.

37,662 WOMEN delivered babies in a health facility with trained medical staff in FY19.

WATER

GLOBAL SUMMARY

The Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program exceeded yearly targets by reaching 3.4 million people with sustainable clean water, 2.6 million people with household sanitation, and 4.3 million people with hygiene behavior-change efforts. We also reached an additional 900,000 people with clean water during emergency situations.

The Global WASH Program has had a tremendous impact for the most vulnerable. World Vision is committed to reach everyone, everywhere we work, with clean water by 2030, and we are on track to achieve our interim goal of reaching 20 million people with clean water between 2016 and 2020.

During this reporting period, World Vision made a new commitment to reach 800 rural healthcare facilities with WASH services between 2019 and 2021, reaching nearly 7.2 million people

who will use those facilities. This work is critical to ensuring a positive birthing experience for mothers and newborns, reducing healthcare-associated infections, and addressing antimicrobial resistance. After just one year, we are ahead of schedule, reaching 399 healthcare facilities with clean water.

We continue to innovate and scale up proven approaches to positively impact behavior change to ensure improved sanitation, hygiene, and water quality. This year, World Vision reached



65,973 children with our school curriculum WASH UP! (designed in partnership with Sesame Workshop), and trained 6,307 faith leaders so they can encourage their congregations to adopt healthy WASH behaviors. We are working with nurturing care groups to ensure better adoption of hygiene behaviors in communities.

We are thankful to our donors for making this journey with us.

GLOBAL UPDATE

16.1 MILLION PEOPLE have been provided with access to safe drinking water since FY16. This includes **4.5 million** people who were reached through funding from World Vision U.S. private donors since FY16, with **1.2 million** U.S.-supported beneficiaries reached in FY19.

39,775 WATER POINTS were built in FY19.

469,983 SANITATION FACILITIES were built in FY19.

490,087 HAND-WASHING FACILITIES were built in FY19.

5,582 WASH COMMITTEES were formed in FY19.

* The 1.2 million people with access to water represent many of the same beneficiaries who received access to sanitation facilities and behavior-change programming.

STORIES OF HOPE

CHILD PROTECTION

Teacher Kashem Shaikh supports his girl students and their right to an education.

A devoted father, Kashem has a passion for seeing all girls in Bangladesh thrive and grow into successful, independent adults. He uses his job teaching at Noihati Girls High School as a platform to mentor and encourage his students.

Kashem has partnered with parents and World Vision staff members to remove children from dangerous labor and return them to school. One girl who has benefited from his effort and drive is Sarmin.

The 16-year-old had dropped out of school and was working alongside her mother in miserable conditions in a shrimp factory. For two years she shivered in the cold factory, deveining shrimp to help feed her family of eight.

Kashem helped Sarmin return to school and World Vision provided her with the

uniform, fees, and supplies needed to keep her there. The project provided her family with \$12 a month to help make up for the income lost when Sarmin returned to school. The project also helped her mother with a grocery business to better provide for the family.

Sarmin has become another warrior in the battle against child labor, teaching her classmates about the dangers of child labor. She shares her experiences in the factory and cautions against choosing a meager income now over the life-long benefits of a good education.

Kashem also speaks to businesses such as the shrimp factory, urging them to stop employing and abusing children. He and a local advocacy group insisted the owners hang signs at the factory gates citing laws prohibiting child labor and the



punishment mandated for violators.

Kashem and Sarmin's outreach efforts are paying dividends, with young people and parents alike learning more about their rights and other key issues. Staff members say more parents are changing their attitudes toward child labor, child marriage, and protecting their children from harm.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Formal theological training helps Kenyan pastors better serve their churches.

Following God's call to ministry is a trust that is taken seriously by pastors in Kirindon, Kenya. So when Pastor Paul Kiplangat Kimeto learned of the opportunity to attend the Christian Discipleship Project's theology course through Scott Christian University, he was overjoyed. He now could learn how to better serve and grow his local congregation, focusing specifically on outreach to children.

"I thank God because He has come through for me to get a university education," said Pastor Paul. "I used the skills and knowledge received through the Child Evangelism course ... to start a new Sunday school within my home."

Pastor Paul now has a class of 20 children ages 2 through 13. With his new skills of using activities and games, he engages their interest, and the children are excited to attend class each week.

But Pastor Paul's ambitions don't stop there. "The passion to utilize my skills has made me to look out for all unchurched children [to lead] them to Christ," he said. He now plans to open a branch church and invite adults to attend, too.

Pastor Paul's enthusiasm for outreach is contagious: "Children are our greatest evangelists as they are always inviting their unchurched parents to come experience God in the church."



Other pastors also have realized the value of the theological training and how it can enhance their spiritual life. Pastor Terer Kipkoech said he's learned spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, and daily quiet times. "My life is filled with the Word of God and I am now a better servant of God."

STORIES OF HOPE

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Joyce Eneya's family is thriving thanks to better access to markets.

With a weak market for produce, Joyce could command only low prices

for the rice, peanuts, tomatoes, onions, and other crops she grew in Malawi. Her family could not afford school fees for her four children. "Worst of all, my children were malnourished because I could not afford protein for their diet," she said.

Those tight financial times are in the past. Today, Joyce is a successful smallholder farmer; thanks to THRIVE and World Vision's partnership with Farm Concern International (FCI), which helped her gain access to good markets.

"I no longer struggle to sell my produce. [FCI] supports us on market linkages through collective marketing for better prices," Joyce said.

She has learned modern farming techniques from World Vision that

enable her to produce more than she had in the past. As a result, Joyce plants the same amount of seeds but realizes a larger harvest because of improved agricultural techniques and technology.

Compared to three years ago, her corn and soybean production has at least doubled, while her peanut production has grown 50%.

With her increased income, Joyce can better feed her family. She also has built three four-bedroom houses and bought a motorcycle. She owns goats and uses solar power.

"My children are back in school because I am making huge profits out of my farm produce, unlike in the past," Joyce said.

EDUCATION

Dedication and love helped Omran.

The success of the Syrian Refugee Education Project can be strongly attributed to dedicated and caring staff members like Aya, for whom the work is a calling rather than just a job.

Aya taught two classes of children ranging in age from 3 to 6 years in the project's early childhood education program in Bint Jbeil, Lebanon. The classes introduced 400 children to education and helped prepare them for kindergarten. Many students fled Syria with their families, and other children are from Syrian families that have been refugees so long, they were born in Lebanon. Still others are Lebanese children living in the host communities where Syrian families have sought refuge from the war.

One of these children is Omran, a little Syrian boy who began attending classes in 2018, and was having severe attention and behavioral problems. He wouldn't respond to his name, refused to participate, avoided eye contact, and was at times violent. He once threw a microphone at Aya, striking her. Thankfully, after just a short time with his teacher, he began to show signs of improvement, which thrilled his mother.

A follow-up visit to Aya's class and Omran a year and a half later showed even greater change.

"Omran has made huge progress in the past year. He is no longer aggressive. He plays with his friends and shares lunch with them. He is even articulating better," Aya said.



Omran now also counts to 10 and is a good listener in class. He is calmer and concentrates better, she said.

"I wish that one day, when he grows up, I will get a chance to meet him and see how much more he progressed."

STORIES OF HOPE

EMERGENCY RELIEF



One project creates safe spaces women can call their own.

"We had a peaceful family in Myanmar, but my husband has taken

two more wives here," said Khadija,* a 30-year-old Rohingya mother of three children. "He doesn't provide any money, but he asks me for food. Anything he earns, he gives to the other women. When I asked him why he does this, he started to beat me."

Living in fear, Khadija shared her secret with her neighbor, Tasmin, who invited her to come to World Vision's Women's Peace Center. This is one of the few places in the camps women are allowed to visit. In the conservative Rohingya culture, women and adolescent girls rarely are allowed to leave their shelters alone. Families fear they will

be harassed, abducted, or assaulted. However, since the center opened, staff members have gradually won the community's trust. Each week, a growing group of women and girls attend the sewing classes here. Many also take advantage of the counseling services for gender-based violence survivors.

"World Vision staff have taught us how to speak up if we are abused and report it. They give very good advice," said Khadija. "When I come here and share my grief with others, I feel better."

**Name changed for security purposes*

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Thanks to VisionFund, Hawa now aspires to be the biggest trader in her village.

In May 2019, near the city of Tambacounda, Senegal, Hawa rejoiced after receiving the business ownership paperwork to formally register her small shop and goat farm with the government. "I can be the biggest trader in the village," she says.

Thirty years ago, her family couldn't afford to continue her schooling past sixth grade. Today, her shop and goat income enable Hawa to pay for the education of her five children.

Before Hawa was introduced to VisionFund, World Vision's microfinance subsidiary, she occasionally sold vegetables when money was short, but otherwise spent her time caring for her children. When VisionFund arrived in the community, she saw her chance.



Hawa gathered 11 other women who had businesses to apply together for a group loan. Initially using her loan to grow peanuts, Hawa invested her profits in raising goats, which grow quickly and sell for a high price. One goat can bring her \$52 in profit.

Hawa reinvested her profits from goats to open her shop. She sells vegetables,

canned food, sweets, and chips. She has found creative ways to diversify her income during less profitable seasons, like installing a tap to sell drinking water.

But her biggest investment of profit is always in her children's education. Having five children complete school is not an easy task for the family; with no high school in the village, children must go away to study when they are 12 or 13.

Hawa is determined that each of her children will achieve their baccalaureate, Senegal's highest secondary qualification.

Hawa's passion for business was quickly recognized by VisionFund Senegal. Mustafa, Hawa's loan officer, says her loan group is one of the best to work with in the area. "The women here are proud of the work and proud of themselves," he says.

STORIES OF HOPE

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

Faunista Mumba's role in new arrivals in her village has changed drastically.

As a girl, Faunista dreamed of working in an office. That dream faded when she had to drop out of school in the eighth grade. Instead, she was recruited to help traditional birth attendants (midwives who have no medical training) because she could read and write, and complete required documentation.

Over the years, Faunista, now 56, also became a birth attendant, whose job was to take women ready to deliver out into the bush to have their babies. Cultural taboos in her village prohibited delivering babies in the family home, and women rarely, if ever, went to a health facility.

The tools of her trade were a basin of water and a reed mat. If labor was prolonged, Faunista would make a concoction from roots to speed the process. This sometimes resulted in complications such as excessive bleeding and stillbirths, she said.

Faunista especially disliked the cultural norms around the birth of twins. The mother and birth attendant were forbidden to leave the bush until a traditional healer came to perform a special ritual. Until then, the babies could not be fed or covered. It sometimes took a full day or two for the traditional healer to

arrive, she recalled. "In some cases, we lost babies due to the cold."

This changed in 2017, when the government prohibited traditional birth attendants from delivering babies, to promote safer clinic deliveries. World Vision supports this by training community health workers and Safe Motherhood Action Groups to teach prenatal care, eating properly, getting enough rest, protection against disease, and delivering with trained personnel.

Faunista gladly became a member of a Safe Motherhood Action Group and now makes regular visits to women throughout their pregnancy and follows up at home until their babies turn 2. She provides valuable lessons on nutrition and preventing and managing common illnesses that can steal a young child's life.



WATER

Hygiene education programming keeps Afghan children and their families healthier.

In Afghan families, it often is the mother's responsibility to train children on personal hygiene. However, after years of war, economic insecurity, and geographic displacement, many mothers lack hygiene education or capacity for normalizing good hygiene behavior in the home. Given these challenges, World Vision launched a hygiene education program that equips schoolgirls to influence their family's hygiene habits while providing skills that will be important should they eventually become mothers themselves.

After practicing better hygiene, Homaira, 12 (pictured)—a student at Ismail School in Badghis province—was pleased to notice the changes to her body. "I was not interested to practice hygiene at home before because I did not know the benefits," she says. "My hands were rough and so dirty. When I observed hygiene ... [they became] very clean and soft. My brothers and sisters have been very surprised to see the changes in my appearance and they are eager to do the same. I'm going to teach my family what I've learned."



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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