

Community Health

PROJECT PROFILE

Poor health and poverty are intertwined, creating a cycle that World Concern is helping to break. Many of the causes of sickness and disease stem from poverty: being unable to access clean water, malnutrition, exposure to communicable diseases, and lack of health care. And poor health worsens poverty as sick family members are unable to work and become a burden to those who are earning income.

Nearly one billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water. In parts of Africa where we work, the rate of HIV/AIDS is 14 times higher than in America or Canada. The World Health Organization estimates that two billion people are infected with intestinal parasites, which lead to other health problems, including malnutrition and diarrhea. Lack of hygiene and proper sanitation also contribute to illness in poor countries. Malnutrition plays a role in over half the deaths of children under five in developing countries.

How We Help

Deworming

Since 2007 World Concern has treated nearly 12 million people in hundreds of communities worldwide with the **44-Cent Cure**, a combination of deworming medicine and vitamin A that cures children of intestinal parasites. We also educate parents and children about proper hygiene and how to prevent the worms from returning. With the 44-Cent Cure children's stomach aches go away and they're able to absorb nutrients from their food. We're building latrines and wells for clean water to help prevent parasites as well.



Urban Medical Clinics

In urban areas, such as the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh—home to five million people—World Concern operates neighborhood **medical clinics and mobile clinics** to ensure basic healthcare is within walking distance for the poorest families. These clinics provide examinations, prenatal care for pregnant women, medication and vaccinations, ensuring children have a chance to grow up healthy.

Vaccinations

World Concern is able to **vaccinate a child** for just \$1, providing lifelong protection from infectious diseases such as TB, polio, hepatitis and measles, which thrive in crowded, impoverished slums. In 2009 we immunized more than 4,000 women and children in Bangladesh. With the support of our donors, we'll be able to immunize thousands more this year.



Sharyan receives medical care in Bangladesh for her sick baby who had a fever and was coughing.



Babies receive immunizations that can save their lives at a medical clinic in Bangladesh.



A woman weighs her baby at a health clinic in Bangladesh.

Jolene's Story: An End to Pain and Sickness

Like most of the children in her slum neighborhood in Haiti, the climate doesn't bother Jolene — but the lack of sanitation does. Parasites entered through the soles of her feet. Worms living inside her likely began to siphon nutrients from the meager food she eats, and the pain it caused would send her screaming through her home each night.

Her family is poor, and her mom had no money for doctor visits or medicines. For Jolene, the treatment worked almost immediately. A worm five inches long was expelled within minutes of her first dose. Her mother said it was a “blessing.” She knew, without the help of World Concern donors, her little Jolene might never have been released from this suffering.

About World Concern

World Concern, part of CRISTA Ministries, is a Christian humanitarian organization that helps lift people out of poverty. World Concern works with the poor in 22 countries, with the goal of transforming the lives of those we touch, leading them on a path to self-sustainability. Worldwide, World Concern offers life, opportunity and hope to nearly six million people. For more information on our work around the world, please visit www.worldconcern.org.

Where We Work

World Concern provides deworming medication to children in Haiti, Kenya, Myanmar, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Somalia, Uganda, Cambodia, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Niger and Zambia. We operate medical clinics and immunize children in Bangladesh. We also offer medical clinic services in Kenya.

Who We Help

Our health programs are aimed at the poorest, most vulnerable of the population—those who have no other means of obtaining healthcare. They are treated with respect and Christ-like love.



Jolene was in constant pain from the worms that distended her belly.

