

HEALTH

Extreme poverty limits access to basic health information, care, and nutrition. Your gifts support delivery of essential medical and nutrition resources—including training and support for local community health workers. Community health volunteers in Zambia’s Luwingu district are teaching valuable lessons on health and nutrition and treating common—but often deadly—illnesses in young children. In just the first half of this year, these volunteers shared vital information on health and hygiene with 61,712 people. Their efforts have been instrumental in helping to stem the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic. Following safety protocols to protect staff and the public, World Vision continued to step up efforts to educate people on safe hygiene, especially with Zambia facing a third wave of COVID-19.

ZAMBIA

A brush with death ends in thanksgiving

After Lucy completed some household chores, she got ready to join her husband in their cassava field. As she was leaving, she discovered that her toddler Maria had a fever. Lucy decided to keep her wrapped to her back the whole time. After a few hours of working in the field, Lucy felt Maria suddenly become much warmer.

“She became very hot and then had a seizure,” Lucy says. “I was scared! I screamed and quickly unwrapped my baby from my back and put her on the ground. I knelt down weeping and looked up to the heavens praying and asking God not to let my little Maria die,” she says.

Lucy’s husband grabbed Maria and ran to Brian, a local community health worker trained and equipped by World Vision. When they got to Brian, little Maria could barely breathe. After a quick examination, Brian gave her some medicine to bring down her temperature and tested her for malaria. The test came out positive. “I had heard about malaria but never understood how deadly it was,” Lucy says.

Brian gave Maria anti-malarial drugs and lent his bicycle to Lucy and her husband to rush their baby to the nearest clinic 3 miles away. Thankfully, little Maria is now fully recovered. “Had



it not been for World Vision training Brian as a caregiver, we would have lost Maria and today we would be telling a different story. We now have the means to prevent, and get treated for malaria,” Lucy says with a smile.

ZAMBIA

“I counted my child among the dead”

Curled in a wrapper around Fridah’s back is her two-year-old son, Isaac. He rarely cries or moves.

“I have always counted Isaac to be among the dead. He has always been stacked on my back for almost two years. He has been so weak, struggling to walk and failing to play,” Fridah says, sadly. “It has been the toughest time of my life watching my son’s health deteriorate day by day.”

Fridah took Isaac to numerous clinics to seek a solution, to no avail. “I lost hope,” says Fridah.

Thanks to World Vision’s Survive to Thrive project in the Buyantanshi Area Program, Fridah found the solution. She learned Isaac was malnourished and that he was always ill because his immune system was so weak. He was immediately enrolled for a 12-day feeding program, and Fridah learned how to prepare nutritious food for her family using local foods such as groundnuts, sweet potatoes, beans, vegetables, and fruits.

“I was shocked that after 12 days of feeding, Isaac’s weight moved from 10.4 kg to 11.1 kg. He’s now able to walk



and play without any problem. He even refuses to be carried because he wants to play,” Fridah says. “I thank God who sent World Vision here to save my son. He would have died of malnutrition by now. I have never felt so much peace and joy as I do now, seeing Isaac happy and healthy.”

HEALTH

KENYA

Communication is one critical key to prevention of infection

When news of a new virus hit the headlines of the world, 30-year-old Eunice Ngumbi knew it would be only a matter of time before the contagious virus arrived in Kenya, given the speed at which it was spreading across the globe. Eunice is the Hospital Charge at Muusini dispensary in Machakos County. Her major role is to help treat and prevent the spread of diseases within Mwala Community. Just 6 months after Kenya recorded its first COVID-19 case, Eunice's county was looking at catastrophe with tens of thousands of confirmed cases, mainly spread by community infections.

Eunice notes, "Mwala is only 2 hours' drive from Nairobi City which is the epicenter of the coronavirus. What the community needed most was proper knowledge and information on how to protect themselves from the virus as we all work to deal with this pandemic. That is exactly what World Vision provided to us."

World Vision initiated an emergency preparedness and response plan for COVID-19 for all area programs in Kenya, including the Mwala Community. The response plan promotes preventive measures through awareness education and promoting good family and community hygiene and sanitation behaviors, all in collaboration with the ministry of health and the county governments.

Eunice confirmed that the COVID-19 response plan has greatly contributed towards stopping or slowing the spread



of coronavirus among households in Mwala. World Vision vehicles were branded with COVID-19 safety information and fitted with public address systems to reach over 43,000 people with safety messages.

Eunice cannot hide her joy for what World Vision has done to make her work easier as she points to a hand-washing facility with liquid soap, personal protective equipment, and disinfectants that they use at the hospital. She says, "World Vision is helping us meet our target in providing good outpatient services to the community of Mwala. Now everyone in this community knows the importance of wearing a mask, hand washing, and keeping social distance."