



Joytun, age 13, has been through hell and back. She was working in a bread factory and was quite hungry, so the owner sent her to the kitchen to get some food. While eating, her scarf caught fire on a cooking flame, setting her whole body in flames from her face to her hips. She received some treatment and help at a missions hospital, but they fled before more treatment because the nuns running the hospital wanted to send her abroad to receive plastic surgery to continue Joytun's healing. Her mom feared they would try to have someone overseas adopt her, so they left the hospital. Joytun is severely limited by what she can do now for work, as her skin doesn't have elasticity because she needs skin grafts for full healing. She once had dreams, but now has resigned herself that she will likely marry a man who will beat her because she feels she's too ugly and poor to hope for a man who will be good to her. She looks forward to attending World Vision Child Friendly Learning and Recreation Center (CFLRC) so she can get more education.



Basir, 13, is in fifth grade at school and has the responsibility to take water to his home. In rural Afghanistan, it's often young boys who are responsible for fetching water. It was almost a whole day's hard job.

"I grabbed the cart with four jerry cans and went to the stream. Due to drought, the stream water was very low. It took an hour to fill the jerry cans. With toil, I filled the cans and carried them home," said Basir.

This was his routine, which took two hours to fetch water. When he returned home, he was very tired and weary, and could not do his homework. "I was very tired and went to sleep. Next day, my teacher in school punished me for not doing my homework," said Basir.

Water in Najk village would be collected from a river, often dirty, contaminated by trash and faeces, introducing all kinds of water-borne diseases to the villagers. But by constructing a new water supply network, funded by World Vision, Basir's journey was shortened significantly and he is happy to do his homework on time.

Access to clean drinking water was one of the activities that reduced the displacement of people and encouraged the return of formerly displaced people. Now, fetching drinking water has become a recreation for children.



Zhu, 16 year old sponsored child is pictured on her long walk to and from school. Zhu lives in a remote area where children stay at school during the week and go home on Friday's to spend the weekend with their families. The walk is two to three hours each way. Zhu has been doing this trek since she was 7 years old, sometimes on her own. The roads are slippery during the wet season and many of the children, including Zhu, have slipped and injured themselves. During winter, it is difficult. Many children don't have proper footwear, making them prone to falling on slippery road. But, they press on despite the hardship because of their strong desire to finish school.

Most of the families in Zhu's village are farmers growing corn and vegetables which they eat themselves, and supply to the market to sell. Parents traditionally do not earn much, so find it difficult providing for their children's school needs.



Armando Medina, 16, fled hunger and increasingly desperate conditions in Venezuela nearly two years ago. He had to leave behind his friends, family, and the home he loved to seek a better life in Colombia. His dad had left the family and it became too difficult for he and his mom to make ends meet. They decided to join Armando's older brother here in Colombia, but life continues to be a daily struggle. They slept on the ground for the first month here. His mom has taken various temporary jobs but is currently unemployed. Armando was in the sixth grade when they moved here. Right now, he's taking courses to get the Colombian equivalent of his GED. Much of their experience here has been embittered by xenophobia and discrimination, Armando says. But that's why he's drawn to the Child Friendly Spaces and workshops done by World Vision. "Many people say we're thieves," Armando says. "Some days I wake up well. Some days not so well."

"The thing is, here [Child Friendly Space], I haven't been discriminated against."



Muombi, 15, was separated from her mother when her family fled fighting in their village. She was then abandoned by her older brother, and now lives with family friends in the Mugunga IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camp in Goma, DRC. Every day Muombi goes into the forest in search of food, exposing herself to risks such as violence and abuse in order to eat.

"My mother ran away. I don't know where she went. The last time I saw her was during the war... I was taking care of the house and she went into the forest to collect some things. The war immediately started - and I never saw her again. For a while I lived with my older brother, who has six children. We didn't have a house and I wasn't going to school. Eventually, I decided to come to the camp looking for life. That was two months ago. Every day I wake up very early in the morning and go to the forest to collect wood. When I come back, I sell it to make some money. One time I got 1000 Congolese Francs (US\$2). I eat once a day, always potatoes and fish. I feel okay. The main problem I have is the hardness of life. Even if I'm sick, even if I'm hungry, I'm doomed to go to the forest to look for something so that I can eat. I would like to go back home; I think that may be possible soon. One day I dream I could do a job like selling flowers," says Muombi.

World Vision distributes food there in partnership with the World Food Programme, and families receive a monthly supply of maize meal, rice, beans, vegetable oil, salt and other staple foods.



A group of boys who work in automobile shops around the city of Khulna, Bangladesh are now able to attend World Vision's Child Friendly Learning and Recreation Center (CFLRC). At the center, the boys will learn life skills as well as about the dangers of trafficking and their rights.

Islam (second from left in brown sweater), age 14, wishes he could go to school like the other kids in his community, but at this point, he's been working for five years at an auto shop and has forgotten everything he had previously learned in school before he had to drop out. He works for about 12 to 14 hours a day depending on the day and makes about 2,000 taka (nearly \$25) a month to help support his family. His mom works 14 hours a day as a domestic laborer to earn 1,000 taka (\$12.50) a month.

Islam has been attending the World Vision Child Friendly Learning and Recreation Center for about 10 days. He hopes to learn how to read and write and do basic math at the center so that he can one day have his own auto shop. If he can learn those things and get about three to four more years of training, he could make about 35,000 taka (\$437) a month, and that is his goal for his life now.



“Lea”, 18, poses for a portrait at the rebound center run by World Vision in Butembo, DRC (Congo).

“I was abducted by Mai Mai militia and was a child soldier for 3 years. One day I escaped. I asked for permission to go for a walk and ran away. Luckily, they didn’t catch me.”

“At the center I’m doing sewing classes. I really like it. I have many friends here now. I want to learn to sew properly. I hope one day to have my own shop and provide for my child. I want my child to go to school, that’s my first wish. I don’t want him to be illiterate like me.”

Rebound Center in Butembo, DRC, supported by WVI for children and young people in Eastern Congo who have been injured and traumatized by armed conflict.



A baby waits to be examined by a nurse at the Katunda Health Center in Luampa district, Zambia.

Some people walk up to 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) from their homes to get to the clinic. Even though the Katunda Health Center serves a population of 9,141 people, the government only supplies medicines for less than half of the population. This means critical drugs are often in short supply as stocks run low. During the rainy season in western Zambia—November to April—clinics tend to see huge increases in cases of malaria and varying severity of respiratory infections (RTI), including pneumonia.

World Vision pharmaceutical GIK (gift-in-kind) helps rural clinics like the Katunda Health Center by providing most-needed drugs such as antiretroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS, antimalarials, deworming tablets, TB drugs, blood pressure drugs, Vitamin A supplements, blood pressure drugs, and antibiotics.



Sonam is pictured with her friend in an alley of the slum that she lives in. She started begging when she was 8 years old due to hunger in her family. Begging for a few coins every day excluded her from gaining an education. World Vision has set up a non-formal school in a slum near and underpass in North Delhi. It provides the children who would not normally go to school with an accessible education that catches them up to their peers in other area of Delhi so that they can begin a formal education in a government school. Sonam (brown or purple scarf, female, 12 years old) attends the school. World Vision has also given her a sewing machine. She is gradually learning how to sew as a trade.



At the important age of eighteen, Mandela Nelson stands at an important stage in his life; where his past was bloodied with violence, his present filled with big dreams and his future with uncertainty. He is currently a South Sudanese refugee living in Uganda.

South Sudanese refugees have faced much violence in the past few months and years. Men, women and children being shot by men holding guns is the disturbing reality of how much violence these children have had to face, witness and be affected by.

"I have two dreams in life," Mandela says. "One, I want to be a doctor like my father. Two, I find machines very interesting. I want to build machines. I want to be an Engineer."

Mandela recently had to dropout from school. He was in class Senior 3. The family can't afford to send all the 8 children in the family to school and pay the school fees of 97,000 Ugandan shillings (\$26) for Mandela's senior class. Yet, at this crucial stage in life, filled with dreams, aspirations, uncertainties and questions, Mandela Nelson is not the only one standing on the threshold of an uncertain future. Uganda alone has over 800,000 South Sudanese Refugees.



Nexi graduated valedictorian last March. Although she did not receive her award face to face and with the challenges caused by COVID-19 to her education come August, she is determined to study hard and become an Engineer someday.



Children in La Guajira, Colombia, are facing a lot of secondary impacts and risks due to mandatory isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many lack access to financial resources and basic elements to meet their needs. Children and youth who are out of school are now more exposed to desperate measures, including malnutrition, abuse, mistreatment, and violence. Therefore, World Vision and the ECW have implemented a project called “Access to Quality Education.” The project has delivered 285 hygiene kits, food packages, and educational materials, as well as 5,700 water purifiers donated by Procter & Gamble (P&G) to most-vulnerable families, mountain migrant populations, Colombia returnees, and host families.

Here we find love and hope. In the middle of a difficult context, Edward keeps his spirit up. He knows that World Vision arrived, and that they are going to give him school materials. He often asks about his teacher and speaks very fondly of her. He says that he misses her a lot and wants to go back to school soon. He loves to paint. And he knows that the arrival of World Vision to his home means that he will receive more activities to keep learning with fun and joy.



Andrea, 23, was raised in one of Romania's notorious orphanages. She is one of tens of thousands who bear the psychological and social scars of a childhood without love. She and the others learned to rock themselves because no one was there to comfort them.

She said that after she was born her mother ran from the hospital leaving new-born Andrea behind. When Andrea turned 18, the orphanage released her to the streets. The only things she took with her were the few possessions she owned and her rage, which had built over two decades of being locked in crowded rooms with other unwanted children. She stood on the unfamiliar street, utterly unprepared for life. Andrea had never been to a grocery store or handled money. She had no idea how to cook a meal or wash her clothes. She had no job skills, no place to live, and no ability to access social services.

When child protection reform became a government priority, World Vision was invited to participate in the process and influenced innovative and sweeping legislation that passed in 1997. To protect young

people like Andrea, World Vision created Hope House. Andrea lived at Hope House for more than two years, learning skills and anger management to help her transition to life on her own. Now three crosses dangle on cords around her neck, a constant reminder of the most precious truth Andrea says she learned.



Thirteen-year-old sponsored child Nahomy Yasmin Mejai Reyes with her father, Javier. Nahomy is the youth mayor of Yamaranguila and already a child rights advocate and community organizer in Yamaranguila AP, Honduras. Nahomy campaigned and was elected by students all over the municipality, winning twice as many votes as the other candidates. She encourages her peers to build up their community through service. Nahomy faces difficult subjects head on, campaigning against early marriage and teen pregnancy. When children drop out of school, Nahomy goes with the municipal child protection officer to talk to their parents and help them find solutions.

She lived with her grandparents for six years after her father migrated for work. But now he's back, and she draws on all the strength of her family's love and the support of teachers and mentors to be a beacon of hope for others.

"I want to be a doctor and start the first clinic in my community, La Puerta," says Nahomy. "To me, being educated means that I can take care of my family and my community, especially my grandparents and father who have sacrificed so much to give me opportunities."