

CHRISTIAN  
DISCIPLESHIP

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

October 2021 – September 2022 | Christian Discipleship Fund

## SUMMARY

As Ephesians 3:20 says, “[God] is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine ...” and He has. With your generous support, **we have reached nearly 10.2 million people through our Christian Discipleship Fund—quadrupling our original campaign target of 2.5 million—** since October 2015.

Our [Biblical Empowered Worldview](#) (BEWV), Let the Children Come (LCC), and International Bible Fund (IBF) projects impacted 3.9 million people—including 597,026 children—in FY22, supporting parents, caregivers, ministry workers, and churches to nurture children’s faith and transform people’s mindsets in communities across the globe.

As a result of [Celebrating Families](#) workshops, we have seen growth in parents’ ability to care for their children physically and emotionally. Faith and community leaders have also taken ownership of this model and will continue using it independently.

We also partnered with churches and Christian children’s ministries to provide resources for children’s discipleship and to train teachers and youth ministry workers to work more effectively with children. The Bibles distributed through IBF complemented these efforts, equipping youth, pastors, and ministry workers with the Word of God.








*Therefore I will praise you,  
Lord, among the nations; I will  
sing the praises of your name.*

—2 Samuel 22:50 (NIV)

## GLOBAL UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

**10,181,111** **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 2015, including 3,939,690 new people in FY22.

-  **1,163,645** children and youth directly participated in Christian discipleship activities since October 2015, including 597,026 new participants in FY22.\*
-  **1,723,903** people were impacted directly and indirectly by the scale-up of BEWV during Phase 2, which started in FY22, adding to the 1.9 million participants from Phase 1.
-  **69,477** pastors and church leaders were trained in theology and children’s ministry, including 36,082 new participants in FY22.
-  **8,800** churches engaged in Christian discipleship of children and youth, including 3,161 new churches in FY22.
-  **284,719** Bibles were made available, including 64,039 in FY22. These benefited 1,423,595 people, including 320,195 in FY22.

\* Our LCC projects expanded to eight new countries this year, allowing us to reach significantly more children than anticipated in FY22.

# AFRICA

## SUMMARY

In seven countries across Africa, World Vision works with churches and other partners in the LCC project to help children develop their faith. Highlights from FY22 include:

**Kenya:** Working with pastors and Sunday school teachers, we provided 106,000 children with age-appropriate Christian discipleship activities through programs such as Empower!, Dare to Discover (D2D), Bible clubs, and prayer rallies.

**Ghana:** We reached 39,248 children, youth, and adults with teaching and learning materials—including Good News Bibles and Empowered! books, like those pictured at right—prayer rallies, Vacation Bible Schools, kids clubs, and sporting activities by partnering with Awana Ghana, Scripture Union, Child Evangelism Fellowship, J-Life Ghana, and others.

**Ethiopia:** We equipped 4,246 faith leaders with skills to lead Christian discipleship activities for children. Faith and community leaders were encouraged to address barriers that hinder the spiritual well-being of children and families, including harmful social norms and gender inequality.

**Rwanda:** The project established partnerships with eight parachurch organizations, including Scripture Union and dioceses of the Anglican and Catholic churches. We are working with these organizations to develop a national policy to provide guidance for children’s ministry workers.

**Mozambique:** We facilitated Bible study groups composed of two to three families in multi-faith contexts, using resources such as Journey to Hope and 17 Bible Stories (made available by our partner One Hope). This helped strengthen mutual understanding and dialogue with Muslim faith leaders and families.


**Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Through a partnership with Scripture Union, we surpassed our target of reaching 1,500 children with Christian discipleship materials.


**Zimbabwe:** The project established Christian youth groups in communities using D2D and [Reach 4 Life](#) materials. The groups meet once per month, but in between meetings, volunteer mentors meet with youth regularly. The youth groups have helped increase self-esteem and confidence among young people.




*Children in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya live in difficult conditions, often without basic needs being met, and are vulnerable to exploitation. Ekabe Lukano, pastor at a local Nazarene church, saw an opportunity to serve. He now partners with World Vision to lead Christian discipleship activities and teach Empower! to kids in the Kakuma camp. Children also play games and receive snacks during club time. “There was a need to engage children in productive activities in a safe environment while also bringing them closer to God,” said Pastor Lukano.*

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

 **1,438,515** people participated directly (625,681) and indirectly (812,834) in LCC, including 449,976 children and youth, in FY22.

 **48,490** Christian church leaders and other faith and community leaders participated in LCC in FY22.

 **2,405** partners, mostly churches and faith-based organizations, participated in LCC in FY22.

# ASIA PACIFIC

## SUMMARY

Despite delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the first half of the fiscal year, World Vision and our partners worked hard to catch up and surpass many of our goals, reaching thousands of children in three countries in Asia, promoting spiritual development through the LCC project. Highlights from FY22 include:

**Philippines:** In collaboration with our sponsorship area programs (APs), the project helped 20,776 children—129% of our target—participate in spiritual nurture activities, including Scripture lessons, prayer journals, and Dare to Discover (D2D) workshops, which help young people discover their purpose in life as intended by God.

**Vietnam:** Through the D2D program, we reached 4,596 children and trained 106 facilitators to use biblically based materials and resources to help children develop strong values and healthy habits, visualize their dreams for the future, and create three- to five-year action plans to achieve their goals.

**Indonesia:** More than 4,000 children participated in the Building Inclusive

Youth Leadership (MKARI) program, developed through a collaboration between our sponsorship, child protection, and faith and development teams. At MKARI meetings (such as the one pictured at right), children learn that they are created in the image of God and practice skills that help them develop empathy and resilience.

### Key lessons and challenges

**All countries:** Integrating our Christian discipleship activities with other World Vision programs, as well as increasing collaboration with churches and faith leaders, allowed us to surpass our FY22 goals for reaching children and families, in spite of ongoing challenges related to the pandemic. Our staff will continue to look at options for alternative ways to work in communities so they can quickly adapt to any future programming disruptions.

### Plans for the next six months

**Vietnam:** We will conduct the second round of baseline surveys for the project and, in six APs, we will provide coaching for facilitators and train more children in D2D.



*A facilitator leads a group activity at a MKARI meeting in Indonesia. Joshua, a 15-year-old participant, said, “I am impressed with how well the facilitators treated us. They gave us useful knowledge for my future. One of the materials that impressed me was the one about how we can be a leader with Christ-like character.”*

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



**286,995**

people participated directly (46,045) and indirectly (240,950) in LCC, including 32,384 children and youth, in FY22.



**304**

Christian church leaders and other faith and community leaders participated in LCC in FY22.



**283**

partners, mostly churches and faith-based organizations, participated in LCC in FY22.

# CENTRAL AMERICA

## SUMMARY

World Vision's LCC project trainings and collaborations with partners in four Central American countries give children the opportunity to learn about God's love and grow spiritually. Highlights from FY22 include:

**Nicaragua:** By training church leaders and ministry workers, we reached 22,052 children and adolescents with activities such as Vacation Bible School, Bible studies, and other child-friendly ministries. These activities were carried out in coordination with 83 churches, seven Christian schools, and three faith-based organizations.

**El Salvador:** We celebrate that 991 faith leaders committed to partner with World Vision to implement child- and youth-focused Christian discipleship activities. In addition, we established partnerships with 155 churches (168% of our goal), including national dioceses of the Catholic Church and Protestant denominations.

**Honduras:** We trained 200 parents and caregivers in Celebrating Families, a biblically based curriculum

that teaches parents how to better care for their children. We also formed support groups for participants following the workshops, as they put new parenting techniques and Christian values into practice.

**Guatemala:** Churches in the Alta Verapaz department, where we recently established a sponsorship program, formed the First Ecumenical Network of Christian Leaders. These churches will work together to address issues that adversely affect children, including violence, abuse, family disintegration, and irregular migration. Iglesia de Dios Evangelio Completo (IDEC), one of the largest denominations in the country, is a member of the network.

### Key learnings


For the past 10 years, we have used the Raising Children with Tenderness model to equip parents to use positive techniques and greater affection when raising their children. However, implementing the Celebrating Families methodology has demonstrated that the two models complement each other, and both contribute to promoting child well-being.





*"One of the problems I face is due to my disability. Before, I didn't like to participate in any of the activities at my school or in the church. I felt sorrow and fear. One day I was invited to one of the activities of the Christian discipleship project. My teacher told us several stories, including the story of creation. I liked it a lot! From that day on, I began to attend church classes every week to interact with other children and to feel part of the group, especially because my classmates take care of me and integrate me into the activities."*

—Hilary, 8, Nicaragua

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

 **170,082** people participated directly (59,087) and indirectly (110,995) in LCC, including 47,048 children and youth, in FY22.

 **2,090** Christian church leaders and other faith and community leaders participated in LCC in FY22.

 **551** partners, mostly churches and faith-based organizations, participated in LCC in FY22.



# BIBLICAL EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW

## SUMMARY

In the first year of Phase 2, we scaled up our BEWV model across seven new countries and trained 249,242 leaders to reach 1,474,661 people with messages of transformation and hope.

In FY22, we saw the effectiveness of training with a cascade approach. Involving key leaders such as government officials and pastors at the national level helped encourage individuals to adopt BEWV at the local level. As of September 2022, faith leaders who attended national trainings shared lessons about God-given identity, vision, compassion, relationships, and faith with 64,442 people in their congregations.

We wrapped up the pilot study for Empower!, a BEWV curriculum designed for 8- to 12-year-olds. The findings from workshops with 1,212 children in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda revealed that Empower! is effective for engaging children to begin transforming their mindsets at an early age.

We also continued to build evidence of BEWV's impact. One [recent study](#) from Zambia showed increased child well-being in communities where parents participated in BEWV training. Those parents were more likely to meet basic needs for their children, including school fees, clothes, and food.

### Challenges and key learnings

Prolonged drought in countries like Kenya threatened livelihoods and reversed some of the economic gains made by communities trained in BEWV. As a result, we will explore integrating disaster risk reduction training with BEWV.

### Plans for the next six months

We will conduct a baseline evaluation and develop guidance for implementing BEWV in multi-faith contexts, a curriculum targeted specifically toward adolescents, and an online training platform for BEWV. In addition, we will continue rolling out Empower! across 27 countries.



Realeboha, 19, lives with her mother and baby daughter in a rural area of Lesotho. As a young mother with few resources, life is challenging. Before BEWV was introduced at her village nutrition club, Realeboha said, "Our family was barely surviving. I had no aspirations to do anything." At the training, she was encouraged to understand God's plan for her life and form a vision for her future. "Through this training, I learned to dream again," she says. She plans to study business management and start her own business.

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



**1,723,903**

people were impacted directly and indirectly by the scale-up of BEWV in Phase 2, which started in FY22, adding to the 1.9 million from Phase 1.



**249,242**

people participated directly in BEWV workshops in Phase 2, adding to the nearly 230,000 reached during Phase 1.



**67,618**

children and youth participated in BEWV activities and benefited directly from their families implementing new Phase 2 initiatives, adding to the 1.5 million reached during Phase 1.



**4,444**

partner organizations (mostly churches and other groups) participated in BEWV workshops in Phase 2, adding to the 2,065 reached during Phase 1.

# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND

## SUMMARY

Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, pastors and ministry leaders can teach from Scripture, and children can read God's Word for themselves. **With your partnership, World Vision provided 64,039 Bibles to 320,195 children and adults** in the following countries in FY22:

**Angola:** We distributed 2,787 Bibles to children, youth, pastors, and families, benefiting 13,935 people. Pastors use the Bibles to teach their congregations about scriptural themes related to gender equality and the vital roles that women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations play in families and communities.

In the words of one pastor, "Having a Bible that has all the pages makes it easier in my preparation of sermons. I do not have to borrow a Bible in order to study. I do not have to worry any more if someone asks me about a verse that is part of the pages that are missing in my first Bible because today, I have a Bible with all pages included. Today, I can preach in any passage of Scripture without fear."

**Lesotho:** We distributed 13,450 Bibles, reaching 67,250 people (including

children, youth, parents, and pastors). The Bibles will be used for Bible clubs in schools, to support the spiritual nurture of children and promote a reading culture among students.

**Malawi:** World Vision provided 16,446 Bibles to use in Kids Clubs, religious studies classes in schools, and for pastors being trained in the spiritual nurture of children. The Bibles will benefit 82,230 people.

**Papua New Guinea:** We shared 2,818 Bibles to reach 14,090 pastors, ministry leaders, children, and families. The project is working with World Vision's water, sanitation, and hygiene team using a Bible-based engagement program called Jesus: The Source of Living Water. Bible distributions also were integrated with health projects, as well as peacebuilding and conflict resolution programs for youth (pictured at right).

**Peru:** We impacted 142,690 people with 28,538 Bibles, many of which will be used for positive parenting courses at local churches.

### Plans for next six months

We will begin purchasing and distributing nearly 90,000 Bibles across eight countries.



*Children at a youth club meeting in Papua New Guinea proudly hold their new Bibles.*

## PARTICIPANT UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



**1,423,595**

people have benefited from Bibles provided through the International Bible Fund since July 2016, including 320,195 in FY22.



**284,719**

Bibles have been made available since July 2016, including 64,039 in FY22.



## LOOKING AHEAD

As part of our continuing efforts to measure impact, we are partnering with Baylor University and Fuller Theological Seminary to build evidence through research about how our programs facilitate the spiritual nurture of children, and how they demonstrate the link between Christian discipleship and community health and well-being.

In the coming months, we will continue data collection for a study focused on peer-to-peer mentoring in Central America. And we will assess initial results from an evaluation of Celebrating Families, related to parents' and children's discipleship and values formation, including the role faith leaders play. The results will help improve our programs for children, parents, and faith leaders.



## THANK YOU

Thank you for joining us in this work to foster hope for children, families, and communities, whose lives are being transformed through empowered minds, love expressed through active faith, and truth encountered from reading God's Word. May you be richly blessed for your commitment to help more children around the world experience the love of God and deepen their faith in Christ.



Angelo (center), 11, recently shared at his Kids Club meeting in Mozambique that learning Bible stories has transformed his relationships with his family and with God. "The story that touched me is Joseph and his brothers. Joseph was sold to traders by his brothers because they were jealous of him, because he was a loved son among the brothers. I repeatedly asked my Sunday school teacher to read the story over and over again. Listening carefully to the story has changed the way I should behave. I used to not listen to my parents and my siblings. I am now a changed child and I can see God's love, I greet my parents, and I help my parents with house chores. I go to school without being forced. I really want to thank World Vision for bringing hope in my community," said Angelo.

## FINANCIALS

The following financial reports cover October 2021 through September 2022, except for International Bible Fund, which is from October 2016 through September 2022.

### Global Christian Discipleship Fund Program-to-Date Spending\*

*\$5,775,538 program-to-date funding*

*\$5,169,203 spending to date*

**90%**

### Africa Let the Children Come Project-to-Date Spending

*\$3,720,995 project-to-date funding*

*\$3,443,898 spending to date*

**93%**

### Asia Pacific Let the Children Come Project-to-Date Spending

*\$827,612 project-to-date funding*

*\$736,891 spending to date*

**89%**

### Central America Let the Children Come Project-to-Date Spending

*\$1,226,931 project-to-date funding*

*\$988,414 spending to date*

**81%**

### Biblical Empowered Worldview Phase 2 Project-to-Date Spending

*\$1,030,153 project-to-date funding*

*\$843,064 spending to date*

**82%**

### International Bible Fund Project-to-Date Spending

*\$2,707,092 project-to-date funding*

*\$2,421,029 spending to date*

**89%**

\*Composed of Let the Children Come project spending



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