

# HELP FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

*Girls are often forced into marriage, denied education, and abused through child labor and sex trafficking. World Vision provides resources and support for education, job training, spiritual counseling, and more. The goal of one of World Vision's projects in the Western Highlands of Guatemala is to improve the quality of life for young people ages 15 to 24. They have restricted access to other services and opportunities—especially women who are indigenous, poor, have disabilities, have children, or live in violent or geographically remote communities. Through the project, vulnerable young women receive the information, knowledge, and skills needed to bridge the gap for employment and economic opportunities as well as education, health, and social services.*

## GUATEMALA

### *An answer to prayer*

Nineteen-year-old Yenni Mendoza lives in an area where extreme poverty forces families to choose between providing food or education for their children.

The chance Yenni was waiting for came along when World Vision told her that she could be part of an alternative high school specializing in productivity and entrepreneurship.

"I always wanted to continue my schooling so I could have a better future. I applied myself and I always asked God every day for a chance to keep studying and then find a job. I wasn't able to continue my education

because my family didn't have the resources. I always believed that God would help me find a way to help out my family," Yenni says.

Yenni was particularly pleased to learn how to use the computer. "One day at church, they asked me if I knew how to use a computer and I said yes. They invited me down to the radio station. They explained how everything works and I paid close attention. I was really nervous, but then I put on my favorite hymns. Now I'm a radio programmer!"

"I have to finish high school, because I know that will help me reach my dreams. I tell all my friends about the



benefits of studying. I hope they can have the same opportunities that I do to succeed and that we can all find jobs here in Aguacatan," Yenni concludes.

## ETHIOPIA

### *"Nothing will stop me!"*

When Emebet was 13 years old she got her first period in class. "Starting one's period at school is terrible," she says. Nobody had told her that the cramping she felt was a sign of menstruation. In remote areas like Jamaya, girls do not receive puberty and menstruation information. Emebet was shy and remembers feeling scared, traumatized, and embarrassed. Frightened by the sight of blood on her skirt, she decided to leave school. "I took off a school sweater, tied it around my waist to conceal stains, gathered all my courage, hurriedly left class, and walked home," she says. While she stayed home, she missed

exams. After that she missed 70 school days in one year alone, which affected her academic performance. Emebet thought of dropping out and giving up her dream to be a nurse.

World Vision drilled a borehole that serves the high school and the surrounding community and provided water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to the high school through its integrated approach. Water is now available in all the school latrines.

Emebet attends class regularly and works harder than ever—becoming the top student in her class this year.

World Vision also provides teenage girls education on menstruation hygiene. Girls have access to sanitary pads and pain relievers for menstrual cramps, along with rooms at the school where they can rest. Providing clean water, sanitation, and educational services has increased attendance of girls at Jamaya High School. With determination, Emebet says, "I achieved what I have longed for and nothing will stop me." She is confident that her childhood dream of being a nurse will become real.

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## GUATEMALA

### Reaching her entrepreneurial dreams

Catalina Alcón Velásquez is 25, married, with two children. Her husband works in construction and she takes care of their home. They live with her in-laws, who are low-income.

Catalina's dream has always been to help her family financially, by learning a trade and setting up her own business. However, the responsibilities of caring for a home and children always seemed to cut her dream short.

"In 2021, I received news filled with blessings. There was going to be a haircutting course in my community. So, I enrolled. This was a way to make my dream come true, because it was accessible for me and close to home, so I could keep an eye on my children.

"But this wasn't the only blessing. They also gave me the tools to start up my own business. This opportunity they gave me showed me that there are no obstacles to reaching your dreams," says Catalina.

The course was made available in part through World Vision Gift Catalog donors.

"Sometimes our dreams seem so far away because of a lack of resources and opportunities in our communities. Now it's up to me to use the tools I've been given to start up my business," Catalina says.



## YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*When we all work together, with God's help, the impossible can happen. Your generous giving through the World Vision Gift Catalog helps hungry children to be filled, helps hard-working families maintain their dignity, and helps to create change for an entire generation. God bless you for all you do!*

*The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.*

**Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)**



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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