2020
ZIMBABWE ANNUAL REPORT
Our Impact Update
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The children have spoken

What an incredible year! The first half was filled with anxiety, fear and confusion which quickly turned into a global/virtual sense of oneness, hope and a spirit to fight for survival—together.

In the midst of the global Covid pandemic, which saw the Zimbabwean lockdowns commencing in March, many still believed children were the least affected group as the mortality rate for healthy children infected by the virus was very low. However, disrupted livelihoods, schooling and even humanitarian assistance processes in an already unstable economy proved that the indirect effects and impact of the disease on children, especially the most vulnerable, was huge. To protect children and their communities, World Vision Zimbabwe continued providing critical assistance as many remained in need of humanitarian assistance and rapidly integrated COVID-19 prevention in many of our activities. The organization responded with an initial budget of US$1 million, but by the end of September 2020, total funding stood at US$2.6 million which was set to assist 3.2 million individuals (including 330,000 children).

This report reflects on the year, our efforts, lessons and successes. But first, we thought to briefly share what this group that is at the heart of our programming had to say about the global pandemic, its effects on their lives as well as some recommendations on how children can be protected in the face of such crises and challenges. [Link to the SAR Child Consultation Report](https://bit.ly/348Xxes)

Here in rural areas, what we only have are the kambudzi phones (none-smart phones). We have no computer labs at school either. We only learn through sitting in class rooms and practicing with class mates.

When I am at school and playing with my friends, it makes me feel accommodated and makes me feel that I am normal and equal to my peers. Being home is fine, but playing with my friends matters a lot.

**Children’s Recommendations**

- Governments must ensure that education reaches the most vulnerable children & young people.
- Governments, donors, UN agencies & the international community must prioritise child protection.
- Governments should ensure social protection measures are in place for the most vulnerable throughout the response & recovery phases.
- Governments, UN agencies, civil societies, faith-based organisations & the private sector should work together to make the Internet a safer place for children and young people.
- Governments, UN agencies, civil societies, faith-based organisations must fund & implement a mental health & psychosocial (MHPSS) strategy.
- Recognise & embrace children & young people as rights holders & social actors with capabilities to contribute to stopping the COVID-19 spread.
- Provide age-appropriate information to ensure that children & young people, families & communities are aware of the changing COVID-19 situation & the measures being undertaken.
Our National Impact

Zimbabwe continues to face a challenging macro-economic environment, political instability and widespread food insecurity. The poor macro-economic environment has been worsened by spiraling hyperinflation, high unemployment, a contracting GDP (estimated to be -7% for 2019), low capacity utilization (estimated to be around 28%), high poverty, and an influx of street children in urban centers. It is against this background and the addition of the COVID-19 pandemic that World Vision Zimbabwe operated in 2020.

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I am so excited about this new development at my school, we now have running water everywhere including at the new toilets. I am really happy my secret worries have been addressed with that toilet with a screen door. Just look at it, it is so beautiful and hygienic. Charity Singo (12 years)

I am now able to send my children to school as well as put some food on the table. I thank you World Vision for changing my life & may God bless your work

Martha - a cash beneficiary from Nyanyadzi

Children have been participating in Scripture Union (SU) in schools. Neshaya Secondary School in Hwange has one of the most vibrant SU clubs that has impacted the school and the immediate community. It has drawn together 250 girls and 150 boys. All 42 Scripture Union members who wrote Ordinary Levels in 2019 passed.

I used to travel with two of my grandchildren to Masiye Clinic. We used to travel such a long distances. We would sit down several times to rest along the way. I am so grateful. Thank you for bringing the clinic closer to me. I am now able to walk with my grand children to a close by health facility for growth monitoring and treatment. Indeed God intervened.

Attaliah Chawe, Matobo

My child is fidgety and his thoughts often wander, but with this Viamo platform I can support him quite well and ensure he is attentive during the lessons. I’m glad that my son can practice and repeat material during the lock-down so that he doesn’t forget everything he has learned before.

Betty Mhlanga found it easier with Viamo to support her son Tamuka with his studies

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**Our Response**

**JANUARY 2020**

**Cyclone Idai & Drought**

**MARCH**

- WHO declared COVID-19 pandemic
  - 20 March - Zimbabwe recorded first COVID-19 case
  - 24 March - Schools close
  - 31 March - National lock-down effected

**JUNE**

- Lock-down extension
- Food insecurity due to lock-down

**SEPTEMBER**

- 7,838 cases confirmed
- 6,303 case recoveries
- 228 deaths recorded

**Interventions**

- World Vision Zimbabwe launched US$1 million response plan
- Viamo mobile education platform launched
- 1,317,890 people reached

**Main Focus**

- Protection of children and their families
- Improving protection of local health workers
- Supporting medical treatment of patients
- Strengthening preparedness for a national public health emergency

**COVID-19 Impact on children**

- Increased food insecurity and hunger
- Increased violence at home
- Increased child marriages
- Inability to practice religion
- Inability to play with other children
Our Mission

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

In our quest to seek justice and advocate for the children in Zimbabwe, World Vision Zimbabwe celebrated the successful amendment of the Education Act in January, 2020. This amended act which the organisation, various partners and educationalists have been lobbying for years considers fundamental Child Protection recommendations made, which are critical to our programming. Amongst other things, Education has been made compulsory, Corporal punishment abolished and there will be no exclusion of pupils from school for pregnancy or school fees default reasons.

Our Vision

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

During the initial COVID-19 induced national lock-down, the Government of Zimbabwe continued with essential and critical services including the provision of humanitarian and life-saving interventions carried out by organizations such as World Vision. This meant we had to deploy and keep staff working and assisting communities, whilst minimizing risks for our partners, staff and the communities that we were serving. We commend the WVZ frontline staff for remaining committed, despite the challenges and fears, while responding to the extent possible!

Our Core Values

- We Are Committed to the Poor
- We Are Christian
- We Are Stewards
- We Are Partners
- We Value People
- We Are Responsive
Our Promise to the most vulnerable girls and boys of Zimbabwe is to transform their lives and bring them hope!

Keeping Our Promise

The World Vision Zimbabwe strategy is based on the Global World Vision strategy, 'Our Promise,' which represents a bold commitment to the most vulnerable girls and boys around the world - to transform their lives and bring them hope. Our Promise takes into consideration key issues focusing our Ministry for greater impact. Financial year 2020 marked the end of the WV Zimbabwe FY16-20 strategy but brought with it new challenges such as COVID-19 and Cyclone Idai. These events compelled the organization to be more agile, innovative and adaptive. The following are some of our key achievements:

- **Deepening our commitment to the most vulnerable children**, WV Zimbabwe in financial year 20 reached over 1.3 million vulnerable children. This translates to 53% of children served through our programs

- **Collaborating and advocating for broader impact**, World Vision Zimbabwe in partnership with other organizations influenced 5 Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) laws and policies addressing access to education and enabling over 2.5 million children to be better protected through our "It Takes Zimbabwe to End Sexual Violence against Children" advocacy campaign impacting more than 2.5 million children

- **Living out our Christian faith and calling with boldness and humility**, the organization built credibility as a strong faith based partner able of galvanizing a mix of faith actors in support of collective action for children. More than 500 church leaders were trained on Channels of Hope for Child Protection and they reached out to over 75,000 children in their respective areas through church-led initiatives and this expedited addressing issues of sexual violence against girls.

Despite the socio-economic landscape that is replete with threats on child wellbeing, World Vision Zimbabwe is grateful to partners and supporters who have made it possible to make progress in improving the well-being of children especially the most vulnerable within their families and communities.
Livelihoods
Livelihoods programming focused on disaster prone areas where drought and floods are prominent risks. Households with most vulnerable children (MVC) were supported with the establishment of Income Generating Projects, community gardens and irrigation schemes that generated food and increased income potential used to support children to achieve positive health, nutrition and education outcomes. A total of 149,094 vulnerable children were reached through Livelihoods programming with over 110,000 reached through emergency response and safety nets. More than 15,138 children, part of the WV sponsorship program, were reached through the livelihoods interventions in sponsorship funded Area Programs alone.

Education
The protracted macro-economic situation in Zimbabwe has rendered many children more vulnerable. Children at most risk include those in abusive and exploitative relationships; in disaster prone areas and children living with disabilities. The Covid pandemic resulted in school closures which left more than 4 million learners without formal education for more than 6 months during the year. WVZ reached close to 1.4 million learners (including close to 1 million girls) with various interventions and innovations aimed at providing opportunities for learning. This included the use of mobile platforms where information was sent to teachers and learners. These initiatives were done in partnership with organizations such as ProFuturo Spain and Viamo.

Health & Nutrition
Despite the disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program constructed and completed three Rural Health Centres and a waiting mothers home. These were established in partnership with communities, local authorities and the Ministry of Health and Child Care. These improved access for more than 25,000 people who previously could not access health services as a result of long distances. Some of the communities would walk for more than 20 kilometres to seek health services. The screening for malnutrition continued reaching 20,000 children ensuring that those malnourished were detected early and referred for assistance or treatment.

Overview of priority sectors
Recurrent droughts worsened the food insecurity situation in the country resulting in poor uptake of recommended infant and young child feeding practices and threatening the general nutrition status of children. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the health delivery system and further deteriorated the food security situation as household livelihoods were eroded.
In 2020, WASH activities were implemented in 8 Area Programs and 5 Grants (Golf Fore Africa, SADC Ground Water Management Institute, WASH Up Girl Talk, Ferrovial Grant and ZIMWASH). Sanitation and hygiene key activities included latrine constructions, households, schools and health care facilities. Water activities at both community and institution level included drilling of new boreholes, the establishment of solar powered piped water schemes and the rehabilitation of non-functional water sources. Response by the sector became more crucial with the Covid pandemic as the need to ensure access to water as well as sanitation and hygiene was increased. More than 156,000 people were reached through the various WASH interventions and more than 1 million people were reached with COVID-19 related hygiene promotion.

Advocacy, Faith & Development
As poverty levels further escalate in communities, child marriages and sexual abuse of children are also on the rise. UNICEF reports that child marriage prevalence in the country stands at 33% (MICS 2019). A WVUK and WVZ 2018 research suggests the influence of traditional beliefs and harmful social norms have a stronger influence in much of the Apostolic Church across Zimbabwe. 15% of members believe girls and boys should be given equal chance and priority to go to school, whereas 84% believed that girls/women, particularly virgins, aged between 16-23 years command the highest ‘bride price.’ With group-based initiatives forbidden in line with Covid lockdown regulations, WV used mass and social media to share messages against violence towards children and reached 300,000 people as a result. Additionally, our interventions focused on the spiritual and social environment that children live in, making it more conducive for nurturing to take place (families equipped; the church and various religious groups engaged and patriarchal attitudes challenged so women could be valued).

Disaster Response
Before the COVID-19 pandemic, in mid-March 2019, parts of Southern Africa were devastated by a category 4 tropical cyclone which caused catastrophic damage with massive flooding, the deaths of hundreds of people and thousands more left homeless and displaced. World Vision Zimbabwe focused on an integrated multi-sector response, achieving results including:

- 32,222 boys and girls reached through education interventions
- 12 temporary learning spaces in form of tents provided
- 18,228 individuals reached with Health & Nutrition interventions
- 7,582 individuals reached with shelter & non-food items
- 1,600 houses rehabilitated & constructed
Sponsorship under COVID-19: The power of partnerships

We celebrate the faithful support from our sponsors from around the world who are central to WV reaching the most vulnerable children (MVC) in our communities! Retaining these sponsors has been a key focus in the year which saw the organization digitalizing the processes of tracking child monitoring and case management to reassure the sponsors of the wellbeing of the children especially during the covid pandemic.

In 2020, a total of 68,242 children were registered for WVZ’s sponsorship program where the model emphasises pooling of funds for shared community benefits, although it is individual children that are registered to specific sponsors. However, occasionally sponsors opt to give beyond their community benefit commitment which directly benefits a child’s family in the form of Gift Notications (GNs). This year alone, World Vision Zimbabwe received a total of US$525,359 worth of GNs towards 3,368 RCs. Fifteen-year old Austen and his family can testify to the direct benefits of this.

Austen was raised by his grandmother after his mother lost her life while giving birth to him. As a vulnerable child in the Area Program community, Austen was registered into the sponsorship program in 2012 and instantly connected with his sponsor family. Because the sponsor regularly sent money, Austen’s grandmother suggested that they build a house using these GN funds. The materials were purchased over a period of one year and the house was constructed. In addition to the house, the family purchased a heifer which now has a calf and this will support their livelihoods. Austen is now in Form 2 and the GN funds have paid for his school fees since he was in grade 4. This sponsor and many others like him have transformed the lives of many vulnerable children like Austen through their generosity and we are truly thankful!

Where do our sponsors come from?

- USA: 25,532
- CANADA: 10,000
- HONG KONG: 9,800
- SPAIN: 68,242
- GERMANY: 5,400
- SWITZERLAND: 5,400
- USA: 25,532
Financial Year 2020 has been challenging on many fronts, as the global health pandemic brought unprecedented changes in people's lives while impacting much of the world. WV was also impacted as an organization but while we faced challenges we also seized opportunities to become more agile. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, we continued to deepen our commitment to vulnerable boys and girls, their families, and communities and were able to expand our reach and impact. We are grateful for the faithful individuals, institutions, government and other donors who provided the resources needed for us to continue doing our work.

In implementing programs, WVZ collaborates and partners with various Government of Zimbabwe Ministries, institutions and departments. WVZ is indebted to the funding support received from local and international sources. In addition to thousands of individual contributors who support our programs we also received funding from the following:

**PRIVATE SECTOR, FOUNDATIONS & OTHER FUNDING PARTNERS**
Dubai Cares, Ferrovial (Spain), Proctor and Gamble, Profuturo (Spain), Ecobank and Golf Fore Africa

**SUPPORT OFFICES**
WV Australia, WV Canada, WV Germany, WV Finland, WV Hong Kong, WV Netherlands, WV South Korea, WV Spain, WV Switzerland, WV Taiwan, WV UK & WV US

**GOVERNMENTS & MULTI-LATERAL INSTITUTIONS**