

**AFRICA:**

# Our story

World Vision

**Capturing  
the heart of  
World Vision's  
work in Africa**







A community commercial vegetable garden in Macudvulwine ADP, Swaziland.

Cover: Rehema, 6, can now enjoy many cups of corn and soy porridge, thanks to a World Vision food security project in Kenya. Photo: Lucy Murunga/World Vision

© 2013 World Vision Australia. World Vision Australia ABN 28 004 778 081 is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Ref # 7246

# Contents

<b>UGANDA: Nabiswera/Wabinyonyi Area Development Program</b> Improving health through Citizen Voice and Action .....	2
<b>UGANDA: Kitgum Area Development Program</b> From farming to survive to farming for profit .....	3
<b>CHAD: Pende Area Development Program</b> "I am happy": Ndadjide is grateful for the chance to attend school .....	4
<b>SENEGAL: Fimela Area Development Program</b> Teens access advice and information via mobile phone .....	5
<b>ETHIOPIA: Wukro Area Development Program</b> Seeing the ability in disability .....	6
<b>ETHIOPIA: Medebay Zana Area Development Program</b> Passing the power of the knife into farmers' hands .....	7
<b>SWAZILAND: Macudvulwini Area Development Program</b> Water: A source of life .....	8
<b>GHANA: Ga West Area Development Program</b> The future life for the disabled .....	9
<b>RWANDA: Food Security, Nutrition and WASH Project</b> Nutrition program leads mothers to farming success .....	10
<b>BURUNDI: Gashoho Area Development Program</b> A holistic approach to development .....	11
<b>TANZANIA: Busangi Area Development Program</b> Tippy taps mean healthier children .....	12
<b>TANZANIA: Katerero Area Development Program</b> A tale of two toilets .....	12
<b>LESOTHO: Nthabiseng Area Development Program</b> Support means acceptance: De-stigmatising HIV and AIDS .....	14
<b>MALAWI: Ngodzi Area Development Program</b> Goats multiply opportunities in Malawi .....	15
<b>MALAWI: Nkaya Area Development Program</b> New school, new opportunities .....	16
<b>ZAMBIA: Chikomeni Area Development Program</b> New kits improve literacy in schools .....	16
<b>ZIMBABWE: Bolamba Area Development Program</b> A letter of gratitude .....	17
<b>ZIMBABWE: Robert Sinkoya Area Development Program</b> Chickens – a saving grace for communities .....	18
<b>KENYA: Mtito Andei Area Development Program</b> Chicken house builds resilience for vulnerable children .....	19
<b>MOZAMBIQUE: Inteta Area Development Program</b> From despair to joy .....	20





## UGANDA: Nabiswera/ Wabinyonyi Area Development Program

### Improving health through Citizen Voice and Action

When you're sick and in pain, every minute you have to wait for relief is a minute too long. And tragically, waiting for treatment can sometimes be the difference between life and death.

Until recently, sick children and adults in central Uganda's Nakasongola District had no choice but to wait – sometimes all day – to receive treatment. This is because their local health centre was critically understaffed, with just three health workers available.

Even if patients did make it to the consulting room, there was no guarantee that the right medication would be available at the health centre to treat their condition. They would have to wait until someone could arrange private transport to the district centre to collect the required drugs.

Clearly things needed to change. So World Vision introduced Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) to the community as a way for them to demand improvements in their local health service.

Citizen Voice and Action equips community members with the information and skills to hold their local government accountable for the delivery of adequate public services, such as healthcare and education.

As part of CVA, community members were invited to come together to discuss strategies that could result in better local health services. They identified the lack of a local health unit management committee as a serious problem and lobbied for one to be created.

Following the formation of this committee, the district government has gradually increased the number of staff at the centre to 13. Health services have improved, waiting times have decreased and the District Medical Officer now brings medicine



Mothers in the community now have more to smile about – with better access to important pre- and post-natal care. Photo: Jon Snyder/World Vision

directly to the centre, rather than leaving patients and staff to try and arrange to collect it themselves.

Health centre manager Bwami Tito says these improvements have led to more people coming to the health centre for treatment and advice. The centre's midwife used to see only two pregnant women per day. Now, she sees around 10 pregnant women per day – which means many more women in the community are receiving essential ante-natal care.

---

“I had been going to [another] health centre because it is nearby, but when I realised the improvement in the service at this health centre, I decided to bring my child here this time. I brought this child when he was vomiting, but now the health workers have treated him and he has improved, due to the improved service delivery.”

---

– Damali, a local mother.

Patrick, a community member, explained the difference that having a health unit management committee in place has made. “Now the staff and patients know where to take their issues ... this has reduced the work load,” he said. “Now the relationship between the health workers and the citizens has improved. There are no longer many misunderstandings.”



## UGANDA: Kitgum Area Development Program

### From farming for survival to farming for profit

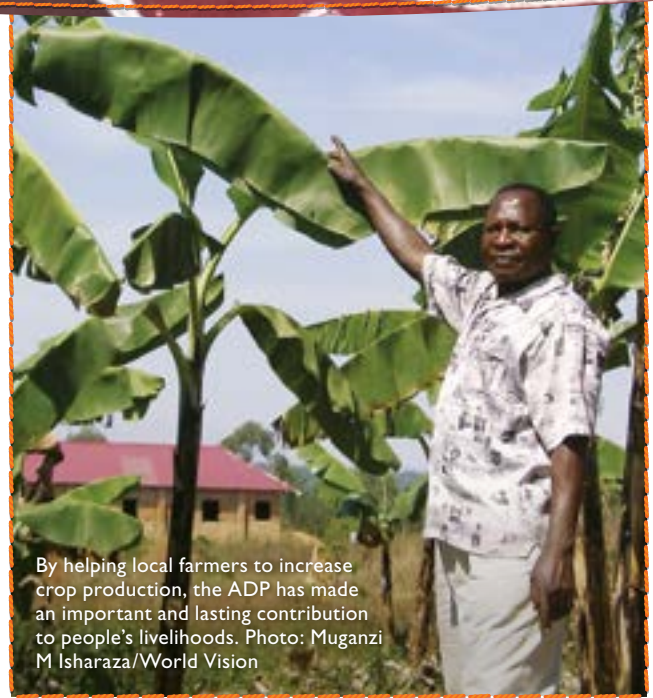
Throughout Uganda, World Vision promotes the formation of local farmers groups as a way to improve household food security and increase family incomes.

In the Kitgum Area Development Program, 40 farmers groups have been supported with agricultural inputs and advice to help them improve their cereal crop and vegetable production.

**Better family income from improved farming practices means families can invest more in the health of their children.** Photo: Sylvia Nabanoba/World Vision



This has included seeds to grow maize, beans, sweet peppers and eggplants. And importantly, they have learned improved methods of site selection, land clearing and pest control, and how to better market their produce.



By helping local farmers to increase crop production, the ADP has made an important and lasting contribution to people's livelihoods. Photo: Muganzi M Isharaza/World Vision

Bedoabedo Peke, one of these farmers groups, was formed in 2010 and it's made up of 20 female and 10 male members.

Before receiving training, group members used traditional farming methods, such as random casting and site selection, and this resulted in poor crop yields. But after applying improved methods, the group has experienced a dramatic turnaround.

They successfully planted and harvested four acres of maize, two acres of beans and three acres of pigeon peas, as well as two acres each of eggplants, cabbages, sweet peppers and onions. This additional produce has increased household access to nutritious food and created income generation opportunities.

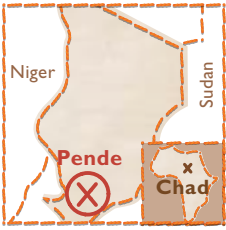
Many group members previously had no means to earn any income. But now they can sell their sweet peppers and other vegetables at the market in Kitgum town. This currently earns the group earns at least 20,000 shillings (A\$8) per day.

Group members report that they are using the income they earn from the vegetables to cover their children's school and healthcare costs and for other household needs. The group is now generating enough profit to also support 28 vulnerable children living in the local area.

With their new skills and success, members of farmers groups like Bedoabedo Peke are able to make the vital shift from farming for survival to farming for profit.

This is having major impacts on people's wellbeing – particularly the children – who now have fuller bellies, better healthcare and increased opportunities to go to school.





## CHAD: Pende Area Development Program

**“I am happy”**: Ndadjide is grateful for the chance to attend school

I am happy and I am grateful to World Vision today for its involvement in my community. If I can read, count and speak French today, it is thanks to World Vision. My two elder sisters were forced to get married while they could do better in school.

According to our parents, a girl cannot go to school. She is born to be married and to take care of her children and her husband. Also, I was discouraged several times because my parents refused to buy my educational stationery whereas they bought for my brothers. I had to endeavour to buy my educational stationery as if I am not a member of the family, though I am their daughter.

Now, things are starting to change because girls are also enrolled in school as boys are. That is why at school I fought to be among the best pupils of my class. And because of that position I occupied, I have received educational stationery from [the] Area Development Program. I also made an effort to have clothes to go to school with.

---

“Now, things are starting to change because girls are also enrolled in school as boys are. That is why at school I fought to be among the best pupils of my class.”

---

World Vision has given us the opportunity to express our ideas and problems. Through sponsorship, we can express our viewpoints and we are also respected by adults in our communities. I wish World Vision well to work throughout our communities where girls are regarded as animals to sell at market. May God protect World Vision.

- Ndadjide, aged 16



## SENEGAL: Fimela Area Development Program

### Technology reaches teens in Senegal

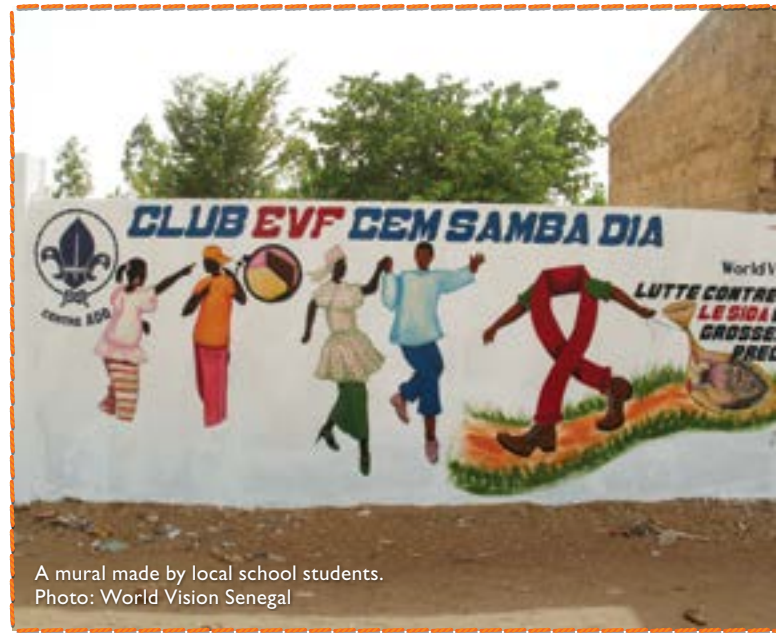
Lack of access to information and confidential advice on matters of sexual and reproductive health exposes teens to many dangers.

And even when information is available, embarrassment and fear often prevent them from asking questions and seeking advice that could protect them from harm.

In the Fimela Area Development Program (ADP), this reluctance was seen as a major reason behind the prevalence of early pregnancies in the community, which were causing many girls to drop out of school early and face rejection from their parents and relatives.

To address this dilemma, ADP staff got together with local students and teachers to work on a solution.

The teenagers revealed their need to communicate anonymously and voluntarily when it came to matters of sexual health. So World Vision supported the creation of five mobile phone



A mural made by local school students.  
Photo: World Vision Senegal

stations in the community where teens could call a hotline to ask questions and receive confidential advice.

From July to September 2012, 57 calls and 130 text messages were recorded at the mobile phone stations, with a peak in the month of August of 28 calls and 89 messages. All questions were addressed within 24 hours of being received.

Mr Diallo, manager of the ADP's teen centre, said the fact that the service was almost free and anonymous was really helping to provide teens with access to this essential information.

"With this innovation, a girl of 17 years ... whose parents wanted to force her to marry benefited from my advice," he explained.

"In the end, her husband-to-be accepted my explanation why he should not marry her immediately, and she continued her studies in her village. It is too early to draw conclusions, but we are on track to achieve our goal of counselling adolescents."

Innovative approaches to reproductive health mean that adolescents, particularly girls, can stay in school and receive further education for their future. Photo: Alegney Bies/World Vision







## ETHIOPIA: Wukro Area Development Program

### Seeing the ability in disability

Children with disabilities are among the most marginalised people in poor communities, often facing discrimination and difficulties in accessing education and other basic rights and social services.

Girmay, aged 14, is visually impaired and the orphan of parents who died from HIV and AIDS. He never imagined he would be able to go to school with his friends or take a leading role in a community event.

But with the support of community care coalitions and awareness-raising activities made possible by the Wukro Area Development Program, Girmay has achieved both of these milestones.

Girmay played a leading role in local commemorations for the Day of the African Child in 2012, which focused on the rights of children with a disability.



Girmay, an inspirational child advocate, presenting songs about children to the audience. Photo: World Vision Ethiopia

More than 1,000 children and 500 adults took part in the celebration – with the streets of Wukro ignited with children singing, dancing and chanting for their rights.

In his address to the crowd, Girmay paid tribute to World Vision for helping to ensure that he had access to the rights that all children deserve.

“I never thought that I would go to school like my friends,” he said.

“But due to ... World Vision interventions on awareness raising and addressing most vulnerable children, I get a chance to go to school, and now I am here to celebrate child day equally ... Here, I represent most children who did not get this chance. One day you will see me in the media of this country!”



Below and left: Children and community members get involved in the Day of the African Child – an event celebrating children’s rights across Africa. Photo: World Vision Ethiopia





## ETHIOPIA: Medebay Zana Area Development Program

### Passing the power of the knife into farmers' hands

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is rapid, low cost and highly effective way for farmers to restore and improve their degraded land, providing secure food and income sources for their families and communities.

FMNR adapts centuries-old methods of woodland management to produce continuous tree growth for fuel, building materials, food and animal fodder, without the need for frequent and costly replanting.

Through FMNR, farmers select trees on their land to trim and prune in a way that maximises their growth. Integrating trees into crop and grazing land can increase soil fertility and organic matter and result in better harvests.

When World Vision Australia's Tony Rinaudo, pioneer of the FMNR method, visited the Medebay Zana Area Development Program in 2012, he was delighted to see farmers quickly adopting FMNR as their own to practise and pass onto others.



Lethibrhan "takes the knife" for Ethiopia at an FMNR demonstration with Tony Rinaudo. Photo: World Vision Ethiopia

Farmers have learnt about how to effectively prune trees to restore agricultural lands that have been affected by drought. Photo: Ilana Rose/World Vision



After Tony demonstrated FMNR to local farmers and village representatives, 30 farmers were selected and trained in basic FMNR concepts and they signed an agreement to begin practising it. One of these farmers was Lethibrhan.

Lethibrhan, who is head of her household, immediately put FMNR into action on her farm, effectively pruning 30 trees and inspiring other community members and the local agricultural office to do the same.

In September 2012, World Vision invited Lethibrhan to participate in an FMNR workshop in a neighbouring region. On the first day she remained quiet. But during a practical demonstration led by Tony Rinaudo the next day, she stepped forward.

As Tony took his knife from his pocket and bent down to prune a tree, Lethibrhan proudly declared in her own dialect, "Let me take the knife and I will show them how to prune."

With every eye and camera focused on her, Lethibrhan successfully demonstrated FMNR, serving as a testimony to her own success, and the future success of the country.

"She made me very happy because I also realised that through ... people like Lethibrhan, FMNR would also spread in Ethiopia," Tony beamed.

"[With] each person teaching his or her neighbour until the whole country has a healthy covering of trees, Lethibrhan had symbolically taken the knife from me on behalf of Ethiopia."



## SWAZILAND: Macudvulwini Area Development Program

### Water: A source of life

In Swaziland, many people don't have access to clean water and rates of waterborne illnesses are extremely high.

The Macudvulwini Area Development Program in Swaziland's southwest has helped to bring clean water access to the Malangeni community and this has had an encouraging impact on community health and productivity.

Carved out of a hillside, the gravity-fed water supply system connects to a local spring. The water passes through a sand filtration system and several holding tanks before going through a large network of pipes and community tap stands.

The new water supply has helped to greatly reduce common waterborne diseases, such as cholera and diarrhoea. Community members said that before, they used to spend a lot of time fetching water from places that were hard to reach, particularly for elderly or disabled people. But now everyone in the community has easy access to clean water.

The water source is managed by a local water management committee made up of eight women and five men. Local households pay a one-off registration fee of 200 rand (\$A25) and then 5 rand per month thereafter to help support necessary maintenance. This helps to ensure the community takes ownership of the water source and that it will serve the area for generations to come.

The water supply system is just one of the positive impacts that World Vision is having on the community. Community members have been trained in areas such as leadership, financial management, as well as on gender equality and the rights of the disabled.



Women work to address not only development needs, but women's rights in the community. Photo: World Vision Swaziland

Local women explain that increased gender awareness is making a difference at the household level, with their husbands stepping up for domestic work like cleaning or bathing children – previously seen to be only women's work.

Community members are also now more aware of including people with disabilities in community activities. One community member noted, "People with disabilities are able to do many things and should be given roles in different community groups."

By encouraging dialogue on these issues, World Vision is helping to create communities where all people – regardless of their gender, age or abilities – are able to positively contribute to and benefit from community life.

---

“According to God, men and women are equal. We learned the Lord Jesus is a leader and a servant. We learned we're both equal before God. No one should step on the other; both sexes should share responsibilities so there is peace in the community,” says a female community member.

---





## GHANA: Ga West Area Development Program

### The future life for the disabled

As Emmanuel stitches up his last pair of sandals for the day, he smiles with gratitude as he recalls the days before he encountered World Vision.

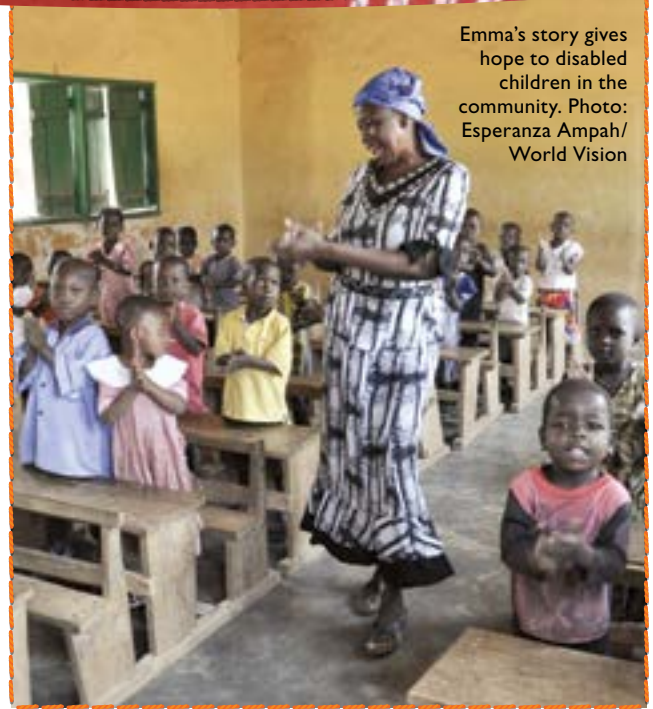
Emma, as he is affectionately called by friends, was born with a deformity in both feet – rendering him extremely disadvantaged in his society. When asked about his childhood, he struggles to talk about it, as it was such a difficult period of his life.

Emma used to struggle on a daily basis for survival. Often, people with disabilities are reduced to begging on the streets, attempting to appeal to those bound by a religious duty to help the disadvantaged. But, as a young child, Emma promised himself that he would “never to beg for alms in life”.

Committing to this childhood promise proved more difficult than Emma imagined. The struggles of daily life often tempted him to go back on his word, but his strong inner character kept him pressing on. With very little education, his only option was to try and learn a trade. With help from a friend, Emma got an apprenticeship to become a cobbler.

But even though he gained the right skills, he couldn't afford the basic tools needed to run a business. Emma recalls that it was during a time of deep frustration when “an angel of God introduced me to World Vision”.

Emma joined a youth skills training scheme in the Ga West Area Development Program in 2009 and was provided with his first working tools. With help from a friend he immediately set up shop in a little shed, which he later transformed into a kiosk and workshop. Emma worked hard all day to produce high quality sandals for the local market.



Emma's story gives hope to disabled children in the community. Photo: Esperanza Ampah/World Vision

The sandal-making enabled him to earn a decent income and he has even been able to start a family. His success inspired other disabled

people in the community to join Emma in his workshop as trainees.

The presence of many wheelchairs in front of his workshop

attracted customers and passers-by. “I had nine apprentices, all physically challenged and all came here with wheelchair,” Emma explained.

Some who witnessed Emma's good work offered financial support. “Several people came and got involved as they could not overlook our efforts,” he says proudly.

His business has expanded so much that the apprentices are now moving out to other locations until a suitable factory is built. Emma now runs a limited liability company, The Future Life for the Disabled, and it's incorporated under law.

He has acquired a plot of land on the fringes of Accra, the capital city, where the factory will be built.

When asked where the machines for production will come from, Emma grins and responds with a smile that “the same God who begun it all will bring it to a completion”.

“I had nine apprentices, all physically challenged and all came here with wheelchair... All my friends are coming back and we will produce some of the best shoes and sandals.”



## RWANDA: Food Security, Nutrition and WASH Project

### Nutrition program leads mothers to farming success

Positive Deviant (PD) Hearth is one of the core projects that World Vision initiates in poor communities to improve child nutrition.

The PD Hearth approach identifies successful behaviours of mothers and caretakers of well-nourished children, and encourages and supports the mothers and carers of malnourished children to adopt these behaviours. The "hearth", or home, is the location for nutrition education and rehabilitation sessions.

Timothee and his mother Mukamugenga have benefited from PD Hearth activities undertaken as part of a World Vision food, nutrition, water and sanitation project in Rwanda's Gicumbi District.

At 18 months old, Timothee was suffering from chronic malnutrition. He weighed only eight kilograms and was unable to walk.

"I've got four kids – one girl and three boys," Mukamugenga explained. "The first three children did not face any nutrition-related problems. But with the birth of the fourth one, the capacity of our family to feed six members was challenged.

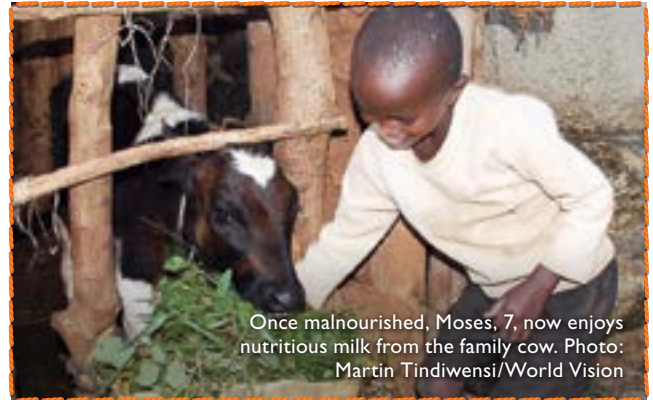


A healthier Timothee, after being rehabilitated from malnutrition through PD Hearth. Photo: World Vision Rwanda

"We were lucky to meet World Vision who helped us to rehabilitate [Timothee] and acquire assets which continue to allow us to care of the whole family in general and the children in particular."



These mothers have gained practical skills to combat malnutrition. Photo: World Vision Rwanda



Once malnourished, Moses, 7, now enjoys nutritious milk from the family cow. Photo: Martin Tindiwensi/World Vision

After a 12-day session in the PD Hearth program, Timothee's health improved significantly. Mukamugenga is now determined to sustain this result, with the support of others in her community.

She is one of 154 mothers to take part in the program. Amongst the most vulnerable in their community, these mothers struggled to earn the equivalent of 400 francs (65 Australian cents) a day on other people's farms.

With just small plots of land and no livestock, they felt helpless to increase their household income so they could afford a good diet for their children.

But through PD Hearth, the mothers have learned how to provide their children with a balanced diet using foods and resources already available to them, as well as new skills in vegetable gardening and small business.

Buoyed by their success, the women helped to extend the PD Hearth training to other mothers in neighbouring villages who also had malnourished children. Gathering together, the women formed an agricultural group and World Vision provided them with goats to raise as well as potato and vegetable seeds to grow.

They used the vegetable seeds to create a plant nursery where each member can collect seedlings to grow on their own land. They also established a group vegetable garden, with the profits from the produce they sell deposited in a group savings account.

Group members can now borrow from this account to purchase small livestock to further improve their household assets and income.





## BURUNDI: Gashoho Area Development Program

### A holistic approach to development

"After World Vision taught me about zero grazing and compost, and gave me two goats ... my children are well nourished as I can feed them at least twice per day. Before World Vision support, my children could only eat once a day," says Mary, a farmer from Gashoho.

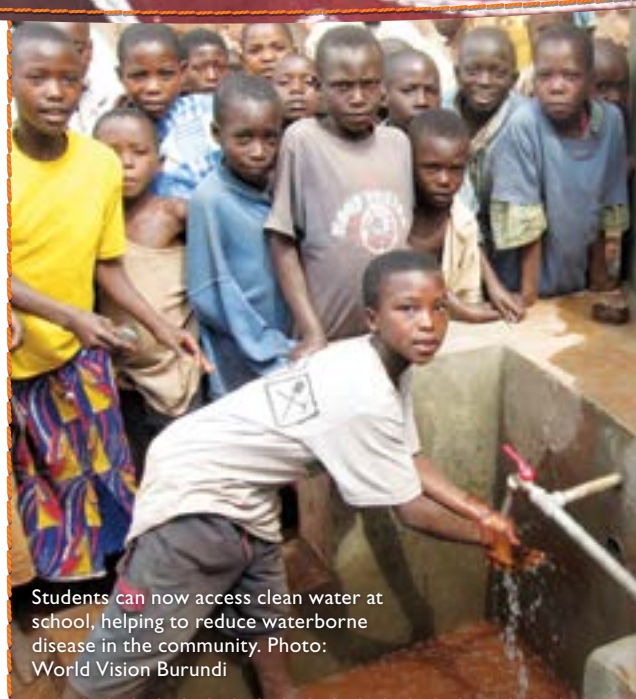
Mary's family is among many vulnerable families that have received agricultural training, as well as cows, goats and chickens through the Gashoho Area Development Program (ADP).

Livestock and food security activities in Gashoho have not just helped farming families produce extra food and income; they have also stimulated transformation of the entire community.

"I couldn't imagine that 20 kilos of potato vines would produce more than six times and I see that everything is possible now,"



Young children in the community also learn about the importance of farming and gardening to improve their own and their families health and nutrition. Photo: World Vision Burundi



Students can now access clean water at school, helping to reduce waterborne disease in the community. Photo: World Vision Burundi

says Minani, another local farmer. "I am able to harvest extra production; I can sell them and get money to pay school fees for my children. One of my children who was sent back home due to lack of school fees went back to school because I managed to get enough money from the surplus."

In addition to agriculture projects, the ADP has contributed to the construction and rehabilitation of three primary schools and also provided desks and textbooks, play areas, teacher training and learning support for students.

Bizimana, aged nine, scored just 36 percent on his school exam and was ranked 50th in his class. But after taking part in home study revision sessions initiated by the ADP, his exam score jumped to 89 percent, for which he earned a reward from his parents.

More than 2,870 households, four primary schools and one health centre have gained access to clean water following the construction of 26 springs, 15 taps, hand washing facilities and rainwater tanks.

"Whenever we feel thirsty we easily get clean water to drink; no more cholera as it used to happen in past years," says Niyonkuru, aged 10.

New clubs in schools are increasing children's life skills and awareness of their culture through art, craft, drumming, traditional dance and football.

"I will plant many fruits at home and I will share them with my friends and little sisters," says Emelyne, aged five, member of her school's environment club.

By taking a holistic approach to development, the Gashoho ADP is helping to ensure that families, schools and the local community can provide their children with a brighter future full of many opportunities.





Above: Children across Africa now have access to clean water, decreasing time spent away from school due to water-related illness. Photo: Davinah Agnes Nabirye/World Vision

Top right: Juliana enjoys using the new school tippy tap. Photo: World Vision Tanzania

Bottom right: The new, improved toilets are helping to improve student health, hygiene and class attendance. Photo: World Vision Tanzania





## TANZANIA: Busangi Area Development Program

### Tippy taps mean healthier children

Even though primary students like Juliana learned about good sanitation and hygiene in class, they had few opportunities to practise their skills because of a lack of basic hand-washing facilities in their community.

“Having knowledge without practice led to many pupils at our school facing contamination, which then led to diseases,” explained Juliana.

But thanks to a World Vision water, sanitation and hygiene project in Busangi, Juliana and her schoolmates can now wash their hands properly following to introduction of simple “tippy tap” technology.

The tippy tap is a “hands-free”, low cost hand-washing device made from a plastic bottle that allows community members to wash their hands hygienically. Once tippy taps were introduced at

Juliana’s school, children’s health and hygiene improved considerably.

Due to the success of tippy taps in Busangi’s schools, the technology is now being rolled out across the entire community – ensuring children are better protected from disease. Parents are learning how to make and use tippy taps in their homes.

At Juliana’s school and others, each class takes it in turns to supply water to fill the tippy tap facility under the supervision of the school health club.

“I and my fellow pupils thank sponsors ... for supporting the introduction of the simple and reliable technology of the tippy tap to use at our school,” says Juliana.



## TANZANIA: Katerero Area Development Program

### A tale of two toilets

Students, teachers, parents and the village government have an exciting story to share from Kaazi Primary School. It’s an unlikely tale – a tale of two toilets.

With support from the Katerero Area Development Program (ADP), a new eight-stand pit latrine has been built to replace a temporary bush latrine used by hundreds of students each day.



Head teacher Ms Rweyemamu explained that for six years, students lacked permanent and safe toilet facilities.

“We tried several times to present

the issue to the District Council ... but we got no positive response,” Ms Rweyemamu recalls.

She said the students used to go to the toilet in nearby bushes or behind classrooms and as a result they suffered from stomach upsets and diarrhoea.

Trying to use the school’s makeshift toilet involved standing in a long queue and wasting precious class time. Not prepared to wait, students would often go home for the toilet and never come back to class – leading to school drop-out and poor performance.

“We are grateful to Katerero ADP and to the sponsors for their valued support to this school to grant us this permanent and modern pit latrine,” Ms Rweyemamu said.

“Pupils have the morale to stay at school for [the] fully arranged timetable. They attend school happily and enjoy clean environment and attendance has increased compared to the previous years. Diseases such as stomach ache and diarrhoea are no longer an issue.”

Grade six student, Jovison, expressed his classmates’ gratitude to World Vision staff on the day the pit latrines were handed over to the community:

“...Now after getting this safe pit latrine, we feel protected and we enjoy studying. Infectious diseases are no longer a threat to us. We are grateful to our donors for being touched by our needs; we pray that our gracious God will bless the work of their hands.”



## LESOTHO: Nthabiseng Area Development Program

### Support means acceptance: De-stigmatising HIV and AIDS

"Things were hard at that time in my life and all of my family suffered because of my status," said Letse\*, member of a people living with HIV and AIDS support group, her eyes damp with tears.

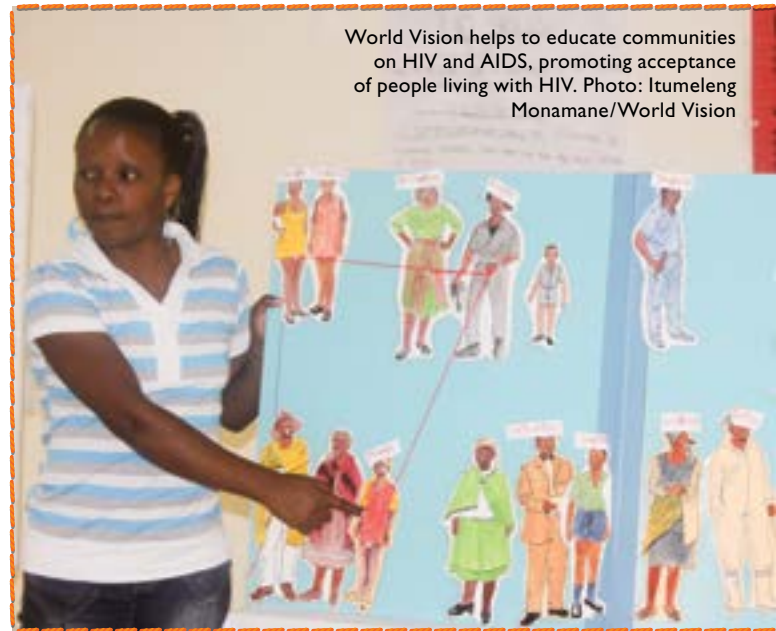
"Neighbours who had previously lent me their belongings came and fetched them from my house," she continued. "No-one wanted to talk to me anymore ... I was not sick then, but let me tell you that I lost weight, not because of my HIV status, but because of the pressure and stigma the community subjected on me."

At the time when Letse was diagnosed, the arrival of a car from the government's AIDS program outside her house was enough to let the entire village know of her HIV status. "This subjected me to a lot of discrimination," she explained.

Prior to her diagnosis, Letse was a community support group volunteer taking care of others affected by HIV and AIDS. After attending a World Vision training session covering the methods of HIV transmission, she was prompted to find out her own HIV status.

After her diagnosis, Letse joined a people living with HIV and AIDS support group in a nearby town and was encouraged to form a group in her own village.

Even though knowledge about HIV and AIDS was growing in her community through the awareness-raising efforts of organisations including World Vision, people with HIV were still



World Vision helps to educate communities on HIV and AIDS, promoting acceptance of people living with HIV. Photo: Itumeleng Monamane/World Vision

reluctant to step forward and disclose their status and encourage others to get tested.

A key moment for her group was a World Vision workshop that taught members how to catch fish so they could improve their incomes. Letse said that gaining skills to become financially independent was a turning point.

"That actually helped us get off the ground. We started to become independent and went out," she said. "We became objective in saying that all that we have gained from World Vision should be utilised – and now we meet, we support each other and we even go to the extent of supporting other orphans and vulnerable children in the village."

Recently, Letse's group hosted a meeting with a group from the Free Wheelchair Mission – sharing the skills they had learned.

The group is now engaged in information sharing activities, aimed at changing people's lives. World Vision's efforts to educate community members and de-stigmatise people living with HIV and AIDS have impacted Letse's life in a profound way – she is now a valued member of her community.

"I am a proud person now because people have accepted me as one of the ordinary villagers," she says.

\*Name has been changed.

**"I am a proud person now because people have accepted me".**





## MALAWI: Ngodzi Area Development Program

### Goats multiply opportunities in Malawi

Like many people in Malawi's Ngodzi area, Salijeni, 47, used to rely on mat weaving for his family's livelihood.

Despite toiling day after day, the money he earned could barely support his family. Earning just the equivalent of US\$60 annually, Salijeni couldn't afford a proper roof for the family home, and water leaked through the grass thatch roof during the rainy season.



Salijeni's family are now able to meet their needs, through goat-rearing and agricultural training.



Salijeni, in front of the grocery shop which his daughter Alima successfully runs. Photo: World Vision Malawi

Salijeni's daughter, Alima, now 20, says her studies were also affected by poverty and hunger. "I was going to school on [an] empty stomach and my performance was negatively affected. My dreams of completing school diminished as I didn't know where my secondary school fees would come from," explains Alima.

But things changed for Salijeni and



Livestock raising allows families to earn a better income and meet their household needs. Photo: Lucy Aulich/World Vision

his family after they joined a World Vision agricultural training project, which introduced raising livestock as an alternative income source.

Salijeni and 22 other farmers in his community completed livestock management training before receiving animals to start their breeding efforts.

"I received two local she-goats and one he-Boer goat to improve the breed," Salijeni explained. Within a couple of years, the three goats had multiplied to 10 and Salijeni used proceeds from the sale of some of the animals to buy fertiliser and maize seed.

"During that year, I realised [a] bumper harvest and I used the money I earn[ed] to construct an iron-roofed house."

The following season, with profits of around US\$2,150, Salijeni bought an engine for a fishing boat. He was then able to start his own fishing business and generate a reliable income each day.

Worrying about school fees is a thing of the past for Salijeni, who has been able to support Alima through her accounting diploma at university.

Alima has returned to open a grocery shop in the local area – which will help to increase her own household income into the future.

"I am thankful to World Vision for helping me to realise my dream. My family is financially stable and the health of my children has significantly improved," says Salijeni.



## MALAWI: Nkaya Area Development Program

### New school, new opportunities

World Vision's Nkaya education project in Malawi has helped to construct a school block at the Ludwe Junior Primary School. For 328 young boys and girls, this means an opportunity to learn in an improved school environment.

Many students that were forced to walk 5-10 kilometres to school, now only need to travel two kilometres. As a result, the enrolment rate at Ludwe Junior Primary School has increased by 26 percent.

"I recall it was [the] last school session when we were learning under a tree and life was hard," said Petulo. On registration day for the 2013-14 school year, Petulo reminded fellow students to work hard in the newly built classrooms.

"Next school session I will be in grade four, and I would like to be a teacher or a doctor after completing my school," explained Petulo.



Children now enjoy better school facilities, helping to improve their learning and participation. Photo: Wezzie Banda/World Vision



## ZAMBIA: Chikomeni Area Development Program

### New kits improve literacy in schools

School children in Chikomeni jumped for joy at the distribution of 10 new "breakthrough to literacy kits" at their schools.

These kits have already made a significant impact on students' reading ability. Although the kits are recommended by the Ministry of Education, most schools in Chikomeni cannot afford to buy them.

Provision of the kits by the Chikomeni Area Development Program (ADP) was accompanied by teacher training to refresh their classroom skills. These efforts are expected to significantly improve student performance in numeracy and literacy skills, both in the short and long term.

"Our pupils can now construct sentences using the sentence makers, and also use the story books during library time," explained local teacher, Ms Mtonga.

World Vision has also supported the local Ministry of Education to buy more literacy kits and train local teachers in how to use them.

Local farmer and businesswoman, Fanny, is pleased with the improvements in her children's reading ability. "The books World Vision has bought for our school have greatly helped my children's reading," she said.

World Vision and the Ministry of Education recently organised a literacy fair in the community with the aim of assessing local students' reading skills.

Thanks to the kits, it is expected that pupils in Chikomeni schools will continue to improve their reading ability into the future.



A teacher at a local school uses the breakthrough to literacy kit in her grade one class. Photo: World Vision Zambia





## ZIMBABWE:

# Bolamba Area Development Program

## A letter of gratitude

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: the letter of appreciation from Madume secondary school student.

I am writing this letter giving thanks to the ADP programme for providing for Madume Secondary with the materials for building the new classroom block.

Before the new classroom block was constructed, the junior students learned under the baobab and mukusu trees. The classrooms available were used by the form three and form four students. If the weather is bad the senior and junior students have to share the available classrooms and thus they were overcrowded and difficult to concentrate.

The junior students benefited since their learning environment is improved. They also benefitted in terms of cleanliness because there is furniture and the classroom is well ventilated. The senior students also benefitted because there is no need to be overcrowded with the form ones if the weather is bad. The block and furniture can also be used by the O Level students in times of examinations if there are too many candidates.

More so, the teachers also benefit from the classroom block because the lessons are conducted easily irregardless of the weather conditions. The community also benefited as they can use the classroom block to hold their meetings and the church.

During the building process, the students brought the bricks near the site and used the rubbles for gully filling nearby. The community members worked in duties with the supervision from our honourable [student] committee, the headmaster and the krall heads in the ward at large.

---

“Your kindness is appreciated by the school and the community at large.”

---

In future, there are thirty form one students who will benefit just because of the construction of the classroom block. There is a certain amount of money remained that is used to pay school fees for them for four years.

More over, in future, if the programme wishes to build another block for the school we propose to be a science laboratory, a library and an A Level classroom. The scientific lessons are taken theoretically because of the absence of the lab. Students also wish to have a quiet study in the library. A Level classrooms can also benefit the students in the future because they will not migrate to neighbouring school to complete their A Level.

In addition, there is a broiler [poultry] project at school. The project benefited the Agriculture students and the school to earn money which is used in sports trips.

Your kindness is appreciated by the school and the community at large.

Yours faithfully,

Talent (Head Girl)

Gift (Head Boy)



## ZIMBABWE: Robert Sinyoka Area Development Program

### Chickens – a saving grace for communities

For Otillia, a 51-year-old mother from Bulawayo, raising chickens has become a saving grace.

When Otillia's husband passed away in 2010, she was left with the daunting task of putting her youngest daughter and orphaned grandchild through primary and secondary school.

To ensure her household's survival, Otillia joined a local savings group and borrowed money to buy chicken pieces from poultry producers to re-sell to fellow community members.

Despite her efforts, the money she earned was not enough to keep her daughter in boarding school – forcing Otillia to enrol

her in a local secondary school. Even still, Otillia struggled to raise funds for food and other household needs for the family.

In 2011, World Vision supported Otillia to start

**“If it was not for the poultry project, I would be the laughing stock of the community.”**



Like Otillia's daughter, children in the community have increased opportunities to attend school. Photo: Illana Rose/World Vision

a poultry raising project. This has enabled her to regain her dignity, as the community is inspired by her ability to support her family.

“If it was not for the poultry project, I would be the laughing stock of the community,” says Otillia.

Otillia is excited about being able, once again, to send her daughter to a good secondary school. Otillia's daughter now has the money to travel to school; she carries nutritious food in her lunchbox and is motivated to do well in class.

“Education is an inheritance that I give to my child,” explains Otillia, “and I am aware that there is no person who can take it away from her.”

Otillia says proceeds from the poultry project ensure she can support her family, as well as cover school fees for a young orphan in her community.

She has managed to grow her capital base and plans to have electricity installed in her home in the coming year.



Local children in Bulawayo are happy they have the opportunity to go to school. Photo: Illana Rose/World Vision





## KENYA: Mtito Andei Area Development Program

### Chicken house builds resilience for vulnerable children

Receiving annual rainfall of between just 200-800mm, the Mtito Andei region in Kenya experiences prolonged drought. As a result, the community cannot rely on crop production for their livelihoods.

Many orphans and vulnerable children in the community face extreme hardships. Driven by this fact, World Vision supported the creation of a self-help group for orphans and vulnerable children in the area, composed of 21 members including 17 girls.

To provide a source of nutritious food and much-needed income for its members, the group has been supported to build a poultry house with capacity for 500 laying hens. The house is properly equipped with feeders, drinkers and nest-laying facilities.

Group members proudly welcome visitors with a handshake, a smile, and even sometimes a song and dance.



Students from a local primary school admire the new baby chicks. Photo: World Vision Kenya

The group currently collects 450 eggs every day and sells these for 10 shillings (12 Australian cents) each. This translates to gross sales of 4,500 shillings (A\$55) per day.

When asked about the challenges they face, Janet, the group chairperson, mentioned the high cost of feed, but added that they manage this by buying in bulk from manufacturers to secure big discounts.

“Marketing is not a challenge to us since we have [an] order with a cake ... bakery at Mtito Andei market,” Janet explained.

She is very confident that the project is sustainable and that surplus can be used to provide for the most vulnerable children in the area.

Already, the group has supported local school children with uniforms and grooming equipment. In addition, many school children in the community have visited the poultry house to learn about poultry keeping.



Egg production has helped to increase income for members of the self-help group. Photo: World Vision Kenya





## MOZAMBIQUE: Inteta Area Development Program

### From despair to joy

Standing outside her house, Fátima smiles at her son Augusto, aged four, as he plays with his favourite toy – a makeshift car made with a plastic bottles and bottle caps.

“Vroom, vroom ...” says Augusto, while his older brother Benildo throws corn kernels to the surrounding pigeons. With her two sons playing happily in front of her, Fátima is content.

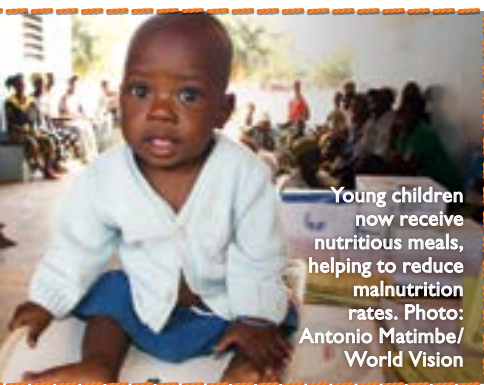
But life for Fátima’s family wasn’t always like this. She faced many hardships trying to save Augusto from severe malnutrition when he was one year old.

The problems began when Fátima’s own mother died. In Mozambican tradition, she had been the one preparing food and taking care of the children. So without her mother’s guidance, Fátima was left with no skills and no experience of cooking for her children.

It wasn’t long before Augusto started to get sick and lose weight. “He could not smile, play or do anything. He was always sleeping,” recalls Fátima.

Fátima did not know what was wrong. At the local health centre, the doctor prescribed medication but the situation didn’t improve. “When you have a sick child in your home, each family member is affected. You have to forget everything else to take care of this person,” Fátima says.

Augusto’s fate changed when Carolina, a World Vision health assistant, visited Fátima’s village and saw how thin Augusto was. “She asked



Young children now receive nutritious meals, helping to reduce malnutrition rates. Photo: Antonio Matimbe/World Vision



Fatima conducts a cooking demonstration for other mothers in her community. Photo: Antonio Matimbe/World Vision

me how I used to feed my children and after explaining, she kindly called me to teach me how to prepare meals for my children.”

Soon, Fátima started to see a change – she now had hope for her little boy.

“He started to put on weight and play. It did not only impact me, but also my friends who [had seen] ... my baby suffering from malnutrition. They came to ask me – what was the “magic” I used to rehabilitate him? From there, I felt that I needed to do something to help the fight against malnutrition.”

Inspired by Augusto’s progress, Fátima became a World Vision volunteer in her village, where she has helped other mothers with malnourished children.

Today, surrounded by a dozen women, most with babies on their backs, Fátima proudly teaches them how to prepare nutritious meals.

“What do we do before starting cooking?” she asks the women. “We wash our hands,” they reply together. “No matter if you cook good food, if you do not have hygiene, the children will get sick,” Fátima adds.

Providing knowledge as a weapon to fight malnutrition is a cornerstone of World Vision’s work with communities in Mozambique. Volunteers like Fátima who lead and train groups of mothers are a powerful force for change.

Together, the women teach each other how to prepare nutritious meals for their children – and ensure they have the strength and energy for school and play.



## Acknowledgments

Thank you to all our inspiring field workers for providing these stories and reaching out to the communities that World Vision works with.

Thank you to all the communities that partner with World Vision. Your strength is inspiring. It is for you that we continue to do our work every day.

Thank you to all who contributed to this report, including the designers, writers, programming and communications staff at World Vision Australia.

Thanks to all World Vision National Offices across Africa, including: World Vision Uganda, World Vision Chad, World Vision Senegal, World Vision Ethiopia, World Vision Swaziland, World Vision Ghana, World Vision Rwanda, World Vision Burundi, World Vision Lesotho, World Vision Malawi, World Vision Mozambique, World Vision Tanzania, World Vision Zambia, World Vision Zimbabwe and World Vision Kenya.

Thank you to Catherine Greenhalgh and Louise Kilgour for all your work and dedication in compiling and editing this document.

## Credits

All photos in this document were taken by World Vision staff.

## Contact

For further information on World Vision's programs in Africa, please contact: Joseph K. Kamara

[joseph.kamara@worldvision.com.au](mailto:joseph.kamara@worldvision.com.au)  
Phone: +61-3-9287-2185



**“There is no better thing than seeing your child playing healthy,” says mother Fania who participated in World Vision nutrition training. Photo: Antonio Matimbe/World Vision**





Children are prepared for success at school at this World Vision early childhood education centre in Ghana. Photo: Esperanza Ampah/World Vision