



CHILD PROTECTION | Big Dream to End Child Marriage

Progress Report

October 2024–September 2025

OUR APPROACH

Every girl deserves a full childhood and the right to decide if, when, and whom to marry. Yet for millions, this right remains out of reach. Each year, 12 million girls become child brides—22 every minute. In Bangladesh, 51% of girls marry before age 18; in Kenya, 23%. Child marriage cuts short education, increases health risks, and reinforces cycles of extreme poverty.

That’s why World Vision launched Big Dream to End Child Marriage, a program designed to tackle the underlying drivers of child marriage and help create communities where girls can grow, learn, and lead. In fiscal year 2025, we accelerated efforts with local partners to transform inequitable norms and strengthen environments that protect girls’ futures.

Five pillar approach

Big Dream to End Child Marriage features a multisector approach to address the root causes of child marriage and extreme poverty through five pillars.

- **Behavior change:** Families and communities demonstrate social norms and practices that are equitable for women and girls.
- **Education access:** Girls gain access to quality education and life-skills training.
- **Economic empowerment:** Economic pressures driving child marriage are reduced through savings groups and microfinance support.
- **Water and sanitation access:** Barriers to girls’ education are reduced by improving access to clean water and equipping schools with menstrual hygiene facilities.
- **Strengthened child protection systems:** Legal and policy frameworks to prevent child marriage are in place, resourced, and enforced.



The Big Dream to End Child Marriage program aims to keep girls in school instead of being forced into marriage. In Bangladesh, education stipends help make this possible. As one girl shared, “Because of receiving the stipend, I can attend school regularly ... My own risk of child marriage has decreased.”

FY25 GLOBAL UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

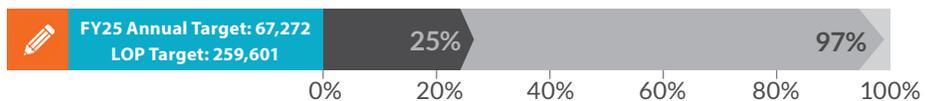
Behavior change

59,343 individuals reached



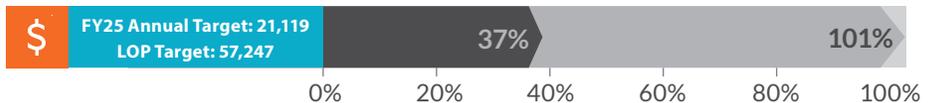
Education access

65,319 individuals reached



Economic empowerment

21,445 individuals reached



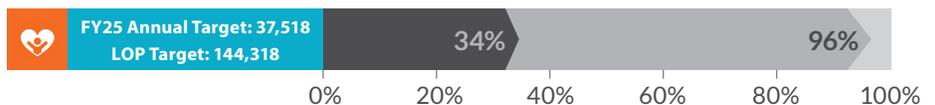
Water and sanitation access

66,973 individuals reached



Child protection systems strengthening

35,888 individuals reached



% Life of Project (LOP) target percentage achieved % FY25 target percentage achieved

A year of momentum

FY25 was a year of growth for Big Dream to End Child Marriage. Building on lessons learned in Kenya and expanding into Bangladesh, we worked alongside tens of thousands of children, parents, and community leaders to challenge discriminatory traditions, strengthen protections, and help girls stay in school.

In total, we reached more than 192,000 participants across Kenya and Bangladesh—including 106,450 women and girls. These figures represent more than numbers; they reflect transformed lives and reclaimed futures.

- In Kenya, school retention rates for girls rose to 94%, with thousands re-enrolled after dropping out due to extreme poverty or cultural pressures. Savings groups flourished, empowering caregivers—especially women—to support their families and reduce the economic drivers of child marriage.
- In Bangladesh, more than 9,000 adolescent girls completed life-skills training that equips them to make informed decisions and pursue opportunities.

These milestones mark a growing movement: communities choosing education over early marriage and hope over harmful cultural norms and practices.

Looking ahead

This is more than a program—it is a movement to restore dignity and opportunity to vulnerable girls. Through faith-based engagement, community-driven solutions, and evidence-based interventions, Big Dream to End Child Marriage is creating ripple effects that will benefit generations to come.

Our vision is bold, but with committed partners like you, it is possible: a world where every girl can dream, learn, and lead—free from the threat of child marriage.

Together, we can protect children and empower girls to become who God meant them to be.

STORY OF IMPACT: A FATHER LEADS WITH LOVE TO END CHILD MARRIAGE



In Kenya's Samburu community, raising young children had traditionally been seen as a mother's role. "When children are born in our community, they are their mother's responsibility. A man doesn't come close to them," said Paul (pictured), a father of 10. For years, Paul followed this norm—leaving parenting, decision-making, and household care to his wife. Everything shifted when he heard about a positive parenting training offered through World Vision's Big Dream to End Child Marriage program. "I wanted to bring change to my family," he said. "I was deeply saddened to realize that the things I thought were normal were actually hurting my family." Paul's mindset began to shift—and with it, so did his role as a father, husband, and protector. Today, his story stands as a powerful example of how one man's courage can transform generations.

Story continued on page 4

KENYA

In FY25, the Big Dream to End Child Marriage program in Kenya made significant progress in helping the most vulnerable girls overcome extreme poverty and reclaim their futures.

Across seven counties, 105,937 children, families, and community members partnered with the program to advance education and end child marriage—surpassing the annual goal.

Behavior change: More than 21,000 community members participated in local dialogues and Biblical Empowered Worldview sessions that promoted new attitudes and behaviors to protect children. Additionally, 4,202 people took part in training focused on positive social norms, and 1,826 parents gained skills in positive parenting. One parent shared: “After going through the Community Change model, I made the decision to enroll my daughter ... I am now fully committed to her staying in school and completing her education.”

Education access: Through partnerships with county governments, schools, churches, and the State Department for Children Services and Ministry of Education, we supported the enrollment of 138,643 students. Of those students, 62,819 benefited directly from the program through school fee assistance, vocational training, improved school facilities, and the re-enrollment of 11,997 students who had previously dropped out. As a result, 64,543 girls remained in school, with a 94% retention rate—many of them rescued from child marriage or given the opportunity to return after

leaving school because of poverty or harmful cultural practices. Esther, 15, shared: “When the Big Dream program stepped in to pay my fees, it changed everything for me ... I feel safe from child marriage, and I have hope for a better future.”

Economic empowerment: In FY25, 300 savings groups were established, bringing together 6,584 members who collectively saved nearly \$400,000, strengthening family financial stability. Jackline from West Pokot said: “Joining the savings group was an eye-opener ... I now run a business that pays school fees for my children.”

Water and sanitation access: To help girls stay in school, communities worked together to improve facilities for 5,705 students by constructing inclusive latrines and installing 117 handwashing stations. In addition, 12,685 people gained access to clean water through new boreholes, rehabilitated springs, and storage tanks—removing a barrier that often keeps girls out of the classroom.

Child protection systems strengthening: Families and local groups united to protect 745 girls from child marriage and other harmful practices. These efforts were supported by stronger child protection systems, reflecting the program’s commitment to helping every child grow into all they were meant to be.

FY25 was a year of transformation—when girls renewed their hope for a future filled with possibility and opportunity.



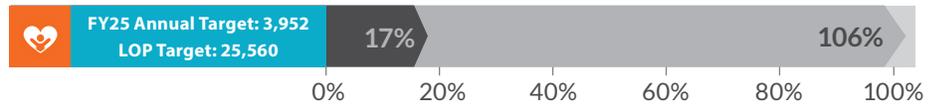
*In Kenya, we will reach **472,810** people, including **245,380** women and girls over six years.*



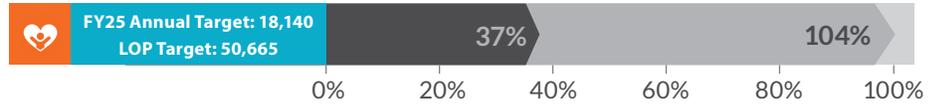
FY25 PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES IN KENYA*

Behavior change

4,202 individuals (2,632 women and 1,570 men) participated in behavior-change programs

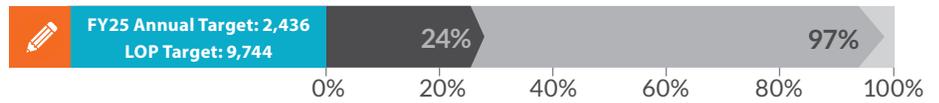


18,940 individuals (11,494 women and 7,446 men) participated in Biblical Empowered Worldview programs

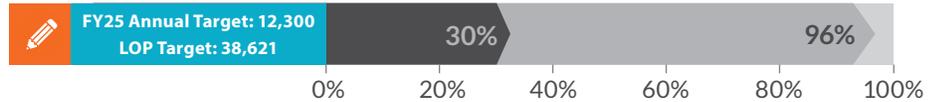


Education access

2,371 individuals (1,776 girls and 595 boys) completed formal education (primary, secondary, or vocational) in the past year

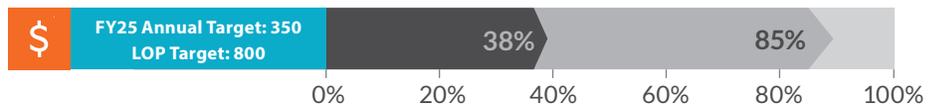


11,855 individuals (6,103 girls and 5,752 boys) completed life-skills training



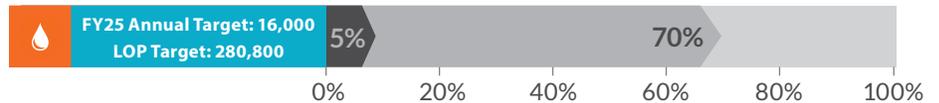
Economic empowerment

300 savings groups (6,584 members total; 696 women ages 18–25; 4,618 women over 25; 280 men ages 18–25; 990 men over 25)



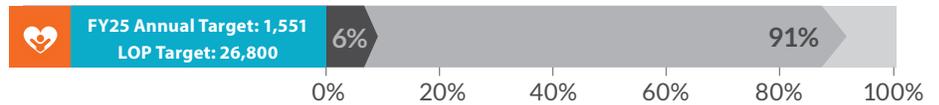
Water and sanitation access

12,685 individuals (7,259 women and 5,426 men) gained access to a basic drinking water collection point in communities



Child protection systems strengthening

1,407 community members trained on how to respond to child protection incidents



% Life of Project (LOP) target percentage achieved % FY25 target percentage achieved

*The numbers in this chart reflect only the participants counted in the listed indicators, not the total participants in each pillar.

A FATHER LEADS WITH LOVE TO END CHILD MARRIAGE CONTINUED



After the training, Paul took bold steps that continue to inspire his community. He enrolled two of his children—who had stayed home to tend livestock—in a local accelerated learning program. “When the time comes, I will take over the livestock duties myself so that my children can focus on school,” he said. At home, he began helping with chores and caring for his youngest daughter. “She has bonded with me so much ... That never happened with my older children.” Some men in the community mocked his new involvement—at first. Later, they came to him for advice. “They want to hear how I changed.” Paul was determined to give his daughters a different future: “I’ll make sure they finish school and get married only when they are ready.” Though Paul has since passed away, his legacy lives on—in the daughters who remain in school and in the fathers who now follow his example.

BANGLADESH

In FY25, the Big Dream to End Child Marriage program in Bangladesh advanced progress for the most vulnerable girls, even amid political unrest, curfews, and severe flooding. **Across Cox's Bazar district, 100,264 children, youth, women, and men partnered in efforts to prevent child marriage and expand opportunities for girls.**

Behavior change: Families and faith leaders are embracing new mindsets that protect girls. Nearly 94% of faith leaders now promote positive social norms, and 78.5% of girls report being able to make and act on their own decisions. Through child and youth forums, 692 adolescents were mobilized, and 84 child marriages were prevented.

Education access: Education is becoming a reality for girls once at risk of child marriage. Education stipends kept 2,500 vulnerable girls in school, and female-friendly WASH facilities improved learning environments for thousands. Many girls also gained confidence and communication skills through life-skills education. One participant shared: "Before, I was afraid to speak in public, but after receiving the life-skills training, I can now give speeches in front of people. My father wanted to marry me off, but I was able to persuade my father to postpone the marriage."

Economic empowerment: Financial pressures driving early marriage are easing; 700 ultra-poor households

received conditional cash support, and 300 families accessed Child Marriage Prevention Loans to strengthen their livelihoods. After completing a confidence-building program, families reported greater stability. As Aroti, a participant, shared: "We were planning to reduce the family expenses by getting my daughter married off early ... The conditional cash support made me self-confident, earning my own income alongside my husband ... Now we are living better than before."

Water and sanitation access: School environments improved through access to clean drinking water for 3,227 students and handwashing and menstrual hygiene facilities for 1,948 students—helping girls remain healthy and able to attend class consistently.

Child protection systems strengthening: Community and government partners strengthened protections for girls. Twenty-eight Child Marriage Prevention Committees were reactivated, and 180 law enforcement officials were trained on child protection laws and referral pathways.

These results reflect meaningful change. As one parent shared, "Family decisions are made based on everyone's opinions. For example, we must educate our children, we will not marry them off before 18, any work will be done with everyone's consent." Their words show how families are choosing new paths that protect and empower girls.



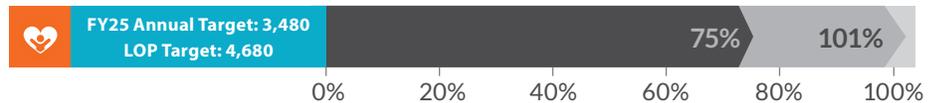
*In Bangladesh, we will reach **190,092 people, including 95,805 women and girls over four years.***



FY25 PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES IN BANGLADESH*

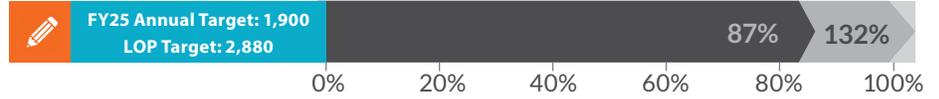
Behavior change

3,529 individuals (1,814 women and 1,715 men) participated in behavior-change programs



Education access

2,500 girls completed formal education (primary, secondary, or vocational) in the past year



9,280 girls completed life-skills training



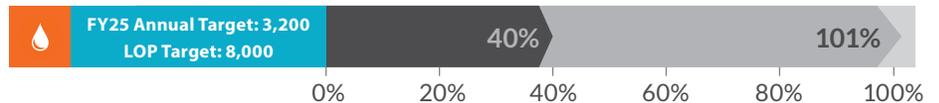
Economic empowerment

700 households received conditional cash transfer



Water and sanitation access

3,227 individuals (2,418 women and 809 men) gained access to a basic drinking water collection point in communities

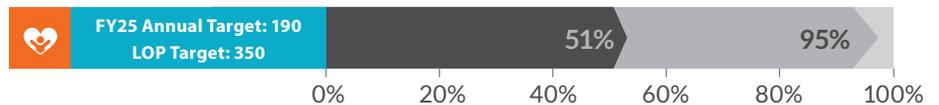


4 education facilities gained access to adequate menstrual hygiene facilities (impacting 2,418 girl students)

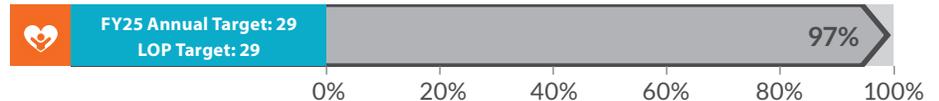


Child protection systems strengthening

180 community members (government and police officials) trained on how to respond to child protection incidents



28 child marriage prevention committees implemented annual action plans



% Life of Project (LOP) target percentage achieved % FY25 target percentage achieved

*The numbers in this chart reflect only the participants counted in the listed indicators, not the total participants in each pillar.

STORY OF IMPACT: LUCKY'S DECISION TO PROTECT HER DAUGHTERS



Lucky, pictured left, from Ramu Upazila in Cox's Bazar, has fought to rebuild her life since her husband abandoned the family 11 years ago. With no income and a broken van—their only asset—she struggled to feed her four children, and pressure to marry off her daughters grew each day. When Lucky learned about World Vision's Big Dream to End Child Marriage program, she enrolled in the Child Safety Net project and received an interest-free loan of about \$230, on the condition she would not arrange child marriage. "It was a blessing," she said. Repairing the van allowed her son to earn daily income and keep his sisters in school, restoring a measure of stability the family had long prayed for. One of them, Riya (right), her second daughter, shared: "Before taking loan I could not go to school regularly ... But now I want to be a police officer."



THANK YOU

When Nispa, a teenage girl in Bangladesh, feared that financial pressures at home would interrupt her education, she shared that the help she received was more than just support: “It’s also a great effort to fulfill my dreams through abolishing child marriage.” Her hope reflects what is happening across Kenya and Bangladesh as girls gain the opportunity, protection, and confidence they need to build the futures God intends for them—because of your faithful support.



This year, families, faith leaders, teachers, and community partners worked together through the program to protect children and open doors for girls to stay in school, speak up, and thrive. Thanks to your partnership, harmful norms are being challenged, families are choosing new paths of protection, and communities are strengthening the systems that safeguard children for the long term.



Local leaders are seeing this transformation firsthand. Julius, a curriculum support officer with the Ministry of Education in Samburu North sub-county, shared his appreciation for the impact of the program: “I am so proud of the Big Dream to End Child Marriage program for the improvement of schools in Samburu North and rescuing of girls who are at high risk of child marriage.” Julius highlighted how communities are increasingly taking ownership of education: “The participation of parents in school activities and back to school campaign yield results ... as a department we assure our partnership for the achievement of the program’s ultimate goal.”

Thank you for your generosity, advocacy, and prayer. Because of you, lives are changing—strengthening families, uplifting communities, and giving girls the chance to imagine new futures.



P.O. Box 9716
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716



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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Child Protection_Big Dream to End Child Marriage_Report FY25 Annual

Summary	Project-to-Date Spending	Project-to-Date Budget	Project-to-Date Spending Rate
Bangladesh Big Dream to End Child Marriage	\$ 2,237,963	\$ 2,405,335	93%
Kenya Big Dream to End Child Marriage	\$ 11,780,835	\$ 12,728,693	93%
Total WVUS Private Funding Spending	\$ 14,018,798	\$ 15,134,028	93%