

A decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping circles, one orange and one yellow, partially framing the text.

**2023
IMPACT
REPORT**

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION



EMPOWERING THE CHURCH



World Orphans

As I reflect on 2023 and all that was accomplished, I am reminded of a recent conversation with a colleague about the value, meaning, and purpose of each child, each family, and each church in our program. We posed the question to each other: would we do it all again—push through the daily grind of paperwork, the countless phone calls, and endless Zoom meetings—if it meant just one child would be able to stay with his mom and not have to go to an orphanage? Would we spend innumerable days fundraising, setting up systems of accountability, meet with auditors and government officials—if it meant just one mom didn't have to make the unthinkable decision to abandon her child, not because she wanted to, but because she felt she had no choice? Would we sit through the twelve-hour flights, the long days of travel and jet lag, and so much more—if it meant just one church was better equipped to come alongside vulnerable families with the hope of the gospel?

Our answer was and is a resounding YES!

It can be easy to get caught up in the numbers of an annual impact report and lose sight of the individual children, families, and churches they represent. In this report, in addition to the numbers, we've included highlights of our work in some countries to better reflect

the ministry and the people. And we've included stories of transformation, where you will hear about some of the children, families, and churches you helped this past year. We are reminded that every story or circumstance "counted" represents a life changed, a family preserved, and a church strengthened. Each one matters. Every story. Every child. Each one created in the image of God.

We are a 100% donor-supported ministry. Every gift and every donor matters. If you are reading this report, you are part of the story, part of making the difference in actual lives—one child, one mom, one church (and many, many more). We are grateful for your continued partnership. Thank you for your part in this story ... one that God continues to graciously write in and through us all.

Grace and Peace,



Scott Vair
President/CEO

Countless friends have come alongside World Orphans over the years in support of our vision to empower the church to care for orphans and vulnerable families. From cash donations to purchasing a handcrafted item from one of our artisans; from visiting a church partner, to notes of encouragement and taking time to pray; it all matters and has eternal significance. We are genuinely grateful.



DONORS
GIFTS
KINGDOM IMPACT



GUATEMALA

MARIA

Maria's* life has been marked by hardship. Abandoned by her father as a baby, she later faced further abandonment when her mother left after having four children with another man. From a young age, Maria shouldered the responsibility of caring for her younger siblings. By the age of fifteen, she was a single mother herself, supporting her own child alongside her siblings.

Despite her stepfather's efforts, the family struggled to meet basic needs. Maria continued to have children, eventually having ten in total with different partners. Her oldest daughter had two children but was incarcerated, leaving Maria to raise them as well.

When the church arrived with food and offered support, Maria was overwhelmed with gratitude. The basic necessities provided a significant relief, but more importantly, she felt seen and cared for by her community for the first time.

Overcoming her initial fear, Maria embraced the opportunity to learn sewing through the church. Her dedication helped her quickly catch up and gain new skills. The income she earned through the program allowed her to finally register her children in school and purchase their uniforms, a significant milestone

for their well-being. Maria's story exemplifies the transformative impact of the church's support, providing not just material assistance but also hope and empowerment.

*Name and photo changed to protect identity.

PEOPLE

Population: 17.36 million
Life Expectancy: 69.24 years
Literacy Rate: 84.27%
Religion: Catholic, Christian

LANGUAGE

Official Language: Spanish is the official language, while 26 Mayan languages are spoken, as well as two other indigenous languages.

CULTURE

Guatemalan culture is rich and distinct, characterized by a fusion of Spanish and Indigenous influences. Guatemalans value honesty, family, honor, work, and education. Generally, Guatemalans are gracious and eager to find humor in most situations. In Guatemalan culture, visiting friends and relatives is important.



HOME BASED CARE

Estimates suggest that over 80% of children living in an orphanage around the world have at least one living parent. While the reasons for abandonment are complex and vary by country and culture, preserving families through our Home Based Care program is

one of our biggest priorities. Through your support, the local church was able to meet life challenging needs with food, medical care, access to education, trauma counseling, economic empowerment, friendship, discipleship, and the hope of the gospel.



555 Families were preserved through our Home Based Care program



1,911 Children and their parents received food, shelter, medical care, education, and the hope of the gospel—eliminating the need for 64 orphanages



1,138 Widows and at-risk mothers received care



123 Families received medical care and 327 children received vitamins daily in Guatemala

KASECH

If hopelessness is the doorway to hope, the doorway that Kasech has traveled through has been quite the daunting journey. In 2018, Kasech and her brothers were standing by the roadside near their mother. In a shocking instant that would change the course of their lives, she watched her mother get struck and killed by a semi-truck driver.

Heartbroken and alone, Kasech took on the responsibility of her siblings and turned to her church, where her mother had been a part of World Orphans Home Based Care (HBC) and microloan programs. Through her grieving, she refused to give up. She took the loan her mother had received and began a small business raising chickens.

With guidance and direction from her church, she continued to grow her business from buying and selling chickens to buying a cow. In October 2023, Kasech graduated from the World Orphans HBC program as she is now able to independently care for her family. She continues to stay active at her church and is succeeding in running her business and sustaining her family's needs.

*Photo changed to protect identity.

PEOPLE

Population: 94.1 million

Life Expectancy: 63 years

Literacy Rate: 39%

Religion: Christianity, Islam

LANGUAGE

Official Language: Amharic

CULTURE

Ethiopia is a diverse country, with more than 80 different ethnic groups that carry with them their own languages, customs, and traditions. Wat, a spicy stew, is the national dish of Ethiopia. It is traditionally served with injera, a spongy bread or pancake. Coffee is an Ethiopian favorite and is frequently part of a ceremony, during which the coffee is roasted, ground, and placed in boiling water prior to being served. Men are traditionally responsible for providing for the family, while women typically stay home to attend to the domestic needs or to operate a small business from the home. The Ethiopian economy has become one of the fastest growing in the world, as the country is consistently looking for new ways to minimize poverty within its borders.

ETHIOPIA



In 2023, the operation of the World Orphans Market took further steps forward as we leaned into empowering families through the development of artisan skills.

Artisans in Guatemala, Ethiopia, and South Africa mastered skills like jewelry making, sewing, crochet, and leatherwork resulting in the production of one-of-a-kind necklaces, earrings, bracelets, journals, aprons, purses, and so much more.

The World Orphans Market allows our friends and supporters the opportunity to enjoy some of those products and participate in the empowerment of families through their purchases. Products are sold on our online store, through Amazon, at the Castle Rock Collective coffee shop and artisan market, and at festivals and pop-up events.



Products were created by artisans in Guatemala, Ethiopia, and South Africa



Was paid directly to artisans for their products, helping them better support their families



Artisan craft co-op businesses continued to operate in Guatemala

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WORLD ORPHANS MARKET

IRAQ



KURDISTAN

Our arrival in this mountainous region of Iraqi-Kurdistan over sixteen years ago sparked initial skepticism. Being among the first foreigners settling there, we faced questions about our motives. Some suspected us of establishing an American or even a “Christian” embassy on the Iranian border. Others feared we aimed to indoctrinate their children. Building trust takes time.

However, as our refugee school and preschool opened its doors, welcoming hundreds of children, the community’s perception shifted. Those who once voiced concerns now send their own children to our facility. Even families who previously paid high fees for private schools now seek our “refugee school,” recognizing the care and education we provide.

Misunderstandings often trigger defensive reactions, but Jesus offered a different path: “Turn the other cheek,” he said. “Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.” By serving the community’s needs without ulterior motives, our intentions became clear. This experience has shown us that unconditional love fosters trust, paving the way for God’s work to flourish in unimaginable ways.

PEOPLE

Population: 44.5 million

Life Expectancy: 72.4 years

Literacy Rate: 91.2% for males
79.9% for females

Religion: Islam (97%)

LANGUAGE

Official Language: Arabic, Kurdish

CULTURE

Between 25 and 35 million Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Armenia. They make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation-state. Kurdish culture has a rich oral tradition. Most popular are epic poems, called lawj, and they often tell of adventure in love or battle. Popular sports include soccer, wrestling, hunting, and shooting. Kurdish meals are generally eaten while sitting on the floor and are served on a small cloth placed in the center of the room. Traditionally, hot dishes, cold dishes, and sweets are all served at the same time.



REFUGEE CARE



In 2014, ISIS invaded Iraq. Since then, World Orphans has worked side-by-side with the government of Soran, Iraq, through The Refuge Initiative to provide critical

refugee care. Shelter, education, medical care, and empowerment programs remain vital to displaced Syrian and Yazidi refugees. In 2023:

350

Children received an education at our refugee school and preschool

74

Refugee families were provided with homes

2,232

Patients were seen at our medical clinic

63

Women learned new sewing skills at our vocational training center, providing an additional income opportunity to their families

250

Students attended summer school focused on English, music, sports, computer, and Arabic classes

256

People received care at our new dental clinic

PRAVALIKA

Pravalika's life took a difficult turn when she lost her father at a young age. With a younger brother and a struggling mother, their access to education and basic necessities became a challenge. This led them to seek help from World Orphans church partner, Bethel Gospel Church (BGC).

Both Pravalika and her brother received residential care from a young age through BGC's program. Their dedication and perseverance paid off, with Pravalika recently completing her master's degree. During her studies, she was successfully reunited with her family.

Social workers from BGC maintained regular contact, ensuring Pravalika's well-being. Through BGC's support, she gained valuable life skills: self-management, responsibility, and building strong family bonds. She also learned practical skills like household chores, cooking, sewing, and computer usage.

Pravalika's accomplishments extend beyond her academic success. She recently secured a job and, most importantly, embraced faith in Jesus Christ, receiving baptism. She actively participates in church services with her family, who, inspired by her journey, have also found salvation.

PEOPLE

Population: 1.42 billion

Life Expectancy: 70.8 years

Literacy Rate: 76.32%

Religion: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism

LANGUAGE

Official Language: Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati, Urdu, Kannada, Odia, Malayalam, Punjabi, Assamese, Maithili, English

CULTURE

India's national passions are cricket and films. Much of Indian food is eaten with fingers or bread used as utensils. There are a wide array of breads served with meals, including naan, a leavened, oven-baked flatbread; and bhatoora, a fried, fluffy flatbread common in North India and eaten with chickpea curry. India is well known for its film industry, which is commonly referred to as Bollywood. Today, the films are best known for their elaborate singing, dancing, and action sequences. India's primary agricultural products are sugarcane, rice, wheat, buffalo milk, milk, potatoes, vegetables, bananas, maize, and mangoes.

*Photo changed to protect identity.

INDIA

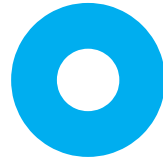


FINANCIALS

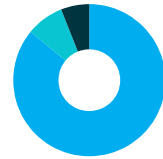
Stewardship of contributions is a privilege and great responsibility. We strive for the highest level of integrity in that role. Our financials, policies, and procedures are audited annually by an independent CPA firm. Our committed board of directors takes their role of financial oversight and governance seriously, ensuring World Orphans operates in a manner that is above reproach.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

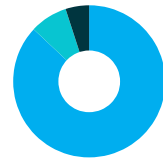
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 Mark Haverkate // Board Treasurer
 Aaron Pegg // Board Director
 Scott Vair // President/CEO
 Lance Wierenga // CFO



SUPPORT & REVENUE
 \$2,842,036



EXPENSES
 Program Activities: \$2,582,765 ■
 Supporting Activities:
 General and Administrative: \$236,994 ■
 Fundraising: \$145,654 ■
 TOTAL: \$2,965,413



EXPENSE RATIO PERCENTAGES
 Program: 87% ■
 General and Administrative: 8% ■
 Fundraising: 5% ■

NET ASSETS

Beginning of the Year: \$1,283,410 • End of the Year: \$1,193,695
 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: (\$89,715)

& STATISTICS

In October, we held our annual graduation ceremony in Ethiopia for 42 women who completed their five-year cycle in our Home Based Care and microloan programs. These families became

independent, providing for their children on their own. We could not be prouder of these courageous, determined, inspirational moms.



Children received ongoing care through 42 active programs in nine countries



Caregivers received child development training



Pastors and leaders were trained



People were impacted by visits from their church partners



Orphans, widows, refugees, and vulnerable families were impacted by the ministry of World Orphans



HAITI

ABIGAELE

Not a day goes by that we don't hear devastating news flooding out of Haiti of the overthrown government, the violence stirred up by gangs fighting for control, and the increasing famine sweeping across the nation. As school classrooms turn into makeshift homes for those seeking safe shelter for their families, society faces constant fear and uncertainty. Fortunately, there are glimpses of light that come out of the darkness of Haiti.

Abigaelle, who was taken in by her Aunt Etude when she was a young child, was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia in 2020. Pastor Carlos and his church had already brought them into the Home Based Care (HBC) program; however, her diagnosis posed some additional challenges. Through World Orphans church partnership and the benefits of the HBC program, Abigaelle has received medical care, food, discipleship, and continued education for the past four years. Without the wholistic care that her church provides through the program, Abigaelle would most likely be swept up in the chaos that surrounds the city. We celebrate the light that only Christ and his church can provide!

*Photo changed to protect identity.

PEOPLE

Population: 10 million
Life Expectancy: 60 years
Literacy Rate: 53%
Religion: Protestant, Catholic, Voodoo
Poorest country in the Western Hemisphere
Unemployment Rate: 70% (GDP per capita = \$1,200)

LANGUAGE

Official Languages: French, Haitian Creole
Typically, the more French spoken, the higher the social status

CULTURE

Collaboration of French, African, and Caribbean elements. National meal consists of rice and beans. Etiquette and manners are highly respected in Haitian society.

One of the most significant contributors to the abandonment of children is extreme poverty. Desperate moms and dads feel they have no choice but to send their child away in hope that they will have a better life. For the families in our Home Based Care program,

our economic empowerment efforts are designed to address that underlying issue of poverty, build stronger families, and improve quality of life. We desire to see families not merely survive, but to thrive, as they move towards independence.

190

Single mothers in Ethiopia participated in a savings program

146

Microloans were issued to vulnerable women in Ethiopia and Haiti to start or further a small business

131

Vulnerable families and pastors in Guatemala participated in a savings program

77

People received training in financial principles, budgeting, saving, and running a small business

43

Vulnerable women participated in artisan craft businesses, providing income for their families

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT





SOUTH AFRICA

LUTHANDO

Luthando's story is a testament to hope amidst unimaginable hardship. In a region of South Africa grappling with severe poverty and high unemployment, many families lack proper housing, resorting to makeshift structures vulnerable to the elements.

At just six months old, Luthando became a victim of a devastating fire that destroyed over 60 homes and claimed several lives. Miraculously, she was rescued from the flames but suffered severe burns.

Recognizing the critical nature of her condition, World Orphans church partner, Christian Life Centre, secured specialized care for Luthando, working closely with hospital specialists to save her life. Despite initial concerns from doctors, Luthando's resilience and the unwavering support she received within the church proved transformative.

As she recovered, even her hair began to regrow, a sign of remarkable healing. Luthando's journey embodies the power of faith and the transformative care provided by the church. It serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that, even when medical professionals lose hope, miracles can still occur.

*Photo changed to protect identity.

PEOPLE

Population: 59.89 million

Life Expectancy: 65.3 years

Literacy Rate: 90%

Religion: Christianity (78%), No Religion (10%)

LANGUAGE

Official Languages: English, Afrikaans, and nine ethnic languages, of which Zulu and Xhosa are the most widely spoken.

CULTURE

The country has ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites, more than any other country in Africa. The country has the richest hominin fossil site, the largest and oldest impact meteor crater, the longest wine route, the highest commercial bungee jump, and the biggest and oldest one-day marathon in the world. Most of South Africa's landscape is made up of high, flat areas, called plateaus. These areas are covered with rolling grasslands, called highveld, and tree-dotted plains, called bushveld. South African cuisine is a unique fusion of many different external cultural influences. These include Dutch, French, Indian, and Malaysian flavors and techniques that continue to make their way onto the menus of restaurants and into the homes of locals all over the country.



World Orphans
worldorphans.org



Vision

To empower the church
to care for orphans
and vulnerable families.

Mission

We equip, inspire, and mobilize
the church to care for orphans
and vulnerable families.
Churches engaged. Children restored.
Communities transformed
by the gospel of Christ.

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