

Michael Messenger
President, World Vision Canada

70 years of impact: Looking back – but going further

In October of 2019, I visited the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the most fragile places in the world. Children growing up here face multiple threats including civil conflict, grinding poverty, gender-based violence and deadly illnesses like Ebola.

I sat with 16-year-old Rachette, hearing about her battle to survive Ebola – not only the virus, but the brutal stigma that followed. It left her family isolated. World Vision worked with her school and local faith leaders, helping people understand how viruses work and how stigma can devastate. I left knowing that, while Rachette's path would be difficult, World Vision and her community would be supporting her along the way.

Little did we know that, a few short months later, the world would be rocked by a global pandemic. I immediately thought of Rachette and others like her, girls and boys who have overcome the unthinkable only to face an insidious new killer. While the world ground to a halt, it was clear that this was no time for World Vision to put on the brakes.

Within hours of the World Health Organization's declaration of a pandemic, World Vision launched the largest humanitarian response in our history, reaching more than 50 million people in 70 countries. More than 22 million were children. We provided critical support like healthcare, COVID-19 education, economic support and child protection.

This kind of response is not unusual for us. It's in our very blood. Throughout our 70-year history, World Vision's commitment to caring for children has never been postponed or shuttered. And in the decades to come, we'll continue to follow Jesus' example by going further for the world's most vulnerable children, no matter the crisis.

The impact we achieved together this year – with God's guidance and thanks to your generous support – is well worth bringing into the light. Thank you and may God bless you.



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