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# Assisting Children and Families in Zambia

A SPECIAL REPORT FOR  
Women of Vision - Kittitas County

**WORLD VISION REPRESENTATIVE**

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**ASSISTING  
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AND FAMILIES  
IN ZAMBIA**

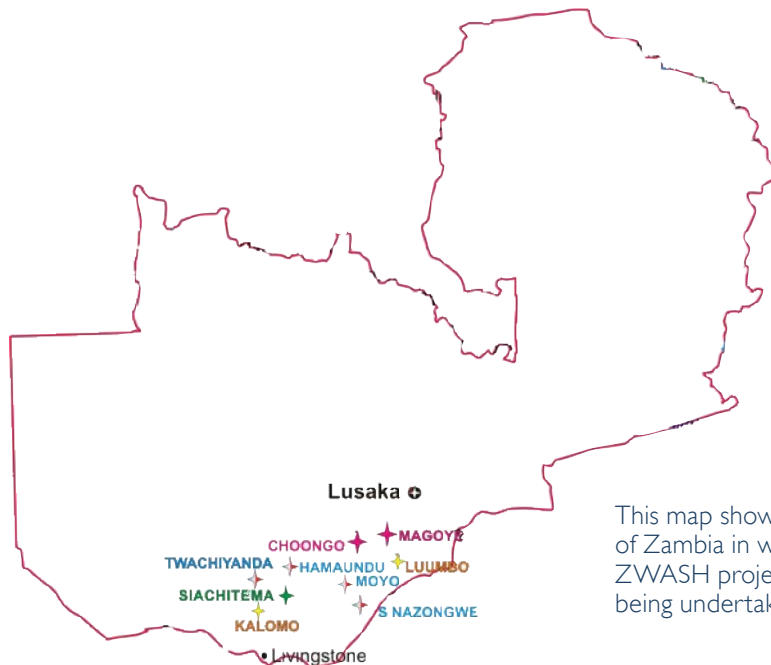
**On the cover**

*A woman in the Magoye area of Zambia dances in celebration as water bursts forth from a new well.*



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Comes True



This map shows areas of Zambia in which ZWASH projects are being undertaken.



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



[bbb.org/charity](http://bbb.org/charity)

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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

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## Introduction

World Vision is deeply appreciative of the care, support and love the Kittitas County Women of Vision have shown children and families in Zambia. 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. Thank you for your devotion to this life-changing partnership.

This report describes accomplishments in the water, sanitation, and hygiene project you support in Zambia. You will receive a separate report related to U.S. projects.

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## Background

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. 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.

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. Water- and sanitation-related diseases and malnutrition are major causes of this high child mortality rate.

In recent years, life expectancy in Zambia has markedly decreased among adults—down 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\* due to this devastating illness. In addition to antiretroviral drugs, the single most important factor for HIV and AIDS patients, in terms of survival, is providing them with safe water along with food and hygiene, both of which depend on an adequate water supply.

*\* 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 is a volunteer ministry of World Vision that unites Christian women called to invest their time, intellect, compassion, creativity, and finances so that impoverished women and children might find hope and a tangible expression of God's love.

The Kittitas County Chapter began with a group of women challenged by the Heart of The Matter Study. As a result of prayer and guidance by World Vision, our chapter was officially formed in the spring of 2007. We meet regularly for prayer, planning, and education on issues pertaining to women and children in crisis.

We encourage all women to come and participate in what God is doing in our hearts and in the lives of women and children in the world!

*(From the Kittitas County Women of Vision webpage)*

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## **Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene**

Over the past 25 years, World Vision has helped provide clean water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education to more than 10 million people. In fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 to September 2009), individuals, corporations, and foundations in the United States supported World Vision water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects in 20 countries. These interventions are playing a vital part in helping to reach the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to “halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.”

The goal of World Vision WASH projects is to improve the health and overall well-being of communities by reducing the incidence of water- and sanitation-related diseases through sustainable safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. Projects achieve this through four objectives:

- Increase access to sustainable, safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities
- Reduce the prevalence of WASH-related diseases, including trachoma, Guinea worm, and diarrheal diseases, through the promotion of personal hygiene and environmental practices
- Increase sustainability by promoting integrated water resources management at the local level, with a focus on maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water
- Foster a new partnership model to ensure technical excellence, innovation, and long-term financial, social, and environmental sustainability in water management that can be replicated elsewhere

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## **SAWI and ZWASH**

The goal of Phase I of ZWASH is to supply safe water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education to more than 165,000 rural people in nine World Vision community development areas in the Southern province of Zambia by the end of September 2013. Capacity for maintaining the interventions also will be strengthened. Through water quality analysis, treatment, and monitoring, World Vision will ensure that safe, good-quality drinking water is provided to the people of Zambia.

Launched in December 2008, ZWASH is the first phase of World Vision's much larger Southern Africa Water Initiative (SAWI), which is modeled after World Vision's successful West Africa Water Initiative. SAWI will provide safe

**water**



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water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education to more than 500,000 people in Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Lesotho by 2016. As a result, children and families will experience improved health and quality of life.

ZWASH uses an integrated, holistic strategy with safe water as the entry point for long-term development in Zambia. The goal is to help improve the overall health and socioeconomic well-being of targeted communities by improving their access to sustainable, safe water, improved sanitation facilities, good hygiene education, and increased livelihoods.

During the first phase, 105 boreholes will be drilled, 70 existing water points and five existing community dams will be rehabilitated, and 70 small-scale

irrigation systems will be constructed. The capacity of communities to maintain and sustain these projects also will be strengthened.

ZWASH already is making a difference.

The following was accomplished in the first half of fiscal year 2010 (October 2009 through March 2010):

- Seven boreholes were drilled in three districts: Sinazongwe, Monze, and Choma. Two were drilled in the Choongo area and another in the Choma area during the testing phase for the new project drilling equipment. Once water quality testing and analysis is complete, these boreholes will provide safe water to 14,994 community members. In addition, four boreholes were drilled in the Siabbeula area using private contractors. Those boreholes support the Food Security and Irrigation project in that area that benefits 1,650 people. Combined, the new boreholes will provide safe water to 16,644 residents. (In fiscal year 2009, 23 new boreholes were drilled, and 43 WASH committees were formed and strengthened.)



*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.*

- Thirty-six boreholes were rehabilitated in the Magoye, Choongo, Siachitema, Moyo, Luumbo, and Kalomo areas. The boreholes are located at two community schools, three basic schools, four rural health centers, and 27 villages, and provide water for 12,724 people and students. The project included replacing the pump set and repairing the apron and drainage system. (In fiscal year 2009, 45 wells were rehabilitated.)
- In the Luumbo area, a little more than two miles of irrigation pipeline has been installed, and irrigation drip kits are being set up. Seven families will initially benefit from the drip kits and be able to grow corn, soya bean, bananas, cotton, and citrus fruits. Including more fruits and vegetables in meals will help reduce the level of malnutrition in many children. In addition, diversifying products to sell will help to improve families' economic status.

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### “Endless” supply of clean water

A month ago, Endless was gathering water for her family from a dirty water hole. Two of her children had diarrhea from the water, and she was spending six to eight hours a day—every day—getting water. But it was the only water available to Endless, who was featured in our report to you in 2009.

Recently, Endless was singing and dancing at a World Vision borehole that had been drilled earlier. Her children are no longer sick, and Endless now spends just a few minutes every day getting water.

PS: She says the water tastes great!

- Water from the Nkwenga dam in the Vwavwa area is being used by 70 farmers for irrigation. These farmers represent seven villages—Kabanda, Kabyolo, Kagwamina, Muvumbo, Siankuku, Sinazeze, and Vwavwa—with a combined population of 3,700 people. The dam had suffered massive erosion, which put it at high risk of failing. Work on the dam included building a new concrete structure to protect the spillway.
- In Siachitema, improvements to the Kabwe Kasalala Dam were completed. The improvements increase the dam’s capacity during the rainy season, and 3,500 people will benefit from a more consistent water supply.
- Latrine construction continued in the Choongo, Kalomo, and Magoye areas. In Kalomo, 20 latrines were completed and nine more are being built. In fiscal year 2009, World Vision helped community members construct 310 sanitary platforms, which will be used to build latrines.
- Six ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines were completed at the Munjile Regional Health Center, which serves 691 households from the Munjile area and sees an average of 45 patients per day. Eight more were built in Choongo, including two at the Nteme Regional Health Center and four at the Mutiti community school. In the Kalomo area, six were finished at the Munkolo basic school, and six are under construction at the Choonga basic school.
- 170 community members were trained in ways to promote better hygiene, with an emphasis on the role of WASH in disease prevention at the household level. (In fiscal year 2009, hygiene instruction was given to 5,886 community members, including children.)

Activities planned for fiscal year 2010 (October 2009 through September 2010) include the following:

- Drill 30 new boreholes, rehabilitate 40 existing water points, rehabilitate two community dams in Siachitema and Sinazongwe, and form and strengthen 70 WASH committees



*Every child should be able to have hope. Clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education go a long way toward improving their health and giving them that hope.*

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- Build 24 latrines in schools and rural health centers, construct 16 demonstration household latrines, and help households construct 800 platforms for latrines
- Provide education and training to 33,000 community members to help improve their hygiene and sanitation

**Quick comparisons**

	<b>Zambia</b>	<b>Washington</b>
Population	12 million	6.7 million
Area (square miles)	290,587	66,544
Life expectancy	44.5 years	78.2 years
Literacy rate	80.6 percent	98 percent
HIV prevalence rate	15.2 percent	0.3 percent
Per capita income	\$1,500	\$22,973
Population below poverty line	64 percent	11.3 percent

Sources: United Nations, World Health Organization, World Food Program, and World Factbook



*Your support of the Zambia Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene project is putting smiles on a lot of faces.*

**Thank you**

A mere thank you doesn't adequately convey our appreciation for the love the Kittitas County Women of Vision have shown so many children and families in Zambia.

You are walking with people in need and changing their lives. We are blessed to be able to join you on this journey.

Families throughout Zambia are grateful to you for your support in improving the lives of thousands of children, many of whom have suffered in ways we can barely imagine.

Thank you for all you have done for them.



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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.*

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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 other women and children 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 then frequently walk to the health clinic for medication to treat diarrhea. Villagers usually collected water from a stream (above), but when it dried up during dry 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.*