PROGRESS REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2019 TO MARCH 2020

Prepared August 2020
INTRODUCTION

Strong Women Strong World serves as a connection for women and men worldwide who recognize that women’s empowerment and gender equality are key to lasting social change and essential to the well-being of children, families, and communities.

During the first half of fiscal year 2020, (October 2019 through March 2020), the following programs and projects were supported by the Strong Women, Strong World Fund.

**Water in Rwanda** strives to increase understanding of healthy water, sanitation, and hygiene practices for children and families living in 15 districts across Rwanda. During this reporting period, nearly 30,000 people in the program’s target area gained access to clean drinking water; bringing the program-to-date total to more than 350,000. With a goal to benefit up to 1 million people with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities by 2022, the program supports the government of Rwanda’s goal to provide universal access to water by 2024.

**Child Protection in Kenya** is a 5-year project with a goal to benefit more than 300,00 people, including more than 87,000 children, by 2024. The project expects the following outcomes: (1) Girls and boys play an active role in influencing change among their peers, parents, and communities. (2) Households are empowered to nurture, support, and protect children from all forms of abuse. (3) Communities provide a safe, protective environment for children to thrive. (4) Formal systems and structures are strengthened at the national and subnational levels for child protection.

**Women’s Empowerment Fund** focuses on vulnerable women and aims to develop their livelihoods, build their financial resilience, and improve gender equality in their communities. The project strives to increase women’s access to high-quality financial services, link them to savings groups, and expand their financial education.

**The crisis in Syria** has entered its 10th year. At least 5 million Syrian refugees now live mostly in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. In this highly fragile region, World Vision has been present since 2013, delivering innovative and evidence-based programming to provide hope and life improvements for children and families. During the first six months of FY20, our work reached more than 1,460,000 people, including more than 840,000 children.

The following pages highlight the FY20 major activities and accomplishments for these critical projects and programs.
PROGRAM UPDATE

29,757 PEOPLE* were provided with access to clean drinking water during fiscal year 2020 (October 2019 through March 2020), of whom 13,688 were children.

65 community water access points constructed (tap stands)  
FY20 semiannual target: 85  
175%

229 new and rehabilitated taps built in all settings**  
FY20 semiannual target: 380  
60%

21,236 sanitation facilities built in all settings  
FY20 semiannual target: 12,109  
175%

15,427 household hand-washing facilities built  
FY20 semiannual target: 10,300  
150%

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Thanks to your support, families throughout Rwanda are living healthier, fuller lives because this project has brought water into their communities and encouraged them to build latrines and hand-washing stations.

These improvements were made not just at homes, but in schools and health facilities, creating a stronger culture of safe and healthy water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices in program communities.

So far this year, nearly 30,000 people gained access to water, and more than 150,000 have benefitted from the promotion of behaviors that improve hygiene and help prevent disease. Nearly 67,000 more people are using new latrines, built through the efforts of this program and community activists.

By enlisting faith leaders, more families are hearing important WASH messages and changing their habits.

“As the largest part of Rwanda’s population are affiliated with faith organizations and trust their faith leaders, it’s easier to reach and sensitize them through their faith leaders,” said Aolys Nsabiman, a WASH staff member for World Vision in Rwanda.

* Of these, 13,620 people were reached with World Vision U.S. private funding.
** All settings include communities, schools, and health facilities.

Claudine, 15, used to walk more than 4 miles each way to collect water from an unprotected water source.

Her water-hauling responsibilities took a toll on her physically and mentally. The work was exhausting, and it made her late to school every day. Her grades were affected and she could scarcely find time to study.

World Vision, with your support, constructed a water system with a pipeline that brings clean water to the 3,000 people of her village in Kivuruga area program (AP) in Gakenke district.

“My family and I no longer suffer from waterborne diseases, ever since we got access to clean water,” Claudine said. “We are very grateful to World Vision for having made this possible for us and the other children in my community.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS</th>
<th>FY20 Semiannual Achieved</th>
<th>FY20 Semiannual Target</th>
<th>Program-to-Date Achieved</th>
<th>Life-of-Program Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTCOME: Access to Clean Water</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who gained access to a clean drinking water source in communities</td>
<td>29,757</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>350,458</td>
<td>464,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children who gained access to a clean drinking water source at school</td>
<td>4,138</td>
<td>35,100</td>
<td>121,552</td>
<td>181,704</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools with a clean drinking water source installed</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centers with a clean drinking water source installed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful boreholes completed and commissioned in communities, schools, and health centers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taps installed from successful water supply systems in communities, schools, and health centers</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>2,642</td>
<td>3,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonfunctioning water points rehabilitated in communities, schools, and health centers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households equipped with water-treatment techniques to disinfect drinking water</td>
<td>3,761</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>10,896</td>
<td>10,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTCOME: Access to Sanitation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who gained access to household sanitation</td>
<td>66,822</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>412,239</td>
<td>451,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who gained access to sanitation facilities at schools</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>80,290</td>
<td>76,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household sanitation facilities constructed</td>
<td>21,200</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>100,140</td>
<td>105,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities certified as free from open defecation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved, sex-separated sanitation facilities built at schools</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools that gained access to improved sanitation for children/youth with limited mobility</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools that gained access to improved sanitation for girls, with facilities to manage menstrual hygiene</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved, sex-separated sanitation facilities built at health centers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centers that gained access to sex-separated sanitation facilities designed for people with limited mobility and appropriate for managing menstrual hygiene</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTCOME: Improved Hygiene Practices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who benefited from hygiene behavior-change promotion in communities</td>
<td>150,476</td>
<td>54,430</td>
<td>745,084</td>
<td>665,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who gained access to hand-washing facilities at schools</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>92,732</td>
<td>99,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households that gained access to hand-washing facilities</td>
<td>15,427</td>
<td>10,300</td>
<td>84,548</td>
<td>79,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools that gained access to hand-washing facilities</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centers that gained access to hand-washing facilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTCOME: Improved Community Capacity for Sustainability</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH committees formed or reactivated with a financing system for maintenance and repair</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People trained in repair, maintenance, and construction of WASH facilities</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) groups focused on WASH</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith leaders who participated in hygiene, sanitation, or behavior-change programming</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School WASH clubs or programs established</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTCOME: Access to WASH in Emergency Settings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with access to emergency drinking water supplies</td>
<td>3,492</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>18,193</td>
<td>13,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with access to emergency sanitation systems</td>
<td>3,492</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>15,017</td>
<td>10,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with access to appropriate solid-waste disposal facilities</td>
<td>3,492</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>15,077</td>
<td>10,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with access to emergency hygiene supplies</td>
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<td>367</td>
<td>14,565</td>
<td>9,993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Kenya Big Dream Project is an expansion of World Vision’s ongoing child protection work in Kenya. In addition to focusing on reducing female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and physical violence against children, the new project will work to strengthen livelihoods, heal family relationships, and promote education.

In the first six months, communities were trained to protect children and reduce FGM and child marriage through forums, life skills training for teachers, and Celebrating Families. These trainings were designed to help community members understand and take action on child protection issues.

More than 1,200 children at high risk of abuse enrolled in school and started their studies following community awareness sessions on the importance of education.

A total of 430 children in three primary schools were trained in life skills and children’s rights in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The knowledge gained will be transferred to peers and parents. The project aims to establish or strengthen children’s rights clubs in 90 schools.

Kenya Big Dream targets West Pokot and Baringo counties.

*Celebrating Families* is a program that emphasizes healing family relationships with a biblical model of forgiveness, love, and compassion. The model helps cultivate honest conversations and create a safe and nurturing home environment. This reporting period, 45 faith leaders participated in Celebrating Families training sessions and will go on to share the training with families.
'THE BEST PLACE TO BE'

She was forced to undergo FGM, then married off as a young teenager to provide a bride price of 49 animals for her father. After escaping that marriage, she received the opportunity to attend school for the first time.

When Jane* was a young girl, her mother passed away. Her father viewed her as a prospective bride price—"a source of wealth," she said. The 15-year-old girl had never attended school because of her family's poverty and deep cultural beliefs against it.

In late 2019, Jane was forced to undergo FGM, then married off to a man who promised her father seven cows, 40 goats, two camels, and local brew.

"This was a violation of my rights as a child still needing care and protection from a parent," Jane said. "I stayed for seven days. When an opportunity presented itself, I sneaked out of that marriage."

Walking stealthily to avoid detection, she traveled more than 30 miles in two days to search for her aunt's home.

Upon arrival in the village, she found her uncle speaking—fittingly, on the importance of education and the impact of child marriage—at a World Vision public meeting.

She waited at a distance, listening to the discussion until she had an opportunity to approach him.

"I introduced myself to my uncle, who could not remember me very well," Jane said. "He then took me to his homestead."

Following a discussion involving Jane, her aunt, and her uncle, she started her education in January 2020.

She started in a pre-primary class, then was twice moved up a grade level.

"A few weeks after she made notable improvement, and upon giving her an aptitude test, we noted that it was fair [to] promote her to grade two," her head teacher said.

"This was until the government announced the closure of schools over [the] COVID-19 pandemic."

Even with her education on hold, the school is "the best place to be," Jane said. "I am now secure and protected. I can learn and achieve my dreams."

*Name changed to protect identity

A worldview of empowerment helps reduce the pressure leading to FGM and child marriage

Community members will be trained in Empowered Worldview, a faith-based approach to helping communities shift from dependency to empowerment—both economically and in the belief that they can break the cycle of poverty. With that foundation, the project will work to strengthen livelihoods to help reduce the economic pressure on families to marry off their daughters. This will include promoting 44 Savings for Transformation groups, in which participants save money collectively and loan to each other to help pay for such necessities as school fees or business startup costs. Later, after training, group members can be linked to microfinance institutions to obtain larger loans.
Women’s Empowerment Fund

VisionFund Global Update
Through September 2019

1.1 Million clients were provided with microloans by leveraging nearly $148 million in equity to support $694 million in loans disbursed.

3.5 Million children were impacted by microloans that help parents provide more income for improvements such as nutritious food, school fees, improved housing, and healthcare.

71 Percent of clients served are women.

58 Percent of clients served live in rural areas.

Program Overview 2019

Women in developing countries, especially those living in rural areas, often encounter gender-specific obstacles to economic mobility. These include lack of access to financial services and imbalances in family caregiving that prevent them and their communities from flourishing.

The Women’s Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to build the resilience of women and their families, improve gender equality, and support the development of livelihoods by providing vulnerable women increased access to high-quality financial services and education.

The fund is facilitated by VisionFund, World Vision’s microfinance affiliate.

The first phase of this two-phase project focused on growing loan capital for women entrepreneurs to invest in small businesses and farms. The second phase, launched in FY19, with the goal of strengthening services to women by linking them to savings groups, offering insurance products specifically for women, and expanding women’s financial training.

Recent research measuring the holistic impact of microloans through VisionFund Armenia found that a single loan frequently creates additional benefits for women and their children in the form of better nutrition, health, housing, access to education—even family cohesion and spiritual well-being. In a March 2019 survey conducted by VisionFund Myanmar, 99% of respondents reported that receiving a loan provided at least one benefit to their children, while 73% reported three or more benefits.

You commitment to empowering women is helping create brighter futures for their families and wider communities.

Microfinance loans enabled Chalani Iresha to start a business as a vegetable grower. Now she employs five women from her village in northwest Sri Lanka.
COVID-19 AND OUR WORK

The COVID-19 crisis is impacting every country where World Vision operates, directly as well as indirectly. The pandemic exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and creates new ones.

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. Equally important, World Vision is combating secondary impacts of the crisis that are putting millions of children at risk—from heightened food insecurity, to shuttered schools, to increased violence or neglect.

In Rwanda, WASH activities, such as constructing public hand-washing stations, distributing disinfection kits, and training health workers on disease prevention and control are crucial to helping children and their families not only survive this pandemic, but emerge resilient, with hope for the future.

Due to restrictions on movement imposed for the coronavirus in March, water systems in Nyaruguru, Gakenke, Ngororero, and Nyamagabe were not finished, which caused us to miss our target for completed water points. We anticipate catching up on lost construction time when the government allows water and sanitation projects to start up again. Before restrictions went into place, World Vision printed and distributed 21,000 fliers on preventing COVID-19 and continued to share key messages through loudspeakers. Due to social distancing rules, we are unlikely to achieve targets this year that require meeting in groups.

In Kenya, child protection activities—such as encouraging the reporting of abuse—are critical for girls and boys who already face heightened risks of violence.

While disruptions and necessary restrictions related to the spread of COVID-19 have changed some aspects of our work in Kenya, we remain committed to eliminating FGM and child marriage.

Economic empowerment activities that support women, such as providing access to microloans, offering insurance products, and expanding financial training, are key for families that are already highly vulnerable to economic and social shocks.

Although necessary guidance and restrictions related to the spread of COVID-19 will delay aspects of our work, we remain committed to working at the household and community levels to help build sustainable livelihoods and resilience to shocks and stresses.

Thank you for partnering with World Vision as we 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 conflict in Syria has now entered its 10th year, and remains one of the world’s most devastating and intractable humanitarian and protection crises. There are at least 5 million Syrian refugees, most in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

**The Syria Crisis**

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**World Vision’s Response**

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian and development organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

The World Vision Syria Response, based out of Amman, covers programmes in Syria, Jordan and Turkey. We also have national offices in Lebanon and Iraq, responding to both domestic development/humanitarian needs and the Syrian refugee crisis.

Since 2013, the Syria Response has been at the forefront of World Vision’s work in fragile contexts, delivering innovative and evidence-based programming across three diverse countries. Directly and through partners, we support protection, health, education, livelihoods, water & sanitation, and food security projects to vulnerable families. Our approach focuses on the holistic needs of the child, embedded within their community structures.

**Where We Operate**

3,643,700 registered Syrian refugees

- **Turkey**
  - 656,733 registered Syrian refugees
  - 76,989 in Za’atari Refugee Camp
  - 40,953 in Azraq Refugee Camp
  - The remaining are living in host communities/urban settings

- **Jordan**
  - 3,643,700 registered Syrian refugees
  - 76,989 in Za’atari Refugee Camp
  - 40,953 in Azraq Refugee Camp
  - The remaining are living in host communities/urban settings

- **Syria**

**Snapshot**

- 11.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance including 5 million children

- 6 million Syrians are internally displaced

**Funding Partners**

- OCHA
- USAID
- Canada
- Irish Aid
- European Union
- Japan Platform
- World Food Programme
- RELIEF ALLIANCE
- Aktion Deutschland Hilft
- GIZ
- Dutch Government

**From October 2019 to March 2020, we have reached**

- **1,465,951** people including almost **842,563** children

- **1,772,943** people including **1,056,075** children were reached by the Syria Response in FY19

- **2,9 million** Syrian children are out of school

- **I noticed a difference in my lifestyle; I learned useful techniques, such as taking deep breaths, which helped me to relax and reduce stress.**
  - Amjad*, 35, participant in PSS sessions in Syria

**2,876,236 people reached across Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey in 2019**
Our Impact

Protection, Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection

World Vision’s programmes contribute to the creation of a protective and empowering environment for the most vulnerable girls, boys, women and men, regardless of gender, disability, migratory or social status.

In Syria, which is a major protection crisis, World Vision is working with displaced people from Syria and other countries, providing shelter, food, and health care. World Vision is also working with partners to provide legal assistance and support to women and children who have experienced violence.

Health & Nutrition

World Vision aims to improve health outcomes for the population, particularly for women and children. This includes providing medical assistance to those affected by conflict and displacement.

In Jordan, World Vision is working with the Ministry of Education to provide school meals to children in schools. The programme provides 30,000 meals per day to children in Jordan. World Vision also provides food assistance to vulnerable families.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

World Vision uses a holistic and gender-sensitive approach in supporting WASH services in both camp and non-camp settings across Syria and Jordan.

In Jordan, World Vision has constructed a greywater system in Araq Refugee Camp, connecting 2,556 homes and providing clean water trucking to 53,000 refugees living in Araq Refugee Camp.

In Syria, World Vision has responded to COVID-19 by increasing water volumes, suspending group hygiene education activities and installing mass media communication.

Sponsor a Child

World Vision’s sponsorship programme provides a supportive relationship between a child and a sponsor, who can communicate and learn from each other. This programme helps to provide education and support to children in need.

In Jordan, 500 children are sponsored by sponsors, and in Syria, 657 children are sponsored.

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