

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

October 2019 – September 2020 | Mother and Child Health Fund

SUMMARY

COVID-19 forced many organizations to shut down operations, but thanks to donors like you, we had the resources necessary to not just continue our mother and child health initiatives, but also to respond to the pandemic. Some activities—such as promoting improved hygiene habits—were valuable to our response; we simply ramped up what we already were doing, and reached 34,645 Zambians with potentially life-saving hygiene education.

Despite pandemic restrictions, we still managed to train 94 specialized community health workers, who were able to diagnose and treat 390 young Zambian children for oft-deadly illnesses. When they discovered a severely ill child, their training alerted them to the need for a referral to a health facility.

In addition, 374 trained health volunteers taught families how to care for pregnant women and young children, and to maintain good hygiene and sanitation practices, which helped prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other common illnesses.

We are excited to report that in FY20, we completed the project design for similar work in Niger. In the first quarter of FY21, we expect to have all key staff members hired and trained, purchased necessary equipment, and started project activities.

Because of your generous and faithful support, families in the Dosso and Maradi regions of Niger now will begin to enjoy the same health advantages as those in Zambia’s Luwingu district.



Mercy, pictured above, learned the importance of getting prenatal care and delivering her baby in a health facility from Astridah, a member of the Safe Motherhood Action Group in Zambia’s Luwingu district. Astridah also told Mercy and her husband about a local savings group, which helped them save the money needed to properly prepare for their daughter’s arrival.

GLOBAL UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

917,723 **WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE AND YOUNG CHILDREN*** have gained access to maternal and child health and nutrition services since fiscal year 2016. This includes 482,906 children younger than 5. Since 2016, we have accomplished the following:



7,629 community health workers and volunteers were trained.



770 nurses and midwives in health facilities received training to improve the quality of care.



138 clinics received support to provide improved mother and child healthcare, such as water and sanitation facilities, training, and equipment.



939 faith leaders were trained to advocate for the use of mother and child healthcare services.

*The total beneficiary numbers reflect some 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 reflect our active work as well as projects in Somalia, Uganda, and Zambia that have been completed, and similar projects in Kenya and Zimbabwe that were funded by a foundation donor.

ZAMBIA

SUMMARY

An FY20 survey to gauge the extent of health deficiencies for families in Luwingu affirmed the urgent need for our project there. The survey found that 16% of young children were underweight, and treatment for prevalent illnesses was extremely low. Only 3% of those suffering pneumonia, 5% of those battling diarrhea, and 8% of those experiencing malaria received appropriate treatment. Nearly 20% of pregnant women did not give birth with the help of a medically trained care provider.

The survey also showed that 75% of health facilities in the district do not provide the minimum national standard of care. And community health workers, one of the most vital tools in our healthcare toolbox, did not have the essential medicines needed to treat malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.

That dire scenario already has begun to change through the work you fund.

Community health workers, health facility employees, and faith leaders have received training to help them promote and/or provide healthcare. This led to nearly 25,000 women and children getting vital care and nutritional support in FY20.

In more good news, training and equipping community health workers led to screening and treatment for 390 sick children right in the home. Of these, 65 had pneumonia and 265 had malaria—frequent killers of the very young. Improved knowledge helped these health workers identify 128 children who were so ill they needed referral to the nearest health facility for more extensive care.

Training 131 faith leaders to help break down cultural taboos and practices led more families to make use of available health services in FY20, especially pregnant women and young children. Last year, 16,580 women of child-bearing age and 8,140 children younger than 5 directly benefited.



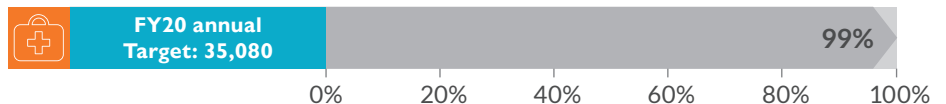
Instead of traveling nearly 7.5 miles to the nearest health facility, Lydia takes young Rodrick to a recently trained community health worker near her home. In the photo above, he tests the child for malaria, for which he was able to provide coartem, a malaria treatment.

“Thank you to World Vision for training our own people to help us near our homes.”

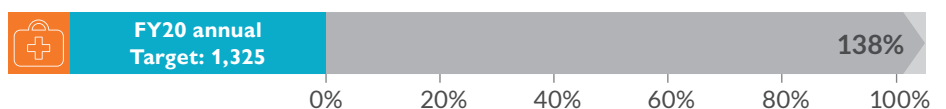
*—Lydia, mother of two,
Makolongo village,
Luwingu district*

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

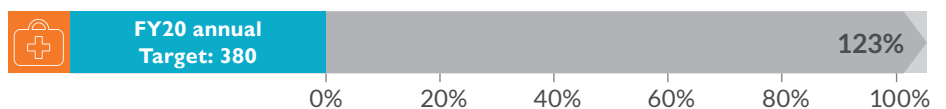
34,645 people learned about the importance of good hygiene in preventing disease and unnecessary deaths.



1,831 pregnant women were registered in the project and learned how to have a healthy pregnancy and a safe delivery.



468 community health workers/volunteers were trained to provide health information and care to women and young children.



KEY CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

The onset of COVID-19 significantly affected operations in the early months of the pandemic, with nationwide restrictions on travel and training (no large groups), and challenges for staff members temporarily based at home. However, the project team adapted and adjusted activities to align with government policies while still continuing to serve communities with what became unprecedented needs caused by the pandemic. We provided personal protective equipment for all community health workers and health facility staffs. Training sessions continued with smaller groups, following safe distancing guidelines and using masks. We also had clear safety guidelines in place for home visits by health workers.

The pandemic put a heavy strain on an already-weak Zambian health system, which led to a shortage of essential medicines at district and national levels. Through corporate donations and direct purchasing with project funds, World Vision filled critical gaps in malaria, pneumonia, and diarrheal drug supplies. We also continued to advocate for broader, systemic changes to the health system.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

In the coming months we will launch our water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in health facilities in Luwingu. After conducting a districtwide assessment of the 13 facilities we are supporting, we will provide comprehensive support that includes clean water supply, handwashing facilities, and sanitary latrines/toilets where needed. This also includes continued staff training and gift-in-kind support from our corporate partners to better equip facilities to provide quality care.

Another focus will be a rapid expansion of screening and treating malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea by community health workers, now that we have addressed the shortage of medicines exacerbated by COVID-19.

THANK YOU

World Vision joins families in Zambia's Luwingu district in thanking you for your faithful support of mother and child health programming in their communities. Your partnership is improving health and saving lives. God bless you for sharing your blessings with your neighbors a world away.



Jennifer is thrilled with the new bicycle provided by this project. A member of the Safe Motherhood Action Group in Menga, she uses it to visit homes with pregnant women and young children so she can share timely health messages and encourage families to take advantage of health services in their community. These services include growth monitoring and nutrition programs for children younger than 5, and prenatal care and facility deliveries for pregnant women.

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For more information visit:
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