



World Vision

Esther can't  
escape the  
perils of a  
dirty pond

# DRINKING BITTER WATER

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JON WARREN / WORLD VISION



# World Vision

SUMMER 2019

THE  
POND OF  
MISERY

12

GLOBAL  
6K FOR  
WATER

22

Six-year-old  
Cheru's community  
overflows with joy

# WATER FROM THE ROCK

24

—Exodus 17:1-7

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Grace, age 5, Uganda

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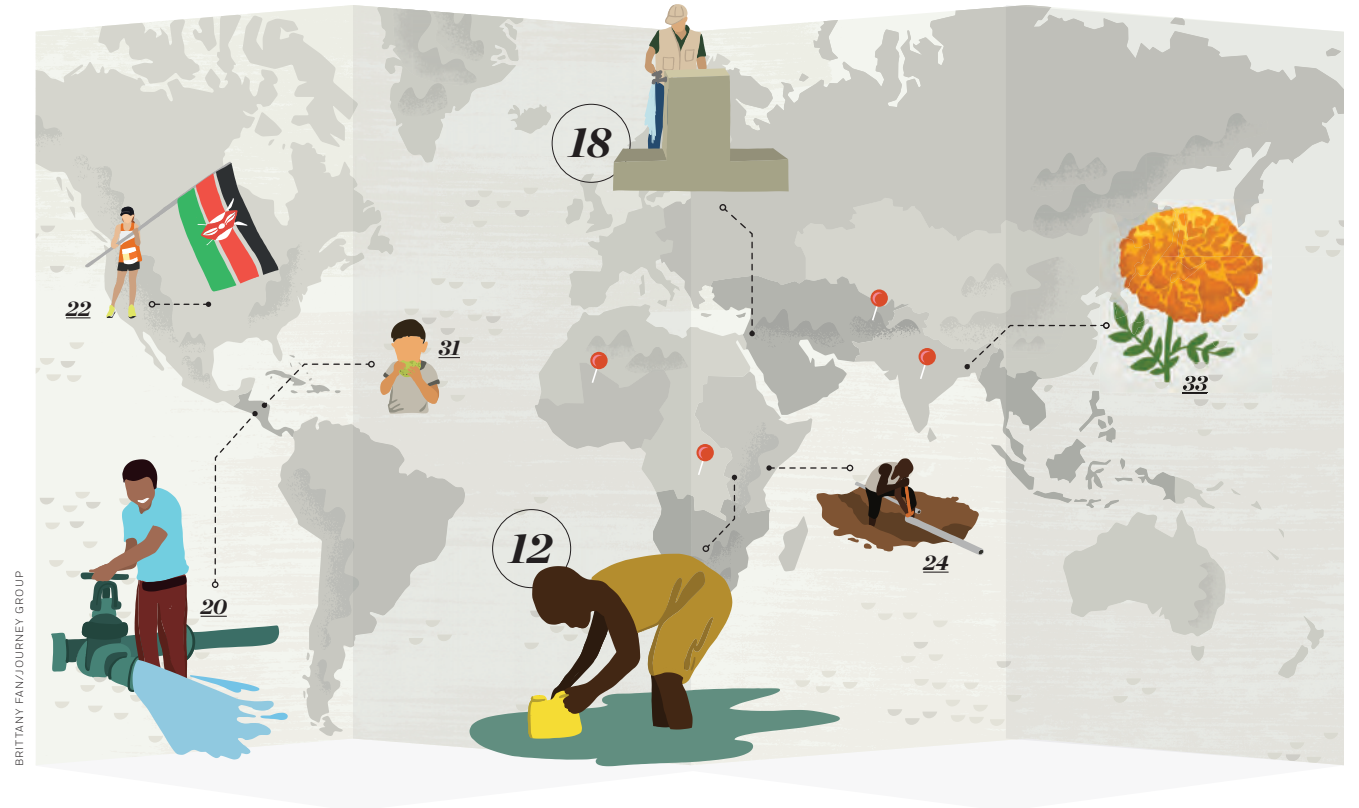
**ON THE COVER**  
With World Vision's help,  
Cheru's community in Kenya  
now has clean water.  
JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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● President's letter



Nine-year-old Dorcas washes her hands after World Vision installed a borehole well near her home in Zambia.

# The best return

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

**THROUGHOUT MY CAREER**, one subject has been near and dear to my heart: return on investment (ROI).

As a Wharton MBA holder, and later in my 20 years at Procter & Gamble, I obsessed over this measure. I demanded a high ROI from the projects proposed to me, and I drove my teams for even higher returns. Every year, every quarter, every day, I was consumed by the relentless pursuit of greater productivity for every dollar.

When I made the switch from the corporate world to World Vision—from for-profit to for-impact—I discovered that return on investment is even more important. Here, the ROI is saving people's lives for kingdom impact.

If you're aiming for dramatic and lasting change in a community, clean water is the key. Water-related diseases like diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, and typhoid can take down the toughest gladiator, so imagine what they do to a young child. Every day, nearly 1,000 children under 5 die from problems associated with contaminated water and poor sanitation. Clean water can change that number to zero.

Through World Vision's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, we reach one new person every 10 seconds and three more schools every day with clean water. We have deep experience, tried and tested solutions, and a bold plan to reach everyone, everywhere we work with clean water by 2030. With our presence in nearly 100 countries, the trust we develop within communities, and God's continued help, we will get it done.

This work came alive for me when I visited Zambia in 2015 and met 9-year-old Dorcas. This tough little girl was taking care of her grandmother—making sure she took her HIV medicine—as well as cooking, cleaning, and getting water every day. With all of these responsibilities, Dorcas didn't have much time for school.

I saw the pond where Dorcas used to get water. It was shared by animals, which often fell in—and sometimes couldn't get out. A dog once drowned and decomposed in that pond, but the villagers had no choice but to continue to draw water there.

Dorcas' community desperately needed an investment, and it came from World Vision sponsors.

After engineers installed borehole wells, Dorcas had fresh water to drink practically next to her house. And everything changed: Her grandmother's health improved, Dorcas returned to school, and she shot to number five in her class. "I want to be first!" she told me. I know she'll get there.

I have no hesitation telling investors large and small that WASH is a great investment. But here's the catch: The high return is not for you. It's for a child like Dorcas and her entire community, freeing them from the risks and restraints of contaminated water.

Along with that life-changing return, there can be an eternal benefit. At World Vision, Christ is at the center of all we do, and our water programs provide an opportunity, at the right time and in the right way, to share about Jesus, the "living water."

We are honored to invest in solutions to the global water crisis. Beyond this, is there any better return than the potential of new life in Jesus, who promises that we will never be thirsty again? 🙏



**Edgar Sandoval Sr.** is president of World Vision U.S. Follow him at [twitter.com/EdgarSandovalSr](https://twitter.com/EdgarSandovalSr).

**FIND MORE**

Experience scenes from the countries where World Vision works at [wvmag.org/photos](http://wvmag.org/photos).

# Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.  
—PSALM 46:1



**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Grace Mukoma, 10, collects water from a polluted swamp near his home in Kananga. When the bucket is full, Grace struggles to carry it uphill, eventually putting it on his head. He is careful not to spill. "I get water from the stream as many as four or five times a day. The walk takes around an hour both ways. The water is not good. Sometimes I get sick from it," Grace says.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



## • Embark

### Bangladesh

One-year-old Durjoy Golder and his family live in Tildanga village. Until recently, the family's latrine was unhygienic and their water, collected from a nearby pond, wasn't safe. They often had water-related illnesses, especially diarrhea. But the Nobo Jatra program—implemented by World Vision and funded by USAID—provided the family with a hygienic latrine, a tank for harvesting rain water, and even a baby toilet for Durjoy. The family learned how to maintain the latrine and tank, as well as sustainable hygiene practices like handwashing. “We are much healthier now than before,” says Durjoy's mother, Shamoli.

JON WARREN / WORLD VISION





● Embark

**Afghanistan**

World Vision has established solar-powered drinking water sources in northeastern Langar district. There was a time when children had to walk more than 30 minutes a day to collect dirty water from a riverbed. They made trips in the sweltering summer months and hard winters. Now, children and families have access to clean water.

NARGES GHAFARY/WORLD VISION





● Embark

**India**  
Three women, 27-year-old Radha, 40-year-old Rekha, and 30-year-old Sadhna (pictured left to right), repair and check a community water pump. In their community, the women oversee all minor maintenance issues. When people need help in resolving their water issues, the women help troubleshoot.

NEOLA D'SOUZA/WORLD VISION



**Mali**  
World Vision drill-rig operators stack pipes as they remove them from the borehole shaft. The team is working to complete a borehole that will be used as a water well outside the Manta Health Clinic in Kolokani.

CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION

*THE POND OF MISERY* | 12

Eight-year-old Esther faces the desperation of a deadly pond in Rwanda.

# Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

"But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. ..."  
—JOHN 4:14



**Honduras**  
Seven-year-old sponsored child Darian Alexander benefits from clean water in his community of Yamaranguila. When asked why clean water is important, Darian answers: "So we can drink it!"

To learn about the projects sponsorship supports in Yamaranguila, go to [wvmag.org/darian](http://wvmag.org/darian).

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



# Water works

By Chris Huber

**FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE IMPOVERISHED,** access to clean water not only restores health but also opens doors to educational opportunities and a promising future. For more than five decades, World Vision has worked in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Now, World Vision is reaching one new person every 10 seconds and three more schools every day with clean water. Here are five examples of our water work around the world. +



ALEXANDER WHITTLE/WORLD VISION

## Rehabilitating community water systems for Syrian refugees

The eight-year war in Syria has displaced millions of people—half of them children. Damaged or destroyed water pipelines and sanitation systems have left families vulnerable to sickness and disease. World Vision rehabilitates critical

water infrastructure, like pipelines, water pumps, and water storage tanks in hard-hit areas. We provide clean water and sanitation facilities to Syrian refugees and hygiene education to refugee children in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. By 2020, our goal is to reach 6 million people affected by the crisis with clean water.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

2

## WASH UP! teaches good hygiene in 16 countries

The WASH UP! program trains educators and community leaders to use play-based learning materials to teach children about good hygiene practices. This goes a long way to reduce water-related diseases like diarrhea and cholera. Students play games and activities featuring Sesame Street's Elmo and Raya. Games help children identify healthy hygiene habits, such as washing hands with soap and how to use the restroom. We plan to reach 880,000 children in 16 countries by 2020.

***PRAY** Great Healer, You are good and merciful. Embrace and heal precious children endangered by dirty water, sanitation, and hygiene.*



NARGES GHAFARY/WORLD VISION

3

***PRAY** We are grateful to You, Lord, for being our Source of living water—the One who satisfies our soul's deepest desire with the joy of salvation.*

## Solar-powered water filtration in Afghanistan

Water is contaminated and dangerous to drink in Badghis province's Ab Kamari district. World Vision and local leaders have devised an innovative solar-powered, reverse-osmosis filtration system to bring clean water. It removes most bad chemicals and bacteria by pushing pressurized water through a filter. The system produces up to 1,135 gallons of clean drinking water per hour and serves 700 households, about 4,900 people.



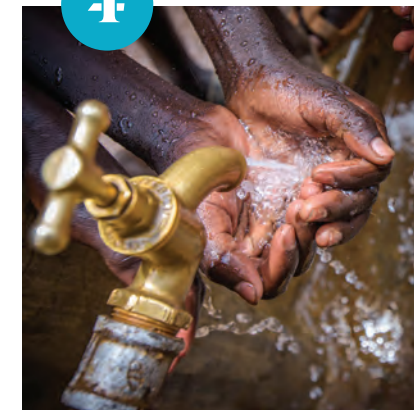
CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION

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## Boreholes provide water for cleaner medical clinics in Mali

In Mali, 1 in 27 women has a chance of dying during childbirth—compared with a 1 in 3,800 chance in the U.S. Facilities in rural, developing areas often lack necessities like running water, functioning toilets, and hand-washing stations that prevent the spread of diseases. That's why World Vision prioritizes efforts to provide clean water and train health workers. Cleaner facilities lead to better outcomes for mothers and babies.

You can help us provide water solutions around the world. See the envelope between pages 16 and 17.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## Gravity-fed water pipeline in Kenya

In Kesot, clean water rushes from a gravity-fed water pipeline system. A hilltop dam protects and diverts spring water, and the pipeline—which community members helped build and now maintain—delivers it to homes and the three primary schools. Students, like Cheru (see page 24), can attend class because they spend less time gathering water. The schools are outfitted with large water tanks, spigots, latrines, and hand-washing stations. This system will last because the community owns it—the water committee collects user fees to perform maintenance and operations.

***PRAY** Dear Great Provider, like Isaiah's vision of water in the desert, we hope to see no child die of diarrhea, no mother spend hours transporting water, no school without proper toilets and sanitation, and no one drinking unsafe water.*





# THE POND OF MISERY

BY KARI COSTANZA  
PHOTOS BY JON WARREN





# A

Alongside a muddy pond in Rwanda lives a family with six daughters. They differ in size, height, and personality, but they agree on one thing: They hate the pond. It is dirt-brown, bug-infested, and disgusting. “The water stinks because of the cow dung,” says

8-year-old Esther Gisubizo. It tastes bad, too. “It’s bitter,” she says. But there’s no way around it. The pond is the family’s only source of water.

Several times a day, Esther and her five sisters, ages 6 to 17, trek to the pond to collect water. They live in Gatsibo district, a two-hour drive northeast of Kigali, Rwanda’s capital. Their parents, Augustin Hakizimana, 45, and Olive Nirere, 38, moved back to the district after the genocide—Olive from refuge in Tanzania and Augustin from the Democratic Republic of the Congo where, as a soldier, he’d lost a finger and suffered a serious bullet wound to the leg.

The pond is a busy place. “People come from far away on their bicycles,” says Augustin. Thousands of people from seven nearby villages trek down the path carrying yellow jerry-cans to fill, competing with herds of cattle who are drinking and defecating in the pond. “It’s stagnant water,” says Augustin. “Feces are in it. When you drink, you know what’s in it.”

**Above:** Eight-year-old Esther is weary and feverish from malaria. Often ill, she’s among the 6 million Rwandans who lack access to safe water. **Opposite, top:** Esther (far right) and her siblings trek alongside the polluted pond. They make the trip several times a day to collect water. **Opposite, right:** Esther holds a glass of dirty water from the pond.



The cattle lift their shiny black heads at the sound of the mobile water tanks that come to the pond to pump water for use in mixing cement for road and other construction. The advent of electricity in some parts of the district has brought opportunity, creating even more competition for water already in short supply.

## A WAVE OF FEAR

“Sometimes we go in the dark in the morning,” says Esther’s 11-year-old sister, Sandrine. The sisters hold hands, giving each other courage to make the trek, the first of six each day. “I get scared because most times, there are snakes there and parasites,” says Esther. “Most times I’ve gone to fetch water, the parasites come and eat me [on my legs].”

Of all the sisters, Esther has suffered the greatest physical distress after a bloodsucking parasite attached itself to her ankle. “It was very painful,” she says. Patient Munezero, supervisor of the nearby Bihinga Health Center, says the parasite often bites between the toes or the sole of the foot. “If you don’t pull it off,” he explains, “it keeps burrowing to find blood. The only solution then is surgery.”

Esther’s father says, “She’s usually the funniest and most vigorous of my daughters.” But today, Esther has malaria, and her skin itches. She’s lethargic. The pond is so dirty that the girls get scabies from washing in it, and they can never truly get clean. Olive shakes her head at the wretchedness. She too is suffering from malaria, her face shiny and countenance weary. “Do we have any choice?” she asks. “What we do is out of desperation.”

Desperation leads to unwise choices, including venturing

out too deep to gather water. Seeing bugs skim the surface, zipping their way around the floating muck, many believe that the water is cleaner farther from the shore. As two boys wade out farther, an older woman yells, “Please come back! You may drown.”

Everyone knows she’s thinking of Julius.

## A SPARK EXTINGUISHED

Julius Tugume was a star. “He was handsome and energetic,” says his aunt, Francisca Mukandamutsa. Francisca, a seamstress, adopted Julius when he was 6. His father had died as a result of HIV, and his mother, Francisca’s sister, was unable to care for him. “I took him in to give him a chance,” says Francisca. She brought him home after his father’s funeral, and the little boy thrived.







**Above:** Francisca Mukandamutsa's nephew, Julius—a star student—drowned in the pond. **Below:** Julius is still mourned by his friends Desire, Elise, and Justin (seated left to right). **Opposite, right:** Children wait for cattle to leave the pond before they collect water.

“His marks were above distinction,” remembers Edward Sakure Ndahiro, the headmaster of Bihinga School, where Julius attended. “He was a genius.” The 17-year-old had just taken the national exams, scoring 82 percent—a mark so high that when the headmaster reveals it, one can hear the sharp, surprised intake of his listeners’ breath.

Julius never knew his score. The test results came back after he drowned in the pond. His best friend, Desire Zigirinshuti, 17, was there when it happened. On that day in November 2017, when the boys went to the pond to collect water, Julius went out too far, dropping into one of the pond’s deep holes. “We didn’t swim, so we couldn’t save him,” says Desire.

Francisca learned late on that terrible afternoon that Julius had drowned. She was devastated, as were his friends. “On his burial date,” she says, “those kids cried until their last breath.” His headmaster, Edward, still grieves. “The family lost a good boy; the school lost; the country lost,” he says.

The community lost, too—a sense of security replaced by fear. Now, Olive worries for her daughters who collect water while she works. She knows she could lose them. “Whenever I remember Julius, that is what comes in my mind,” she says.

Esther will never forget that terrible day and tries to protect others from what happened to Julius. “I always tell them, ‘Please, if you go beyond that point, you’re going to drown.’”

**A DELUGE OF MALADIES**

Julius’s death is a distressing example of the suffering inflicted on Rwandans by dirty water. At Bihinga Health Center, Patient Munezero,

33, presides over a waiting room that’s packed on this rainy day with women and children bundled against the weather.

The center serves 42,000 people, and Patient says it is always busy. Dirty water is to blame: 70 percent of the patients have water-related illnesses. It’s no surprise given what’s in the water. “When the cows are going for drinking, they leave cow dung there,” says Esther. “It’s so disgusting to think you can drink this water.”

Not drinking water is, of course, dangerous and deadly. “When people don’t have enough water for drinking, they can become dehydrated,” explains Patient. “That can even cause death.” But drinking contaminated water leads to disease. “People get sick with diarrhea, digestive disorders, typhoid, [and] intestinal worms,” he says.

It’s ingesting the water, over and over, that keeps children from advancing. “When I drink that dirty water,” says Esther, “I get sick to my stomach. I vomit. I feel a lot of pain, and I dehydrate very often.” When that happens, she misses school. Esther was sick so much last year that she was moved back. Now she’s in first grade. Again.

**A SURGE OF HOPE**

Nearly 6 million of Rwanda’s 11 million people don’t have access to safe water. That’s why World Vision is thinking big and working with the government to bring clean water to all of Rwanda’s people—including children like Esther—by 2024.

This ambitious goal is attainable. First, because of size. Rwanda is densely populated, but small. One can drive around the country in just a day, making it easier to oversee projects and monitor progress.



Second: scale. As the world’s leading nongovernmental provider of clean water, World Vision has the trust and support of the Rwandan government. And third: sustainability. World Vision helps communities establish committees that advocate for water issues and handle operation and maintenance of water systems, so water keeps flowing.

Progress has moved quickly since 2012 when World Vision started water, sanitation, and hygiene work in Rwanda, installing pipelines to serve thousands of people at a time. Already, over 300,000 more Rwandans have clean water and access to improved sanitation. Another 130,000 have installed hand-washing facilities and improved latrines as a result of World Vision’s behavior change campaigns.

World Vision has champions among the highest level of government officials who are eager to achieve success on behalf of children like Esther. “Your goals are our goals,” says Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente. “We are working together in a good manner.”

Esther is grateful, knowing that World Vision and its donors are committed to providing clean water. She knows it will change her life. “I would say thank you to

**Help provide clean water for communities like Esther’s. See the envelope between pages 16 and 17 or call 1.866.952.4453.**

them because they are bringing clean water to us,” says Esther. “Also, because they are looking for money to get that clean water, we are praying for them.”

Julius’s aunt, Francisca, echoes Esther’s prayers for clean water. “We lost Julius, but if World Vision would do something so that another child like Julius would not die, I will praise God for that,” says Francisca.

While it’s too late for Julius, it’s not too late for Esther and her sisters. And now, their need for clean water is even more pressing. Augustin and Olive recently separated after years of strife, leaving Olive to care for the girls on her own. An already challenging life just became even more difficult for the mother and her six daughters, who are fighting for survival house by a dirty pond in Rwanda. +


*Ange Gusenga in Rwanda and Laura Reinhardt and Jane Sutton-Redner in the United States contributed to this article.*

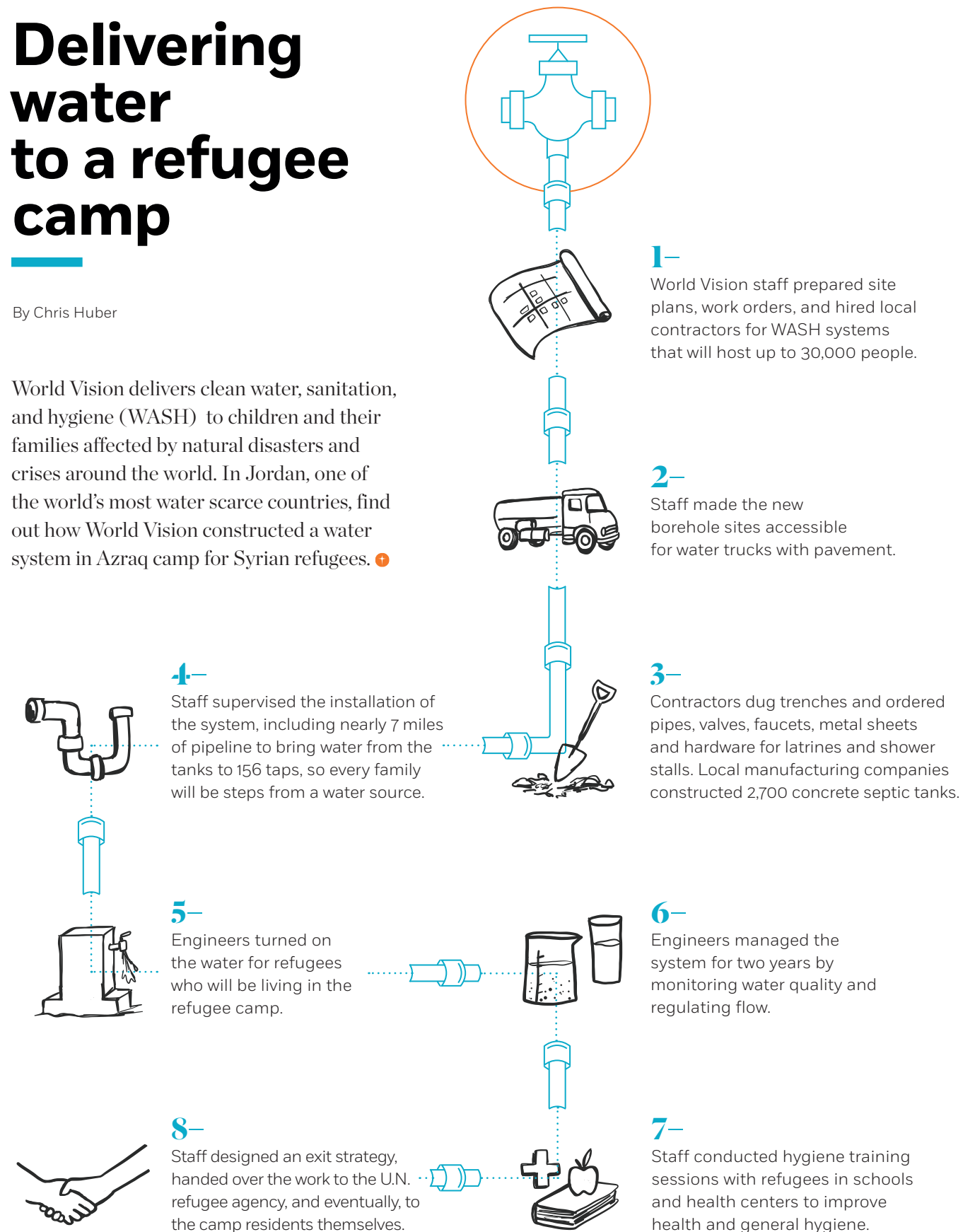




# Delivering water to a refugee camp

By Chris Huber

World Vision delivers clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to children and their families affected by natural disasters and crises around the world. In Jordan, one of the world's most water scarce countries, find out how World Vision constructed a water system in Azraq camp for Syrian refugees. 



HOW'D THEY DO THAT?

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? | 20

A former sponsored child in El Salvador finds untapped springs of life.

# Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## GLOBAL 6K FOR WATER | 22

Join others who are lacing up for a life-changing walk for water at [wvmag.org/6K](http://wvmag.org/6K).



Blessings overflow as 6-year-old Cheru washes her face with clean water from the tap near her home in West Pokot, Kenya. Three communities, including schools and health centers, are being transformed by having clean, abundant water from a World Vision pipeline.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRITTANY FAN/JOURNEY GROUP

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



# An unquenchable thirst

By Carla Gawthrop

As the manager of the city water utility, Leonardo ensures residents have clean water. He is making the change he dreamed about as a sponsored child.

**IN THE FOOTHILLS** of the lush Western El Salvador mountains, clean natural springs cascaded down ridgelines and bypassed an enclave of families living in poverty unable to access the fresh water.

Here in rural San Julian is also the birthplace of Leonardo Britay Regalado, a former sponsored child who gained an unquenchable thirst for service and justice.

Across El Salvador, the 13-year civil war had unleashed unspeakable violence, tremendous loss, and the upheaval of its people during the 1980s. The conflict forced

thousands, including Leonardo's parents, from lucrative metropolitan areas into the secluded foothills for their family's survival.

His father and namesake, Leonardo Sr., farmed tirelessly by growing corn and beans, modest and reliable crops needed to feed his family and for income. Dena, his mother, sold fruit from their trees. It often wasn't enough for the parents of three. "Sometimes we had only a few tortillas and salt," remembers Dena.

With no running water at home, they bought bottles of clean water from the nearby town for drinking and cooking, and they bathed in the local river, a waterway littered with trash.

Growing up, Leonardo was bothered that there were pristine springs in the nearby foothills, but government officials never piped the water consistently to his community.

He remembers how powerless he felt. Fifteen years later, the kind and quiet Leonardo has grown formidable, becoming the leader he previously sought.



ROBERT CORONADO/WORLD VISION

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



COURTESY OF LEONARDO BRITAY REGALADO

## 'The biggest blessing'

At 7, Leonardo's life changed through child sponsorship. "I thought it was good because it meant I could go to school," he remembers. Because sponsorship funded his school supplies, shoes, and uniform, his family could spend their limited income on food and water, and he could attend school full time.

Sponsorship also provided Leonardo's family with food, and his mother learned about child nutrition through World Vision programs.

"It was the biggest blessing," his mom says. "It was a blessing from God that people cared so much to help us."

Leonardo spent his time after school in the fields helping his dad. "He was always a hard worker," remembers Dena. In his spare time, he also worked on other farms to support his family by picking bananas, oranges, mangoes, and corn.

Dena remembers the day her son returned home, bug-bitten and exhausted, with the resolution to become a professional.

## Leonardo's formidable future

As he grew, he spent more of his days with World Vision. At age 14, he enrolled in World Vision's community leadership training, a program that guides teens to identify community problems and find solutions.

As a teen, he served as president of the Child and Youth Board of San Julian. He taught other children to dream bigger for themselves and their communities and to take the practical steps to make it happen. He encouraged other kids to stay in school.

Leonardo's grateful for his sponsor. His sponsor's sacrifice motivated him to invest in his own community. He says

**Left:** Leonardo, then 5, stands before a small dwelling that was his home before the earthquake struck the region in 2001. **Right:** Leonardo with his mother, Dena, and father, Leonardo Sr.



ROBERT CORONADO/WORLD VISION

other children who were not sponsored often dropped out of school or migrated.

He's lost friends to the gang violence that has gripped El Salvador, but the lessons and values he learned from World Vision have set a different path for him. Leonardo calls World Vision "his second school." Their training taught him a culture of peace, service, and integrity—values essential to the person he is now. It's what he teaches young people. It's what he lives every day, he says.

In 2001, when Leonardo was 16, a massive earthquake struck the region. Their wood-and-tin home collapsed. They lived under a plastic tarp under the trees. World Vision helped rebuild homes throughout the community, including theirs, out of sturdy concrete.

A year later, he volunteered with World Vision to monitor and evaluate their programs, working his way through high school and the university to gain his bachelor's degree. He knew he wanted to become someone who could help his community in practical ways.

Now as the manager of the city water utility, Leonardo ensures that people throughout the region have clean water. As a civil servant, he is making the change he dreamed about as a child.

"For years before I got this job, I would ask the former water manager why they couldn't fix my community's pipes to access clean water." He was told

that they just didn't have the budget. "No, we can't" is all I heard," Leonardo says. "But I said, 'Yes, we can.'"

Now, he has found efficiencies within the same budget to make sure pipes and the pumping station provide clean water in his community and others. No one should have to go without clean water, he says.

"I learned from my mom how to be humble and strong," Leonardo says.

Dena's gratitude runs deep for her son's sponsor. "I'm so grateful for people who help children around the world. I see God's love through them. They love others as themselves and make sacrifices to help," says Dena.

"Leonardo is the greatest gift from God," says his mom. "It's been my dream that my children would be respected and useful to society." He's recognized throughout San Julian for the work he's done to make the community better.

As she reflects on how proud she is of her son, tears well up in her eyes and spill down her face. "These are tears of joy," she says.

Leonardo's dad has been unable to speak since a stroke 13 years ago. But as his mom speaks, a tear runs down his dad's cheek. It speaks volumes of how proud he is of Leonardo. 🧡

**You could sponsor the next Leonardo.** See the envelope between pages 16 and 17.



# Your next step

Six kilometers, a little more than 3.7 miles, is the average distance people in the developing world walk for water—water that is often contaminated with life-threatening diseases. The global water and sanitation crisis can be solved within our lifetimes. Join thousands who are participating in World Vision’s Global 6K for Water and helping to bring clean water to one new person every 10 seconds.

## FINDING PURPOSE

By Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

**ON THE EVE** of the 2016 Kansas City Half Marathon, the Holy Spirit planted a dream in 7-year-old Addyson Moffitt’s heart: see every kid have clean water in her lifetime.

She’d learned about a little girl in Kenya named Maurine and that many kids like her don’t have clean water.

“I wanted to help them,” says Addyson, now 10. “I didn’t feel that it was fair that they had to go do that, and I just have to go to my refrigerator and get clean water.”

So she told her mother she wanted to run the half marathon next year and raise funds for clean water.

In the days that followed, Addyson peppered her mom and dad, Shayla and Bryan, with questions—when does training start, when can she start fundraising, how can she fundraise.

“That’s when we knew it was real,” Shayla says. “It wasn’t just a 7-year-old who had an inspiring evening.”

Shayla and Bryan prayed, asking God to lead them and Addyson as she began fundraising toward a \$1,310 goal to represent the 13.1 miles she’d be running. When the half marathon arrived in October 2017, Addyson had raised more than \$20,000.

She finished the race, and her mission only grew “because, you know, we can’t stop fundraising and running until the water crisis ends.”

Around then, her family sponsored two children who live in Maurine’s community. They began writing letters and sending school photos as well as praying for them and Maurine.

In spring 2018, the family ran the Global 6K for Water together for the second year in a row.

“It’s not a race. It’s not who comes in first. It’s not who has the best time,” Shayla says. “It is finding purpose and knowing that when you move one foot in front of another, you are impacting a life clear across the world.”



COURTESY OF MOFFITT FAMILY

**“You know, we can’t stop fundraising and running until the water crisis ends.”**

By the 2018 Kansas City Half Marathon in October, Addyson had raised more than \$60,000. She ran again, and then in November, she appeared on *The Steve Harvey Show* to share her story. He surprised her with \$5,000 toward her fundraising and a trip for Addyson and her family to visit Kenya in the spring to meet their sponsored child and visit Maurine.

Addyson hopes to raise another \$60,000 this year, and she’s planning to run in the Global 6K for Water with her family on May 4.

“Don’t let anybody take down your big dreams,” Addyson says. “People might tell you that you’re too young, you’re too small, but don’t listen to them. Just always go for your dreams and don’t let anyone stop you.” +

See Addyson in Kenya at [wvmag.org/addy](http://wvmag.org/addy).



K.T. VERA/WORLD VISION

## AN UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT

By Heather Klinger

**WHAT ARE THE** unforgettable moments in your life? It could have been when you drove a car for the first time or got your first paycheck. Or when your favorite sports team won a game or even a championship. What about marrying the love of your life or holding your baby in your arms for the first time? Or that moment when you realized how much the people in your life love you?

For 44-year-old Nicole Wetmore, meeting her sponsored child, 5-year-old Grace, in Uganda became one of those unforgettable moments for her.

“Just when you feel your heart is full and you can’t take in another thing because you’ve had so many great experiences, or you’ve learned so much, God has a way of breaking your heart again, but in the best possible way,” says Nicole, the local and global missions pastor at Green Valley Community Church in Placerville, California. “It’s a glimpse of allowing us to feel the love he has for people and the way his heart breaks when he sees his people hurting and in need.”

And that unforgettable moment wouldn’t have been possible without the Global 6K for Water. Back in May 2018, the second year Nicole served as Green Valley’s Global 6K host site leader, her race bib featured Grace.

Every Global 6K participant provides clean water to one person in the developing world through the \$50 registration fee, and their race bib has the picture, name, and age of a child who will benefit from World Vision’s clean water work.

“These are real people with real issues, and real hopes, and real dreams, and they are facing real challenges too,” Nicole says.

Participants can also sponsor the child on their bib—an

opportunity to develop a friendship with a child on the other side of the world and show the love of God, which brings hope and life-long transformation.

“When I heard about [Grace’s] story and the needs that her family has, I was really blown away and touched that I would be able to sponsor her,” Nicole says.

Grace is one of 36 kids sponsored through the Global 6K for Water and Celebration Sunday at Green Valley. And for Nicole, as she remembers her unforgettable moment meeting Grace, there’s even more meaning behind Green Valley’s Global 6K for Water and Celebration Sunday this year.

“It’s something we’re all called to do—to help, serve, and love those in need,” Nicole says. “Whether it’s in our backyard or across the globe, this is something every church, every organization can participate in. We can all do something together to solve the global water crisis.” +

Read Nicole’s full story at [wvmag.org/nicole](http://wvmag.org/nicole).



**Changes for Grace and her community**

Last year, we introduced you to 5-year-old Grace of Morungatuny, Uganda. She walks long distances to get dirty water for her family, who was struggling to overcome the poverty they faced after the Lord’s Resistance Army terrorized their community more than a decade ago.

But last year, Grace gained a sponsor—Nicole—through the Global 6K for Water. Child sponsorship helps fund clean water projects and other development initiatives, as clean water is critical for a community lifting itself out of poverty.

Lasting change takes time, so while Grace’s community is awaiting clean water, it has already undergone other changes as a result of child sponsorship.

The community now has a new health clinic closer to them to help meet their immediate medical needs. Because of it, Grace and her sister, Judith, have experienced improved health. Grace’s school received desks, which will help the children learn better than the wood benches they previously sat on. Her father, Joseph, also finished building a latrine for his household, so the family now has better sanitation at home. Through direct support from her sponsor, Grace’s family now has better bedding, which will aid in better rest after their long days.

Join us in thanking God for how he has worked in Grace’s life as a result of child sponsorship, and let’s pray for her community as they work toward getting clean water. —Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

Read Grace’s full story online, at [wvmag.org/grace](http://wvmag.org/grace).



# AWASH

# IN

# HOPE



BY KATHRYN REID  
PHOTOS BY JON WARREN

**In Kesot village** in Kenya, as in so many other places in sub-Saharan Africa, people used to struggle every day to get water—any water. Even at 5 years old, Cheru Lotuliapus not only understood this struggle, she lived it.

Each morning, Cheru walked nearly two hours and then dug for water in a dry riverbed, competing with thirsty goats and camels.

Without clean water, life was difficult. She and her siblings were sometimes too sick or tired to go to school. The local church frequently sat empty.

But life has changed for Cheru, now 6. With World Vision's help, her community built a pipeline that brings clean water down from a mountain spring.

Around the world, more communities like Cheru's are awash in hope. World Vision is reaching one new person every 10 seconds and three more schools every day with clean water. »





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**Morning dawns on** a steep, densely wooded hillside where crystal-clear water bubbles from a spring. Sixteen kilometers (nearly 10 miles) away in the lowlands, Cheru fills her cup with that same cool water as it flows from the spigot near her home.

“This water tastes good,” she says.

She holds her 7-month-old brother, Sote, while their mother, Monica, stitches the pocket on her yellow school shirt. Cheru helps her mother with the laundry, dishes, and baby-sitting, but the one chore she doesn’t do anymore is carry water. With a water kiosk just a few steps away, it’s easy enough for Monica to keep jerrycans full of clean water on her doorstep.

“I like to help, and I like to be clean,” says Cheru, handing back the baby and putting on her freshly laundered shirt. Neatly dressed and with her face washed, Cheru eagerly joins a troop of children on their way to school. Holding hands and skipping, they set out on the 2-kilometer walk.

Cheru’s father, Samson, watches proudly as the children head down the dirt road. He already sees a better future for them. “We’ve had water for a month, and it’s brought us great peace,” he says. “We have time and energy for other things.”

### An open door for education

Access to clean water means that Cheru—healthy, clean, and rested—can consistently attend school. Once she arrives at Kesot Primary School, she’s welcomed by head teacher John Dungo, 34.

He’s noticed that with clean water also available at the three primary schools along the pipeline, many more students like Cheru are coming regularly—and classes are overflowing. John says that they’re building new classrooms to accommodate the influx in attendance.

When class begins, Cheru is quick to raise her hand to answer questions and shouts “one, two, three...” when the class counts in English.

“I love school,” she says. Writing and drawing are her favorite subjects.

The three primary schools now have water tanks, standpipes with two spigots, and four latrines each for boys and girls, including an accessible unit for children who are disabled. Outside the latrines are sinks with running water for handwashing. It’s the first year Cheru and her classmates have had clean, plentiful water at school. They are also beginning to learn about hygiene and health.

The head teachers of the three primary schools received hygiene training and materials from World Vision and organized hygiene and sanitation clubs for their students. They also host community meetings where adults can learn about the importance of using family toilets.

“Children who know and practice good hygiene are excellent advocates with their parents,” says Clement Limaki, 45, head teacher at nearby Chepolet Primary School.

### Water flows from the mountaintop

Charles Kakiti, a World Vision water engineer, was discouraged by his first sight of the dry, barren land and struggling people. The West Pokot county government had started a water project here some years back. They tapped a water source and began laying a pipeline. However, the project ran into financial trouble, and the clean water never flowed.

“It wasn’t easy to get water to this dry place,” says Charles. The road was so bad that it seemed impossible to finish the project. However, when he saw clean water gushing from a spring in the hills, his attitude changed.

“God has blessed this place with everything that’s needed for people and animals to live a good life,” he says. But it would take



“

# God has blessed this place with everything that’s needed for people and animals to live a good life.”

CHARLES KAKITI  
World Vision water engineer



**Above:** Cheru follows her sister Dina to the new girls’ latrines and hand-washing station at Kesot Primary School. **Above, right:** Cheru participates enthusiastically in class. **Opposite:** Cheru and her classmates hold hands as they walk 2 kilometers to school.



organization, cooperation, hard work, and perseverance to bring water down from the mountaintop.

Charles and Abu Lokilimak, a World Vision project manager, began the project in faith and uplifted in prayer. They organized a water committee with five representatives each from Chepolet, Chemwapit, and Kesot—the three communities along the pipeline. Kesot chose Cheru’s father, Samson, as one of their water committee members. The three head teachers are also members of the committee.

Another member, Anna Lokitwol, 36, says she prayed for the water project and for it to be sustainable. “To have this water is a great gift, and we must take care of it. Also, I pray for the people who gave money so we could have water,” she says.

Anna proposed that each family pay 100 shillings (about \$1) a month and schools pay 500 shillings (nearly \$5) a month for upkeep to the water system so there will always be money for repairs.

Together, the water committee decided the placement of the kiosks, standpipes, and water troughs for animals. Over 18 months, community members dug trenches, carried pipes, and connected them. They hauled cement and carried water for making concrete to build the kiosks, standpipes, water troughs, and latrines at the schools. Charles trained six local people to maintain the pipeline and handle repairs.

The day before the water was scheduled to come to the kiosk at Kesot, the end of the pipeline, Abu and Charles double-checked all the connections. They spent a sleepless night trying to doze in the truck—worrying, waiting, and praying that everything would work right the next morning.

## Blessings overflow

As morning dawned on the momentous day, Cheru was right up front—eyes bright with amazement as clean water flowed. She watched her father be the first to fill a glass and drink from it as everyone cheered.

Cheru’s mother recalls the exhilaration surrounding the

scene. “That day when the water first came, we ran to our houses and brought jerrycans to fetch the water because we thought the water would get finished,” says Monica. “But seeing the water the next day, I went to my neighbors and I told them: ‘You all come and fetch, and bring your clothes to wash. The water is not getting finished.’”

With water close at hand, families can prioritize other critical areas in their lives: health, education, and income. Monica’s mind is brimming with new ideas. She wants to grow a vegetable garden and start a business selling clothes and sugar. Cheru dreams of becoming a doctor.

As a water committee member, Samson’s top priorities are toilets and bathing facilities. “This will change everything,” he says. “We have a toilet now. All the water committee members are going to have them, and we’ll see that others do too.”

With his arms around Cheru, Samson praises God for the joy that has come to his family because of clean water. “We’re happy. The animals are happy. Even the birds are happy,” he says, breaking into a wide grin.







JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

### Rejoicing in God's bounty

On Sunday, when Cheru hears Pastor Solomon Kapel beating his drum, she excitedly runs to find him. She wants to be the first in line to help him cut flowers and branches to decorate the church before the service begins.

As the congregation gathers, women place jerrycans of water by the door so anyone can get a drink when they're thirsty. Then they sprinkle the dirt floor with water so they won't kick up dust when they dance and sing.

The church overflows with worshippers, children and adults alike dressed in their best. Cheru loves church. She joins in wholeheartedly to sing, dance, and praise the Lord.

"Water has changed everything here for the better," says Solomon. "We praise God for it."

He is deeply moved by the blessings that

**Above:** Cheru sings in the children's choir at the African Gospel Church in Kesot village.

**You can help provide water to communities like Cheru's. See the envelope between pages 16 and 17 or call 1.866.952.4453.**

have come with clean water. Without hesitation, the congregation hauled water and applied a new mud finish to the church exterior. They're saving money for sacks of cement so they can have a concrete floor. Monica and other mothers want to start a childcare center at the church; Samson says they need to build a latrine; and there's even talk of building a house for Solomon, since he currently lives 7 kilometers (over 4 miles) away.

Solomon says, "Just like in the Bible where God gave his people water from the rock, this water system is a blessing from God."

When the children's choir comes forward, Cheru proudly stands in the front row—her clean face beaming. She sings and claps with joy.

For Cheru, it's a refreshing new day. 🍷

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# Delight

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LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

### IN THE KITCHEN Blending ingredients for health and nutrition

Two-year-old Freddy Mauricio bites into a power-packed super tortilla. In Honduras, chronic malnutrition plagues 1 in 4 children. The number nearly doubles in rural areas, where 34 percent of kids suffer from stunting. Many children, like Freddy, were malnourished before World Vision partnered with families to help increase the nutritional value of their food. Instead of making tortillas from corn alone, they add squash, yucca, oregano, basil, and onions into the batter. The result is a tasty, portable staple loaded with endless ingredients for health and growth.



