



Jennifer Nyirmbe, 22, prays outside of the Catholic church she faithfully attends each Sunday. She is usually the first to arrive. But now, instead of worshipping inside, she kneels outside because of the incontinence and foul odor caused by her fistula problem. Fistula has destroyed this family. Fistulas can be the result of difficult or prolonged labor. In countries such as Uganda where many women rely on untrained traditional birth attendants, difficult labor can lead to internal damage that causes incontinence. It happened to Jennifer Nyirmbe, 22. “It disturbs me everyday,” says Jennifer. “I have discharge all the time. It happens after I eat. It happens anytime.” Jennifer delivered a baby last August at her uncle’s house. “We lost the child,” says her father, Vincent Owechi, 49. A week later, Jennifer became incontinent. After Jennifer’s fistula, Jennifer’s mother left the family, taking her sister. Now Jennifer can do nothing because of her incontinence. “She stays the whole day here,” says Vincent. “On Sunday, she goes to church to pray.” Jennifer prays outside the church. She does not go inside. “I pray that God will set me free,” says Jennifer.

*** UPDATE: Jennifer had successful fistula repair surgery at a World Vision medical camp in October 2016. ***



A boy with special needs and other children sing, pray, color and have fun in the Child Friendly Space in the El Talento neighborhood of Cucuta, Colombia, where about 80% of the population are Venezuelan migrants. World Vision partnered with Centro Cristiano church to put a Child-Friendly Space on church property in the community. World Vision staff lead activities in the CFS tent several days a week for children from adjacent barrios. On Saturdays, the church leads enrichment activities for children, including music, dance, and reading. There is free, 24-hour Wi-Fi at the CFS.



Juliette Mukabanda, 50, was one of a handful of people who survived the massacre at Murambi vocational school in Nyamagabe in southern Rwanda during the genocide. Juliette reconciled with the killer of her family, Emmanuel Nyirimbuga. Today the two are close friends, thanks to the reconciliation efforts of World Vision Rwanda. Emmanuel went to prison after the genocide. Sponsorship took care of four of his children, saving them from starvation. They want to tell their story to anyone who will listen. “I told God that if he saved me, I would serve him,” says Juliette. “I will always pay back my vow. Many didn’t make it to this point.” Emmanuel agrees. “I want everyone to know [what happened then] every country in conflict, even Afghanistan, so that this won’t happen again.”



A devastating drought in western Afghanistan has pushed more than six million people to the brink and hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to abandon their homes to live in sprawling makeshift IDP camps near cities in a desperate bid to feed their families. When people who are already living on the edge of survival get hit with these kinds of setbacks, existing problems get worse, particularly for children. Health deteriorates as chronic malnutrition becomes severe, threatening lives. The risk of violence and exploitation rises quickly. World Vision field teams have reported that rates of child marriage have doubled in some areas as families struggling with deep and extreme poverty exchange their young daughters, as young as 11, for a bride price.