



World Vision®



CHILD
PROTECTION

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CHILD PROTECTION

GLOBAL SUMMARY

We are grateful for your commitment to bringing an end to violence against children. Your support is changing the lives of children, their families, and their communities forever.

Across the world, children are experiencing many forms of violence, including child marriage, physical punishment, sexual abuse, and child labor. The root causes stem from harmful cultural traditions, lack of parental education, and poverty.

With your support—and through partnerships with children, families, and communities—we are stemming the tide of violence against children in Armenia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique, Southeast Asia, and Uganda.

In the past year, our projects empowered children to protect themselves through life skills education, training, and peer support groups. We helped vulnerable children to enroll and remain in school by reducing the financial strain on families. As children

gained leadership skills, they became advocates for preventing the abuse of children.

We worked with parents to open their minds to the hazards facing their children and how they could create a nurturing environment for their children. The Celebrating Families approach was a tool for initiating family discussions, creating a place for children to voice their opinion on matters that affect their lives.

Child protection systems were strengthened as community members monitored the well-being of children through Child Protection Committees. World Vision supported research projects and encouraged governments to adopt laws and policies that protect vulnerable children, such as in Armenia and Mozambique.

Faith leaders played a major role in strengthening community support for children and their families. They raised awareness on child protection concerns, formed congregational teams to provide care, influenced policies, and led attitudinal and behavior change within families and churches.

Thank you for your faithful support.



1,122,992 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 572,116 CHILDREN, have benefited from our child protection projects since they began.

29,852 boys and girls participated in children's clubs in Uganda, where they gained crucial skills for protecting themselves and other children.

7,371 members of Child Protection Committees in Cambodia were trained in how to report child protection cases and refer children to social services.

165 faith communities took action in Kenya to protect children by reporting cases of child abuse, providing counseling, and helping children in need.

145 parents participated in couple's groups in Armenia, where they learned about the prevalence of prenatal sex selection and how to prevent gender-based violence.

ARMENIA

World Vision's Child Protection Project in Armenia has spurred changes in gender relations from the bottom up and top down. We have worked with youth, couples, families, and faith leaders to influence perspectives on gender attitudes and behaviors that are oppressive to girls and women.

The project made significant progress in educating youth and adults about gender-based violence and prenatal sex selection through a series of guided group discussions. Young people, although not as familiar with the responsibilities of marriage and parenting, expressed a great desire to share what they learned with the broader public. They led 19 public awareness events that reached about 550 people in rural communities.

Couples are embracing having girls and shifting family responsibilities for more equitable care. Nearly 150 parents participated in couples groups, where they shared their views on gender roles and traditional harmful beliefs. Men were encouraged to share the decision-making responsibilities and play a more active role in caregiving.

Leaders in the Armenian Church are discovering how they can play a role in helping families thrive. Faith leaders worked with social workers to help vulnerable families acquire positive parenting skills so that they can create a more safe and nurturing environment for their children. The Celebrating Families approach seeks to enhance family relationships and create space for children to have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

The Armenian Church has even offered to lead a research study on its historical and theological approach toward gender relations and child protection issues.

Thank you for your continued support of this project. You are making a difference in the lives of Armenian families.



119,762 PEOPLE have benefited from the project since it began in October 2015, INCLUDING **597 CHILDREN** directly participating in activities.

471 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities

Four-year target: 900

52%

314 parents and caregivers showed that they better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline

Four-year target: 531

59%

11 faith leaders mobilized their communities to take action to protect children

Four-year target: 14

79%



"I was expecting to have a boy," said Mikael Tutoyan. When he found out that his wife, Gohar, was going to have a baby girl, he was shocked. "I felt like boiled water was on me." The societal pressure for a boy is great in Armenia.

But then Mikael began attending a couple's training session with his wife. They learned about the statistics in Armenia around prenatal sex selection and the bias against girl children. Mikael began to think back on his neighborhood growing up. There was only one girl, and now he thinks he knows why.

Mikael has since had a change in heart about his unborn child. Instead of being bitterly disappointed, he is now eagerly awaiting the arrival of his precious baby girl.

BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Child Protection Project is bringing families, businesses, schools, and government leaders together to withdraw children from hazardous labor and enroll them in school.

More than 130 children who were engaged in the worst forms of child labor were withdrawn from their jobs, and 69 of them are now enrolled in primary or secondary school.

The project opened four Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers, as well as a fifth unplanned center in Rupsha. In total, 225 children are attending the five centers.

In its first year, hundreds of families gained the education, skills, and income they need to change how they think about life, work, and education.

Action plans were completed for 171 families to increase their income so that they can withdraw their children from labor and enroll them in school. The 94 parents who withdrew their children from labor are now operating their own businesses, which were launched through this project.

Previously parents did not understand that child labor was harmful to their children, but now they are beginning to realize that it prevents their children from gaining an education.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and their families in Bangladesh.



Children enjoy playtime at a Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Center.

9,509 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 4,197 CHILDREN, took action to end child labor since the project began in October 2016.

135 girls and boys were withdrawn from hazardous labor

Four-year target: 274

49%

440 parents were equipped and mobilized to protect their children from harm

Four-year target: 440

100%

3,164 children were armed with knowledge on their rights

FY17 annual target: 2,960

107%



Jannatun, 12, used to work as a contemporary house slave, where she had no rights and there were no rules to govern how her employer treated her. She dreamed of being back in school, playing, laughing, and learning with the other girls in her community.

World Vision helped her return to school by helping to pay for her school fees and by providing her with a uniform and school supplies. Jannatun is also attending a life skills class to learn positive behaviors. She said, "Now I know how to think critically, make decisions, solve problems, and communicate effectively with my mom and friends..."

Her mother has also been impacted. "World Vision provided me parenting skills training that helped me to understand my role as a good mother, taking good care of my children and set up positive examples for them to replicate," she said. "My children are precious to me. I love them with all my heart."

KENYA

The Kenya Child Protection Project has contributed to a meaningful reductions in the number of parents who approve of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and in the number of girls who are forced into this procedure. An increased number of children have learned how to read, write, and communicate in English.

At the five project schools, 1,690 students are regularly attending classes. Nearly 850 young people are gaining self-confidence and are learning how to express themselves, manage their time, and maintain healthy habits through life skills clubs at each school.

More than 120 children who were rescued from FGM/C, child marriage, or child labor received scholarships for their secondary school fees, and

15 youth received vocational training scholarships.

Parents learned that they have alternative options for their children that don't require FGM/C, committing their girls to child marriage, or pulling their children out of school.

As children and adults in project communities gain knowledge about children's rights, a growing number of abuse incidents are reported rather than ignored. Thanks to a new reporting and referral system, the project provided care to 118 children last year: 64 required crisis interventions and 54 received longer-term support.

Faith leaders played an important role in protecting children. For

example, 165 faith leaders and/or faith communities taught Sunday school classes on child protection, reported cases of child abuse, provided counseling, and helped children in need.

Thank you for your faithful support.



Youth and adults are launching income-generating activities and learning about money management.

396,695 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 234,071 CHILDREN, have been reached through child protection initiatives since the project began in October 2015.

4,104 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities.

Four-year target: 4,158

99%

8,762 parents and caregivers better understand positive parenting and nonviolent discipline.

Four-year target: 10,550

83%

219 faith leaders mobilized their communities to take action to protect children.

Four-year target: 210

104%



For 15 years, Susan Apulong'iro made her living as a practitioner of FGM/C. "I had mastered the art; I was the best among many who were helping the girls undergo the cut," she confessed. Susan performed the procedure on up to 10 girls per day.

After attending several community change dialogue gatherings, Susan realized that, "... the practice was doing more harm than good to our young girls." She abandoned her practice and threw away all of her tools. She now advocates for educating girls.

"I realized once they get married, they no longer want to go to school," she said. "Instead, their parents force them to child marriage to obtain a price that is so insignificant to what education could give in turn."

MOZAMBIQUE

World Vision celebrates that the Mozambique government is now prioritizing the protection of children from violence, as evidenced by a series of laws passed and policies approved. The Mozambique Child Protection Project has worked tirelessly to educate the public on the vulnerability of children and to advocate for their protection. It is paying off, as community members are making commitments to take responsibility for the protection of children.

For example, more than 120 faith leaders who participated in the Zero Tolerance Campaign agreed to report any cases of child abuse that occur in their communities. At the Woman to Woman Dialogue event, 90 influential women from across Zambézia province produced a declaration stating their dedication to ending all forms of violence against children.

The project has had a direct impact on improving the lives of vulnerable children in the communities served.

Child Protection Committees played a crucial role in preventing the abuse of children and supporting children who have experienced violence. A campaign was launched to prompt community members, including children, to join four newly formed committees and then trained them in how to identify child protection concerns.

In addition to helping 72 children receive access to free education and health care, the committees ensured 54 vulnerable children benefited from psychosocial support. Members of the committees were trained by 40 local partners in how to provide this type of support to children who have survived child marriage and other forms of violence.

Faith leaders and families were equipped to take an active role in safeguarding the protection of children. Twenty faith leaders were trained in child protection issues through Channels of Hope for Child Protection. Families learned how to better nurture

their children through the Celebrating Families approach.

It is our hope that Mozambique will truly embrace the will of children to live safe from harm. Thank you for your commitment to making a difference in the lives of children in Mozambique.



Mercia, a Child Parliament representative, says, "We want to be free. We want to grow in a community where children are safe and where our opinions are valued and respected."

14,539 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 1,928 CHILDREN, have benefited from the project since it began in October 2016.



At the age of 13, Ruth began dating Vandro, who was two years older than her. While Ruth came from a family that struggled to make a living, Vandro's family was considerably wealthy. His parents wanted the two to get married because they felt that they could provide for them.

Ruth's parents (left) thought differently. "I thought my little girl was too young to marry. I always said that she should focus on school," said Edmundo Mupanha. "I knew that my daughter was in love with her boyfriend, which is normal for an adolescent, but it was too early to marry." He sent Ruth to pursue her education in the city because he was concerned that she might become pregnant if she remained.

"I got very angry with [my parents]," said Ruth. "I really liked my boyfriend, but I did not know what marriage was all about."

Ruth continued with her education and is now in grade 12. Vandro married another young girl back in her home village. "I'm very proud for what my parents did for me," said Ruth. "I want to continue with my studies. I would like to be a lawyer, and I will do my best to make it so."

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Violence remains one of the most common threats to children's well-being in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Poverty increases children's vulnerability to abuse and exploitation, which is then exacerbated through child labor and trafficking. There tends to be a culture of silence around violence because many families use physical punishment for correcting children's behavior. Abuse also goes unreported due to people believing that they should not intervene in others' lives.

This year, the Southeast Asia Child Protection Project made significant progress in reducing children's vulnerability and empowering children, parents, and communities to end violence through education, life skills, research, advocacy, and training. Community protective systems that help support children were strengthened, such as youth groups, child protection groups, and government agencies.

The projects in all three countries provided training to youth clubs to equip young people with knowledge and skills in how to protect themselves from many forms of violence. Youth also were trained to lead other children in learning about safe migration and the dangers of human trafficking.

Parents and caregivers in Vietnam were trained to use positive discipline with their children, and learned practical ways to help their children protect themselves from sexual abuse. They practiced what they learned for months and then trained other parents in the same methods.

Community members involved in child protection groups in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar learned how to address specific child protection concerns in their communities through reporting and referral mechanisms. As a result of this increased awareness, four child protection cases were reported to the authorities in

Myanmar and seven abused children received help in Vietnam.

Public education efforts through contests, films, billboards, and events raised awareness about how violence can be prevented and offered sources for assistance, such as helplines and local authorities.

Thank you for your commitment to ending violence against children in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam. You are making a difference in the lives of vulnerable families.



109,393 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 60,820 CHILDREN, have benefited from the project since it began in October 2016.



"I was trained since I was a child that physical punishment for children is for their good," said Theng Het (left), a 33-year-old mother of three. "I thought by doing that, it would help prevent my children from doing bad things in the future."

Her husband's alcoholism resulted in further violence to her and her children, sometimes leaving a mark that would keep them home from school.

"I observed that my kids were very upset and discouraged, but thought it was normal and did not care much about their feelings and studies."

The child protection awareness training Theng received helped her to notice changes in her children's emotions, as she learned how to think differently and observe behavior. Day by day, she ceased using physical punishment on her children and began to express encouraging words to them.

"I have seen her change a lot," said Choeung, Theng's 13-year-old daughter. "Since my parents have participated in the training, my father stopped destroying things at home. My mother does not hit or insult me or my siblings." Choeung now goes to school regularly because her mother no longer asks her to help her in the rice field. Her mother is now committed to non-violence, saying, "domestic violence is not fruitful for our family."

UGANDA

Children in Uganda face numerous child protection issues, including child marriage, physical violence at home and at school, and child sacrifice. Every day, many children live in fear of being sexually abused at school or abducted and mutilated. This is not life in all its fullness for children and their families.

In the first year of the Uganda Child Protection Project, children, families, churches, and communities were mobilized to actively work to end violence against children.

More than 900 children participated in a structured program to build their life skills and resilience. Through Child Parliaments, public awareness events (including a radio program on child abuse and child sacrifice), and meetings with government representatives to discuss policy, children advocated for safer and more peaceful communities.

An astonishing 16,016 children now know how to take action to protect themselves and their peers.

The project educated 238 parents and caregivers on children's rights, child protection issues, and the essentials on laws and reporting mechanisms (how, where, and when to report). More than 500 parents and caregivers reported child protection concerns to Child Protection Committees and local officials, demonstrating increased awareness and trust in existing protection systems.

Twenty-six communities are using Amber Alert systems to help prevent and rescue children that have been abducted. This system has saved many children's lives.

The hope that fuels the courage of these families is knowing that there

are people working together to protect their children from child sacrifice and other forms of violence. Our dream is for children to never again be the unheard and unseen victims of the violence that is destroying communities. Thank you for your faithful commitment to ensure hope lives on in Uganda.



96,298 PEOPLE, INCLUDING **82,116 CHILDREN**, have benefited from the project since it began in October 2016.

16,016 girls and boys participated in activities to prevent violence against children in their communities

Four-year target: 23,136

69%



Peace Road Clubs are a safe place for children to learn essential life skills, such as how to protect themselves and others. Seven-year-old Janet (left, with members of her Peace Road Club) has had a positive experience since she joined.

"I joined the Peace Road Club after seeing my friends, who had joined earlier, always being happy and positive. Through the club, I am encouraged to speak my mind. This has helped me develop my self-esteem, not only among my peers, but also even in class while asking questions."

"I thank World Vision for having introduced the Peace Road Club to our school, and empowered our teachers with knowledge and skills that they have transferred to us in our club. Much has been achieved, however the most outstanding things are: the self-esteem of our club members has improved, and more girls are staying in school. Only two girls this year dropped out of school due to pregnancy, compared to 14 girls in 2016 from the same school. There are also good relationships between boys and girls."



A VOICE FOR THE WEAK

A Kenyan pastor never thought protecting children was part of his job. Now he is determined to stand up for them.

Under the hot Kenyan sun, a group of 12 men and women gather outside the Ywalateke Anglican Church for its monthly Community Hope Action Team (CHAT) meeting. Reverend Joseph Peywo leads the group, as well as the Channels of Hope for Child Protection effort for six churches.

Pastor Joseph confessed that previously, "I didn't know I had a role (in fighting child abuse) as a pastor. I thought it was only the chiefs. I didn't know I had a voice. I only saw my role as spiritual."

This view represents that of many Christians in the community, who tend to see themselves only as observers of the people around them—even in situations that cause significant harm to children.

But through a Channels of Hope for Child Protection workshop, Pastor Joseph's view was transformed. He was challenged by Scripture that confronted his long-held beliefs and customs. He realized that Christ directs his followers to actively care for those who are suffering.

Pastor Joseph and his CHAT are now actively working to improve how children in their community are protected. The CHAT members regularly teach others about

children's rights and the practices that harm them, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and cutting, neglect, and sexual abuse.

"We take a few minutes in our churches on Sundays to highlight the issues," said one CHAT member named Joel. They also host youth camps to instruct young people in ways they can stand up for their rights.

With eyes open to opportunities for putting their faith into action, church members are stepping into their roles as true advocates for children in need of safety, love, and care.

Recently, they helped a vulnerable girl return to school after her family could no longer afford the school fees. Instead of feeling forced to get married to reduce her family's financial burden, the girl is gaining invaluable life skills and exploring how she can help her future family escape the cycle of extreme poverty.

Joseph and his CHAT are committed to creating change in their community. "I anticipate impact because we are motivated by Scripture, and we have passion to do it," said the pastor.

“As a pastor and as a church, we are the voice for the weak. I can help in rescuing children from early marriage. We can host them in our homes and educate them.”

—Reverend Joseph Peywo, with his children



Pastor Joseph and his Community Hope Action Team gather for their monthly meeting.