

## CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

## **SEMIANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

October 2023–March 2024 | Christian Discipleship Fund: Let the Children Come

### **SUMMARY**

World Vision believes the success of a community is inseparable from the well-being of its precious children. We reached 3 million people in the first half of fiscal year 2024, supporting the spiritual nurture of children through Christian discipleship activities, trainings, and other resources. Other highlights from the first half of FY24 include:

#### Parents, pastors, and programs

Our desire is for everyone to grow deeper in their understanding of God's boundless love. Working with and through parents, pastors, faith leaders, and other partners, World Vision helped children experience the love of God and know Jesus' offer of life in all its fullness. We equipped parents with principles reflecting Christian values, helped pastors multiply their ministry impact, and used biblically based programs to bring children closer to God.

#### **Biblical Empowered Worldview**

Our scale-up of the Biblical Empowered Worldview (BEWV) model reached nearly 207,000 people, helping them transform how they perceived themselves in the eyes of God and positively change their lives.

#### International Bible Fund

World Vision made nearly 82,000 Bibles available to help about 410,000 people read and study God's Word.



Children in 14 countries around the world, like these in Honduras, have the opportunity to know the love of God through World Vision's biblically based training and resources.

## **GLOBAL UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES**

**10,971,419** PASTORS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH have been equipped with the training and resources they need to learn Bible-based life skills and to explore or deepen their faith in Jesus Christ since October 2022.

3,424,939	children and youth directly participated in spiritual nurture activities since October 2022.
786,162	people were impacted directly and indirectly by the Phase 2 scale-up of BEWV since October 2022.
174,240	pastors, church leaders, and other faith leaders were trained in theology and children's ministry, as well as engaged in faith-based programming, since October 2022.
122,410	Bibles were made available since October 2022, benefiting 612,050 people.
7,829	new churches engaged in Christian discipleship and other faith-based programs for children and youth since October 2022.

## AFRICA

### **SUMMARY**

World Vision works in seven African countries to help children build their faith. FY24 highlights include:

**Ghana:** We trained 200 faith leaders in Valuing Children in Church, with more than 150 churches and parachurch organizations committing to uplift children. More than 830 children and nearly 500 parents and caregivers engaged in church activities, with some youth taking leadership roles.

**Kenya:** More than 6,600 parents and caregivers grew in their faith and parenting skills, changing how they related to their spouses and disciplined their children. One participant, Margaret, had "no peace at home," but through Celebrating Families, "we positively resolve conflicts," she said. "We work hard together in our farm to improve our livelihood and ... the wellbeing of our children."

**Ethiopia:** We reached 130,477 participants with spiritual nurture training, raising awareness about God and his love. At some schools, student groups do charitable acts, serve fellow students, and build character.

**Rwanda:** More than 1,000 couples participated in Celebrating Families,

leading to more family reconciliation, involvement in savings groups, higher incomes, and better child well-being. One couple felt moved to legalize their marriage and register their children in government records.

**Mozambique:** We have reached more than 15,000 children and trained 325 adults in Channels of Hope for Child Protection. One participant said the training helped reduce the number of "children being neglected and suffering abuse [or] violence from parents or community members."

Democratic Republic of the Congo

(DRC): By training 185 Sunday school teachers and Bible study leaders in spiritual nurture, we reached 16,504 children. We equipped nearly 2,500 faith leaders and parents, partnered with churches, promoted women's leadership, and addressed genderbased violence.

**Zimbabwe:** We reached 610 families through Celebrating Families, with 23 support groups created to follow up the training with parents and caregivers. In one area program, support groups paid school fees for six children in need.



Damien was raised by abusive parents in Rwanda, a pattern he continued when he married Grace and didn't want to share control of their income or decisions. At one point, Grace left him for six months. Then they were invited to attend a Celebrating Families workshop. Damien felt shame over his behavior, but fortunate that he could learn from past mistakes. The training was an opportunity "to open our eyes," he said. "I discovered where our conflicts are from. We have the key to unlock the solutions." Grace returned and the couple are building a home and raising crops and livestock.

### PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

5,021,637
82,614
5,479

people participated directly (1,807,463) and indirectly (3,214,174), including 1,197,505 children and youth, since October 2022.

Christian church leaders and other faith and community leaders participated since October 2022.

partners, mostly churches and faith-based organizations, participated since October 2022.

# ASIA PACIFIC

## **SUMMARY**

We promoted spiritual development in three countries in the Asia Pacific region, including with people of other faiths. Highlights from FY24 include:

Philippines: Dare to Discover workshops provided spiritual nurture to 210 children, including 107 who were not in school and had difficult home lives, helping them know more about themselves and God's love for them. Nearly 300 parents and caregivers received training in Celebrating Families, spiritual nurture, and other parenting skills, enabling them to share their knowledge with others. Church partners and 181 faith leaders, including non-Christians, participated in trainings to help them positively influence families and support the spiritual nurture of parents and fellow faith leaders. "I am grateful for World Vision ... All these questions in my head were answered," said Baimila, a Muslim. "Many of us realize the importance of God's role in our lives."

**Indonesia:** We reached 677 parents and caregivers, teaching them to create loving and nurturing home environments. Following Celebrating Families workshops, 115 participants met in support groups to exchange parenting tips and share experiences. More than 1,900 children learned about values, life skills, and leadership. "I learned about how to work together ... for good things according to the gospel," said Randy, 16. Faith leaders collaborated in child protection efforts with the community and local government, agreeing on social sanctions that already prevented one child marriage. Nearly 175 faith leaders (28% Muslims) committed to promote child well-being, including education.

**Restricted country:**\* World Vision gained local government approval to operate in two new area programs. We planned activities and training materials, increased awareness among local stakeholders, and worked with government partners. Our awareness sessions attracted 81 people eager to start activities on helping children form positive values. We held transition workshops for six area programs that were part of the previous project but are not in the new one. Parents and children expressed thanks for the change in their communities.



Darren was shy and tended to gather only with friends he knew from church in Indonesia. After attending a training done in collaboration with World Vision and two partners, he learned he was a valuable creation of God. He was taught to be a leader, have empathy, face challenges, and be guided by the Bible. "It's been a pleasure growing and developing with my friends," Darren said. "Pastors bring us together, guide us, and learn with us. Even though I used to feel shy in public ... I am ready to be a leader with all my friends" and to "learn things we don't get in school."

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

 1
 866,375

 1
 2,137

 1
 525

people participated directly (119,967) and indirectly (746,408), including 93,589 children and youth, since October 2022.

Christian church leaders and other faith and community leaders participated since October 2022.

partners, mostly churches and faith-based organizations, participated since October 2022.

\*Country name withheld due to restrictions and sensitivity in this context.

# **CENTRAL AMERICA**

## **SUMMARY**

Our work in four Central American countries increased spiritual nurture and Christian formation. Highlights from FY24 include:

**El Salvador:** We reached 5,401 children through 61 churches new to the program, indicating that faith leaders and churches are embracing our methodologies and approaches. Teachers trained in Raising Children with Tenderness and Parenting with Tenderness passed on their knowledge to 791 parents, surpassing the semiannual goal for FY24. Nearly 400 faith leaders received training in child discipleship and Parenting with Tenderness, also exceeding the semiannual goal.

**Honduras:** More than 20,000 children received spiritual nurturing in Bible schools, camps, and meetings. Activities were conducted by 165 churches and their 2,087 leaders trained in methodologies of Christian discipleship. More than 8,300 parents and caregivers gained insights. Using the Paths of Peace methodology, mentors at 89 churches trained 2,261 youth to be leaders in their communities and churches. Nicaragua: We reached 3,786 children through training 3,380 parents and caregivers in positive ways to raise, educate, and show God's love to their children. Parent support groups helped 277 families learn to provide their children with spiritual nurture. Nearly 50 people participated in a mentorship program. Ten churches and faith-based organizations replicated their learning by training 406 leaders from 49 churches. Trainings in spiritual nurture and youth mentoring will increase in the next six months.

**Guatemala:** Nearly 9,000 parents received training in Celebrating Families, implemented in partnership with churches. More than 39,000 children participated in Christian discipleship, spiritual nurture, and prayer activities to experience the love and tenderness of God while being treated with respect and dignity. We began to reach illiterate parents, worked with eight schools to help children learn responsible citizenship and caring for others, and helped nearly 1,200 church leaders provide spiritual nurture to children.



When she was only 10, Sulmy said she felt unworthy and suicidal, "but God gave me the strength" to draw closer to him through Psalm 27:10 ("Even if my father and mother leave me behind, above all, the Lord will lift me up"). World Vision mentorship and tenderness trainings helped her shed insecurities and recognize God's love. Sulmy now teaches Sunday school and youth groups in Honduras, helping mentor young people when they fall into depression. "From my experience and learning from World Vision teachings," she said, "I dedicate my time [to] supporting them to move forward."

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



people participated directly (722,333) and indirectly (1,855,650), including 564,916 children and youth, since October 2022.

Christian church leaders and other faith and community leaders participated since October 2022.

partners, mostly churches and faith-based organizations, participated since October 2022.

## **SUMMARY**

New technology, curriculum, and training marked the first half of FY24 in BEWV. We reached 206,577 participants, including 51,020 directly. Midway through our five-year program, we have surpassed our aims, achieving 148% of our direct reach target. FY24 highlights include:

We adopted iMPAQ (Impact Measure Program Accountability and Quality), a new World Vision system to enhance reporting for Christian discipleship and all other programs. The system, built on the industry-leading Salesforce technology, will allow us to better measure data and report impact across our global programs.

We completed work on the BEWV e-workshop, a synchronized learning platform to teach the model to staff in any country where we have programming. We piloted the e-workshop in a seven-week course with 30 participants. The official launch will come later in FY24.

We completed Empowered!, the approved BEWV curriculum for

children. We set guidelines for adapting the curriculum for use in multifaith and fragile contexts and with children not part of World Vision's sponsorship program. We distributed Empowered! to 23 of World Vision's national offices. A participant book and facilitator manual will help to effectively meet the learning needs of children.

The first BEWV campus club in a college setting was started at the University of Professional Studies in Accra, Ghana. The club aims to train more students in BEWV to break the dependency mindset and to foster sustainable community development.

We held the first BEWV workshop targeting women leaders in Africa, with 23 participants from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Ghana, and Kenya. Participants were drawn from African Evangelistic Enterprise Kenya and Pan African Christian Women Alliance. The event took place in Mombasa, Kenya, and was among initiatives aimed at expanding BEWV to external partners.



Likozhi grows peanuts in Zambia but struggled to feed his six children with one income. He was trained in BEWV, where "the concept of using your time productively really touched me." Feeling empowered, he and his wife, Magret, started several supplemental businesses. Likozhi became a mobile money agent, sold cooking oil, and expanded his crops. Magret started selling dried fish so she could buy her children school supplies. "Now, I ... am able to provide enough food for my children," Likozhi said.

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

ſ	786,162	people were impacted directly (92,830) and indirectly (693,332) by the scale-up of BEWV since October 2022.
ſ	92,830	people participated in BEWV activities or benefited from training given to their parents or caregivers since October 2022.
	12,814	children and youth participated in BEWV activities since October 2022.
	1,335	partner organizations, mostly churches and other groups, participated in BEWV workshops since October 2022.

# **INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND**

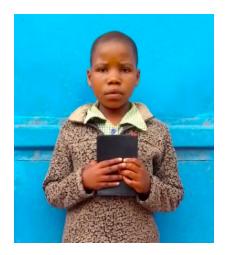
### **SUMMARY**

World Vision made 81,938 Bibles available in the first half of FY24, helping 409,690 people read, hear, and study God's Word. The numbers more than doubled the totals for all of FY23. Pastors, children, and families in four countries received Bibles.

**Angola:** We provided 25,224 Bibles in Portuguese to help 126,120 people. Youth received special "Reach for Life" New Testaments in partnership with the global ministry Biblica and participated in Bible studies in churches and schools to learn to resist peer pressure, grow self-esteem, and make healthy life choices. "I am grateful for my Bible," said a woman who is in prison. "I am hoping it will stimulate my brain and keep me active."

**South Sudan:** Nearly 60,000 people, many who live in remote locations and cannot afford a Bible, benefited from 11,950 Bibles in Arabic and English. We distributed the Bibles with Scripture Union in a partnership that includes school activities, such as Bible quizzes. In partner churches, the Bibles were used in services and studies. We also will partner with Mission Aviation Fellowship in the future to bring Bibles to areas difficult to reach. Philippines: Through a partnership with the Philippines Bible Society, we gave 41,500 Bibles—nearly double our budgeted amount—to children and church partners, strengthening our partnership with the Catholic church. Pastors and priests taught children how to use God's Word in their daily lives. "When I read the Bible, I feel safe in the words of God," said Mai, who has not seen her mother since she left to work in the Middle East six years ago. Though her father cares for her and her mom sends messages almost daily, Mai said scripture is "my source of comfort."

Rwanda: We distributed 3,200 Bibles, with 2,600 going to church partners for their Sunday school programs, especially to serve World Visionsponsored children and their families. The other 600 were given to youth in Bible clubs. While many donors give food, clothes, and other appreciated items, Bible donations are uncommon, "especially for children," said Sister Muroriyera Ernestine, who oversees the spirituality of students and their daily devotional lessons. At one club, students who used to share two Bibles among themselves now have several. "We are so grateful for the donors," Sister Muroriyera said.



Diane, 11, enjoyed life in a Christian family in Rwanda, but after her father suddenly passed away, she wondered how God could allow the loss of a loving parent. A friend invited Diane to attend a children's camp organized by a World Vision partner. "I was so happy when they told me, 'This is your Bible!'" Diane said. "I [had] been asking my parents to buy me one, but they could not because they had no money for it." The Bible helped Diane at a moment she needed comfort. "I read my Bible and see many stories about God's love, even during the hard times," she said. "It became my source of strength and revived my faith in Jesus."



people have benefited from Bibles provided through the International Bible Fund since October 2022.

Bibles have been made available since October 2022.

## **MEASURING IMPACT**

World Vision's Christian discipleship programs contribute to fullness of life for every child by supporting families, churches, and communities to create environments where children can grow in their faith.

In partnership with Fuller Theological Seminary, we are studying how Celebrating Families equips parents, pastors, and community leaders around the world with biblically based parenting training that fosters safe family environments rooted in Christian values.

The study, which combined quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to gather data from participants across 12 countries, shows encouraging initial results. Celebrating Families helps children experience safer, more loving homes, as they increase their awareness of God and their sense of hope for the future:

- After participating in Celebrating Families, parents hitting children as a form of discipline decreased by 47%.
- Children's awareness of God's love and sense of hope for their future increased across all countries by 6%. In Christian-majority countries like Rwanda, children's awareness of God's love improved by 29%.
- Among other key findings, 92% of pastors or community leaders reported their training as "good" or "excellent" and lowest income families showed the greatest gains in positive parenting practices.

### **THANK YOU**

A husband named Bungwana in Zimbabwe believed women "do not have a voice" and that "as a man, I should just give instructions and everyone has to follow." With his attempts to "control everyone," his family was in disarray.

That changed when Bungwana experienced Celebrating Families with his wife and reflected on his upbringing and how it impacted his family. The training transformed his thinking and drew him closer to his wife. "Love has been brought home," he said.

When you support World Vision's Christian discipleship work, you help bring God's love to vulnerable people, giving them fresh perspectives, new ways of living, and revived hope.

Thank you for your generous support and partnership. We deeply appreciate your role in helping children and families live life in the fullness God intended.





34834 Weyerhaeuser Way S. P.O. Box 9716 Federal Way, WA 98063-9716 For more information visit: worldvisionphilanthropy.org/ christian-discipleship



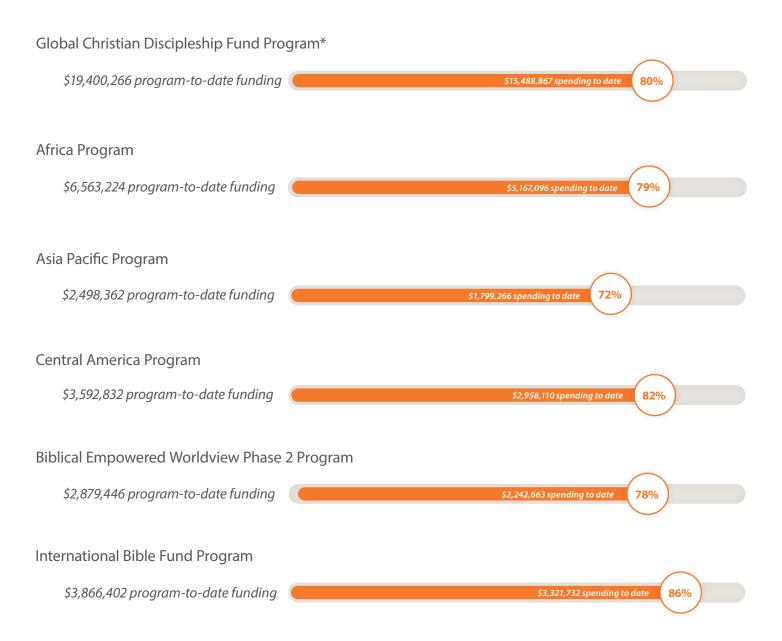
World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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Christian Discipleship\_Christian Discipleship Fund\_Report FY24 Semiannual

## **FINANCIALS**

The following financial summaries cover October 2021 through March 2024, except for the International Bible Fund, which covers October 2016 through March 2024.



\*Composed of Let the Children Come program spending

Note: These financials represent funding for programs that began during the Every Last One Campaign and are still in process, as well as programs begun as part of our new campaign during fiscal year 2023 (October 2022 through September 2023).