

14

Beyond the pail

Empowering
women and girls



28

A GLOBAL
MOVEMENT
FOR CLEAN
WATER

World Vision® Gift Catalog

DISCOVER
GIFTS THAT
**BRING
NEW
LIFE**



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Eight-year-old Ireen in Malawi must make many trips for water every day.
JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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When World Vision brings clean water, a child's burden is lifted, her potential and dignity restored.



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"God created water, and when we are drilling, we make a deliberate effort to seek guidance from that same God to provide water."

—LIDDAH MANYOZO
World Vision advisor in Malawi



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Eight-year-old Ireen in Malawi (walking in front) makes four grueling trips for water a day.

Lift her burden

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

FROM MY VERY first trip with World Vision in 2015, it was clear that clean water is a key focus for our organization. My window into this extraordinary work was a visit to a water project funded by child sponsorship in Zambia, where I saw a borehole well that had transformed the community of Bulanda.

World Vision has been providing clean water for decades. In the 1980s, we started drilling projects in Ghana. By the 2000s, we were rapidly scaling up water work across Africa and other regions. Today, World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world—reaching one new person every 10 seconds and three more schools every day. It's a miraculous impact, achieved through God's power and the generosity of his people.

Why is clean water such a focus for us? Impressive numbers are not the reason.

For me it all comes down to a child, like the girl you see in the photograph here. When you look at her, what do you see?

I see Ireen bound by her circumstances. She's a prisoner, yet she's committed no crime. The bucket Ireen carries on her head is a burden that becomes increasingly hard to bear. The older she gets, the bigger and heavier it gets. And the weight of it crushes more than just her head and spine—it steadily crushes her hopes.

I can imagine her, during her daily walk, agonizing not just from the weight

of the water, but from worrying that she'll be late to class—and fearing that the water she carries might make her sick. Missing precious days of school directly impacts her dreams.

For every child like this girl, there are millions more girls and women who have no choice but to undergo the pain of carrying water. Collectively they spend an estimated 200 million hours gathering water daily. Women and children in developing countries walk an average of 6 kilometers (over 3.7 miles) and haul an average of 40 pounds of water every day.

Girls watch their mothers walk daily for water and know this is part of their future too. With each heavy step, their dreams of a different life seem further and further away.

Such suffering and lost potential are what motivate us to combat the global water crisis in every way possible. She is why we won't stop until every jerrycan full of dirty water on a girl's head is replaced by the tools that empower her to unleash her dreams. We will keep working until the only weight she bears is a backpack as she happily walks to school.

We believe God created each person—and every girl—with a purpose in his kingdom. And we can have faith that he will multiply our efforts beyond what we can expect or imagine. Do you believe our Lord has the power to change the picture for this girl and every single child who lacks access to clean water? I do.

So does World Vision. With God's power working through us, we've set an ambitious goal to reach by 2030: to set kids free to pursue their potential by helping to provide access to clean water, improve sanitation, and support hygiene behavior change in every community where we do development work. To enable every girl to trade a jerrycan for school books. To empower every mom to spend time caring for and enjoying her family and attending church. To help communities build environments where healthy children and families pursue their God-given purpose.

If the picture of thriving children motivates you, I pray you'll join us in our efforts to deliver clean water access around the world. 🙏



Edgar Sandoval Sr. is president of World Vision U.S. Follow him at twitter.com/EdgarSandovalSr.

ONLINE
Learn 20 reasons to have hope in 2020 at wvmag.org/hope2020.

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

PRAYER

Almighty Lord, thank You for providing life-changing opportunities for families that struggle in extreme poverty.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Yesmy Vicente twirls another child around as they play in Aguacatán, Guatemala, where World Vision is bringing sponsorship to their community. Learn more of World Vision's new invitation to sponsorship on page 10.

3,500

CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM WORLD VISION SPONSORSHIP IN RIOVERDE.



Ecuador

Many families in Rioverde rely on fishing for their livelihoods. When anglers are able to share their bounty, it benefits everyone, as does sponsorship. "This town is very poor, so the support World Vision brings is greatly appreciated," says Dexi Ballesteros, a school principal near Rioverde. "It doesn't only benefit the [sponsored] children but the entire community." Here, sponsorship provides school supplies, healthcare referrals, regular well-being checks from World Vision staff, educational training materials for teachers, and workshops that develop social and life skills.

CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION





200,495

HOUSEHOLDS REACHED
BY NOBO JATRA, A WORLD
VISION DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM FUNDED BY USAID.



Bangladesh

Fifteen-year-old Modhumala helps her mother, Shabitri Das, practice reading and writing. Shabitri, who was married at 11, is learning to read and has launched two businesses through World Vision's Nobo Jatra program. "I thought throughout my life I would struggle with poverty and we would be unhappy forever," remembers Shabitri. But now her kids are in school, and her family is thriving. "Nobo Jatra helped to make us independent," says Modhumala, who dreams of being a lawyer.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

• Embark



In celebration of Mother's and Father's Day, we want to honor the parents who love, who cherish, who mentor, and who care day in and day out.

India



Armenia



Bangladesh



Honduras

World Vision

The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land.
—ISAIAH 35:7 (NLT)

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

PRAYER

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.



Venezuela-Colombia border

Five-year-old Sofia and her family are among the tens of thousands of migrants who have fled the turmoil in Venezuela. They live in a rented shack on a hillside in Cúcuta, Colombia. In her neighborhood, a World Vision Child-Friendly Space gives Sofia a safe place to play and to be a kid. Learn more about the crisis at wvmag.org/venezuela

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION

Chosen celebrates empowered children

By Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

Last autumn as the changing leaves marked the turn to a new season, World Vision launched a new invitation to sponsorship—Chosen. For the first time, children were empowered to choose their sponsor. In 10 countries, more than 10,000 children have approached a wall of photos and made, for some, their first important life choice by choosing a sponsor—someone who will believe in them, encourage them, and pray for them. Here are some of their stories.

Habiba Akter, 6
LOCATION: *Bangladesh*
SPONSOR: *Sarah Dibbern, Minnesota*

Habiba Akter's older brother just finished ninth grade, but had to leave school because their parents couldn't afford his exam fees. "It comes with tears," says their mother, Hasina Talukdar. If Habiba's parents can't afford her fees, they will arrange a marriage

for her. But Habiba, 6, has bigger plans for her life. She hopes to serve her nation as a doctor, and child sponsorship can help her get there. Habiba was the first child in Bangladesh to choose her sponsor. When she approached the wall of photos, she thought, "It is difficult to choose because there were so many photos." But in the sea of smiling faces, her eyes narrowed in on one woman—Sarah Dibbern, a child and youth minister from Minnesota. Habiba chose her because, "She is beautiful and her smile." When coworkers from Sarah's church texted her from Bangladesh and shared that she was the first person chosen, that day in Bangladesh, she began to cry. She says, "It's incredible that we have a God who chooses all of us and will continue to choose us, no matter what."



Sarah Dibbern holds up a photo of Habiba Akter.

HEATHER KLINGER/WORLD VISION



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

“

I felt very happy, very content. She gets to decide who is going to be a part of her life.”

—**GREGORIA CARRILLO** mother of Cirila, on her daughter's sponsorship through Chosen

Cirila Fabian Carrillo, 9
LOCATION: *Guatemala*
SPONSORS: *Lida & Barry Stewart, Indiana*

Cirila sings a song about a cow named Lola with pure, innocent joy. Sadly her family life isn't so happy. Her father drinks a lot and doesn't support the family, which makes life hard for her, her two siblings, and their mother, Gregoria Carrillo. But last year, Cirila got the opportunity to choose her sponsor—Lida and Barry Stewart of Indiana. "I like everything about them—the smiles that they have," she says. "I like the lady because she has blonde hair. He looks like a very good person." Gregoria was excited for her daughter, saying, "I felt very happy, very content. She gets to decide who is going to be a part of her life." Farther



Lida and Barry Stewart pose for the photo.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

north in the U.S., Barry and Lida were excited, too. "I see the kids choosing as a way to make them feel like somebody," Barry says. Lida agreed. "This is such a good idea," she says. "It gets people to act. It touches the heart." With support from her sponsors, Cirila has a brighter future. "I want to be a teacher," she says. "I want kids to learn." 📖

Laura Reinhardt and Heather Klinger of World Vision in the U.S. contributed to these stories.

i chose you because...



"You're united, and you're a cute family."
—GREISY GARCIA, 3
GUATEMALA



"I was captivated with my new friend's smile."
—MATILDA MWEEMBA, 9
ZAMBIA



"They look like they like to give hugs. And that they like to play."
—KELMER, 6
GUATEMALA

VISIT
WORLDVISION.ORG/CHOSEN
TO SIGN UP

Spoken

Kids have a way of expressing of what's on their hearts easier than grown-ups do. Travel with us as we explore what children have to say.

By Lauren Reed



"I don't suffer thirst. When I drink water, I just run to the borehole and drink clean water."

ROMAN, 11
a sponsored child



Uganda

FRED OUMA/WORLD VISION



"I believe in God because without him, I am sad. I believe in him because he gives us wisdom, love, and happiness."

NEIVI, 7
plays and smiles outside of a church in Colombia, where she and more than 30,350 children are benefiting from World Vision programs.

BEN ADAMS/WORLD VISION



"In the past, I had to go a long way to fetch water. It took me a lot of time, and I had less time to play and write my homework. Now water is near my home, and I come to fetch water whenever I have the opportunity. It's just as fun and enjoyable as playing. I am happy to help my family and playing more."

WAKIL, 9

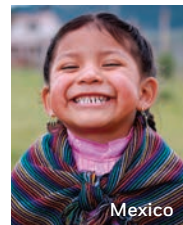


"I could not believe it when my name was called to be one of the recipients of the bicycles donated by World Vision to our school. I could not hold my tears and realized God hears our prayers and sees our pain."

MARY, 13



AGATHA MALI/WORLD VISION



"My dream when I grow up is to be a teacher to teach other kids. I like to ride a bike and take care of my dolls. I like to go to school. I have learned the vowels and some colors."

LINETH PRISCILA, 5
a sponsored child

ELIUD LEYVA/WORLD VISION

Water facts

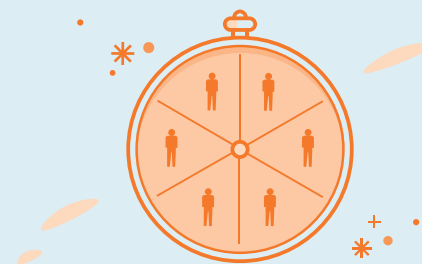
By Kathryn Reid

TO LEARN MORE about the global water crisis, visit wvmag.org/watercrisis

World Vision is reaching **ONE** new person every

10 SECONDS

and **THREE** more schools every day with clean water.



IN 2019, WORLD VISION HELPED:

provide access to clean water for

3.3 MILLION

people



improve sanitation for

2.5 MILLION

people

support hygiene behavior change for

3.8 MILLION

people

form

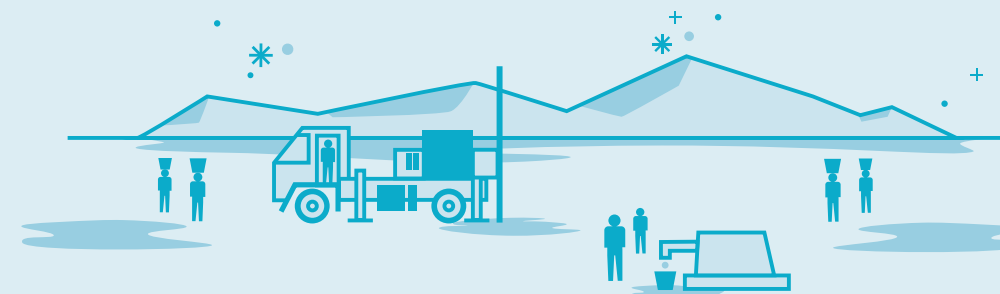
5,582

water committees

train

6,307

faith leaders on water-related behavior change



844 MILLION

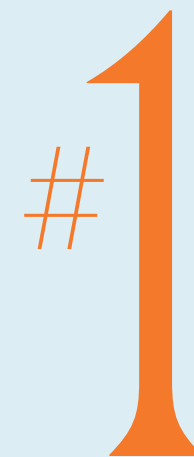
people, globally, lack access to clean water.

World Vision commits to reach everyone, everywhere we work with clean water

BY **2030**

200 MILLION

hours are spent collecting water daily by women and girls, who are disproportionately impacted by the global water crisis.



World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world.



Thirsty for change

BY KARI COSTANZA | PHOTOS BY JON WARREN

T

he most beautiful of constellations, Orion, hangs low over the village in central Malawi. The stars around it are as uncountable as the grains of sand bordering Lake

Malawi, 60 miles away. Far below Orion's shimmer, a rooster crows—an alarm clock with feathers, strutting through the darkness past a row of huts where adults and children yearn for a few more hours of rest.

Eight-year-old Ireen is fast asleep in her grandmother's one-room hut. Next door in her mother's house, her sister, Jekina, 4, stirs as the rooster continues the hullabaloo, no snooze button to silence him.

The girls' mother, Happiness—*Chimwemwe* in her native tongue of Chichewa—wakes in the dark to make her first walk of the day to collect water under the night sky. She ties her 1-month-old baby, Secret, securely to her back with a colorful piece of cloth, then walks with her twin sister, Gift, in single file from their huts to a stream where as many as a thousand people will collect water and wash clothes from morning until night. Although it is dark, the 26-year-olds don't need a flashlight. They know this path. They have been walking its treacherous terrain since they were 4.

Their family lives in the Great Rift Valley, the geological marvel that stretches nearly 4,000 miles from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in the Middle East to Mozambique in southeastern Africa. The valley, actually a series of adjoining trenches, is the result of a rift: a fracture in the earth that continues to tear open the crust, causing chunks of earth to sink and molten rock to rise in the form of volcanic eruptions. The stream where the family collects water is within the Great Rift. The hills are rocky, the valleys slippery, and the changes in elevation make for a grueling and potentially dangerous climb—especially carrying a heavy bucket of water on your head in temperatures swelling over 90 degrees, your neck and calves aching, sweat trickling into your eyes and momentarily blinding you.

The stars above the path are dizzyingly spectacular, but their magnificence is lost on Happiness. The single mother worries about her house—at only 12 feet across, it's too small for all four of her children. She worries about leaving Jekina alone every morning—what if someone tries to abduct her? She worries about feeding her son, Beauty, who is staying with his father, her ex-husband, tonight—the growing 11-year-old is always hungry, and there's only one bag of maize left. She worries about Secret,



Above: Each day around the world, women and girls in developing countries walk an average of 6 kilometers for water that is often contaminated. For Happiness (front) and her twin sister Gift, their first walk for water begins before dawn.

Right: Hunger makes Ireen somber. **Left:** Ireen (walking in front) sometimes makes four grueling trips for water a day.



adorable but fussy. And she worries about Ireen, the daughter who reminds her so much of herself—smart and feisty. How can Ireen reach for the stars in a place where food and water are unreachable?

In the Great Rift Valley region of Malawi, poverty and the lack of clean water create fractures that cut through society—producing rifts in families and communities, and hardships for girls like Ireen.

RIFTS IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

When Happiness returns with the day's first supply of water, she is relieved to find Jekina still safely asleep in her small, round mud house. As the sun rises with a resolve that foretells another hot day, Ireen emerges from her grandmother's hut. "I wake up happy," she says, her joy taking the form of a brilliant smile. Ireen's energy pulsates. Now that it's daylight, it's her turn to go for water.

Last year, Ireen asked her mother if she could start gathering water. She saw the weight her mother was carrying, pregnant with her fourth baby, struggling to feed and clothe her children. "I told her she was too young," says Happiness. "Ireen insisted." Although it's a task she volunteered for, it's not one Ireen enjoys. "It makes my neck hurt," she says. But for girls in Malawi, carrying water is a rite of passage. "These kids have a heart to work on their own," says Happiness. "Getting their own water shows independence—that they don't need their mother to do it."

Barefoot, Ireen can balance 20 pounds of water on her head, trying with all her might not to trip and fall. Injury is just one fear. The other is breaking the red plastic bucket. As her mother has warned her on many occasions, there's no money for another. For us, it would be like wrecking the family car.

Ireen will walk for water up to three times a day, unless she helps with laundry. Then, she will go four times. Throughout the course of their daily water-col-

lecting journeys, Ireen and her mother will walk about 6 kilometers, or 3.7 miles, the average distance women and children in the developing world walk every day for water. It's best for Ireen to go before it gets too hot—plus, school starts at 7:30. She can't be late.

"She's my favorite," says Ireen's teacher, 30-year-old Timale Chisutu. "She is quick to respond. She is not shy when she knows the answer." Ireen ranks ninth in a class of 157 students, a remarkable feat given her circumstances. "I know how she lives," says Ireen's teacher. "She comes from a very poor family. I can tell by her clothes, her uniform, books, pencils, and her body. Sometimes she is very dirty."

Although Ireen comes to school without having washed, there are times that diarrhea, a result of drinking unsafe water, keeps her away. Diarrhea is a serious issue for the community, says Fenless Chimutu, 34, the nurse and midwife in charge of the local health clinic where Happiness gave birth to Secret. "One of every five patients has loose stools or diarrhea," she says. "You see it more in young children." The nurse, who's been at the clinic for five "tough and difficult" years, sees hundreds of patients every day. "If there was clean water, that number would be reduced to less than half."

Ireen's community has never had a borehole well. A neighboring community's borehole is near her school, and while her community isn't allowed to draw from it, the children can use it while they're in class. Ireen prefers the borehole water to what she gets from the stream near her house—she knows the borehole water is clean and the water from the stream is not. "It makes me afraid," she says. "I'm afraid of the water because I know that worms are going into my body." Usually bright, Ireen's countenance darkens. At school, her teacher notices Ireen's tension and says, "Sometimes she looks anxious."

Playing helps ease that anxiety, if only temporarily. Ireen and her friends play games like Mira, a game that takes dodgeball to new heights. They attempt to build a tower of rocks while avoiding being hit by a ball made of rags. And there's Champi—a long jump



Right: Ireen's family, led by single mothers, yearns to break the cycle of poverty. **Below:** Ireen (center) is a serious student and top performer despite the challenges caused by the lack of water. **Bottom left:** Ireen searches for food in an empty maize storage bin, finding nothing.

To sponsor a child in Ireen's community, call 1.866.332.4453.



game played with three sticks that are moved apart to make it harder to jump over them. The only problem with playing games: Ireen gets thirsty. In fact, she says, she is thirsty all the time.

RIFTS IN FAMILIES

Growing up in poverty and without a father, Ireen is experiencing a childhood similar to her mother's. Happiness and her twin never knew their father; he died before they could form any memories of him. They're not even sure where he is buried. The twins began to carry water when they were young. "We would go one way and then come back tired," says Happiness. "The next day, we would go back. We started with cooking pots. Then our containers got larger."

School was a much-needed, much-loved respite for the twins. "I was good at Chichewa," says Happiness. "I was always the highest in the class. Gift was always in the top five, too." But, like so many girls in Africa, their thirst for education was dampened by their family's daily need for water. "We did not enjoy our childhood," says Happiness. "We would wake up in the morning, go get water, and go to school. Then we would go straight to get water. We didn't have time to play. It was tough for us as children. We were always tired." When they were about Ireen's age, their uniforms finally became too ragged to repair, and they dropped out.

The two girls began working in other people's fields all day, getting paid in maize—about 10 pounds for four days' work. They'd also earn a few kwacha—the national currency—by carrying water and making charcoal to sell. Their daily grind was interrupted by a visit from Samuel, the man who would become Ireen's father.

Samuel's proposal was no scene from a romance novel. "He said, 'Is there a woman I could marry in your family?'" recalls Happiness, who was a teenager. "They [her mother and Samuel's family] made arrangements, and then we got married." As a dowry—the exchange of money or property for a bride still commonly practiced in many parts of the world—Samuel gave the village chief a chicken in return for Happiness' hand in marriage and gave her mother 20,000 kwacha (about \$27). Happiness moved to Samuel's village to start her new life, which eventually included giving birth to their children, Beauty, Ireen, and Jekina.

Happiness hoped that Samuel would take care of her, but instead he became jealous. "When I went to get water, he would think I was out meeting other men," she says. "He would be mad and beat me up." Just as water played a role in Happiness' dropping out of school, now it was threatening her marriage. "It was really an issue, not just for our marriage but for everything," she says. "Women have to spend

so much time getting water that we can't focus on other things, like our families."

Happiness finally shared about her troubled marriage with her mother and moved back home. She remarried a year later and became pregnant with baby Secret, but after an argument about money, "He took his things and left," says Happiness. Life wasn't much better for Gift, who is now divorced, having experienced the same issues as her sister—fights about money and the issues that come with not having clean water nearby.

The family is fractured, just like the land on which they live. Beauty bounces between Happiness' and his father's homes. He likes staying with his mother, but it comes at a cost. "The hardest part about staying here is being hungry," he says. "It's different at my father's. At my father's, I get to eat." But at his father's house, he doesn't feel loved. "There, I don't get school supplies or support."

The girls don't visit their father. "The girls don't want to go," says Happiness. "When they go, they don't get love, care, or support from their father."

RIFTS IN COMMUNITIES

Just as it divides families, the lack of water creates rifts within communities. In Malawi and around the world, the lack of sufficient water leads to fights at water sources, according to a U.S. Agency for International Development brief. The thought of Ireen becoming involved in a physical altercation frightens Happiness. "I fear that she will have to fight her way for the water," she says. It's not an idle fear; she's seen it happen to others.

"Sometimes you've waited, and people just cut in line," she says. That's when the punching begins. In a neighboring community where water is similarly limited, the chief instituted a one-bucket rule. "Filling too many buckets delays everything," says M'mangepo Baifoti, 47, who goes to church with Happiness. But one day, a woman brought three buckets to fill. She wanted to wash clothes so her family was fresh and clean for church. "People got mad and threw buckets at each other," says M'mangepo.

"It was bad," says Phillippo Mankhanibo, 41, the chief of that village. "There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other's buckets. They had to go to the hospital." He fined two women a chicken. "It's a big fine," says Marriata Dzimbiri, 25, another church member. "A chicken costs 3,000 kwacha (US\$4) in town. It's hard to pay that."

The chief settles a lot of disputes over water. "The area is so big that there's a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact." And if there were clean water? He sighs. "My life would be much easier."

The chief of Ireen's village could no longer support himself there and had to move to another village for work. "He was a good chief," says



Above: On one of their daily walks, Happiness will caution Ireen not to drop her bucket, as it's too costly to replace.

Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. **Far right:** Ireen's brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

"Women have to spend so much time getting water that we can't focus on other things, like our families."

—HAPPINESS, MOTHER OF IREEN



Happiness. Now, she says, a lot of conflicts occur between neighbors that only a chief can solve. "If our chief comes back, families will be more stable," she says. Stability that could lead to less hunger. Many families are eating one—maybe two—meals a day. Ireen and her cousins try to help their family, spending some afternoons chasing down mice and giving them to an aunt, to boil and remove the insides before selling them on sticks at the market for 50 kwacha each, about 70 cents.

MENDING THE RIFTS

The rifts around Ireen may seem insurmountable. In fact, Malawi ranks as one of the world's poorest countries, behind Burundi, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, according to the International Monetary Fund.

But a group of strong women among World Vision's local staff are committed to repairing them. Mereena Mhone John, 41, manages child sponsorship in Ireen's community with empathy and vision for lasting change. She's well prepared for the work, holding degrees in arts and humanities, development, and a master's in leadership and change from universities in Malawi, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Mereena has witnessed the changes child sponsorship brings. "Children are encouraged to go to school and learn how to read, write, and attain skills that will help them when they grow up," she says. They also participate in programs around health, water, education, and spiritual nurture. And, just as importantly, says Mereena, they're encouraged to communicate with their sponsors through letters.

The letters the children receive from their sponsors become treasures. "They know that someone out there loves them," says Mereena.

She's also seen how the impact of sponsorship reaches beyond the friendship between children and sponsors. "Parents also benefit from sponsorship because there is a relationship, which is built between





the sponsor and the whole family,” she explains. And through economic empowerment programs funded by sponsorship, parents get support to start small businesses and establish better household finances. The increased income means they’re able to send their kids to school, put nutritious food on the table, and provide choices for the future.

One of the most immediate impacts sponsorship can have on kids’ health and overall well-being is funding borehole wells and water systems. Once a community has easy access to clean, safe water, they no longer suffer from water-related diseases like diarrhea and cholera—and women and girls are no longer trapped in the cycle of walking for water.

Working alongside Mereena to bring that reality to Ireen’s community is Liddah Manyozo, 37, a World Vision technical advisor to a team of drillers who are charged with bringing water to communities across Malawi.

“My hope for Ireen is that one day she will have a borehole in her village with safe water,” says Liddah, who also carried water as a girl—“it was a part of life,” she remembers. For Liddah, who holds a bachelor of science in agriculture with an emphasis on nutrition, finding clean water is not just a technical exercise, but a spiritual one. “God created water,” she says, “and when we are drilling, we make a deliberate effort to seek guidance from that same God to provide water.”

Rounding out the team of strong women in Ireen’s life is Irene Chongwe, 33, a World Vision staff member who teaches families how to stay clean and healthy through sanitation and hygiene practices. Irene started carrying water for her family at the age of 10, when her mother died. Although she moved from home to home after her mother’s death, she clung tenaciously to the chance for an education, eventually earning an advanced diploma in community development from Malawi Polytechnic. As an expert in sanitation and hygiene, Irene has her work cut out for her: Only 50% of the families in this



Left: Ireen finds strength at church through prayer and watches as the first maize of the season is blessed as an offering. **Below:** Strength also comes in the form of World Vision staff Liddah Manyozo, Mereena Mhone John, and Irene Chongwe (left to right with Ireen), who are coming alongside her family to promote change through clean water and sponsorship.



community have latrines and hand-washing stations.

World Vision staff play a special role in the lives of the children they serve, and Mereena knows it’s particularly important for them to see women in leadership. “We are like role models to Ireen,” says Mereena. “She can have hope that she can make it.”

Together, the three women, World Vision staff, and community members are working diligently to empower Ireen and other children like her to become change makers. “World Vision focuses on children. Children are the future of this country,” Mereena says. “So working with children, I know I am contributing to the development of this country.”

HOPE IN THE VALLEY

It’s evening in the village. Gift’s sons are crab-walking in the dirt. Jekina is dancing to music of her own making, and Ireen is playing with her friends. Beauty is at his father’s house; otherwise he’d join in the fun.

Things have taken a positive turn: Happiness has called the chief and told him that World Vision has come. “They want to meet with him,” she says with a smile, holding Secret in her arms. “He’ll be here on Tuesday.” Working with the chief—even if he has moved away—is crucial to ensure that any progress made is lasting.

The idea of a borehole in the community is exhilarating. “It would bring so much change in my life and the community,” says Happiness. “It would mean the end of walking for water. We would be able to rest. We would be able to work in the garden. My children could play and do their schoolwork.”

She’s equally intrigued by the idea of child sponsorship, especially for Ireen. “By being in the program, it would help Ireen know that she is remembered,” she says. “It would help her work harder in school and have a better future.”

A gentle breeze blows through the palm trees and the clouds turn the color of roses as the sun fades. Orion will soon appear. The rooster struts by, preparing for tomorrow. He needs to be ready. Morning comes early in the Great Rift Valley. 📍

Charles Kabena and Wezzie Nungu of World Vision’s staff in Malawi contributed to this story.

Help provide clean water for communities like Ireen’s.

See envelope between pages 16 and 17 or call 1.866.332.4453.

Big Splash

Photo and story by Jon Warren

WATER AND CELEBRATION

erupt when a drilling crew blasts a burst of air into a borehole they are drilling in Mpondagaga village in Malawi. Once the water runs clear, the drilling team will cap the borehole until the water can be tested to make sure it is safe to drink and


a building crew comes to install a hand pump.

One joyful mother, Faliness Nirenda, danced and sang all day as the drilling crew worked. She joyfully declared, "This will restore our dignity!" Women and girls in her village will no longer have to walk to a 6-foot-deep hole, where people waited in long lines to collect milky-colored water that slowly seeps out of the ground. They won't have to risk encounters with poisonous snakes, buffalo, hyenas, and belligerent cattle along the way. Nor will

they be forced to walk to the nearest village center, an exhausting distance of four miles each way, when the water hole dries up.

A 10-member World Vision drilling team in Malawi ushered in the big splash in October 2019. The team works to bring clean water to communities across Malawi, and with your support, hopefully could bring to Ireen's in the near future (see page 14). They spend seven months in the field each year, camping in the communities they serve. Along with other World Vision water teams around the globe, they ensure World Vision provides clean water to a new person every 10 seconds.

In each community, World Vision works with local leaders to determine the best sustainable solution to provide clean water, whether it's a borehole well, capped spring, or a solar-panel mechanized system. Here, trucks traversed great distances to drill 170 feet underground, using 17 drilling rods, to tap into water aquifers.

"We provide safe water to children," says Stafford Labani, 39, a World Vision drilling team member. "We are proud of that. Water is life. We provide life given by God." 





Make a reusable menstrual pad

By Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

WHEN GIRLS START their periods, it's usually met with either feelings of excitement or dread, depending on how each girl views the coming changes that prepare them for womanhood. But for many girls in developing countries, it often comes as a ticking clock that marks the beginning of the end of their education.

Many schools don't have latrines where girls can take care of themselves during their periods, and beyond that, most girls in poor countries don't have access to—nor could they afford—reusable pads or tampons. Without feminine products, many girls skip school while on their periods. That means they miss up to a week of school every month so girls start to fall behind and eventually drop out. Alternatively, some girls make their pads using products that can be unhygienic or even dangerous, such as newspaper, grass, hay, or cow dung.

To help ensure periods don't mark the end of a girl's schooling, World Vision dedicates part of its water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) work to address this critical issue. This means working with communities to install latrines at schools so girls can care for themselves during their periods. And in partnership with Sesame Workshop—the nonprofit that brings us “Sesame Street”—we work with both boys and girls through our WASH behavior change clubs to reduce the stigma surrounding periods by teaching how it's a natural part of life. Kids even learn how to make and care for reusable hygienic pads—girls for themselves, but boys too so they can support their sisters and moms. Here's how children make menstrual pads. +

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Boys in a World Vision Life Skills Club at a Ugandan primary school work alongside the girls making reusable sanitary pads. Club leaders wanted boys involved to support the girls, prevent bullying, and remove the stigma around menstruation.

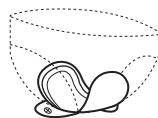
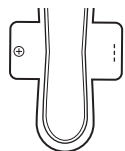
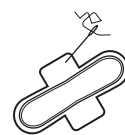
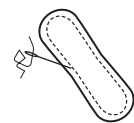
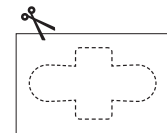
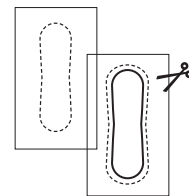
HOW'D THEY DO THAT?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A piece of light, flexible plastic, like a plastic bag
- A piece of clean, absorbent material, like cotton
- A piece of fabric
- A needle and thread
- A button
- Scissors (preferably fabric or sharp enough to cut through fabric)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut the piece of cotton into a long shape with rounded ends. Then cut the plastic piece slightly larger than the cotton piece.
2. Cut the fabric longer than the previously cut pieces and with wings on the edges of the long sides.
3. Thread your needle and sew the cotton piece to the plastic piece.
4. Sew that combined piece to the fabric piece, the cotton side facing outward and plastic side between the fabric and cotton.
5. On the edge of one of the wings, sew the button on.
6. On the opposite wing, also along the edge, cut a small, narrow hole for the button to fit through.
7. To wear it, place the pad in your underwear, wrap the wings under, and use the button to secure in place.



INSPIRATIONAL ESSAY | 30

The church and World Vision are uniting to create a better life for kids in El Salvador.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PRAYER

Loving God, we ask for Your blessings on children and their families who are thirsty. Purify, protect, and multiply their water sources.



At the start of the Global 6K for Water in Chicago, Joshua Wittig, 8, happily spots Uganda's flag. Joshua was adopted from Uganda when he was 3. His family joined more than 52,000 people worldwide for the 6K. “It's such a tangible connection to people around the world,” says his dad, Mark (center, blue shorts). “You can go together as a family and make a difference.”

ANDREA PEER/WORLD VISION

A global movement

By Sevil Omer

Thousands of people worldwide are gearing up for World Vision's Global 6K for Water on May 16. Six kilometers, a little more than 3.7 miles, is the average distance people in the developing world walk for water—water that's often contaminated with life-threatening diseases. We caught up with a few participants who shared the motivation behind their 6K efforts past and present.



COURTESY OF VICTOR FERNANDEZ

Ashlyn and Victor Fernandez, both 35 Hayward, California

"Being in service to make an impact in the life of a child is amazing, and the Global 6K for Water opens that door for everybody," says Ashlyn. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, she used leg braces to walk the 2018 Global 6K "to prove to myself that I could do it." When she was unable to finish the course, she learned that "it was okay." What she didn't expect at the 6K's end was a heart-melting surprise: a wedding proposal from her college sweetheart, Victor.



COURTESY OF PAIGE ERKMANN

The Erkman brothers Woodlands, Texas

The 6K is an Erkman family tradition. "For us, being able to bring clean water to children and their families is like bringing the gospel—it's life-changing," says mom, Paige.

"We want people to understand how a child has to live with dirty water and that it makes them very sick, and we can do something about it," 8-year-old William says.

Six-year-old Wyatt adds, "We will tell everyone we see or meet about the water needs of children and how they can make a big difference in their lives."



COURTESY OF HELENA AUTISCHER

Helena Autischer, 16 Althofen, Austria

"Before we started our Global 6K here at my school, I realized that my water bottle that I carried in my backpack was empty," says Helena. "I said to my friends, 'Wait for me, I am going to get some water,' and suddenly I realized the people we were walking for on this day don't have the same opportunity to just walk a few feet away to get clean water. So I waited through the whole 6K, and let me tell you, it was hard!"



COURTESY OF CHLOE UNSON

Chloe Unson, 24 | Yokohama, Japan

Last year, Chloe, a teacher at Yokohama Christian Elementary School, helped lead 22 kids through the 6K. A few kids complained of the distance but soon realized "how their peers couldn't stop because their lives depended on it, even if it was to gather contaminated water that made them sick." She had them write an essay about their experience. "Our students wanted to be the source of their relief. They wanted to do it again. I've grown in my faith," she says. "Before, I helped my family, my church, and the people I love. Now, I'm learning to help the stranger."

MAP KEY

COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN WORLD VISION'S GLOBAL 6K FOR WATER IN 2019.



ON MAY 16, join the world's largest 6K walk for water. Find a host site near you or host your own 6K.
LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT wvmag.org/6K.



CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION

Justus Koech, 48 | Nairobi, Kenya

"By running, I can be the voice of that child, that girl, that woman who has never imagined that water can be found just a few minutes from their home. I want to be a voice for the women who break their backs walking long distance carrying 20 liters (4 gallons) of water which is not enough to cook and clean in the household. I am motivated by the fact that by helping mobilize others to run in Kenya, we can make a difference in the lives of our communities."



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Teens participate in Youth Ready, a program run by World Vision in El Salvador that empowers youth to build a future for themselves, while giving them an alternative to joining a gang.

Unity in Jesus

By Torrey Olsen

GANGS ARE KNOWN for the murders and violence that spread hopelessness and poverty and make El Salvador one of the world's deadliest nations. But surprisingly, they have respect for the church. Gang members will often tell each other, "God is strong. Don't get on his bad side."

As we reflect on Easter and Jesus' death and resurrection, I think of the criminals who hung beside Jesus on the cross. One of the criminals said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). And despite his crime, Jesus welcomed him into paradise.

Before he was crucified, one of Jesus' final prayers was for unity among his followers. Jesus said, "I pray ... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21).

In El Salvador, the church is united for the well-being of children.

The church is following Christ in welcoming former gang members and criminals and making a direct, life-giving impact in the lives of men, women, and children. For the first time, Protestants and Roman Catholics are coming together to help heal and protect their communities.

World Vision is at the heart of this work through the church. We are mobilizing churches to act and help their communities. World Vision developed resources for pastors, priests, Sunday school teachers, and youth leaders. These are used with their skills and support to lead clubs, classes, and small groups for parents and caregivers as well as for children and teens.

Through our *Creciendo con Jesús* (Growing with Jesus) program, we are training thousands of pastors and priests to help them become our

Young lives are being saved. Hope is being restored. God is honored.

indispensable partners in protecting children.

As part of this program, church leaders learn what Scripture has to say about parenting, marriage, family, and discipleship. Our motivation is to help parents raise their children with kindness instead of perpetuating the cycle of domestic and societal violence. They also learn how to train their congregations to put these values into action.

The vision of a peaceful El Salvador—held by staff as well as of Salvadoran pastors and priests—is dramatically expanding. "The government cannot solve the problem alone. Nor can the police or schools. It is the church, which is in every community in El Salvador, that can change our country," says Edwin Alberto Mira, World Vision's Christian discipleship coordinator in El Salvador. "Our goal is to catalyze the church to change this country."

The impact of these efforts? Churches and leaders are equipped to help further reduce violence faced by families. Churches are coming together to learn, pray, and to make a life-saving difference in communities. Parents are improving their marriages and parenting skills. Children are learning how to protect themselves. Youth are learning options to avoid gangs and violence. Young lives are being saved. Hope is being restored. God is honored.

And what does this mean for us in the U.S.? We who follow Jesus must commit anew to work together with other believers so our communities will see him as they see love between his people. 🙏



Torrey Olsen is director of Faith and Development at World Vision U.S.

Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, remind us of Your command to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.
—EZEKIEL 34:26



IN THE KITCHEN MIDDLE EASTERN CHEESE PASTRY

Savory cheese pastries are helping nourish 30,000 Syrian child refugees in Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps in Jordan, where World Vision, in partnership with the World Food Programme, provides the Healthy Meals Program. The daily meal consists of a cheese pastry, cucumber, and a piece of fruit. Not only is it nutritious, it's easy to make. Refrigerated biscuit dough simplifies this version even more.

To try this recipe, visit wvmag.org/cheesepastry.

ANDREA PEER/WORLD VISION

Quick escape

By Carla Gawthrop and Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

What would you take if you had to suddenly leave your home because it was too dangerous to stay? Emergencies, including conflict and natural disasters, force millions of families to make difficult choices.

Find out what decisions you'd have to make if you were forced to flee. The goal of this activity is to help your children differentiate between wants and needs, as well as imagine the choices refugees and displaced people must make in the most challenging times.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

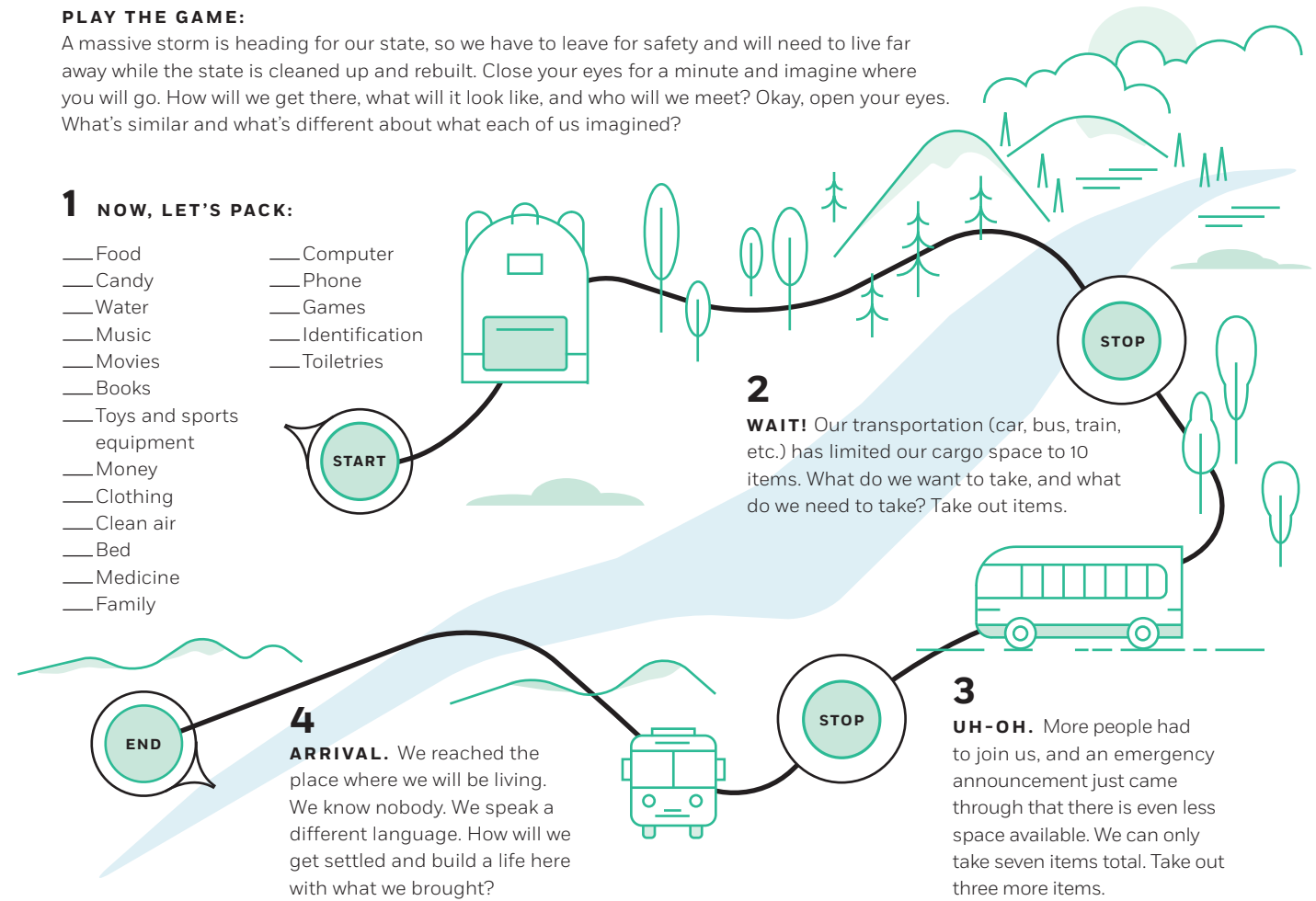
- A representative item or photo for everything on the packing list
- A bag or backpack big enough for all of the items or photos

PLAY THE GAME:

A massive storm is heading for our state, so we have to leave for safety and will need to live far away while the state is cleaned up and rebuilt. Close your eyes for a minute and imagine where you will go. How will we get there, what will it look like, and who will we meet? Okay, open your eyes. What's similar and what's different about what each of us imagined?

1 NOW, LET'S PACK:

- ___ Food
 - ___ Candy
 - ___ Water
 - ___ Music
 - ___ Movies
 - ___ Books
 - ___ Toys and sports equipment
 - ___ Money
 - ___ Clothing
 - ___ Clean air
 - ___ Bed
 - ___ Medicine
 - ___ Family
- ___ Computer
 - ___ Phone
 - ___ Games
 - ___ Identification
 - ___ Toiletries



OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, people have fled Syria, Venezuela, South Sudan, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Myanmar, just to name a few. They often left suddenly to avoid sudden violence or storms. Learn more about what life is like for people fleeing at wvmag.org/flee.



Chasing alpacas

I HAD JUST VISITED families all over Ecuador to get stories. My task now? Capture pictures of kids with alpacas from the World Vision Gift Catalog. I was tired but ready to cap off the trip with two days of fun in the Andean highlands with these cuddly, fluffy animals.

After hours of driving to 12,500 feet above sea level, the lack of oxygen was getting to me. My local coworkers packed an oxygen tank, just in case, and I was hoping I wouldn't need it.

Now I had to coax baby alpacas to a particular spot, think up funny things to say to make kids laugh—in my second language—kindly fend off young children peeking over my shoulder at my camera screen, and dispatch community elders to wrangle jumpy and wayward alpacas like this one.

Finally, all the elements came together with 11-year-old Andy hooting with joy as he fell over and this baby alpaca with its intense expression. And I didn't need the oxygen tank, so I'd say it was a successful day.

Written and photographed by Chris Huber
 Canon EOS 6D Mark II
 50mm
 1/500th at f/7.1, ISO 200



EVERY
STEP
YOU
TAKE



GLOBAL 6K FOR WATER[®]

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6K for water on May 16, 2020!

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IS ONE
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