



World Vision®



CHRISTIAN
DISCIPLESHIP

PROGRESS REPORT: October 2016 through September 2017

Prepared January 2018

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

GLOBAL SUMMARY

The Spirit of God is moving, bringing new life into local church ministries. Thank you for partnering in this work that God has entrusted to us.

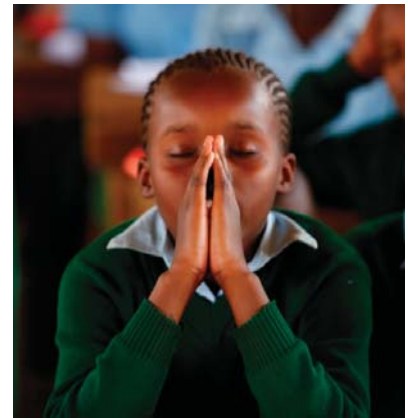
Fiscal year 2017 has been a year of new opportunities and realizing the dream of sharing the gospel in relevant ways. One example is the five-year El Salvador project, which ended with encouraging examples of the impact churches can have in steering youth away from gangs (see page 3).

The projects in Ethiopia, Central America (El Salvador and Honduras), and the Philippines completed their initial baseline surveys. The data gathered highlights the need for this

ministry and will help us refine our plans to ensure that project activities have the greatest possible impact.

In Kenya, teens have become energetic leaders as they share the gospel in their churches and schools (see page 8).

The International Bible Fund had a unique opportunity this year to acquire Bibles at a greatly reduced price. This contributed to nearly 248,000 people gaining access to the Word of God in the first year of this fund.



Your partnership with World Vision makes this all possible. Thank you for your commitment to sharing the gospel throughout the world.

GLOBAL UPDATE

647,285 PEOPLE benefited from ministry activities since October 2015, including 420,128 in FY17.



83,538 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities, including 48,161 in FY17.



13,794 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, including 4,699 in FY17.



1,891 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, including 843 in FY17.

PROGRAM-TO-DATE SPENDING

\$5,506,404 spent

\$5,656,081 program-to-date funding **97%**

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND

49,582 Bibles distributed through the separate International Bible Fund, which benefited 247,910 people.

12%

Seven-Year target: 400,000

CENTRAL AMERICA



"We want the children's church to become a place where children can find the presence of God, freedom, empowerment, protection."

This is the dream of Jonathan Moreno,

a 19-year-old children's ministry leader in El Salvador. Thanks to you, his dream is coming true. In countries like Honduras and El Salvador, where youth are usually seen as potential gang members, Jonathan sees them as potential church leaders, and is mentoring them with the skills he's learned from World Vision.

During fiscal year 2017, the Central America Christian Discipleship Project's baseline evaluation was completed. The results highlighted the need for relevant ministry to teens and teaching about God from a position of love rather than fear. This demonstrates the importance of encouraging young leaders like Jonathan to help children and teens become God's messengers for peace in these violent societies.

Other key accomplishments included:

- A partnership agreement was signed with the Holiness Church denomination, which includes about 200 churches in Honduras.
- Retreats and camps were held for 3,930 children and youth in Honduras, using games to teach them about Christian values and decision-making.
- Salvadoran churches started a children's ministry program for 3,340.

Please pray that as children experience the love of God, they will become more resilient to their life hardships and better able to resist violence.

11,838 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities.



1,297 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.



256 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth



Parenting and pastoring with love and tenderness

Pastors Ariel Castro (shown right) and his wife, Alicia Canales de Castro, lead Evangelical Church Fuente de Vida in San Luis Anach, Honduras. After participating in the Parenting with Love training, they say they are better spouses and parents, as they've learned to listen to each other and treat their children more tenderly.

But they feel they've been most impacted as pastors, and are better equipped to walk alongside their congregation and the struggles these families experience every day. "Our children cry out for us," said Alicia, "to listen to them, and, above all, to show them that they are important for us and for the Heavenly Father. It is a process and a wonderful challenge that God has entrusted us."



EL SALVADOR



Your faithful support has yielded great fruit over the five years of the El Salvador Christian Discipleship Project. Churches are nurturing children to experience God's love. They are reaching out into their schools and communities to show youth that finding

their identity in Christ is better than finding their identity in gangs.

Churches of all denominations are working together more closely than before, creating safer communities that recognize the dangers of domestic violence and child abuse.

Some of the key findings from the project's final evaluation included:

- Participating churches committed \$6 for every \$1 committed by World Vision, and 225 Hope Teams were formed for continuing ministry.
- The project was highly effective in partnering with churches, as evidenced by the creation of

partnerships with denominations that represent more than 80 percent of El Salvador's religious population.

- The project's strategy was to train a core group of churches, which took responsibility for training new churches. This rapidly expanded the ministry without significantly increasing project costs. It also encouraged churches to gain new leadership skills.
- Interdenominational networking increased in the project areas.

Please pray for peace in El Salvador, as the continued violence disrupts every aspect of Salvadoran life.

72,443 children and youth participated in discipleship activities.

Five-Year Target: 23,375 **310%**

5,063 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.

Five-Year Target: 3,000 **169%**

1,072 churches engaged in holistic ministry to serve people in need.

Five-Year Target: 1,000 **107%**

Youth on the road to gang involvement take a detour

Pastor Victor Alberto Rivera became a mentor for 17 youth in Jucuapa who were at risk of following in the footsteps of their family members by joining gangs. When the school invited the church to help, Pastor Victor was eager to work with the teens, teaching them about God's love.

Pastor Victor's care and wisdom penetrated the tough shells these teens had developed, guiding them on a different path—working, staying in school, and becoming active in their churches. "All the methodology I learned in World Vision, I put it into practice with them and I saw the change," said Pastor Victor.



ETHIOPIA



Your commitment is playing a vital role in helping Ethiopian children and youth grow in their faith as they experience Christ's love.

The first nine months of the project laid the groundwork by introducing the project's activities to community and faith leaders. In the mixed-faith communities of Ethiopia, gaining acceptance is vital to the success of faith-based projects. Tensions are eased when local leaders understand that World Vision openly shares God's love, but always respects parents' and children's rights to make their own faith decisions.

Some key accomplishments during FY17 included:

- The baseline survey was completed, which showed that less than half of children/youth have been strongly nurtured in their faith
- 20 new after-school Bible clubs were established and existing clubs received training and materials.
- Nearly 1,000 church and community leaders were trained to lead project workshops.

Please pray for the project team's efforts to involve more women in workshops and in leadership roles.

3,607 children and youth participated in discipleship activities.



1,051 pastors and faith leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.



49 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth.

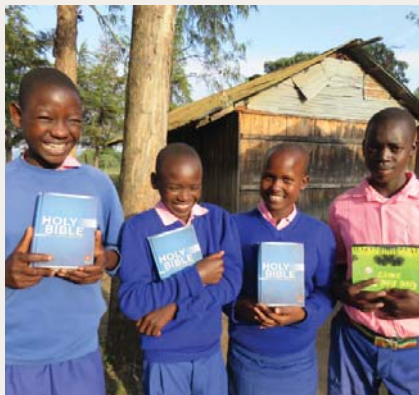


“We thank World Vision for drawing our attention to our children, whom we have given less attention, despite Jesus giving them attention with His blessing. My church has now awakened to give due attention to children by allocating teachers of good potential to Sunday schools.”

—Pastor Mulatu Chibsa, Sire Rehoboth Church



KENYA



Doors to new ministry are opening in Kenya, as teachers and youth learn to share the gospel in new and fresh ways as a result of training by this project.

Rosa, a children's ministry leader in

Isiolo, said that before the training from the Christian Discipleship Project, "I did not know to present a memory verse because I did not even know any memory verse[s]."

When teens mentor others in their churches and Bible schools, their peers often find the teaching more relevant to their daily lives than when learning from adults. Young Christian leaders develop a heart for ministry that can last them their entire lives.

Josephat, a 14-year-old from the Arid Zone Primary School, said, "I have learned that God has chosen me, and can use me to share the Word of God with others."

Some key accomplishments during FY17 included:

- 471 youth were trained as peer educators, preparing them to reach out to their fellow students and share the good news of Jesus.
- About 6,400 children participated in children's rallies in which Bible clubs from different schools came together to showcase what they've learned.

Please pray for the newly trained children's ministry workers, that they can use all they've learned to create engaging and loving environments for children to grow in their faith.

27,981 children and youth participated directly in discipleship activities.

Five-Year Target: 75,720

37%

1,424 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.

Five-Year Target: 2,050

69%

656 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth.

Five-Year Target: 750

87%

Pursuit of education leads youth to God

When the last of the family cattle died from drought, Philemon's mother told him he should leave their home to try to survive. The teenager traveled about 120 miles, ending up in the Kakuma refugee camp. Longing for an education, he enrolled himself in a primary school in the nearby Kakuma community.

As a participant in World Vision's school-based peer educator training, he experienced God's love and felt his life being transformed. The evidence of his transformed life caused him to be elected chair of the Bible club. "I thank God for this project," said Philemon.



PHILIPPINES



Thanks to you, young people in the Philippines are growing in their knowledge of Christ, gaining confidence and self-esteem as they embrace the good purpose He has for their lives.

We are greatly encouraged by their response to project workshops, as they take the initiative to share what they are learning with their peers and family.

The project gained a dynamic spokesperson in 2017. Inigo Pascual, a 20-year-old Filipino pop music celebrity, well-known actor, and dedicated Christian (pictured at left with World Vision staff member Cherry Marcelo) has agreed to promote this project. His influence in Filipino youth culture can be an enormous inspiration to teens and children on the importance of living a godly life.

As we look to 2018, the project will focus on deepening our work with churches as well as expanding into the

school system, where we anticipate the project will have national impact.

Key project accomplishments included:

- 966 children participated in Vacation Bible Schools during the spring school break.
- Youth facilitators trained 4,689 youth using the Dare to Discover methodology in school- or community-based camps, church retreats, and Bible study groups.

Please pray that the project successfully engages more men in Celebrating Families, equipping them to participate more fully in their families as husbands and fathers.

16,579 children and youth directly participated in discipleship activities.



319 pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry.



0 churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth.



(The project focused initially on training pastors and children's ministry leaders. We anticipate churches will start using what they've learned to create new ministries during FY18.)

God created us. He can mend us.

On Sundays, Jimmy was the obedient son of a village pastor and a college student. But during the week, he let his addiction to Internet gaming rule him—spending all his money in computer shops, failing classes, and acting belligerently with his family.

As God helped him overcome his addiction, he graduated from college and is now a facilitator for this project. He shares his experiences to help youth understand how God can help them handle their own challenges. "God is greater than everything else, even our addiction. ... He created us. He can mend us."



INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND



During the last half of FY17, the International Bible Fund distributed 31,235 Bibles in four countries.

In **Kenya**, World Vision had a one-time opportunity to purchase Bibles at a greatly reduced cost, and distributed

21,200 Bibles. About four out of five of these went to schools to be used with after-school Bible clubs and religious studies classes. The rest went to churches for children's Sunday schools.

In **Abkhazia** (a remote region near the Black Sea that broke off from Georgia 25 years ago during an armed conflict), 830 Russian-language Bibles were distributed. Although most Abkhazians identify themselves as Christian, attitudes continue to reflect Soviet times, viewing any religious beliefs with skepticism and with little understanding of the Bible's message of Jesus' love and salvation. Future distributions of Abkhazian-language Bibles will occur by May 2018.

In **Zambia**, 8,540 Bibles were given

to schools and churches for use in children's Sunday schools, after-school Bible clubs, Vacation Bible schools, and religious education classes in which children learn about Christianity while increasing their literacy skills. Pastors' fellowship groups, which were created during a previous project that focused on pastors' education, also received Bibles to further their theological training. In January 2018, Bibles in the Tonga language also will be distributed.

In the **Dominican Republic** (pictured at left), 665 Bibles were provided to sponsored children in Sunday schools and catechism classes in impoverished areas, many of them near the Haitian border or in the capital city of Santo Domingo.

49,582 Bibles distributed since July 2016.

12%

Seven-Year Target: 400,000

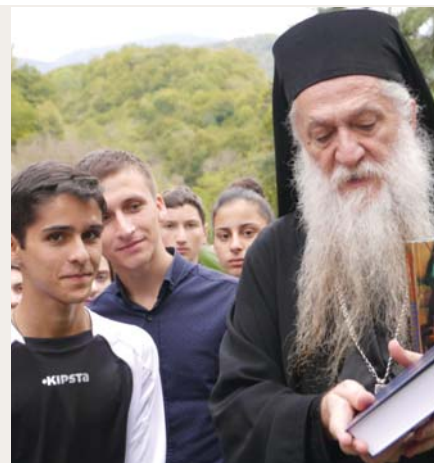
“I am thankful to my God for this gift and I will read it every day during my holidays, and share the stories with my two younger brothers.”

—David, age 14, Kalawa Primary School Bible Club, Kenya

Faith traditions gain new meaning for Abkhazian youth

Although a visiting priest holds services in Sandro's village several times each year, Sandro admits he attends only to please his parents. But when he met Father Ignaty, Sandro had a life-changing experience. The priest answered his questions about faith in ways that made the Bible relevant to him and his friends.

Sandro was happy to receive a Bible because, he said, “I am very interested to continue learning about my faith and the meaning of different faith traditions. One cannot call themselves a Christian without knowing all those important things.”



YOUTH GAIN LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN MINISTRY



Abigail (right) with Mrs. Chororey, the head teacher at Kaboson Primary School.

Kaboson Primary School is experiencing a more positive atmosphere and encouraging young leaders to grow as a result of training from the Christian Discipleship Project.

“Trial and error,” “no clear direction,” “no teaching, no nothing”—these are the words that teachers at Kaboson Primary School used to describe how they taught the weekly Christian Religious Education class.

Although the class is required by the Kenyan government, there are no lesson plans provided. Most teachers resorted to simply singing songs, as they didn't know how to teach Bible stories or use them to explain values by which children should live.

Bullying and other examples of poor discipline were frequent in the school, especially between the boys and girls.

Mrs. Chororey, the school's head teacher, has seen a dramatic difference since the teachers participated in the Kenya Christian Discipleship Project's training, and received Bibles and teaching materials.

“There is a thirst for the Bible among the children these days,” said Mrs. Chororey. “Some even bring their parents' Bibles, which are in vernacular language—a demonstration of a huge interest in the the Word of God.”

Now she says the teachers lead religion classes that are structured,

consistent, and interesting, so children learn to live out Christian values.

In addition to the teachers training, World Vision also trained 40 students as peer educators, which included Abigail (age 14) and Aaron (age 13).

“The Bible club training helped us to know how to lead the clubs when the teachers are not there,” said Abigail. She and Aaron have become strong and confident leaders in the Bible club that meets each Wednesday after school.

Mrs. Chororey also notices the difference and said that children are now taking greater initiative. “They organize memory verses and songs by themselves without waiting for the teachers.”

Abigail and Aaron are taking their confidence beyond the school walls. Abigail has befriended an elderly neighbor and convinced her to come to church and stop her illegal sales of alcohol. Aaron is reaching out and praying for an aunt that struggles with alcoholism.

“We have learned that God is our helper, protector, and provider,” said Abigail.

“We have learned that God is our helper, protector, and provider.”

—Abigail, Bible club leader at Kaboson Primary School



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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