

WHERE MOST NEEDED FUND »

SEMIANNUAL REPORT: October 2018 through March 2019
Prepared July 2019

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Our Mother and Child Health projects are bringing true change and exciting results. This wouldn't be happening without your faithful support. World Vision joins thousands of families in thanking you.

Our statistics show that infant deaths in Ugandan project areas have dropped by an estimated 27%. We're also excited about the increased number of births taking place in health facilities with skilled medical staff in attendance, from just 56% to 85%. Babies are healthier and thriving because more mothers are feeding them nothing but breast milk for the first six months of life (up to 85% from 67%), eliminating unsafe water or formula that can be contaminated by unsafe water.

In Zambia, a midterm evaluation showed that when we started this project, only

42% of women sought prenatal care during the first half of their pregnancies, but that has increased to 75%. Another impressive finding was a 97% recovery rate for malnourished children enrolled in community-based nutrition programs that teach parents how to prepare nutrient-dense meals.

In Somalia, our health and nutrition work helped return more than 2,000 malnourished children to health so far this year. Trained health volunteers treated more than 1,000 children at home for common, but often-deadly



A Ugandan community health volunteer uses mPOWER mobile technology to prompt timely delivery of health information to neighbors in his care. He also uses his phone to log health data, which is uploaded to the district health office.

diseases (see story on last page). This, plus health education shared with families, will help keep mothers and young children alive and thriving.

GLOBAL UPDATE

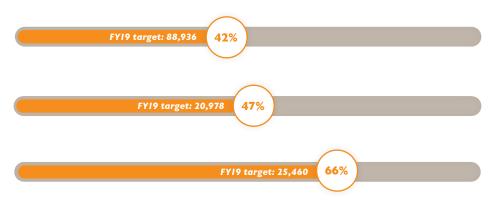
826,788 WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN* were provided with access to maternal and child health and nutrition services since the project began in FYI6. This includes 255,289 in the first half of FYI9, 176,643 of whom are children younger than 5.

*These global 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 supported by our corporate and foundation partners and other projects that have been completed.

37,382 children under 5 were screened for malnutrition and received appropriate treatment and care as needed.

9,803 pregnant women attended prenatal care clinics, most for the prescribed four times.

16,691 women delivered babies in a health facility with trained medical staff.



PROJECT SPENDING

\$14,592,808 funding released to date

\$13,056,866 spending to date

SOMALIA

Our work in Puntland and Somaliland is targeting some of the most challenged communities, those hit hard by drought and harsh climate conditions that have made food scarce and poverty entrenched. So far in FY19, this project has reached 17,731 women and children—114,740 since the project began in FY16.

Your support is providing training and supervision for volunteer healthcare providers who bring education and care to their neighbors (see story on last page). So far this year, 95 volunteers have been trained and are actively serving their communities.

Volunteers treated 3,108 children younger than 5 for the most common

childhood illnesses of pneumonia, malaria, and diarrhea. They referred 128 children who were more seriously ill to health facilities for needed care.

Their work is changing long-held traditions and behaviors that are barriers to good health for mothers and young children. For instance, they conducted 750 counseling sessions that reached more than 10,000 women of child-bearing age in 43 villages, sharing information on essential health activities (immunization, breast-feeding, deworming, vitamins, proper hygiene, and more) that can prevent illness and death. They also registered 2,760 pregnant women and 3,402 children younger than 2, followed by structured home visits where this vital information was reinforced.

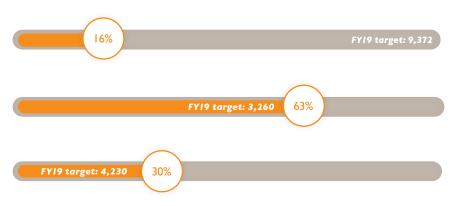


Ayaan is a project-trained community health worker who uses a phone to remind her when to visit families and to know which messages are timely to share. She also can log patient health data, which will be uploaded to a Ministry of Health database.

1,476* severely and moderately malnourished children were successfully treated, 21,983 since FY16.

2,041 children younger than 5 have received all recommended vaccinations, 8,129 since FY16.

1,252 women gave birth in a health facility with trained staff attending, 5.544 since FY16.



^{*} This number and the number of children screened for growth and nutrition (4,545) were far lower than expected due to a temporary migration of families caused by a cyclone and drought.

Other achievements and activities from FY19 included:

- 456 pregnant women received their first home visit within their first 16 weeks, as recommended. Also, 2,595 attended prenatal care clinics—1,042 attending the recommended four prior to delivery. Hitting all four is still a challenge in Somalia, where women traditionally don't share their pregnancy until later stages.
- 30 faith-based organizations in project areas engaged in community development activities. Through Channels of Hope training, 167 faith leaders were
- trained and are preaching against child marriage and female genital mutilation, and promoting health interventions, such as a balanced diet during pregnancy, getting prenatal care and delivering in a health facility, and immunizations.
- 1,794 mothers reported they are feeding their babies nothing but breast milk for the first six months.
- 22 health facilities received support through training for staff, donated pharmaceuticals and supplies, and new equipment.

PROJECT SPENDING

\$5,028,541 funding released to date

\$4,452,046 spending to date

UGANDA



Medical staff members at Hoima Regional Referral Hospital participate in a video training session on obstetric and newborn care. Community health volunteers can receive refresher training through radio programming.

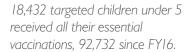
Central to the work we do in maternal and young child health are corps of hardworking community volunteers and medical facility staff. This project provided new and refresher training to give staff the skills needed to perform emergency obstetric and newborn care, and volunteers the skills to recognize and treat simple illnesses, and know when to make referrals to health facilities when complications are evident.

In FY19, 997 health volunteers are actively serving their neighbors by providing health education and care. So far this year, 49 staff members from project-area health facilities have received training through the project.

World Vision also worked alongside health facilities to help them make improvements

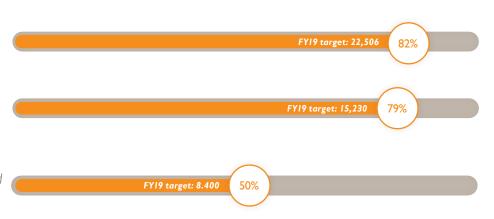
needed to meet the criteria to gain accreditation as a Baby Friendly Health Initiative facility. These facilities meet the standards set to provide quality mother and newborn care and support efforts to ensure mothers learn how to effectively and exclusively breast-feed their babies immediately after birth and for the first six months of life. Eleven project-area facilities have gained this status this year, against a target of eight.

These efforts have reached 171,626 women and children in FY19, resulting in more prenatal care clinic attendance, health facility births, and better nutrition for babies and young children. Since FY16, the project has reached 395,023 women and children.



12,029 women delivered their babies at a health facility with skilled help, 78,541 since FY16.

4,175 pregnant women were visited within the first 16 weeks and registered into the health system by a community health worker, 20,930 since FY16.



Other accomplishments included:

- 4,518 children younger than 5 were sleeping under an insecticide-treated mosquito bed net, against a target of 4,620 for the year. Young children are especially vulnerable to malaria because their immune systems are not developed enough to fight the potentially deadly disease.
- Mobile health continues to be a powerful tool to effectively and efficiently reach households with education and care. This year, the project is collaborating with an initiative called mPOWER, which adds educational videos to complement the health volunteer's home visits. In
- the initial rollout, 214 volunteers downloaded videos to their phones and collected data on how well mothers understood a topic before and after the video (for example, recognizing pneumonia danger signs).
- 6,125 women attended the recommended four prenatal care clinics before giving birth, against a target of 11,678 for the year.
- 33 health facilities have a functioning and accessible water source on the premises, against a target of 34 for the year. This includes five targeted facilities that received renovations, supplies, training, and access to clean water.

PROJECT SPENDING

\$4,412,464 funding released to date

\$3,932,253 spending to date

ZAMBIA

So far in FY19, this project has reached 43,175 mothers and young children with quality care and health education, and 132,748 since the project began in FY16.

World Vision provided training—new and refresher—for more than 2,700 volunteers who provide services ranging from teaching good nutrition practices, to monitoring child growth and visiting homes to teach about the simple measures families can take to ensure mothers survive pregnancy and safely deliver healthy babies.

To sustain the gains made by this project, communities must take ownership and lead efforts to provide accessible, quality healthcare for families. Neighborhood health

committees (NHCs) are central to these efforts, and so far this year, 54 committees received support and training on their roles and responsibilities. This work is showing exciting dividends. For instance:

- In Musosolokwe, an NHC led efforts to make bricks for a mother's shelter and maternity wing at the health facility. The shelters are vital in attracting expectant mothers to the facility to give birth, since many travel long distances and need accommodations until they deliver.
- In Chikomeni, three NHCs are leading efforts to construct buildings to house Expanded Program on Immunization activities, which target children younger than 5.



Growth monitoring volunteers are trained on how to record data, identify malnourished children, and provide referrals for appropriate care when indicated.

3,410 women gave birth in a health facility with skilled medical assistance, 20,720 since FY16.

337 faith leaders are engaged in improving the health of mothers and children, 570 since FY16.

8,517 children under 5 received a full regimen of vaccinations, 27,540 since FY16.

FY19 target: 6,000 57%

FY19 target: 327

103%

FY19 target: 16,650

51%

Other achievements from FY19 included:

- 1,012 malnourished children were enrolled in therapeutic feeding programs, and 869 were rehabilitated. The other 143 remain in programs, progressing toward health.
- 2,636 women attended the recommended four prenatal care clinics during their pregnancies. Since the project began, 14,490 women have made four prenatal care visits.
- 3,747 mothers are exclusively breast-feeding their babies from birth to 6 months, for a total of 28,311 since FY16.
- 25,105 children younger than 5 were weighed and measured by growth monitoring volunteers, 57,713 since FY16. Those children found to be underweight were referred to appropriate nutrition programs.
- Community health workers treated 2,885 children for malaria (1,521), diarrhea (896), and suspected pneumonia (468) in their homes. They referred another 126 children with complications to the nearest health facility.
- 17 cooking demonstrations taught caregivers to prepare nutritious food, reaching 1,894 women and eight men.

PROJECT SPENDING

\$5,151,803 funding released to date

\$4,672,567 spending to date

SOMALI HEALTH VOLUNTEER DIAGNOSES, TREATS BABY

Lessons learned from a visiting community health volunteer likely saved the life of little Fardus.

Hodan learned about child health from her local visiting volunteer health worker. Thankfully, she recalled his lessons and recognized the danger signs when 5-month-old Fardus had difficulty breathing and refused to nurse.

Just as she was taught, Hodan called Mr. Dayib and asked for help. When he arrived 30 minutes later, Mr. Dayib, just as he was trained through this project, examined Fardus and discovered she was running a temperature of more than 103. This, combined with her labored breathing, resulted in a diagnosis of pneumonia—a leading cause of death for infants and young children in the developing world.

Mr. Dayib entered Fardus into the local health system registry using the CommCare mobile phone app provided to healthcare volunteers. Then he delved into his medical bag and provided Hodan with amoxicillin syrup supplied through the Somalia Mother and Child Health project. He instructed Hodan how to give Fardus the proper dose four times a day for five days. He also gave the worried mother acetaminophen to help bring down the baby's fever.

Before leaving, he advised Hodan to breast-feed Fardus as often as possible as she recuperated, and promised to return the next day to check on the baby.

When Mr. Dayib returned, he was pleased to see immediate improvement in Fardus. Five days later, Mr. Dayib



Community
health worker
Mr. Dayib, at
right in the
photo, shows
Hodan how to
dispense liquid
medication
to Fardus,
whom he
diagnosed with
pneumonia.

came back to find Fardus had completed her amoxicillin treatment, appeared fully recovered, and was eating well. She was even responding to and enjoying interactions with her siblings.

Hodan is thrilled with the care Fardus received from Mr. Dayib. In years past, her children likely would not have fared as well as their little sister, Hodan said. "Previously, it had taken a while to get medication or someone to see the child if he or she is sick or needing medical care. I cannot begin to express my pleasure today, because my baby is now healthy and recovering," she added.

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World Vision is a mercy that God sent for us to our homes. They have brought free doctors and medications to our places."

—Hodan, mother of baby Fardus

Never again will there be ... an infant who lives but a few days.

—Isaiah 65:20 (NIV)



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.







