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Assisting Children and Families in Need in Zambia, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan

A SPECIAL REPORT FOR

Women of Vision - Greater Seattle

WORLD VISION REPRESENTATIVE

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ASSISTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED IN ZAMBIA, NICARAGUA, AND AFGHANISTAN

On the cover

Children in the Twachiyanda area of Zambia play a traditional game called Mantombwa or Kupikilila, which is a lot like real life.

In the game, girls and boys build houses, cook, hunt, and carry dolls. Some act as parents, others as children, and some cluck like chickens or bark like dogs. Not many children have played the game in recent years, but it is making a comeback in areas where they are more relaxed and playful. That happens when they have safe water to drink and enough food to eat—and don't have to worry so much about just surviving.



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Greater Seattle Women of Vision, current projects



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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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*Our vision for every child,
life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart,
the will to make it so.*

—From World Vision's
vision statement

Introduction

World Vision is deeply appreciative of the care and support—the love—the Greater Seattle Women of Vision have shown children and families in Zambia, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua. You have helped thousands of people—particularly children—regain the hope they had lost and again believe they can have a full life and a bright future.

It is hard for most of us in the United States to understand what many people go through just to survive—just to have a glass of clean water or a safe environment off the streets. You have felt their suffering and responded with an outpouring of support.

When you reach out as the hands of Jesus to people in need, you are reflecting His love and shining His light in the darkness.

This report describes accomplishments in water and health projects you support in other countries. You will receive a separate report on U.S. projects.

Background

Zambia

According to the United Nations (U.N.), only 41 percent of the rural population in Zambia has access to an improved water source, and just 51 percent has basic sanitation. Some in-country sources say the figure for water access might even be as low as 10 percent, and for sanitation even lower.

World Vision is working to prevent disease and death in this impoverished nation by providing access to clean water, improved sanitation, good hygiene, and increased livelihoods through the Zambia Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (ZWASH) project, which includes the Twachiyanda area.

According to the U.N., 64 percent of Zambia's population lives below the poverty line, and 50 percent is unemployed. The nation's economy, combined with a lack of water, sanitation, and proper healthcare, has taken a severe toll on families. More than 18 percent of children in Zambia die before age 5.

In recent years, life expectancy in Zambia has markedly decreased—to 44.5 years—in part due to the AIDS pandemic. More than 1.1 million Zambians are living with the disease, and according to the U.N., some 600,000 boys and girls have been orphaned* by this devastating illness. In addition to antiretroviral drugs, the single most important factor for HIV and AIDS patients, in terms of survival, is safe water along with food and hygiene, both of which depend on an adequate water supply.

Please see page 4 for a report on this project.

** The United Nations defines an orphan as a child younger than 18 who has lost one or both parents. Children who have lost one parent are called orphans because even the loss of one parent, especially if that parent is the mother, often leads to the breakup of the family and a change in living situation for the child.*

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Who we are

Women of Vision - Greater Seattle was chartered as a ministry of World Vision in 1999. We have a core leadership of approximately 20 women with approximately 45 partners who support the chapter's work.

Our goals are to use our giftings and resources to increase awareness of the needs of women and children of poverty and/or are victims of injustice here and abroad. We support World Vision projects that make a difference in their lives.

Women of Vision exists to educate and motivate women to share their faith and resources, and to bring tangible evidence of Christ's love to empower impoverished, oppressed, and persecuted women and their families throughout the world.

(From the Greater Seattle Women of Vision website)

Afghanistan

Afghanistan's history of war and unrest has resulted in undeveloped or destroyed infrastructure. One area sorely lacking is medical care; because of this, Afghanistan has the world's second highest infant mortality rate and one of the highest maternal mortality rates.

Statistics show that 165 of every 1,000 infants—one in six—born in Afghanistan dies before his or her first birthday (UNICEF, 2009). Afghan women stand a one in eight risk of dying due to pregnancy-related causes, including 1.6 percent in childbirth. Only 19 percent of births are attended by trained health providers. The under-5 mortality rate is 24 percent, the second highest in the world, in part because there are few trained health professionals: two physicians and five nurses and/or midwives per 100,000 people.



A health professional, right, works with two midwives in training to deliver a baby at the Herat Regional Hospital. Only 19 percent of births in Afghanistan are currently attended by a trained health provider.

To save the lives of infants and mothers, World Vision is working with Herat Regional Hospital to train midwives who will work in outlying areas to provide prenatal care and safe deliveries.

Please see page 3 for a report on this project.

Nicaragua

In rural Nicaragua, more than a third of the population lacks access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, according to UNICEF. The need is especially acute in areas such as San Nicolás and Posoltega.

Ninety-six percent of the residents in these communities in northern Nicaragua obtain their water from a stream or spring. This causes a high percentage of people to suffer from diarrhea, waterborne diseases, and intestinal parasites. Many people also suffer from skin diseases because they do not have proper sanitation. Nearly 40 percent of households lack latrines, and an additional 27 percent have toilets that are in poor condition or not working (World Vision survey, 2006).

World Vision seeks to bring the gift of clean water and sanitation to San Nicolás and Posoltega. Over a three-year period, in partnership with local health and education departments and community members, we plan to provide safe water, reduce diseases, and help change the sanitation habits of residents of eight villages in the area.

Please see page 6 for a report on this project.

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Afghanistan: Maternal & Child Health

Afghanistan is a conservative Muslim country in which most women are unwilling to be treated by male healthcare providers. World Vision's respect for that culture, combined with the country's staggering deficiencies in providing care to mothers and newborns, makes it imperative that more women are trained to be skilled healthcare professionals.

At the Herat Regional Hospital in western Afghanistan, the number of skilled women providers in the maternity unit is not sufficient to ensure that all mothers and newborns receive quality care, and the Ministry of Public Health does not have the resources to

increase the staffing and pay for it. Partly because of this, Afghanistan has the world's second-highest infant mortality rate and one of the highest maternal mortality rates.

This is due mostly to insufficient prenatal care, a lack of trained assistance during birthing, and little postnatal care for infants or mothers. World Vision is working with the Institute of Health Sciences and the hospital to provide quality education and training to increase the number of qualified midwives and others in the maternity unit.

The maternity unit of the Herat hospital is a 100-bed facility serving an area of nearly 2 million people. Patients come from surrounding rural areas as well as the city of Herat. Approximately 1,600 babies are delivered in the hospital in a typical month, and about 10 percent have birth complications that require time in the neonatal care unit. The maternity unit recently

moved into a new, modern building, but the improvement in physical infrastructure and technology can only realize its full potential when enough women are trained to staff it.

With support from Women of Vision and other donors, the maternity unit's staff will be increased and trained to thoroughly assess and monitor the condition of babies and mothers, and provide new mothers and other family members with crucial information and counseling on newborn care, infection prevention, immunizations, and signs of complications that require an immediate return to the hospital. This will help ensure that healthy mothers and newborns who leave the hospital will continue to do well, and that families will recognize signs of complications and seek help quickly.

A complete report on achievements related to this project you so generously support will be available after November.



Bamoneh, left, holds her daughter, Atifeh, while vaccinator Ghulam Sahee Mohammadi immunizes the small child in a clinic in Karokh, near Herat in western Afghanistan. His daughter, Paristu, also a vaccinator, helps comfort Atifeh. Twelve years ago, Ghulam Sahee's 8-month-old daughter fell ill with pneumonia. The Taliban, ruling the area at that time, would not permit a male pediatric specialist to examine her, because she was a girl. She died soon after. World Vision is working on behalf of its donors to educate and train more women to be health professionals, particularly midwives.

health



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Zambia: Twachiyanda Water Project

According to the United Nations, only 41 percent of the rural population in the Southern African nation of Zambia has access to an improved water source, and just 51 percent has basic sanitation. However, some in-country sources state that the figure for water access might be as low as 10 percent, and for sanitation even lower.

With your generous support, World Vision is working to prevent disease and death in this impoverished country by providing access to clean water, improved

sanitation, good hygiene, and increased livelihoods through the Zambia Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (ZWASH) project.

Thanks to generous gifts from donors, World Vision was able to replicate its West Africa Water Initiative, beginning a “second generation” of this successful program in the Southern Africa region. The Southern Africa Water Initiative (SAWI), which includes ZWASH, will provide safe water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education to more than 500,000 people in the countries of Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Lesotho, from 2008 to 2016. As a result of these activities, children and families will experience improved health and quality of life.

ZWASH represents the first phase of SAWI. It employs an integrated, holistic strategy with a focus on safe water as the entry point for long-term development in Zambia. The project’s goal is to help improve the overall health and socioeconomic well-being of targeted beneficiaries

through access to sustainable, safe water, improved sanitation facilities, good hygiene education, and increased livelihoods.

Phase I of ZWASH will continue through fiscal year 2013, supplying safe water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education to more than 165,000 rural people in nine World Vision community development areas. Through June 2010, achievements include the digging of 31 new boreholes, rehabilitating 81 existing boreholes, laying 3.5 miles of water pipeline, rehabilitating two community dams, constructing 29 latrines at schools and health centers, and training 238 people to help educate community members on the value of good hygiene.



These girls are carrying home a heavy container of water from a new well. The well greatly shortens the distance they have to travel and the time they must spend each day gathering water.

water



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Christine's Dream Comes True



“It was a dream we thought would never come true; absolutely there was no hope that I would one day drink clean water in this community as this was impossible for us to do on our own— unless a miracle happened.” Those are the words of Christine Nseele, 34, a mother of six who rejoiced along with others when a new well was dug in their village of Chibiya, Zambia.

Christine said her dream was of a day when she no longer had to walk long distances to collect dirty water and frequently then walk to the health clinic for medication to treat diarrhea. Villagers usually gathered water from a stream (above) they shared with livestock, but when it dried up during hot seasons, Christine and others had to wait for hours in a long line to draw water from an unprotected well near the stream.

“We have always longed to have access to clean water, but where could we get it?” Christine asked. “We have been suffering so much from diseases like dysentery, diarrhea, and bilharzia.”

Thanks to donor support, more than 220 people in Chibiya now have access to clean water from a borehole drilled as part of ZWASH. As a result, children have more time to study, and women have more time to engage in income-generating activities.

“We are really grateful to World Vision for this borehole. This is why the day the borehole was launched, the entire community gathered to sing, dance, and eat all night to celebrate the blessing that we never thought would ever come through for us to address our sufferings,” Christine said.

Mary, 12, Christine's niece, used to wake up at 5 a.m. to help her mother fetch water before getting to class at 7.

“I used to feel body pains to carry heavy containers of water on my head for a long distance. This used to force me not to go to school,” she said. The new well gives Mary more time to study, learn, and help her aunt take care of their garden.



Christine and her niece, Mary, top photo, had to share water with livestock and often wound up sick from drinking the water. Now, Mary, above, and her aunt get their water from a new well that was drilled in their village as part of the ZWASH project.

Nicaragua: Access to Safe Water

Contaminated water and poor sanitation are factors in 88 percent of all disease in the developing world. Today, 37 percent of rural Nicaraguans do not have access to drinking water, according to UNICEF. In rural areas, people often must procure water from shallow wells, rivers, streams, and lakes that are polluted with residential sewage, pesticides, and industrial toxins. In addition, only 34 percent of the rural population uses adequate sanitation facilities. Poverty exacerbates water and sanitation issues. Nearly half of Nicaragua's 5.5 million people live below the national poverty line and, therefore, lack resources to improve their access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

San Nicolás and Posoltega are rural communities whose residents suffer from health problems associated with contaminated water and poor sanitation. In these areas, more than half of the population is unemployed.

World Vision seeks to bring the gifts of clean water and sanitation to eight villages located in the northern municipalities of Posoltega and San Nicolás. Over three years, we seek to construct five safe water systems, help build 250 latrines, and form and train water and sanitation committees to manage the water and sanitation facilities. Water systems for each village will be designed, based on the community's preferences, needs, and unique geological, geographical, and topographical features.

The goal of the three-year project is to increase the access to safe water and sanitation in San Nicolás and Posoltega. The project will provide safe water, reduce diseases, and change the sanitation habits of residents. Through this

project, World Vision will reach out to 537 families, including 2,685 children and adolescents. World Vision will partner with local health and education departments and the communities to accomplish the project goal and objectives.

Access to clean water supports children in being healthy, active, and able to attend school. In addition, sufficient water increases crop production and thus the ability for parents to adequately provide for their children with better nutrition and income from the sale of produce.

In the San Nicolás area in fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 through September 2009), World Vision constructed one safe water system, built one storage tank, built



Johanna Cisneros, 4, washes her hands in water coming from a well dug as part of World Vision's water and sanitation project in Nicaragua.

water



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42 latrines to improve sanitation, delivered water filters to 32 families to treat water for human consumption, and organized a community hygiene campaign that reached more than 10,000 people in 66 communities.

During the first half of fiscal year 2010 (October 2009 through March 2010), World Vision accomplished the following in Posoltega and San Nicolás:

- **Posoltega:** Identified the most feasible water system for the community, which involves the construction of a pump-driven mini-aqueduct powered by solar panels; and worked with local government to identify and secure land to be used as a water catchment area.
- **San Nicolás:** Identified the most feasible water system for the community, which involves the construction of a gravity-driven mini-aqueduct; provided land-acquisition legal support; received a commitment from local government to provide technical maintenance for one community's water system; and constructed 40 latrines.

Quick comparisons				
	Afghanistan	Nicaragua	Zambia	Washington
Population	29.1 million	6 million	12 million	6.7 million
Area (square miles)	251,827	50,336	290,587	66,544
Life expectancy	44.7 years	71.8 years	38.9 years	78.2 years
Literacy rate	28.1 percent	67.5 percent	80.6 percent	98 percent
HIV prevalence rate	0.01 percent	0.2 percent	15.2 percent	0.3 percent
Per capita income	\$800	\$2,800	\$1,500	\$22,973
Population below poverty line	36 percent	48 percent	64 percent	11.3 percent
Sources: United Nations, World Health Organization, World Food Program, and World Factbook				

Thank you

A mere thank you doesn't adequately convey our appreciation for the dedication the Greater Seattle Women of Vision are showing children and families in Zambia, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan. People in these countries are extremely grateful for your contributions to improving the lives of children there, many of whom have seen and experienced things we can barely imagine. You are setting a wonderful example of Christ's love to people in need. May you be richly blessed for sharing your blessings. World Vision, along with these precious children, thanks you.



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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.