



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 her medical condition. It disturbs me every day,” Jennifer says. In countries like Uganda where many women rely on untrained traditional birth attendants, difficult or prolonged labor can lead to internal damage like fistulas that cause incontinence—the inability to control urination or bowel movements. After Jennifer delivered a baby at her uncle’s house, the child died and Jennifer was left incontinent. Even worse, her mother abandoned the family, taking her sister with her. Vincent, Jennifer’s father, says she is debilitated and can do nothing because of her medical condition. “She stays the whole day here. On Sunday, she goes to church to pray.” But Jennifer prays outside the church and does not go inside. It’s a hard life. “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 plays with other children at the World Vision Child-Friendly Space in their El Talento neighborhood of Cucuta, Colombia.

World Vision partnered with Centro Cristiano church to put a Child-Friendly Space on church property in the largely Venezuelan migrant community. These are programs that promote the well-being of children during emergencies or difficult circumstances. World Vision staff lead activities in the 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 also free, 24-hour Wi-Fi at the Child-Friendly Space.



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 camps for internally displaced people (IDP) 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.