



Hungry and Alone

Please clip this coupon and mail in the envelope between pages 4 and 5.

I'm enclosing my gift to help feed orphans and vulnerable children:

- \$25 to provide \$75 in food
- \$50 to provide \$150 in food
- \$100 to provide \$300 in food
- Other: \$ _____

Check payable to World Vision

Charge my one-time gift to my debit card/credit card
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EXP. DATE

NAME ON CARD

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The AIDS crisis is having a staggering effect on Africa's children. More than 12 million children have lost one or both parents. Many are desperately hungry—without food.

You can help.

World Vision has received \$32 million in grants from the U.S. government for our food programs in Africa. These grants will **triple the impact** of your gift to help feed millions of hungry orphans and vulnerable children.

To provide food for children orphans and vulnerable children, please fill out the coupon below.

Here's my gift for food for orphaned children:

Please update your address if necessary

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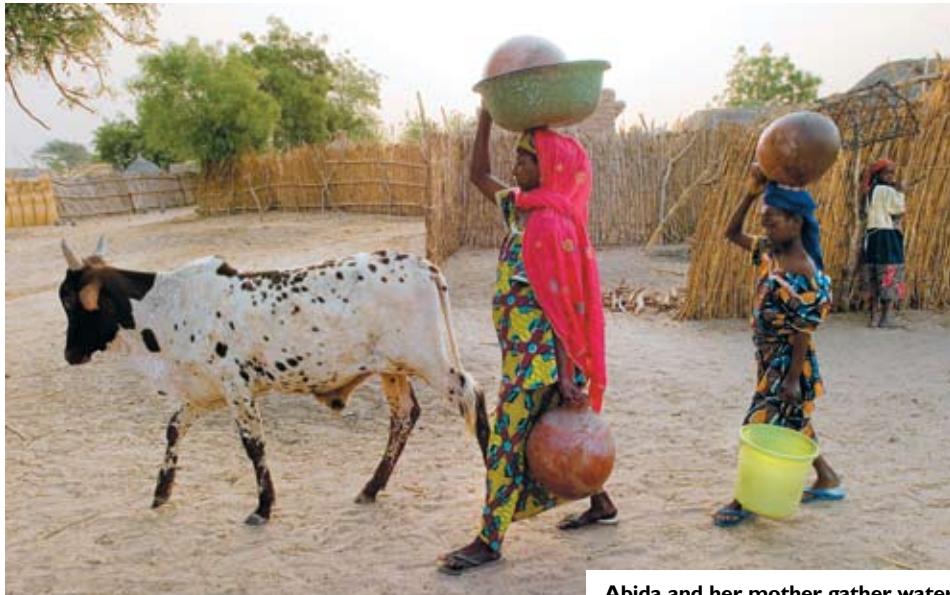
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A Clean Start

Borehole wells revive communities. by James Addis

Abida and her mother gather water

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Abida Issa, 10, has a favorite memory of the day a borehole well was drilled in her village of Dara, Niger.

"All the children were wet because they ran into the water, shouting and singing," she says. "It was a celebration."

Once, she and her mother had to wait hours to draw water from a polluted, hand-dug well. Today, Abida fetches water for her family from the new borehole, just a two-minute walk from her home. She easily accomplishes the job before school starts.

World Vision, in partnership with

the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, is providing more than 1,000 wells in Niger, Ghana, and Mali through the West Africa Water Initiative. With safe water, communities are making a clean start.

The change starts with children's health. "Before, you would see children with trachoma [a water-related eye disease] and other problems," says a health worker in Dara. "But now there are no such diseases."

Freed from water-related illnesses and time-consuming water gathering, Abida dedicates herself to education —she's among the top students in her class. ■

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The water many people drink might be killing them.

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Seeds help earthquake-devastated people.

Close Call

by Robert Vesleno



ROBERT VESLENKO/WORLD VISION

Mario and his mother

Mario's mother feared the worst when the 17-month-old came down with dengue fever, a potentially deadly mosquito-borne virus that has no vaccine. "I thought he was going to die," Claudia Escobar says

(continued on page 7)



When a community gains access to clean water, its child mortality rate drops by half.

UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

When Water is Poison

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” —MATTHEW 10:42

Clean, safe water is truly something we in America take for granted. But what would our lives be like if tomorrow, when we woke up, we no longer had running water in our homes? What if the only available water was more than a mile away in a small pond?

Imagine a typical day for your family. In the morning, there would be no shower or tooth-brushing; no coffee. You would have to start your day with a family hike: carrying buckets, filling them up at the pond, and lugging these very heavy vessels home—roundtrip, about two hours. And you would likely have to make several trips each day.

Without showers or use of a washing machine, the whole family would begin to smell a bit ripe after a day or two. Washing clothes would become a daunting chore because you would have to lug them to and from the pond and hang them out to dry. Cooking and washing dishes would also be challenging.

This imaginary dilemma may sound amusing, but let me add a more sinister dimension: Imagine that the water is teeming with deadly bacteria, parasites, and water-borne diseases. The very drinking water you are working so hard to obtain is poison, and it is literally killing you.

This is the grim reality for about

1.1 billion people in our world today. It is estimated that as many as 5 million people die every year of water-related illnesses—and one child dies every 15 seconds. Can you imagine watching your 2-year-old die from something as simple as diarrhea?

But the tragedy of those who live without clean water has other dimensions. Diseases like Guinea worm and trachoma can result in disability and blindness. Millions of children are not able to attend school because of the hours they spend fetching water. Those who can go are chronically sick and struggle with learning. Thousands of productive work hours are lost seeking and hauling water, especially by women. These are hours that could be spent earning an income or contributing to the well-being of the family and community.

But this is a tragedy that can have a very happy ending. In fact, since 1990, the number of people lacking clean water worldwide has been reduced by more than half. Over the past 20 years, World Vision has helped

provide clean water for more than 10 million people. This is a battle we can win. ■




World Vision News

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No More Potatoes and Porridge

A food distribution in drought-affected China generates excitement. By Wang Yujie

When 8-year-old Yang Qin arrived home after school to help her grandmother with housework, she was surprised to see her neighbors flocked together. They were on their way to a World Vision food distribution.

High temperatures and low rainfall last year brought drought to large parts of China. Nationwide, 15 provinces suffered the effects. This unprecedented drought created food shortages in Sichuan, where Yang Qin lives.

Crop failures forced the girl's parents to leave their farmland and look for other job opportunities. The burden of taking care of Yang Qin and her baby brother fell to their 72-year-old grandmother.

Seeing the World Vision relief team handing out rice, Yang Qin's grandmother said, "Thank you so much for coming to see us. My son and daughter-in-law can hardly earn a penny for the family. But now we have 45 kilograms [nearly 100 pounds] of rice—and that's enough for a month."

Yang Qin smiled and jumped with excitement, saying, "We don't have to eat potatoes or thin rice porridge anymore!"

On the walk home, Yang Qin's grandmother carried the baby boy as well as some of the rice. But she didn't mind the heavy burden—because she knew she could feed her family with a proper meal at last. ■



Yang Qin and her grandmother receive food

WANG YUJIE/WORLD VISION

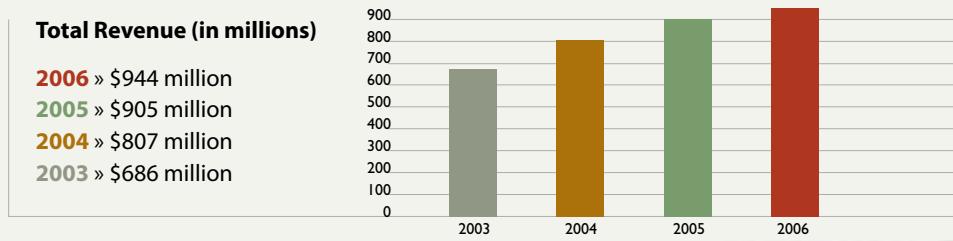
BULLETIN BOARD

FAITH IN ACTION »This October, turn your church inside out by encouraging your congregation to put feet to their faith and share God's love in a practical way. Find out how at www.putyourfaithinaction.com.

THANKS TO YOU »Strong support from donors boosts World Vision's 2006 revenue—meaning more help and hope for the poor. To see the 2006 World Vision Annual Review online, go to www.worldvision.org/AR.

Total Revenue (in millions)

2006 » \$944 million
2005 » \$905 million
2004 » \$807 million
2003 » \$686 million



Hard to Get

Water scarcity hits children hard. By Philip Maher



PHILIP MAHER/WORLD VISION

Akuwon works hard for water for her family

Akuwon Esekon, 10, scoops water out of the dry riverbed in the Napusimoru Hills in northern Kenya. The water is filthy and unsuitable for drinking.

Akuwon and her family have no choice—this is the only water they have. Drought has ravaged their entire district. Akuwon's parents say the girl has already suffered severe diarrhea after consuming water from the riverbed.

Water is one of the world's most precious natural resources. Yet 80 countries, including Kenya, regularly experience serious water shortages. It's estimated that by 2025, about two-thirds of the world's population will live in areas facing moderate to severe water stress.

Children are particularly dependent on clean water, and an ailment as seemingly simple as diarrhea can

kill—1.6 million children die of it each year.

Drought compounds the suffering of rain-dependent pastoralists such as those in northern Kenya. Lack of rain causes food shortages, sending children into a downward spiral of malnutrition and disease.

World Vision is working in water-scarce African communities, drilling wells and providing drought-resistant seeds for families. For children like Akuwon, however, help can't come fast enough. ■

YOU CAN HELP

**See the attached envelope
to find out how you can
help provide clean water for
children in water-scarce places.**

About World Vision

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

WHOM WE SERVE | Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

WHY WE SERVE | Our passion is for the world's poorest children whose suffering breaks the heart of God. To help secure a better future for each child, we focus on lasting, community-based transformation. We partner with individuals and communities, empowering them to develop sustainable access to clean water, food supplies, health care, education, and economic opportunities.

HOW WE SERVE | Since 1950, World Vision has helped millions of children and families by providing emergency assistance to those affected by natural disasters and civil conflict, developing long-term solutions within communities to alleviate poverty, and advocating for justice on behalf of the poor.

YOU CAN HELP | Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help, refer to the back cover or the envelope attached here, or visit www.worldvision.org.

World Vision



Diarrhea accounts for 21 percent of all deaths in children under 5 in developing countries.

Aaron's All Smiles

Child sponsorship helps a boy orphaned by AIDS.

By Andrea Dearborn

“I like playing football and hide-and-seek with my friends,” says Aaron, 10, speaking like a typical boy in Makungwa, Zambia.

But Aaron didn't always laugh and play like he does now. When he was 3, both of his parents died from AIDS-related illnesses. He has no memories of them. The only thing he has from his father is a bike—it's still too big for him.

Aaron lives with his widowed grandmother, Tikozenji, 56. For years, she had no source of income, so they relied on neighbors' generosity for food and clothes.

As Aaron got older, he couldn't go to school because his grandmother couldn't afford the uniform. So he stayed home, helping with chores.

Then World Vision selected Aaron to be a sponsored child. The monthly gifts from his U.S. sponsor enabled him to get a uniform and go to school. And there was more. “I got blankets and soap from World Vision,” Aaron says. “Even food and a chicken!”

“There's been a good change,” says Tikozenji, since Aaron became sponsored. “We had no clean water before. But now World Vision has built a borehole. The water we get now is very clean, and we have less disease.”

Initially afraid of school, Aaron now wants to make a career of it. “I would like to be a teacher,” he says. Thanks to his grandmother's sacrifice and his caring sponsor, he may just make it. ■



Sponsorship helps Aaron go to school

SIGNS OF SUCCESS



Lack of access to clean water affects 1.1 billion people worldwide, hindering their health, diet, educational opportunities, and ability to work. Children suffer the most; their small bodies are particularly vulnerable to water-related diseases.

Clean water is foundational to all aspects of community development. Some highlights of World Vision's water and sanitation work:

» In 2006, 139,000 children and adults across West Africa gained access to clean water through World Vision.

» In southern Ethiopia, formerly unproductive land is now bursting with crops, thanks to World Vision's gravity-fed irrigation systems, benefiting nearly 64,000 farmers.

» To fight bird flu in Romania, World Vision renovated bathroom facilities for 2,000 schoolchildren, enabling them to wash their hands more often and prevent the spread of germs. ■

Food for the “Forbidden Land”

Seeds help a community recover from an earthquake. By Moussadiq Ali

The Pakhtun people live quietly in Kala Dhaka, a remote, rugged area in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province. This so-called “forbidden land” had no contact with Westerners for decades—until a devastating earthquake in 2005.

World Vision responded to tribal leaders’ appeal for aid and organized a relief operation in Kala Dhaka. Among the items World Vision distributed to families were vegetable seeds, to help them rebuild their agriculture-based livelihoods.

Zarkhoban, a 70-year-old widow, grows peas, tomatoes, cauliflower, turnips, and radishes. “I had never grown cauliflower before,” she says, standing proudly beside her small garden. “We were very happy to receive the seeds, and our families enjoyed the new meals.”

“In our village, we received a quantity of seeds in different proportions, as the seeds were distributed by the amount of land each had to

plant,” says Ali Mohammed. He was pleased to see that his 8-year-old daughter, Sahkeroon, became interested in growing the vegetables.

It was important to local leaders that the distribution process was fair. The Pakhtun people live by a strict moral code.

“There are many odd stories about the Kala Dhaka people,” says World Vision program officer Farid Alam. “Despite these, [they] opened their doors for World Vision. Their needs are tremendous, but so is their will to improve their children’s lives.” ■



With new seeds, Ali can feed his children

IN THE NEWS

SOMALIA: AID REACHES WAR ZONE » World Vision used planes, boats, and trucks to deliver medicines, blankets, and mosquito nets to thousands displaced by flooding in Middle Juba in November 2006. Operations were undertaken by Somali staff after expatriates withdrew following fighting between the Union of Islamic Courts and the Transitional Federal Government.

INDIA: TREATMENT FOR AIDS CHILDREN » World Vision is supporting a government plan to provide AIDS-affected children with access to antiretroviral treatment. The organization will



INDIA

identify HIV-positive children in Mumbai to ensure they have access to treatment centers. Earlier, estimates indicated that of the 240,000 HIV-positive children in India, only about 1,000 were getting treatment.



Close Call (continued from page 1)



Well-stocked clinic shelves help children like Mario

of her first-born son.

Claudia brought Mario to a World Vision-supported health clinic in Armenia, El Salvador. The medical staff treated the boy with antibiotics and used an oral saline solution to rehydrate him. After a week, his appetite returned, and his condition quickly improved.

The expenses for nine days of treatment could have cost Claudia—who doesn't work and has only a fifth-grade education—and her husband more than \$200, a sum they couldn't afford. But because World Vision provided the pharmaceuticals to the clinic, the drugs were free.

"Thank God they had medicines at the health unit," says Freddy, Mario's father.

Mario's case is just one of many the staff at the Armenia Health Unit see every day. Dengue fever is prevalent here. With only six doctors, the clinic struggles to service 77,700 residents—about 150 to 200 patients a day.

The clinic is always in need of medicines, and it relies on the support of World Vision to help fill their shelves. Dr. Ana Ivette Regalado de Bello, the clinic director, says World Vision's



pharmaceutical donations are crucial because her budget cannot cover the overwhelming needs of patients—especially during a natural disaster.

"Thank God, we have never been without anything," Ana says. "For example, during Hurricane Stan and the volcano, we had World Vision. They came at the right moment. Anytime we need medicines during epidemics, we get help from World Vision." ■

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* Single-Life Rates effective July 2006 (subject to change)

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