



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

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

SUMMARY

God wants every child to experience abundant life. Through our Christian discipleship programs, we help surround children with the resources they need—loving parents, trained pastors, and biblical programs—to create an environment for their faith to grow. World Vision has helped nearly 16 million people since the program began, reaching 34% of our campaign goal. Highlights from fiscal year 2024 include:

Let the Children Come

Let the Children Come provides biblically based programs where children can flourish while experiencing God's love. In FY24, we reached children across 14 countries by strengthening children's and youth ministries, supplying churches and schools with biblically based learning materials, and providing teacher training. We also worked with local ministry partners to establish mentoring programs and Bible clubs for children and youth.

Biblical Empowered Worldview

This powerful curriculum expanded into primary and secondary schools, universities, global forums, and a new online learning platform for staff, reaching more than 500,000 people.

International Bible Fund

In FY24, we provided more than 87,000 Bibles, impacting over 435,000 people—equipping churches, youth ministries, children, and families to read and study God's Word.



Our Let the Children Come programs, like this one in Ghana, engage kids' interests and help them explore God's purpose for their lives. "Playing soccer with my friends and learning Bible stories has made me love Kids Club and feel closer to God," said one participant.

GLOBAL UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

15,753,340

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.



4,888,183

children and youth directly participated in spiritual nurture activities since October 2022.



1,080,154

people were impacted directly and indirectly by the Phase 2 scale-up of BEWV since October 2022.



305,251

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.



127,542

Bibles were made available since October 2022, benefiting 637,710 people.



11,215

new churches engaged in Christian discipleship and other faith-based programs for children and youth since October 2022.

BIBLICAL EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW

SUMMARY

The Biblical Empowered Worldview (BEWV) model has been the catalyst for change in many places over the 2024 fiscal year, including schools, churches, communities, and global forums. The influence of this powerful curriculum that builds confidence, breaks dependency mindsets, and fosters sustainable community development is spreading, as church ministries and communities have begun funding their own local BEWV workshops.

We reached 209,926 participants in FY24, including 29,489 directly. More than halfway through our five-year program, we have surpassed our goals, achieving 174% of our direct reach target for the life of the program. Highlights from FY24 include:

We launched BEWV e-workshops, hosting two training events that reached 80 World Vison staff members across the globe through the new online learning platform.

World Vision held a BEWV workshop in Kenya at Africa International University (AIU), reaching 200 students to help them transform how they perceive themselves and positively change their lives. World Vision also signed an agreement with AIU to begin incorporating BEWV concepts into existing courses.

In Zimbabwe, 77 schools across nine area programs have adopted the BEWV curriculum for children and adolescents. A district-level education official reported an increase in self-esteem and motivation among students since schools began incorporating BEWV lessons into their weekly schedules.

In FY24, we saw church ministries and communities organize BEWV workshops without funding support from World Vision, demonstrating the program's sustainability. In Ethiopia, evangelical churches held BEWV workshops for members using their budget. Additionally, African Evangelistic Enterprise funded their own BEWV workshops for members, including faith leaders across the African continent.



Rahel, a 36-year-old mother of three in Ethiopia, was struggling when she first attended a BEWV training. "My marriage had ended, and I faced an uncertain future, feeling both hopeless and alone." From the very first day of training, Rahel felt different. "Discovering my true identity and understanding God's purpose for my life restored my hope. I gained a new vision for my future, which motivated me to pursue opportunities I hadn't considered before," Rahel said. She joined a savings group and eventually saved enough to open a grocery business.

PARTICIPANT UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



1,080,154

people were impacted directly (153,279) and indirectly (926,875) by the scale-up of BEWV since October 2022.



153,279

people participated in BEWV activities or benefited from training given to their parents or caregivers since October 2022.



20,633

children and youth participated in BEWV activities since October 2022.



2,107

partner organizations, mostly churches and other groups, participated in BEWV workshops since October 2022.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND

SUMMARY

In societies impacted by conflict, poverty, and oppression, a Bible is often seen as an impossible luxury. But Scripture is vital to support people's spiritual well-being and equip them to make godly choices. To grow spiritually, children need the opportunity to read the Bible and know their identity in Jesus. Mai, a 16-year-old from the Philippines who recently received a Bible, said, "It is my source of comfort in times of trouble. When I read the Bible, I feel safe in the words of God."

Working with local ministry partners, World Vision made 87,070 Bibles available in FY24, helping 435,350 people discover God's Word in their own language. The majority of these Bibles were distributed in the first half of the fiscal year. Following are highlights since April 2024:

Nicaragua: We distributed 2,700 Bibles to 13,500 people, including sponsored children and their families, as well as pastors of all

denominations (on average, every Bible reaches five people). Children and adolescents now have their own resource for reading and devotional times. Most families who received a Bible could not afford to purchase one on their own. The Bibles are enabling children and their parents to participate more deeply at church and in Bible studies as well as biblically-based programs like Celebrating Families, Channels of Hope, Raising Children with Tenderness, and youth mentoring.

South Sudan: We distributed 14,382 Bibles in Arabic and English, benefiting 71,910 people. We also partnered with Scripture Union to host school activities, such as Bible quizzes and camps. Partner churches received new Bibles for services and studies. World Vision is transporting Bibles across ten states, including remote locations.



After his parents separated six years ago, 11-year-old Fabrice (left) moved in with his elderly grandmother. She struggled to provide for Fabrice and he often felt unhappy, unable to understand why God allowed his situation. One day, a friend invited him to a children's event at a local church, where he encountered the Word of God. He began attending church services regularly and later joined a Bible Club. "I thank God for restoring my life. My church leader is helping me to forgive my parents. I love the Bible because it gives me hope for my future, and I am now one of the children's choir leaders," said Fabrice.

PARTICIPANT UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



637,710

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



127,542

Bibles have been made available since October 2022.

AFRICA

SUMMARY

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

Ghana: Kids Club facilitators used sports such as soccer and handball, along with the Wordless Book and Gospel Wheel, to teach biblical principles like love and forgiveness (see photo on page 1). This approach saw Kids Club participation rise by 93% over the fiscal year.

Kenya: Through partnerships with the Ministry of Education, churches, and faith-based organizations, we reached over 140,000 children, their families, and communities with Empowered Worldview for Children and Celebrating Families training.

Ethiopia: We impacted 41,542 children and adolescents through spiritual and character-building initiatives.
These programs, delivered through churches and schools, fostered a sense of purpose and self-worth among participants. Local faith-based partners, including the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Muslim leaders, played a crucial role, reinforcing ongoing character formation and offering support for at-risk youth.

Rwanda: The Let the Children Come project touched the lives of 152,792 kids through Bible studies and camps that promoted biblical values. We also reached 149,872 parents and caregivers with positive parenting messages and equipped 175 church leaders to lead spiritual nurture activities.

Mozambique: We trained 77 faith leaders in Channels of Hope for Child Protection, establishing 77 Community Hope Action Teams. The initiative reached 22,785 kids with messages about their rights and value.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (**DRC**): With One Hope and Scripture Union, the project distributed 406 curriculum sets to Sunday school teachers, equipping them with tools to deliver age-appropriate lessons. This initiative laid a strong Christian foundation for 69.099 kids.

Zimbabwe: We reached 353 men through Christian Men's Forum, a group for helping men overcome barriers to participation in family-oriented programs. The forum equipped men with the tools to become positive, engaged fathers and husbands.



Zebedee Bahivi, 56, a pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda, partners with World Vision as a trainer for our Celebrating Families program. "The church starts with the family. If there is conflict in families, there will definitely be conflict within the church. When there is unity in the families, then there is unity in the church. When there is unity in the church, there is unity in the community," said Pastor Zebedee.

PARTICIPANT UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



4,932,765

people participated directly (1,528,646) and indirectly (3,404,119), including 986,611 children and youth, since October 2022.



42,486

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



3,835

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: We reached 35,205 children from 28 area programs through Dare to Discover workshops and journaling activities for selfreflection. Journaling helped children process their thoughts, reflect on God's love for them and others, and increase their confidence. We supported 810 parents, caregivers, and other participants to improve family relationships and nurture their children spiritually through Celebrating Family workshops. Novie, a 47-year-old mother, shared, "My husband and I are happy to participate in the Celebrating Families event. Our relationship improved; my husband, who once drank daily, now focuses more on his job and spending time with our children. I learned more about my children and how important it is to communicate with them. We were also reminded to reignite our relationship with God and always let Him guide."

Indonesia: More than 60 churches committed to becoming Child-Friendly Churches, a strategic approach to ensure that the church is a safe environment for children and functions for their welfare. Also, 456 faith leaders and 75 Community Hope Action Teams participated in the spiritual nurture of children, leading workshops on parenting without violence and hosting leadership training for teenagers, youth groups, retreats, and vocal groups, benefiting 2,080 children.

Restricted country:* We reached 15,275 children and youth—many for the first time—through workshops teaching life skills to help them develop positive, peaceful relationships with their friends, families, and communities. We trained 1,337 children to share their knowledge and skills in communication, cooperation, and problem solving, and we helped them find new opportunities to share with their peers. Finally, 8,164 parents, caregivers, and children participated in a "Family Day" festival where they had time to learn together and better understand each other.



"Joining Dare to Discover affirmed my perspective that I need to dream more for myself and my family. Through that training, I was taught that I am worthy enough even though I am not perfect as a person," said 17-year-old Alexa, who lives in the Philippines.

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

PARTICIPANT UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES*



1,320,592

people participated directly (135,664) and indirectly (1,184,928), including 112,192 children and youth, since October 2022.



2,706

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



333

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

CENTRAL AMERICA

SUMMARY

Our work in four Central American countries increased spiritual nurture and Christian formation in the following ways:

El Salvador: Through Celebrating
Families and Parenting with Tenderness
classes, 4,576 parents and caregivers
learned about parenting skills, healing
broken or troubled marriages, and
treating children with love and
tenderness. In FY24, 207 new
churches joined the program, training
1,153 pastors and lay people to
spiritually nurture their communities.
More than 44,000 children participated
in Christian discipleship activities,
achieving 98% of our annual goal.

Honduras: In FY24, the program trained 2,749 church leaders to use the Raising Children with Tenderness curriculum in Sunday school classes, children's ministries, and parenting workshops. More than 13,000 parents learned practical parenting skills, including how to better bond with their children, and had the opportunity to experience God's love in tangible ways. We reached 32,875 children through activities in 215 churches and 61 educational

centers, helping them build a sense of belonging in their churches and communities and understand their value in God's eyes.

Nicaragua: We strengthened relationships with denominations and faith-based organizations, including the national Assemblies of God, the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, the Catholic Church, and local pastoral committees. Through these efforts, 782 faith leaders from 233 congregations adopted the Celebrating Families, Channels of Hope, and With Tenderness We Learn to Pray approaches. We reached 57,549 parents and 26,347 children through such programs.

Guatemala: In FY24, nearly 20,000 girls and boys took part in spiritual nurture activities, playing games designed to deepen their faith and teach them how to pray. Through a youth mentoring initiative, we trained 463 young mentors to share their faith with their peers and provide support to 1,022 mentees. Each mentor works with groups of about ten young people, creating networks of support and safe spaces for children to grow spiritually.



Adriana, a Sunday school teacher in Nicaragua, loves discipling teenagers and young people. Inside and outside church, she likes to teach her students what she knows about God. After World Vision distributed Bibles to children in the Tipitapa area program, Adriana started hosting study groups in her home to help kids grow spiritually together.

PARTICIPANT UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES*



2,867,304

people participated directly (815,435) and indirectly (2,051,869), including 638,193 children and youth, since October 2022.



23,150

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



3,392

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

MEASURING IMPACT

Results from a recent study, conducted in partnership with Fuller Theological Seminary, underscore the transformative potential of Celebrating Families. We looked at how the program contributes to fullness of life for children by supporting families, churches, and communities to create environments where kids can grow in their faith.

The study, which combined quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to gather data from participants across 12 countries, showed that **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%, and in Christian-majority countries like Rwanda, children's awareness of God's love improved by 29%. Click here to read a story of dramatic transformation, made possible through Celebrating Families.

"Celebrating Families harnesses the power of faith to cultivate strong, positive parent-child relationships, decrease child maltreatment, and enhance the spiritual and relational well-being of children and adolescents," said Dr. Lisseth Rojas-Flores, a professor of clinical psychology at Fuller.

Based on our findings, World Vision and the Fuller research team, led by Dr. Rojas-Flores, are addressing recommendations to strengthen and further evaluate the Celebrating Families program through 2026.

THANK YOU

Thank you for partnering with us in our Christian Discipleship program to help bring hope, encourage transformation, and share the love of God with children around the world. Because of your generous giving, millions of children, youth, and adults have found support and hope through the church and faith-based programs, gained access to God's Word, and grown in their faith.





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For more information visit: worldvisionphilanthropy.org/christian-discipleship







FINANCIALS

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