HELP FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

World Vision sees every child as a child of God. Every girl and every boy are deserving of love and protection. Yet traditional stereotypes often rob girls from living out the full potential God wants for them. Girls are often the first taken out of school to work when a family is in need. Caring Gift Catalog donors like you are changing that. Your support is helping girls receive an education and is helping men and boys to see beyond traditional gender roles that limit girls and women.

BANGLADESH

A childhood restored

Amena, 11, loves to draw, sing, dance, and play with her friends. Not too long ago, she rarely had time for these activities. Instead, because of her family’s severe poverty, she was working in a restaurant in the city of Khulna.

After a World Vision worker discovered her plight, a meeting was scheduled with Amena’s adoptive parents. The mother, Parul, attended a presentation on the negative consequences of child labor. This led to a decision to withdraw Amena from work and send her to school.

To aid in the transition, World Vision provided Amena catch-up education on reading, writing, math, good manners, and hygiene. For public school, she received a stipend, a uniform, a school bag, and other supplies.

Meanwhile, Parul received business training and some pantry supplies to start a small shop. She now sells groceries, tea, and prepared foods, and is able to pay school fees for Amena and her two brothers.

Amena is enjoying her studies and time with her friends. One day, she hopes to become a police officer to help protect childhood for others.

HONDURAS

An improved livelihood for Secundina’s family

Secundina Aquino and her husband Juan spent many long hours under the sun trying to raise a sufficient amount of beans, coffee, and corn to provide for their 10 children. However, there was never enough left over to sell, and their crops did not meet market quality standards.

When World Vision opened a farming school in their community, Secundina was among an initial group of 10 people who chose to participate. They learned how to make proper soil beds, irrigate efficiently, and diversify crops to reduce vulnerability to pests and disease.

Secundina and Juan are now applying what she learned in farming school and have added tomatoes to their crop rotation. Their older children are helping tend their fields.

Secundina also joined a savings group that helped improve her communication and collaboration skills, taught her the power of saving, and reminded her to trust God above all. “I learned a lot of things that are priceless, because the knowledge will remain with me forever, and I can teach my children,” she says.
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INDIA

Two sisters are reunited after an attempted abduction

Every Sunday afternoon, Jamila (pictured, left) and her sister Salima (right) attend a Girl Power Group meeting. World Vision helped launch the group to ensure girls in their neighborhood do not go missing.

One day, much to the horror of Jamila (left), who serves as the group’s leader, it was her own sister who was missing.

Personal safety is one of the many things taught in the group. Rohima, a member, says, “[How] does trafficking take place? The boy might ask you to elope with him. He might ask you to get on his bike.” Jamila adds, “don’t get married young. It’s those girls who are vulnerable to trafficking.”

The day of Salima’s disappearance coincided with a Hindu festival that draws large crowds. Jamila and her brother searched a few homes that Salima often visited. Then an uncle called to say he had seen Salima on the village bridge with two boys and a neighbor’s daughter. A short time later, the uncle walked back and found the girls there alone.

Later, Salima shared that the neighbor’s daughter asked if they could be friends. Then, after school, she asked if Salima would accompany her as she went to a bank. On the way, two boys on motorbikes joined them. “They were trying to force me to sit on the boy’s bike, and I refused,” Salima says. In the end, a lesson learned through the Girl Power Group helped save Salima.

UGANDA

Parenting class helps strengthen a family

Kyakuwa Mabel, a mother of four, a hairdresser, and a salon owner, had a broken relationship with her 5-year-old son, Sselunga Shadat. After her pastor, Kazozi Moses, participated in a World Vision workshop on positive parenting skills, he thought it would benefit her as well.

“World Vision asked me to send them five members of my congregation for the training,” the pastor says. “I knew the training would greatly benefit parents in my church.”

After the training, Kyakuwa reflected on her parenting. “I realized that, as a parent, I was not doing a good job,” she says. “I was not relating well with my children.”

For instance, with Sselunga Shadat, “I never seemed to get through to him. I would shout at him,” she says. Her children were falling sick and were emotionally unstable. “I realized that if my children had an issue ... they would not speak to me,” she said.

In the training, Kyakuwa learned how to create an environment that foster a child’s overall well-being. Since applying her learnings, she says, “my son’s attitude has changed. I speak better to him and all my children.” Now, she says, “my children trust me and can tell me anything.”

Kyakuwa’s neighbors have noticed a difference, and, likewise, have been motivated to change how they relate with their children.