

February 2024

Dear friend of World Vision,

One of my simple pleasures is tending tomatoes in my garden. It's a delight to watch them appear, small and green at first, and ripen on the vine. Not all the fruit makes it to the heavy, red, delicious stage. Some falls to the ground or is eaten by hungry deer. But for the fruit that remains, patience and perseverance are key to a beautiful harvest.

This applies to the work of World Vision. In a time of increasing humanitarian need, progress can be slow and marked by setbacks. But there's no shortcut—we can only be fruitful when we are faithful.

Looking back at 2023, I rejoice in the faithfulness of our staff, donors, and partners, and in the fruit of that faithfulness: a miraculous impact in the lives of millions of children and their families. Thanks to the generosity of our dedicated donors, we were able to invest nearly \$1.4 billion in our relief, development, and advocacy programs in 2023—an increase of 15% over 2022.

I'll never forget two moments in particular last year celebrating how ambitious, prayer-fueled plans had come to fruition.

In Kageyo, Rwanda, I joined a jubilant crowd celebrating the milestone of reaching over 1 million people with access to clean water—everyone, everywhere we work in that country—completing a goal we'd set five years earlier. There were speeches and testimonials, prayers and praises, live music and dancing. I found myself in a sea of kids wearing orange World Vision shirts. Together we raised our fists victoriously, chanting "ONE MILLION!"

In a different crowd and different place—Anaheim, California—joy similarly overflowed as I gathered with hundreds of donors who had faithfully committed support over the seven-year span of World Vision's Every Last One® campaign. Through God's grace, together we had reached more than 70 million people with tools for life, hope, and a future.

Among the key accomplishments of Every Last One:

- More than 1.6 million pregnant women, newborns, and children under 5 received essential healthcare, nutrition support, and treatment for disease.
- 5.8 million people were empowered to build improved and resilient livelihoods.
- More than 16 million people received urgent relief and care through our response to disasters and humanitarian emergencies.
- 25.5 million people gained access to life-giving clean water.

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Results like these are not easy or quick. They signify a pattern of faithfulness over the long term, just like the patience of planting seeds and tending to our gardens, working for an eventual harvest.

As we look to the coming year, we know some of the challenges we're facing: an ongoing global hunger crisis that tragically affects children the most, with 45 million kids already dangerously malnourished; entrenched war and conflict around the globe forcing people from their homes; and increasingly devastating natural disasters. And we can expect new challenges to arise.

But I am heartened by the commitment of our donors and partners who don't give in to hopelessness and won't give up on the children and families we serve. In 2023, I saw the fruit of their faithfulness firsthand, in the joy of children who now excel in school instead of spending their days hauling water, in the confidence of parents earning income that changes their kids' future, and so much more.

The world sees that fruit, too. And it inspires hope in what's possible when, together, we are faithful.

May God bless you!



Edgar Sandoval Sr.