

SOMALIA, UGANDA, ZAMBIA

>>> PROGRESS REPORT: Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017)

Prepared January 2018

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

GLOBAL SUMMARY

Your support of the Mother and Child Health initiative is helping to make childbirth the joy it should be, instead of a potential tragedy for families in some of the most challenging places World Vision works.

In fiscal year 2017, this initiative trained thousands of community health workers to teach families the importance of nutrition, vaccinations, safe water and hygiene, prenatal care, and delivering babies in a health facility. We bolstered that with extra training for nurses and midwives to be better prepared to handle complicated and difficult births.

Faith leaders learned how to teach their congregations the importance of providing pregnant women, infants, and young children with healthcare and good nutrition. These trusted voices have a strong influence and are a vital tool in efforts to educate communities and change long-held beliefs and practices (see story on last page).

All this is working together to create a safer world for mothers, babies, and young children. A shining example of this is a recent random sampling of beneficiaries in Uganda that showed the percentage of women having their babies in a health facility increased from 55 percent to 71 percent, and families with access to safe water improved from 59 percent to 86 percent.



A Ugandan community health worker uses an app on her phone to provide timely health counseling messages to a new mother.

Thank you for sharing your blessings to provide these tools for transformation. Your gifts are making a difference.

GLOBAL UPDATE

366,591 PEOPLE* were provided with access to maternal and child health and nutrition services, which included 197,079 children younger than 5 during fiscal year 2017. Since these projects began in FY16, 475,443 women and young children have benefited.

*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 projects supported by our corporate and foundation partners.



SOMALIA

While the first half of FY17 was devoted to preparations to deliver health and nutrition services to women and young children, the second half of the year saw tremendous progress toward actually improving health and saving lives.

The timing of this project's implementation was critical, as Somalia—especially in the north where we are working—is suffering from severe food shortages as well as deadly cholera outbreaks. World Vision sent out 12 mobile health teams to screen children for malnutrition and provide therapeutic care where needed. These

teams also provided treatment for cholera and other infectious diseases.

Community health workers were trained and started carrying out their duties. These volunteers provide frontline healthcare and timely health messages to families with pregnant or nursing women and young children. Health staff from facilities in the project area received supplemental training on the care of pregnant women and young children. They also received lifesaving training on emergency obstetric and newborn care, so they can more ably handle complications that arise during pregnancy and childbirth.



95 community health workers, including 9 supervisors, were trained.

FY17 target: 86

110%

2,546 children under 5 were found to be suffering from severe malnutrition, and successfully treated.

55 nurses, midwives, and other health clinic staff members were trained on maternal and newborn care and emergency obstetric care.

FY17 target: 2,626

97%

FY17 target: 48

/ 115%

Other achievements and activities from FY17 included:

- 9,103 children were screened for malnutrition, and 2,512 children under 5 received all of their essential vaccinations.
- 103 pregnant women reported attending at least four prenatal care visits. 241 pregnant women were registered into the Ministry of Health database, and received a home counseling visit from a health volunteer.
- Mobile health teams provided care to 15,298 people,
 1,494 of whom had cholera and acute diarrhea.
- Patients received oral rehydration salts, zinc tablets, and antibiotics, depending on the severity of their cases. Twenty-two patients needed referral to a cholera treatment center for additional care.
- Community health workers visited 12,148 households, promoting good nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation practices, which are key to preventing illness.
- **43** village health committees were formed to help oversee and advocate for locally available health services.

PROJECT SPENDING

\$1,468,708 spent

\$1,967,003 Project-to-Date Funding

759

UGANDA



After just one year, your support has helped lead to exciting healthcare improvements in Hoima. A recent random sampling of beneficiaries illustrates marked changes in a number of vital areas. For instance, among those surveyed, the percent of mothers who delivered their babies in a health facility increased from 55 percent to 71 percent.

Following advice from community health workers, families improved their access to safe water (from 59 percent to 86 percent) and many built new latrines and hand-washing stations. These measures are sure to improve health for entire families, and most importantly, for babies and young

children, who are more vulnerable to waterborne illnesses and those linked to poor sanitation and hygiene.

More children in the project area are getting life-saving vaccinations. The number of children reported to be fully immunized last year was 23,028, against a target of 22,506. Mothers and young children, who are more susceptible to the ravages of malaria, also are sleeping under mosquito nets more regularly. More than 4,200 pregnant women reported sleeping under a net, hitting 177 percent of the project's target for the year, while more than 39,000 young children were sleeping under nets, reaching 175 percent of target.

27 faith leaders were trained on Channels of Hope (an approach mobilizing leaders to respond to issues in the community).

1,222 community health workers were trained.

162 nurses and midwives from 56 health clinics were trained on maternal and newborn care.



Other accomplishments from FY17 included:

- This project contributed to 16,510 women attending at least four prenatal care visits, and 24,478 having their babies in a health facility (against a target of 15,230).
- 126 health facility workers were trained on the Baby-Friendly Health Facility Initiative, which ensures that facilities meet all requirements for safe deliveries and best practices in maternal/newborn care. One requirement is creating breast-feeding support groups, which this project did for 306 mothers in 34 groups.
- 195 children who were malnourished recovered, thanks
 to training for their mothers on preparing locally available
 foods that are nutritious and affordable. Approximately
 4,000 children benefited from care groups that taught
 their mothers improved health and nutrition practices.
- Community health volunteers shared sanitation and hygiene messages from house to house, resulting in an increase in households with latrines from 8.8 percent to 50 percent, and those with hand-washing facilities from 24 percent to 91 percent.

PROJECT SPENDING

\$2,387,776 spent

\$2,397,103 Project-to-Date Funding



ZAMBIA

Your support for mothers and young children in Zambia is literally saving lives. You are helping to train hundreds of volunteers to monitor children for malnutrition and proper growth. Among other things, your gifts are creating nutrition support groups for mothers, teaching them how to make healthy meals out of locally available foods. These activities are credited with saving the life of young Evans.

Flight from an abusive husband took Mary back to her mother's home. But without a job or land of her own, she struggled to provide for her three children. The youngest, Evans, was 2 months old and so thin and malnourished, the skin hung limply from his tiny frame, Mary said, fighting tears at the memory.

Upon meeting Mary and Evans, Timothy Phiri, a project-trained volunteer, quickly referred the baby to a hospital for treatment. He then enrolled Mary in the nutrition group he organized, where members taught her to cook nutritious meals for her children, and donated food that helped Mary feed her children better.

The Mother and Child Health project in Zambia provided this type of care and more to thousands of mothers and young children last year. Nearly 100 health facility staff members learned to provide improved care for pregnant women and newborns, ensuring both survive a baby's first day of life. Another 690 community volunteers were trained to deliver health education and provide basic healthcare to thousands.



Volunteers visited more than 18,300 households with pregnant and nursing women and young children, teaching parents vital lessons on nutrition and health.

3,429 community health workers are trained and active.

186 nurses and midwives were trained and mentored in 58 facilities.

570 faith leaders were trained on Channels of Hope.

FY17 target: 3,000 FY17 target: 260 72%

FYI7 target: 560

102%

Other achievements from FY17 included:

- 38,293 children were weighed, measured, and monitored for malnutrition by project-trained volunteers. 556 moderately malnourished children were identified and successfully treated. /1,654 children younger than 5 were fully immunized, surpassing a target of 10,000.
- 300 volunteers trained to deliver specially timed messages regarding prenatal care, nutrition, and health for pregnant women and young children registered 4,136 pregnant
- women. These volunteers will follow up with the women through pregnancy and until their child turns 2.
- Information about the importance of hygiene—especially handwashing—was shared with 17,240 households.
 As a result, 12,724 new hand-washing stations were constructed.
- 2,100 pregnant women—against a goal of 2,000—reported they attended at least four prenantal care clinics, for an achievement of 105 percent of our target.

PROJECT SPENDING

\$2,226,944 spent

\$2,867,466 Project-to-Date Funding

78%

VOLUNTEERS CHANGE RELIGIOUS LEADER'S MIND

Before he met project-trained community health workers, Sheikh Ahmed didn't believe women should visit health facilities for prenatal or other care. He thought listening to volunteers who promote good health practices was a waste of time and against his religious teachings.

That's why the community health workers serving the village of Godobyar made it a priority to spend time with the religious leader, to explain the dangers of forgoing prenatal care and having babies at home without the help of skilled healthcare providers. They convinced him that hearing health messages delivered during each critical phase of a woman's pregnancy and a young child's development could be the difference between life and death. The sheikh learned that nutrition plays a key role in the health of pregnant and nursing women and young children.

The volunteer health workers also taught each of the timely health messages to Sheikh Ahmed, and showed him how to use the interactive storytelling method of teaching often-illiterate families.

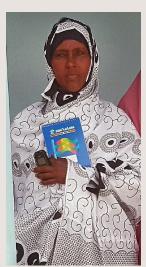
What also convinced Sheik Ahmed about the importance of healthcare for women and children was meeting Hussein, a community leader who lost his wife during a complicated delivery. She'd had no prenatal care, and bled heavily during childbirth. Even after rushing her to a hospital, she couldn't be saved, and tragically, the baby also died. "I remember the doctor saying, 'If you had brought her early, she could have had a chance to be saved,'" Hussein said.



Sheikh Ahmed, right, holds up one of the teaching tools used by community health workers to educate families on the importance of maternal and child healthcare and nutrition.

Today, Sheikh Ahmed is a proponent of maternal and child healthcare in his community. He works alongside community health workers to teach families about good maternal and child healthcare and nutrition. He also works to educate key community leaders and elders, to change their outlook, as his was changed. He said he is seeing fruits from his labors, as these leaders are encouraging women to get prenatal care, have their babies in a health facility, and ensure their children are fully immunized.

Habibo takes her work caring for the community seriously



Since she received training on providing specially timed health messages for pregnant women and young children, World Vision community health worker Habibo Farah says, "Prevention is better than cure, which is why we need to get the right message to the right person."

Habibo already was trained to help manage basic healthcare and problems such as malaria and respiratory illness at the household level. That 2015 training made her a good candidate in 2017 to become a community health volunteer who brings maternal and child health messaging to families.

She learned about reproductive health and the healthy spacing of pregnancies,

the importance of exclusive breast-feeding for young babies, and a balanced diet for pregnant and nursing women and children. She strongly encourages prenatal and postnatal care, and delivering babies in a health facility. She talks about proper care of newborns and teaches families the importance of fully immunizing their children.

Habibo understands the value of her training, saying, "I have started applying it to my family and my community. I'm extremely appreciative to World Vision for giving me this opportunity, and very lucky to have attended the training." She added, "I am now engaged with my village elders and primary health unit staff," to remove barriers to accessing health services for mothers and young children.



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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