

INVEST IN WOMEN.
MULTIPLY IMPACT.

World Vision 

BEYOND ACCESS

Phase 1 Results

Evaluation confirms transformative gains in women's empowerment, income, and water access

WHY BEYOND ACCESS?

Extreme poverty can end, but not without women and girls. When half the population is held back, progress stalls for whole communities.

Beyond Access is a family-centered, women-focused program that tackles extreme poverty at its roots to create lasting impact. It accelerates transformation through sequenced access to clean water, economic opportunities, and supportive environments. Because when women thrive, their communities do, too.

PHASE 1: PROGRAM LAUNCH

In 2022, Beyond Access was launched in four countries as a three-year program placing women and girls at the center of development.

PHASE 2: PROGRAM EXPANSION

In 2025, the strong results from Phase 1 prompted an expansion to reach 360,000 more people in 12 countries by 2030.

KEY FINDINGS FROM PHASE 1

An evaluation conducted by local researchers showed that, from 2022 to 2025, Beyond Access drove significant gains across key empowerment metrics: water access, savings group participation, personal earnings and savings, and decision-making authority.

42 pts

Women earning income from a small business or employment increased by an average of 42 percentage points across all countries.

29 pts

Women gaining basic water access improved by an average of 29 percentage points across all countries.

51 pts

Women with personal savings increased by an average of 51 percentage points across all countries.

31 pts

Women's participation in community water decision-making increased by an average of 31 percentage points across all countries.



“These results—achieved in just three years—reflect what’s possible when we move beyond siloed interventions toward truly integrated programming. The Beyond Access program is delivering rapid, measurable impact and is informing how we design and implement our programs to continue to deliver strong results for women, men, and children.”

Margaret Schuler,
World Vision Chief Impact Officer

OUR LEARNING APPROACH

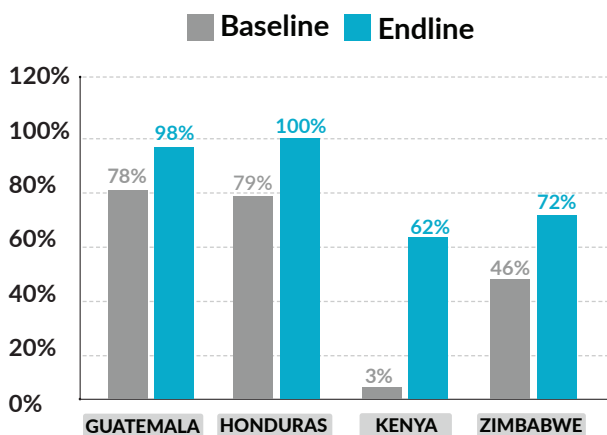
To understand the costs of poor water access, World Vision partnered with Emory University and local research teams. The research findings confirmed that water collection places substantial burdens on women and girls, and unless those barriers are removed, empowerment efforts stall. However, as the Phase 1 results demonstrated, sequenced interventions that include water access can accelerate opportunity and agency for women.

ENDLINE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

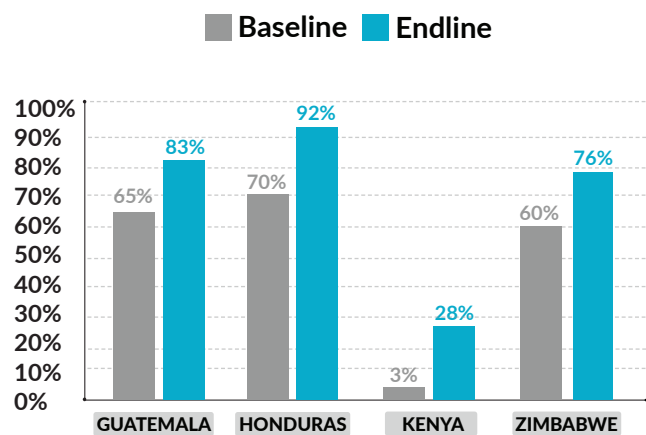
WATER AND SANITATION ACCESS

Women in all four Phase 1 countries gained improved water and sanitation access. Better access to these services reduces the burden on women, offers greater dignity and privacy to women and girls, and reduces the prevalence of waterborne diseases.

Percentage of Women with Basic Water Access
(from an improved source within 30 min)



Percentage of Households with Basic Sanitation Access

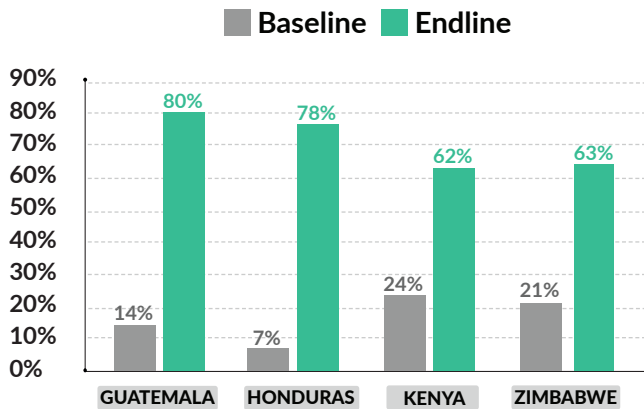


Note: All endline results shown are statistically significant.

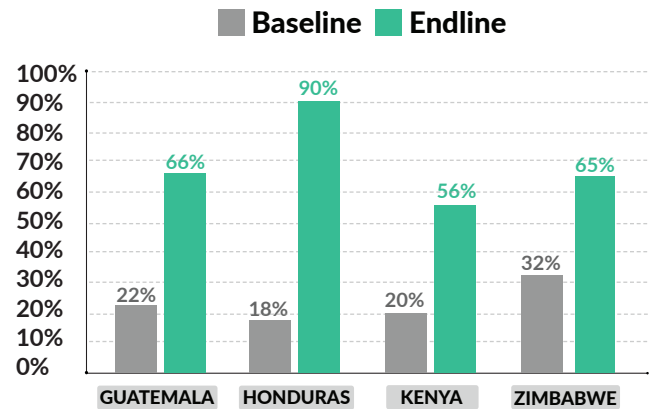
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Across all Phase 1 countries, women reported significant improvements to their financial health between the start and end of the program. By participating in savings groups, gaining access to capital, and learning business and financial literacy skills, women increased their incomes and built their savings.

Percentage of Women Who Have Personal Savings



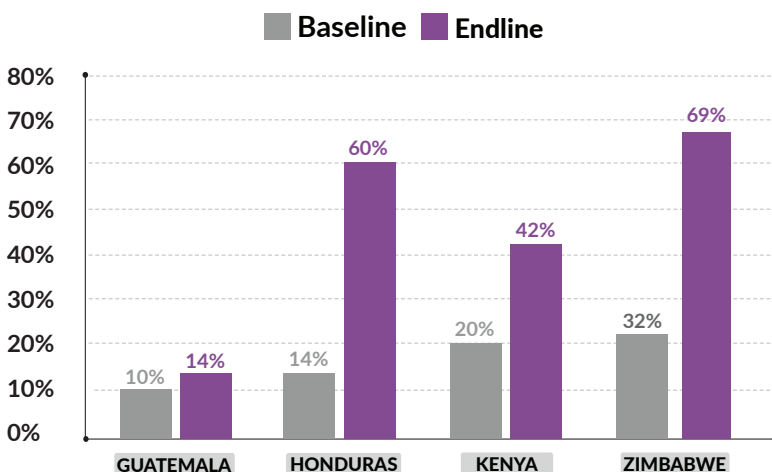
Percentage of Women with Income from Small Business or Work



PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT

Women in Phase 1 countries experienced positive shifts toward self-efficacy and personal agency—especially in decision-making. Many women participated in planning for their communities' water needs—a process most were excluded from in the past, despite bearing primary responsibility for their household water needs. Over the course of Phase 1, women who believed that they have what it takes to save money and start a business increased by 22 percentage points on average.

Percentage of Women Participating in Community Water Decision-Making



María Elena, a mother, entrepreneur, and vice president of her local savings group in Honduras, mentors other businesswomen. *“It fills me with pride to see others progress,”* she says. *“I know that when one woman grows, her entire community and family grow with her.”*

WHAT WE LEARNED

WATER BURDEN HAS AN ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Water collection imposes heavy burdens on women, leaving little time or energy to invest in bettering their lives. Improved water access frees women and girls to take on leadership roles and increase their incomes.

OUR INTEGRATED APPROACH DRIVES TRANSFORMATION:

Strategically sequencing program interventions—including behavior change, water and sanitation access, and economic empowerment—makes them more effective at transforming the lives of women, men, and children.

MEN MUST BE ENGAGED AS PARTNERS AND ALLIES:

If men are not engaged at the outset, their absence can hinder mindset change and limit women's participation and success. Lasting progress requires men and women to be partners in the process.

CHANGING ENTRENCHED MINDSETS REQUIRES TIME AND CONSISTENCY:

Deeply held beliefs about gender roles and personal agency cannot be changed quickly. Nurturing healthy and equitable perspectives must remain a long-term, consistent focus within program interventions.



WHAT'S NEXT

The strong outcomes from Phase 1 of Beyond Access have given us clear insight into the sequence of integrated interventions that empowers women and drives lasting community change.

We are now scaling these successes to reach 360,000 more people in Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe by 2030.

JOIN US

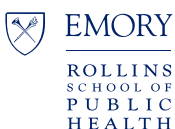
You can help women overcome extreme poverty and uplift their communities, allowing their children to achieve their full, God-given potential.

For more information, visit

WorldVision.org/BeyondAccess

or contact your World Vision representative.

Research conducted in partnership with:



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children, families, and communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

©2026 World Vision, Inc.