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Assisting Children in Need in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Guatemala

A SPECIAL REPORT FOR
Women of Vision - Charlotte

WORLD VISION REPRESENTATIVE

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**ASSISTING CHILDREN
IN NEED IN ETHIOPIA,
AFGHANISTAN,
AND GUATEMALA**



On the cover

Your support is enabling children like these in the Adama area of Ethiopia, and in other countries, to have more hope for their future.

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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AND GUATEMALA**



*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 and background

World Vision is deeply appreciative of the care, support, and love the Charlotte Women of Vision have shown children and families in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Guatemala. 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.

How great is the need in these countries? The United Nations' Human Development Index measures a nation's average achievements in three basic aspects of development: health, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. It ranks Afghanistan 181st of 182 countries, Ethiopia 171st, and Guatemala 122nd. The U.S. is 13th; Norway is first.

This report describes achievements in projects you support in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Guatemala. You will receive a separate report related to U.S. projects. Here is a look at the situation in these three countries related to your projects:

Ethiopia

Poverty, unsafe water, and a deficient healthcare system exact a heavy toll in Ethiopia. According to UNICEF, nearly one-quarter of the population lives on less than \$1 a day. Most Ethiopians depend on subsistence farming for survival and must contend with drought, erratic rainfall, and inadequate access to markets. Ethiopia also has one of the highest rates of maternal deaths and disabilities in the world; one out of 27 women dies during childbirth (UNICEF, 2009). Furthermore, only 31 percent of the rural population has access to safe drinking water, and only 8 percent has access to improved sanitation facilities.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan's history of war and unrest has resulted in undeveloped or destroyed infrastructure, particularly in the area of healthcare. As a result, 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, *The State of the World's Children, 2009*). Additionally, as a Muslim nation, the culture generally requires that a woman be seen by a female healthcare professional, of which the country has few.

Guatemala

According to the World Health Organization, natural disasters in Latin America are increasing dramatically. Comparing the periods of 1971 to 1975 with 2002 to 2005, incidences of drought have increased by 360 percent, hurricanes by 521 percent, and floods by 266 percent. When disasters occur, people in impoverished areas often suffer the greatest losses, partly because they lack the resources to withstand the disaster. With each major catastrophe, the impacted regions fall farther behind, and the recovery process is slow. Today, 56 percent of Guatemalans live below the poverty line. In rural areas, 78 percent of children under the age of 18 live in poverty.

Who we are

Women of Vision of Charlotte are women linking up to encourage each other to become increasingly a people of compassion, as we “open our arms to the poor and extend our hands to the needy” (Proverbs 31:20). We are women of diverse ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. We are women who are willing to risk, grow, and change. We are women who have been touched by the love of Christ. We are women who know we can make a difference both individually and corporately, and we are willing to use our God-given resources to make a difference in the lives of women and children living in poverty and despair.

We are Women of Vision “... speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute” (Proverbs 31:8).

In the name of Christ, we are committed to making a significant difference through Him, by Him, in Him, in the lives of women and children in poverty in our community and in the world.

Being a Christ-centered women’s organization working in partnership with each other and with the people we serve, we seek to make a significant difference in the lives of others as we grow in Christ.

(From the Charlotte Women of Vision website)

Ethiopia

Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital

World Vision is grateful for your partnership in support of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, where women suffering from complicated pregnancies receive care and support. In Ethiopia, many girls are given in marriage before their bodies are mature enough to bear children safely; consequently, serious and sometimes life-threatening complications often occur during childbirth. Thanks to donors like you, many of these women have received vital operations and rehabilitation designed to restore their dignity as well as their physical well-being.

Ethiopia has one of the highest rates of maternal death in the world; one out of 27 women dies during childbirth (UNICEF, 2009). While the country’s poor health system contributes to this, cultural practices also play a role. Studies suggest that female genital mutilation—common in Ethiopia—increases the likelihood of Caesarean sections, extended hospital stays, and even death in pregnancy.

Each year, thousands of Ethiopian women develop obstetric fistula when a prolonged, obstructed labor creates an opening between the bladder and vagina or between the vagina and rectum. This makes women vulnerable to urinary tract infections and other complications that can damage reproductive organs. Often, this results in urinary incontinence, which can cause the women to smell of urine. The resulting pain, rejection, and isolation often lead to demoralization and despair.

The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital was established specifically to provide services for those suffering from obstetric fistula and high-risk pregnancies. Doctors at the hospital perform hundreds of operations each year, with a 90 percent success rate.

The hospital also works to prevent obstetric fistula by educating communities about female genital mutilation and obstructed labor and explaining why fistula occurs. Empowering individuals with knowledge often encourages them to make lifestyle changes that can prevent complicated pregnancies in this and future generations.

Fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 through September 2009) saw a number of achievements related to the project. Here are some highlights:

- 25 women are in the three-year training program to be midwives. These midwives will be assigned to rural areas where unsafe deliveries are common.
- 35 doctors received training to be better able to perform fistula operations.
- 1,196 patients were treated, and 937 underwent major operations.
- 1,884 medical students took part in awareness and prevention sessions related to obstetric fistula. Awareness and prevention also was the topic of brochures (8,000 printed), posters (1,000), television spots (15), and radio spots (17).

health 

Ethiopia

Rural Water Project

Only 31 percent of Ethiopia's rural population has access to safe drinking water, and just 8 percent has improved sanitation, according to the World Health Organization. By the end of September 2011, World Vision's Ethiopia Rural Water Project will help prevent disease and death by providing safe water to 340,000 people and helping 170,000 people gain access to improved sanitation.

World Vision launched the project in October 2006 to help improve the lives of poor and vulnerable rural populations in the East African nation. In this

five-year phase, the project is implementing activities to improve the potable water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and water resources management in seven World Vision community development areas: Adama, Antsokia-Gemza, Boset, Durame, Kemisse, Shone, and Western Abaya.

The project uses an integrated, holistic strategy with a focus on safe water as the entry point for long-term development in Ethiopia. The project's goal is to help improve the overall health and socioeconomic well-being of targeted beneficiaries.

Its objectives include increasing the access to sustainable, safe water and sanitation services, and reducing the prevalence of waterborne and water-related diseases.

The chart at left details major project accomplishments during fiscal year 2009

Description of Activities: Ethiopia Rural Water Project	2009 Accomplishments	Inception to December 2009 Accomplishments
Water Supply Development		
Water supply development surveys conducted	19	50
Deep wells drilled	6	15
Hand-dug wells constructed	7	20
Springs developed/capped	1	4
Miles of water supply pipeline laid	18	22.4
Water points (faucets) constructed	25	48
Reservoir tanks constructed	5	6
Shallow wells drilled	13	19
Sanitation		
Dry pit latrines constructed	0	987
Ventilated improved pit latrines constructed	4	20
Refuse pits constructed	0	23
Communal latrines constructed	4	5
Capacity Building		
Training of trainers workshops on community-led total sanitation (CLTS) for government officials and local World Vision staff	50	50
Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) committees trained on CLTS	60	60
CLTS trainings held for community representatives and leaders	180	180
WASH committee members trained on water system management	128	272
Artisans trained to construct latrines and other structures	24	46
Sanitation and hygiene trainings held	0	137
Environmental sanitation trainings conducted	0	203

(October 2008 through September 2009), and from inception-to-date (October 2006 through December 2009).

By the end of 2010, World Vision plans to conduct nine water supply hydrogeological surveys, drill 14 boreholes, construct six reservoirs, lay more than 34 miles of pipeline, construct 43 water points (faucets), build one generator house, perform water quality tests on 20 water sources, construct six cattle troughs, and build six ventilated, improved pit latrines in institutions such as schools and health centers.

water



Ethiopia

Boset Microenterprise Development

World Vision is addressing the root causes of poverty in Ethiopia by empowering rural farmers to improve the well-being of their families and generate employment opportunities that benefit their entire communities.

Approximately 85 percent of Ethiopia's population lives in rural areas and earns a living through agriculture. But farmers need support to ensure successful harvests and gain access to local, regional, and global markets. In Ethiopia, World Vision's microfinance program supports more than 47,000 active borrowers. That in turn directly benefits more than 400,000 children and impacts more than 54,000 jobs.

The benefits of microfinance are clear. Training in agricultural production and marketing gives farmers the tools they need to become self-supporting. The increased income enables parents to keep their children in school, obtain healthcare for their families, and provide adequate food and shelter. In Ethiopia, lending to women reduces child malnutrition by up to half because women tend to use income to benefit their children.

In 2008, World Vision launched a three-year program called Creating Access to Markets for Microproducers (CAMMP), which aims to support farmers and entrepreneurs in three

areas: Adama, Angolola, and Boset. The Boset area is comprised of 37 villages and has a population of more than 135,000 people.

Community members already benefit from programs that provide access to clean water, healthcare, food, and education. Now they are being equipped to increase their income and sustain their livelihoods. Linking small producers to high-value markets will enable them to sell their products at a better price so they can escape extreme poverty—for good.

In Adama, Angolola, and Boset, World Vision sought to achieve the following goals in fiscal year 2010 (October 2009 through September 2010):

- Expand access to markets for 1,200 microproducers
- Sustain 450 existing jobs in dairy and farming and create 200 new jobs
- Assist 450 farming households in the three communities with improved production, irrigation, and marketing
- Provide financial services—including savings programs—tailored to meet the needs of microproducers



Families such as this one in the Boset area of Ethiopia will benefit from expanded microfinance options. The mother can receive training and develop a skill that can qualify her for a small loan. The end result is more income for her family and a better life for her children.

work



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Afghanistan

Maternal and 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.



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.

As a result, there is 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 unit is a 100-bed facility serving an area with nearly 2 million people. Patients come from surrounding rural areas as well as the city of Herat. Approximately 1,600 babies are delivered in a typical month, and about 10 percent have 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. It also will 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 may be available in November.

health 

Guatemala

Microenterprise Development

In order to feed, educate, and provide healthcare for their families, impoverished Guatemalans need a way to increase their incomes. Many lack collateral or credit history, and traditional banks won't provide them with the small loans they need to start or expand a business. However, with the financial support of donors like you, World Vision's microfinance program is helping willing entrepreneurs lift themselves and their families from a cycle of chronic, debilitating poverty.

The standard of living in Guatemala is among the lowest in Central America. About 56 percent of Guatemala's 13 million people live below the poverty line.

Ongoing poverty has weighed heavily on a nation where 2.9 million children younger than age 5 are malnourished, according to the United Nations.

In 1994, World Vision established the microenterprise development institution AGUDESA (the Guatemalan Association for Development) to administer loans to willing entrepreneurs. Credit is the fundamental element granted through the initiative, and collective credit is the preferred method because it permits a broad portfolio for clients and wide geographic coverage.

Through the first three quarters of fiscal year 2010 (October 2009 through June 2010), AGUDESA disbursed loans averaging \$379 to 4,388 active borrowers—69 percent of them women—maintained a loan portfolio of more than \$1.5 million, and helped create or sustain 8,707 jobs affecting 26,121 children. It offers credit primarily through three types of group lending methodologies:

- **Community Banks:** Aimed at the poorest clients in rural areas, these are each comprised of approximately 20 members who guarantee each other's loans. A first loan averages \$150.
- **Solidarity Groups:** These are typically comprised of five members who guarantee each other's loans. A first loan averages \$380.
- **Individual Loans:** Entrepreneurs who have paid off previous loans, such as through a Community Bank or Solidarity Group, can become eligible for larger individual loans.

Most borrowers are enterprising women who form a Community Bank, giving them access to financial services they could not otherwise enjoy because they lack collateral and/or business experience. Together, the partners take out a loan for a small enterprise, receive training in business basics, elect leaders, manage the group's records, and save a percentage of each member's earnings for future investments.



World Vision International President Kevin Jenkins, in the red shirt, talks with Guatemalan farmers who have taken advantage of AGUDESA's microfinance loans and business training to increase their crop yield and access more markets for their produce, all of which helps them create more income for their families.

work



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Thank you

A mere thank you doesn't adequately convey our appreciation for the love the Charlotte Women of Vision have shown so many children and families in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Guatemala.

Families in these countries are extremely grateful for your contributions to improving the lives of thousands of children, 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.

Quick comparisons

	Afghanistan	N. Carolina	Ethiopia	Guatemala
Population	29 million	9.4 million	85.2 million	13.3 million
Area (square miles)	251,827	48,711	426,373	42,042
Life expectancy	44.7 years	75.8 years	55.4 years	70.3 years
Literacy rate	28.1 percent	92.3 percent	42.7 percent	69.1 percent
HIV prevalence rate	0.01 percent	0.6 percent*	2.1 percent	0.8 percent
Per capita income	\$466	\$20,307	\$319	\$2,848
Population below poverty line	36 percent	15 percent	39 percent	56 percent

Sources: United Nations, World Health Organization, World Food Program, and World Factbook. * U.S. rate

Livestock, monkeys—even hyenas—use this water hole in the Boset area. This is one of two water holes in the area that also are used by 9,000 people. But this is changing as World Vision digs more wells in Ethiopia as part of the Rural Water Project. "All my life, I have gotten water from here," says Gemeda Fojora, 42. Two hours a day—every day—Gemeda makes his way to the water hole for his daily supply of water. "It's first come, first serve," he said. "If it's only me, it's no problem. But when there are hundreds of people waiting, it is a problem."



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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.