

SUMMARY

With the World Bank [estimating](#) that the pandemic, inflation, and other global crises could push between 75 and 95 million people into poverty this year alone, 2022 could prove the second-worst year in this century when it comes to the fight against poverty.

Recovery Lending for Resilience (RLR) offers an alternative to this bleak projection. Partnering with VisionFund, World Vision’s global network of microfinance institutions (MFIs), RLR is using a holistic, grassroots approach to empower 2.1 million farmers and small business owners in 17 countries with the tools needed to help their families and communities to flourish.

Celebrating impact on savings groups

In a [study](#) of savings group members in Malawi, respondents were asked to gauge their confidence in being able to repay loans and contribute to household finances. Comparing results

from June 2021 to early 2022, responses showed improvement in every area, the largest jump being in participants’ sense of control over their finances. Overall, 91% of respondents said savings group loans had improved their lives. Building on this, three newly hired advisors based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, and Zambia are implementing the Finance Accelerating Savings Group Transformation (FAST) loan program to resource savings groups across the region.

Serving families holistically, creatively

As MFI operations recover through RLR, MFIs have greater capacity to explore innovative financial services. In Ghana, where 100% of VisionFund clients report that they’ve returned to work, the MFI has piloted a low-cost health insurance product via its savings groups. So far, it’s sold 771 policies, covering 4,756 lives, including those of 2,763 children.



A VisionFund Kenya FAST savings group meets. VisionFund loan officer Josephine Muchina (not pictured) says, “[The Biblical Empowered Worldview curriculum changed] the way I was training and relating with my clients: It was no longer just about giving them loans but transforming their hearts, their minds, and their pocket.”

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

- 

To date, 674 staff members (about 9% of the global VisionFund team) have completed Biblical Empowered Worldview (BEWV). The training is foundational to RLR, helping transform mindsets from dependence and scarcity to agency and abundance.
- 

First piloted by VisionFund Uganda—which has provided loans to over 27,000 savings group members, benefiting more than 115,000 children—FAST is now at the core of RLR’s economic empowerment model and is rolling out in eight countries in Africa.
- 

So far, 671 clients have received loans through FAST since VisionFund Dominican Republic launched the new initiative in February. As many as 3,925 children are expected to be positively impacted.
- 

To reduce operation costs and serve areas currently too remote to reach, RLR has resourced VisionFund Kenya to implement mobile money, with five more countries in progress. The goal is to roll out mobile money capabilities in all VisionFund MFIs.

KEY LEARNINGS

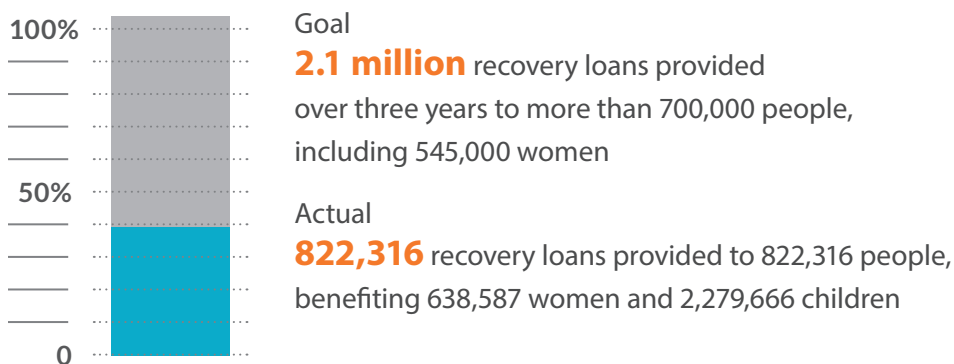
With 822,316 recovery loans worth over \$395 million in the hands of entrepreneurs and farmers, VisionFund MFIs are thanking God for the return of pre-pandemic levels of stability in operations, as well as in clients' lives. For instance, at VisionFund Rwanda—which has provided recovery loans to 8,462 people (67% of whom are women)—staff members have observed significant improvements to family livelihoods as markets reopen, food shortages decrease, and children return to school.

Across the network, MFI leaders are reporting more stable loan portfolios and repayment rates. Now, MFIs can turn their attention from responding to the crisis brought on by COVID-19 to improving services to better serve families.



“The loans from VisionFund let me stock the necessary medicines and supplies before the prices in the market went up,” says [Phyu Phyu](#) (on right), a licensed nurse and midwife in Myanmar who, along with her team, bravely served 120 people a day in her clinic and pharmacy amid the pandemic.

LIFE-OF-PROGRAM UPDATE (FY20–FY23)



PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

The following is a partial list of upcoming work by country:

DRC: Begin implementing new core banking system and launch mobile money | **Dominican Republic:** Train staff in BEVV | **Guatemala:** Conduct follow-up survey to evaluate recovery loan impact on clients | **Ghana:** Test new mobile money system | **Honduras:** Hire transformation impact manager to run BEVV program | **Kenya:** 135 trained staff members will conduct a BEVV pilot training with clients | **Malawi:** Commence BEVV trainings for staff | **Mali:** Deploy new core banking system | **Mexico:** Initiate BEVV pilot at Piedras Negras branch | **Mongolia:** Contextualize BEVV curriculum | **Zambia:** Reach 780 savings groups eligible for FAST offerings

THANK YOU

We thank God for your generosity, especially during a time of uncertainty and disruption. Your investment in RLR testifies to men and women in poverty that they're not forgotten, but beloved and filled with God-given potential.

“Remember that the Lord your God gives you the strength to make a living.”

—Deuteronomy 8:18 (CEV)



34834 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
P.O. Box 9716
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

For more information visit:
[worldvisionphilanthropy.org/
economic-empowerment](http://worldvisionphilanthropy.org/economic-empowerment)



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.

FINANCIALS

Program-to-date spending (October 2016 through March 2022)

Funding generously provided by individual major donors:

Summary	Program-to-Date Funding	Program-to-Date Spending	Program-to-Date Spending Rate
Recovery lending	\$ 8,774,881	\$ 8,518,066	97%
Savings groups	4,730,534	4,394,364	93%
Biblical Empowered Worldview	1,555,785	1,188,636	76%
Digitization and change	3,722,023	2,366,964	64%
Global technical support, monitoring, and evaluation	1,085,750	684,622	63%
TOTAL	\$ 19,868,973	\$ 17,152,652	86%

Funding generously provided by foundations and other partners:

Summary	Program-to-Date Funding	Year-to-Date Spending	Program-to-Date Spending
Recovery lending	\$ 7,483,953	\$ 2,201,788	\$ 7,264,919
Savings groups	4,034,595	2,262,122	3,747,881
Biblically Empowered Worldview	1,326,903	408,337	1,013,768
Digitization and change	3,174,452	711,071	2,018,745
Global technical support, monitoring, and evaluation	926,019	294,307	583,904
SUBTOTAL	16,945,922	5,877,625	14,629,217
Quality assurance	389,756	135,185	336,472
Management and fundraising	2,533,295	878,663	2,186,963
SUBTOTAL	2,923,051	1,013,848	2,523,435
TOTAL	\$ 19,868,973	\$ 6,891,473	\$ 17,152,652