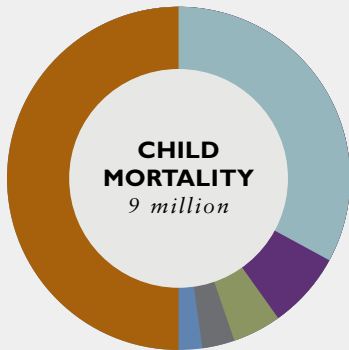


# WORLD VISION *news*

IN FOCUS // // // // //

**Every year**, about 9 million children die before they reach their fifth birthday, 99 percent of them in developing countries.



**Sub-Saharan Africa** » 4.5 million

**South Asia** » 3 million

**East Asia/South Pacific** » 800,000

**Middle East/North Africa** » 500,000

**Latin America and Caribbean** » 300,000

**Elsewhere** » 200,000

About 6 million of the deaths are from preventable causes with low-cost solutions:

## COMBATTING CHILD KILLERS

- ✓ **Pneumonia** » Warm clothes, good nutrition, ventilation
- ✓ **Diarrhea** » Clean water, sanitation
- ✓ **Malaria** » Insecticide-treated bed nets
- ✓ **Measles** » \$1 vaccine
- ✓ **Neonatal complications** » Breastfeeding, immunizations, skilled birth attendants

» Learn more at [www.childhealthnow.org](http://www.childhealthnow.org)



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## Better Days in Burundi

*New clothes signal hope for struggling families.* | BY KARI COSTANZA

**ABOVE** | Venantie's children wearing new clothes.

**O**n a festive day in Burundi, it feels like Christmas. Dozens of mothers line up to receive clothing donated by World Vision's generous donors. Each receives a T-shirt, a blouse, three sweaters, two caps, and a scarf. One mother, Venantie Coyitungiye, 25, smiles as she collects the clothing. "These are God gifts," she says.

It's easy to understand her happiness; her children's wardrobe just doubled. The family treasures their gifts even more that night. Rain—hard-pounding and vicious—pours into their dilapidated hut made of banana leaves, mud, and eucalyptus branches. Although located in central Africa, Burundi's hilly terrain can get extremely cold at night.

"We found a corner to stay in," says Venantie, describing how she and her children huddled together in their hut while their new clothes helped keep them warm.

The new clothes are just the start of more sweeping changes set to transform Venantie's family and her community of Gasorwe.

—continued on page 2

» To provide clothes to children in need, see the envelope between pages 4 and 5.

## HAITI EARTHQUAKE

As this issue was going to press, a catastrophic earthquake hit Haiti. Please see pages 6 and 7 for information about the crisis and World Vision's response to emergencies. Also visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) for Haiti updates.



## VOICING THE VISION »

**"God help us if we are only willing to do what is easy to do. Rather, let us do what God wants done."** —BOB PIERCE,

WORLD VISION FOUNDER

Life in Burundi has not been easy for Venantie. Her husband died in 2005, leaving her alone with three children. She starts each morning on her knees in prayer, and the rest of the day is spent looking for work. If she is asked to cultivate on a nearby farm, she gives thanks. “It is an answer to prayer,” she says.

At night, she prepares what little food she can find to feed her children. The four share whatever they have, often potatoes and beans—never meat—eating their only meal of the day from two bowls with two broken spoons.

Much of the poverty in Gasorwe can be traced to brutal violence that plagued Burundi and neighboring Rwanda in the 1990s. Families lost everything when they fled their homes; children became orphans; health and education services were shattered. Today, most children in Gasorwe do not attend school, more than 40 percent of homes have no access to safe drinking water, and more than 70 percent of homes do not have latrines. Roughly half the children are malnourished.

World Vision decided to introduce child sponsorship in Gasorwe to address food, water, health, and education in a holistic way. Health specialist Ferdinand Nzokirantevye started laying the foundation for such sponsorship in Gasorwe two years ago.

“We chose leaders of the community, organized people, and held group discussions in playgrounds,” he says. Ferdinand explained the process of child sponsorship to everyone he met. “At the beginning, they had some fears,” he says, “but now it’s OK. They understand what sponsorship is.”

Other factors looked promising: Gasorwe has plenty of rain, land to develop, and natural resources—stone, clay, sand, and wood—that can be used to build and improve schools and health clinics. And community members are enthusiastic to help manage the programs with World Vision’s support.

Now, World Vision is seeking 1,500 child sponsors to partner in bringing transformation to the community.

Among the first to register her children for sponsorship was

Venantie, who continues to trust in God’s provision. “If we could have houses and clean water,” she says, “we would worship the Almighty God for that.” ■

» To sponsor a child in Burundi or elsewhere, fill out the coupon between pages 4 and 5 or give online at [www.worldvision.org/newsletter](http://www.worldvision.org/newsletter).



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## Now Matter How Small »

One of my favorite children’s books is *Horton Hears a Who!* by Dr. Seuss. All five of the Stearns kids took a turn hearing the story of an elephant who comes to the aid of the “Whos,” a microscopic community of beings he can’t even see. Despite ridicule and torment from others in the jungle, Horton courageously defends the Whos, believing “a person’s a person, no matter how small.”



**LEFT | Venantie registers for the clothing distribution. BELOW LEFT | Ferdinand talks to families about child sponsorship. BELOW | Venantie's children look forward to their only meal of the day.**



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION (3)



**VITAL COMPARISONS**

**BURUNDI**

**UNITED STATES**

Population	8.5 million	305.8 million
Life Expectancy	49 years	78 years
Annual per capita income (\$US)	\$110	\$46,040
Access to clean water	71%	100%
Under 5 mortality per 1,000 births	180	8

I think about how Horton's Whos are like the poor in our world. They can be right under our nose, but we don't see them—or, like the jungle animals in the story, we deny their existence. To societies like ours that value wealth, fame, power, and job titles, these "invisible" people simply don't count.

God asks more of us. He asks us to be Hortons for children, marginalized communities, and homeless people. He asks us to do what Horton did: acknowledge people's inherent value and do what we can to help them.

To the world, this might not look like a great accomplishment,

but as Mother Teresa said, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Just as a person's a person, no matter how small, a person's small action—done in the name of Christ—has great significance in the kingdom of God.

Thank you for helping children and families in need through World Vision. By seeing them and caring for them, you're carrying out your "Horton duty." These things, I believe, bring joy to God's heart. ■



# Worn Down

*Five ways children suffer without adequate clothes and shoes.*

BY MONICA JONEN

1. **RINGWORM** » Children forced to share clothes with other family members are susceptible to ringworm, a fungal infection that creates bald patches on the scalp and scaly patches on the skin that blister and ooze.

2. **INFECTIONS** » Children with no shoes step on thorns and rocks, causing cracks in their feet. Then when they walk in contaminated areas, the cracks become entry points for parasites and infections.

3. **EXPOSURE** » In cold countries like Mongolia, poorly clothed children are vulnerable to frostbite and pneumonia throughout the long winters.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

4. **SCABIES** » Children with dirty clothes into are prone to scabies—tiny mites that burrow under the skin, reproduce, and cause itching and sores.

5. **LOW SELF-ESTEEM** » Torn and dirty clothes make children feel ashamed. Children become reluctant to attend school and risk expulsion. ■

## HOW IT WORKS

# Clothing Gifts-in-Kind

*How World Vision procures and distributes clothes to people in need.*



**Each year**, World Vision receives about \$54 million worth of brand-new, high-quality clothing and shoes from U.S. manufacturers.



**World Vision** also receives about \$21 million worth of seized counterfeit clothing, bearing unauthorized brand logos, which cannot be sold in the U.S. but can be donated for distribution overseas.



**Sports organizations** such as the National Football League and Major League Baseball manufacture clothes in advance of major championships, showing both teams as the champions. The runner-up team's apparel is donated to World Vision to distribute overseas.



**Clothes** are sorted at World Vision's distribution center in Denver and Pittsburgh.



**Many generous** World Vision donors like you cover the transport and shipping costs of the clothes overseas.



**World Vision** sends clothes around the world and distributes them to families. Countries receiving the most clothes are Romania, Armenia, Chile, Burundi, and Mongolia. ■

» **To provide clothes for children and families, fill out the attached coupon or give online at [www.worldvision.org/newsletter](http://www.worldvision.org/newsletter).**

# Clothes Make the Woman

*A former addict finds a new life.*

BY HEIDI ISAZA



GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

## MY STORY

**Name:** Myrtle Charles

**Occupation:** Retired

**Home:** Chico, Calif.

**Program:** Gift Planning

**Buzz:** Myrtle Charles is 101 years old, but age has not dimmed her compassion for children—she sponsors 10 through World Vision. Having survived the Great Depression, Myrtle knows what it is like to face poverty and deprivation. She also made World Vision a beneficiary of her will so that children will continue to be helped even after her death. ■

*“I understand what many of these children are going through, because I have gone through difficult times and have been there myself.”*

— MYRTLE CHARLES

» To learn how you can support children by including World Vision in your will, call toll-free 866-893-2484 or e-mail [giftplanning@worldvision.org](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org).

Lisa Leon of Riverside, Calif., left her home and her alcoholic mother at age 14 and headed for the streets—only to find herself worse off.

“I ended up an alcoholic, doing drugs on the streets, which landed me a lot of problems in my life,” she says. “No matter how beat-up I was, no matter how I got attacked, no matter how dark the alleys were, I just couldn’t pull myself away.” For 20 years she lived in squalor, turned to prostitution, and even spent time in jail.

While behind bars, Lisa found a way to help others by writing a play about a battered woman imprisoned for killing her husband. Many fellow inmates saw the performance and were deeply moved. One woman told Lisa, “The play is my life story. It is how I got here.”

On her release, Lisa joined Alcoholics Anonymous and found a home at New Way of Life Women’s Shelter, a World Vision partner. Lisa benefited from World Vision’s Second Start program, which gives women a new wardrobe to help them make a fresh start in life.

Lisa had never before worn nice clothes and found that they changed the way she felt about herself. “I looked in the mirror

many times [in the past] and I saw a monster that scared me,” she says. “But now I look in the mirror, and I am happy.”

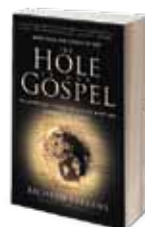
Today, Lisa is studying psychology at California Baptist University. She realizes that she didn’t get off the streets by herself. “The most important thing for me was the support. I had to allow people to help me believe in myself,” she says.

Lisa dreams of working for a nonprofit organization to help others believe in themselves. “If there’s anything that I can do to help other women in the same way, then I’m willing to do that,” she says. ■

**BELOW** | Lisa browsing through new clothes.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



## WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF US?

In *The Hole in Our Gospel*, World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns poses the question that changed his life—and the answer just might help you change the world. After you read the book, go online at [www.theholeinourgospel.com](http://www.theholeinourgospel.com) to find study guides, inspiring stories, and the author’s blog.

» Coming in April—*The Hole in Our Gospel* in paperback. ■

# Haiti: Hope in the Heartache

*The scene on the ground in Port-au-Prince days after the earthquake.* | BY JAMES ADDIS

**N**avensky Charles might be surrounded by the stench of death, but he is alive.

Like all patients at L'Hospital General in downtown Port-au-Prince, the 18-month-old cannot be accommodated in a hospital building. The few buildings still standing are unsafe to use.

He lies in a hospital bed in a street outside. Regularly, trucks rumble past, carrying corpses. They come from the city morgue about a block away. Outside the morgue, hundreds of bodies are stacked three deep.

But Navensky is alive. When his house started to collapse, his father, Jerome, dashed upstairs to rescue him. They both made it outside just as their home caved in. Navensky suffered a broken shoulder, leg, and arm during the hurried escape.

As darkness fell, the streets were in chaos. Jerome and his wife, Nadia, had to wait until morning before carrying Navensky to the hospital. The walk took nearly two hours. It was not until the early afternoon that hard-pressed medical staff could treat him.



JAMES ADDIS/WORLD VISION

**ABOVE | Navensky's shoulder, leg, and arm were broken when his house collapsed.**

World Vision is supporting the hospital by supplying essential medical supplies such as surgical gloves, syringes, antibiotics, and bandages.

Navensky moans softly and flinches if he thinks you are about to touch him. Otherwise, he does not complain. Nadia and Jerome will spend the night anxiously watching over him. They have no home to return to anyway.

Jerome is thankful for the

humanitarian organizations, such as World Vision, who have come to help following the worst quake in Haiti's history for 200 years.

"If it was not for the NGOs [non-governmental organizations], the Haitian people would be lost," he says. ■

» **You can help World Vision's relief efforts in Haiti by donating at [www.worldvision.org/newsletter](http://www.worldvision.org/newsletter).**

## *A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of World Vision*

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# Disaster Timeline

IN A CRISIS like Haiti's earthquake, World Vision rushes to the scene with life-saving aid—then stays for the long term to help families recover. Here's an outline of World Vision's first-in, last-out approach:

- 2-3 HOURS** World Vision staff closest to the emergency **REPORT** on the severity and need.
- 24 HOURS** World Vision's global rapid response team **MOBILIZES** to provide emergency relief.
- 72 HOURS** Pre-positioned relief supplies are accessed locally and from warehouses around the world, and **DISTRIBUTION** begins.



A. WANNAKULASURIYA/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

- 7 DAYS** **DELIVERY** continues of survival items like food, water, and medical supplies.
- 30 DAYS** World Vision helps **STABILIZE** families by providing temporary living accommodations and Child-Friendly Spaces for children.
- 90 DAYS** The focus shifts from survival to **REBUILDING** infrastructure, food production, and access to clean water.
- ON GOING** World Vision concentrates on **IMPROVING** infrastructure, food security, and helping parents re-establish livelihoods. ■



WORLD VISION STAFF



JUAN MIGUEL LAGO/WORLD VISION

## DID YOU KNOW?

**90%** of all disaster victims live in developing countries where poverty and lack of resources exacerbate the suffering. ■

## SAFE PLACES TO PLAY

In World Vision's Child-Friendly Spaces, the goal is that boys and girls will temporarily forget they're living in a disaster zone. These spaces provide activities such as games, painting, singing, and dancing to help children overcome the emotional effects of a catastrophe. They also allow children to return to healthy routines and experience a sense of normalcy again. ■



NATCO YAP/WORLD VISION



WORLD VISION STAFF



ALBERT YU/WORLD VISION

# Bring Relief to Children Today!

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

If you have questions, comments, or a change of address, you may call toll-free: (866) 893-2484.

## Double the impact of my gift!

### I'm giving:

- \$30 to provide \$60 of emergency aid
- \$60 to provide \$120 of emergency aid
- \$100 to provide \$200 of emergency aid

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Building a better world for children

# Help Suffering Children

**D**uring a humanitarian emergency, children are the first to suffer from lack of food and the first to succumb to disease in unsanitary conditions.

World Vision quickly responds with food, clean, water, shelter, medicines, and special care for children. Afterward, World Vision stays behind to help communities recover and rebuild.

**Your gift to support this life-saving work doubles in impact when matched by government grants.**

To give, fill out the coupon above or give online at [www.worldvision.org/newsletter](http://www.worldvision.org/newsletter).

