



STRONG WOMEN
STRONG WORLD



*the end of
poverty begins
with her.*

PROGRESS REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2016 TO MARCH 2017

Prepared July 2017



World Vision deeply appreciates your partnership in ministry. It is our privilege to join with you as we strive to respond, in the name of God, to the needs of vulnerable children, families, and communities.

Thank you for your commitment to empowering millions of women and girls as they work toward solving the puzzle of poverty. Your support of a full range of interventions—from water, food, health, and education to economic development and child protection—is helping to ensure women and girls have opportunities to reach their potential and build healthier families and communities.

In the first half of fiscal year 2017, (October 2016 through March 2017), the following three projects were supported by Strong Women Strong World gifts:

Mother and Child Health strives to ensure healthy pregnancies for mothers and full, healthy lives for children. From October 2016 to March 2017, more than 81,000 women and children in Somalia, Zambia, and Uganda gained access to maternal and child health and nutrition services. In Zambia, for instance, medical training enabled Mary Mpundu, a community health worker (above, center left), to provide timely and effective counsel to Edith, an expecting mother. Her previous pregnancy ended tragically with a stillborn baby and Edith nearly dying from hemorrhaging. With Mary's help, Edith took better care of herself in the next pregnancy and gave birth to a healthy boy named Shadreck at a local clinic. "It was like a dream when I held the baby for the first time," she said.

The **Zambia Education** project, which began in November 2016, serves girls and youth with education and life skills training. More than 2,100 girls have benefited so far. Building off of World Vision's Empowerment, Respect, and Equality project, which ended in September 2016, the project provides scholarships to girls to attend secondary education or college or vocational programs, offers housing and care to girls who have survived or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence, and helps girls gain skills and resources for work and life. Juliet (above, right) dropped out of secondary school because of a lack of money, but reenrolled after receiving a scholarship. One of her teachers, Chileshe, said of Juliet, "She is a high flier; her performance is excellent and I know that she will pass with distinction."

Bangladesh Child Protection, a program whose focus through September 2020 is on reducing child labor, aims to remove children in the division of Khulna from exploitative and hazardous work and keep those at risk from engaging in such work. Through March 2017, more than 660 women and girls have taken action to end child labor. For instance, 16-year-old Lucky (above, left) was working in a shrimp processing factory when her family was referred to World Vision. Project staff met with her mother to develop an individualized plan, including the launch of a small business for the mother to generate more income. This enabled Lucky to resume her studies after missing school for two years. "I am so excited (to be) going back to school again," said Lucky, who wishes to become a nurse.

The following pages highlight major activities and accomplishments for these three critical projects.

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

World Vision's Mother and Child Health projects are saving lives, such as those of several babies who came into the world on the brink of death. Thanks to your support, their families are rejoicing instead of mourning.

In Zambia, nurses and midwives at local medical facilities saved eight babies who struggled to breathe at birth, using training and supplies provided by visiting medical service volunteers. These nurses and doctors are investing their time in training health clinic staff members on updated practices and techniques for maternal and newborn health that are paying huge dividends.

In Uganda, donor support has provided an ambulance to help pregnant women get to a health facility in time to have safe deliveries and avert potential tragedies.

In Somalia, nutrition outreach activities are finding severely malnourished

children and providing therapeutic foods that can return them to health.

Donations from our corporate partners are stocking health facilities with vitamins and medicines that can prevent illness, plus medical supplies and instruments that are enabling staff to deliver improved care.

Volunteer community health workers are being trained to provide frontline care and health education that will improve health and save lives.

Your support is making a difference for mothers and babies today, and in years to come. May God richly bless you.



81,260 **WOMEN AND CHILDREN** gained access to maternal and child health and nutrition services, which includes 43,228 children younger than 5 in fiscal year 2017 to date. Since the projects began in FY16, 170,607 women and young children have benefited.

Trained 301 nurses and professional midwives on updated healthcare practices



Trained 2,241 community health workers to provide frontline care



Trained 306 faith leaders on the importance of maternal and child healthcare



In Zambia, Edith was a young teen—really just a child—when she became pregnant for the first time. She and her teenage husband, Frazier, had no idea how to handle a pregnancy. She didn't eat properly, continued with hard labor in the fields, and received no prenatal care. After prolonged and difficult labor, Edith's baby was stillborn, and she nearly died from hemorrhaging. When she became pregnant again, she met Mary Mpundu, a World Vision-trained community health worker. Mary visited with the couple to provide timely health information at each stage of Edith's pregnancy. When it was time, she went to her local clinic to give birth. A few hours later, a healthy boy was born.

EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA



Thank you for your partnership with World Vision to provide adolescent girls with access to education and to prepare them for economic opportunities.

Building off of World Vision's Empowerment, Respect, and Equality project, which ended in September 2016, the Zambia Education Project launched in November to serve girls and youth with education and life skills training.

The Zambia Education Project is partnering with children, communities, and local partners to improve how girls are valued and to open up their world to economic opportunities and improved well-being.

We are working in the communities of Kapululwe, Magoye, and Sinazongwe to serve some of the most vulnerable girls by providing them with scholarships to attend secondary education, or to attend college or vocational programs.

The project provides housing and care through safe houses, called Houses of Hope, to girls who have survived or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence.

With your support, we also are helping girls in Zambia gain the skills and resources they need to succeed in both work and life through our Youth Ready program.

Below are some highlights of the Zambia Education Project's first five months.

2,938 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 2,153 GIRLS AND 785 BOYS, *have benefited from the project since it began in November 2016.*

SEMIANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Between November 2016 and March 2017, the project completed the following key startup activities:

- Partnered with the District Education Board to identify the most vulnerable youth and adolescent girls in the project area.
- Provided 223 girls with scholarships to cover the costs of their education (169 girls in secondary school and 54 at college or vocational level).
- Provided safe housing for 61 girls in three Houses of Hope. The accommodations are provided to girls who have survived or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence. The houses are managed by World Vision's partner, Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Helped form 37 Youth Ready groups, which assist disadvantaged young people in discovering their potential, planning for the future, and gaining the skills, support, and resources to succeed in work and life. The groups are comprised of 925 youth (649 girls and 276 boys). Each group has about 25 students and one trained adult facilitator.
- Facilitated 37 trainings in savings groups at selected schools. During this reporting period, nine groups started savings accounts.



FROM HOPELESS TO HOPEFUL

The Zambia Education Project is equipping girls with education and improving how they are valued. Some of the most vulnerable girls are receiving scholarships for education and safe housing.

Juliet remembers the feeling of hopelessness.

An orphan by the ninth grade and the oldest of four children, Juliet lost concentration in school, and started to work at her grandmother's restaurant to help support her family. Her study time and school attendance suffered, but she passed her ninth grade exams and was accepted to an upper secondary school. Unfortunately, she and her family could not afford the school fees.

"I used to cry," Juliet, now 18, recalled. "I couldn't eat. I could see the end of my education."

Two months out of school, Juliet asked a neighbor for \$5 and bought ingredients to make crackers to sell. With the money she earned she was able to attend school for another term.

Eventually, she was no longer able to afford her tuition, and Juliet started to think her only options were limited to marriage or to find work as a maid.

"I was so stressed and was slowly giving up," she said.

Juliet heard about the Zambia Education Project from a former teacher and submitted an application. She was accepted to receive a scholarship and accommodation in a safe house.

Now in the 11th grade, Juliet is excelling in the classroom. She is able to focus on her education with no worry of how she will afford to continue her studies.

"She is a high flier; her performance is excellent and I know that she will pass with distinction," said Chileshe, Juliet's teacher.

Living in a House of Hope, she has physical and emotional security with the matrons and other girls. Juliet is sometimes teased in the house for reading every chance she gets, but she doesn't mind because she knows what she wants to get out of this opportunity.

Juliet aspires to become a nurse and is determined to do well.

"As girls in the safe house, we encourage each other to make the best of this opportunity," she said.

“Having the scholarship makes me feel at peace. I'm not worried about anything that will hinder my education.”

—Juliet, 18



BANGLADESH CHILD PROTECTION

Nearly 1.7 million children ages 5 to 17 in Bangladesh are engaged in illegal child labor. In a four-year project that began in October 2016, World Vision aims to remove children in the division of Khulna from exploitative and hazardous work and keep those at risk from engaging in such work. Our goal is to come alongside families, communities, and partners to ensure that boys and girls are kept safe and have opportunities to thrive. We will connect impoverished families to the resources they need for their children's healthy development, and increase access to education for children who are vulnerable to or already engaged in labor.

In its first six months, the project accomplished the following:

- Two Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers were established, where 50 children ages 3 to 5 are receiving early childhood education and 40 children ages 6 and up, who were already engaged in labor, are receiving catch-up education, to make up for years of lost schooling.
- 19 children (17 girls, 2 boys) who were laboring in unsafe workplaces have been enrolled in formal schools and are attending regularly.
- 3,648 children and adults participated in community events where they learned about the risks and consequences of child labor.



Until recently, 11-year-old Bristy spent her days working in a fish processing plant. But through your support of this project, she now attends formal school and dreams of becoming a doctor or a tailor.

1,371 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 668 WOMEN AND GIRLS, took action to end child labor from the start of the project in October 2016 through March 2017.

Global reduction of child labor

Although we face many challenges in the fight to end child labor, World Vision celebrates all of the work that has contributed to a global reduction of child labor by more than a third since 2000. Private donors, government partners, the UN, and foundations around the world have contributed to this collective success.



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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