



PLAY • LEARN • THRIVE
2020 IMPACT REPORT

OUR TEAM

Our team consists of passionate individuals working collectively to ensure we are able to make the biggest impact possible in the lives of those we serve.

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Cargill, Assistant Vice President, Compliance

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Rositsa Bogalinska-Petrova, Bulgaria Country Director

Dr. Sophie Mengistu, Ethiopia Country Director

Jacqueline Cadeau, Haiti Country Director

Thuy Ngo, Vietnam Country Director

WITH DEEPEST APPRECIATION



PLAY • LEARN • THRIVE

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December 31, 2020

Dear Friend,

To many of us, 2020 felt like a test. How much could we withstand? Would we maintain our health, keep our jobs, our homes, our relationships and our personal freedom? We gained a new understanding of vulnerability while asking ourselves these questions.

Founder

Dr. Jane Aronson

Board co-Chairs

Alex E. Mimis

Susan M. Neisloss

Board of Directors

Terri Becks

Mandy Edmund

Nicole Purcell

Misha Rubin

Natalie Troubh

Ali Wing

Executive Director

Claudia Fleming

The pandemic increased our per capita compassion, gave us unbounded understanding, and expanded world empathy for those who are now at-risk and for those who have been susceptible for years.

WWO has served nearly 160,000 of the world's most vulnerable children, families and communities for over 23 years. When we were faced with uncertainty and the need to do more, we immediately answered the call because we knew how to meet the most pressing needs of our beneficiaries by creating a ladder of care that lifted them rung-by-rung out of danger.

2020 reinforced what we already knew- when we work together, anything is possible. We learned to do more for our families with fewer resources. We found donors whose compassion and vigilance allowed them to dig deeper and do more. We had local teams who knew the children and families so well that they knew what to do, where to find them and how to get them onto the critical first rung towards stability. Due to our resilience and perseverance during this harrowing year, we were able to impact the lives of nearly 15,000 children and families and in turn their communities, an 80% increase over 2019's total beneficiaries.

We find ourselves stronger and eager to take the knowledge we --garnered last year into our work for many years to come. We are building a strong foundation upon the importance of home-based learning, the power of parental support and engagement, and the efficiency of delivering professional development over the phone and over the internet, and the effectiveness of bringing virtual camp programs to hundreds of children in their homes.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to ensure that vulnerable children, families and communities thrive. We enter 2021 with renewed hope and the knowledge that the best years are yet to come.

With deepest appreciation,

Claudia Fleming
Executive Director



OUR PROGRAMS

WWO helps transform the lives of vulnerable children, families, and communities through trauma-informed, evidence-based programming.

Over the past 23 years, we have changed the lives of nearly 160,000 children, families and communities, and worked in a total of nineteen countries.

In 2020, WWO served nearly 15,000 children and adults in Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Haiti and Vietnam through our early childhood education, skills development, and camp programs.



Element of Play® and Element of Play® at Home Programs

WWO works with communities to ensure children are protected and engaged. Through our trauma informed, evidence-based Element of Play® program, children are introduced to safe and structured learning through play methodology that builds their social and executive function skills. WWO ensures children are seen, connected to the community, and therefore can be protected. When children have access to quality early learning activities and feel safe and connected, these activities have the power to mitigate the negative effects of poverty, toxic stress, and trauma on their early childhood development.



Positive Youth Development Programs

Science tells us it is never too late to help youth and young adults build up their capabilities. When they have opportunities to build the core skills needed to be productive participants in their communities, the next generation of citizens, workers, and parents will thrive. Our Positive Youth Development training sessions address self-care and daily activities, community, housing and personal budgeting, education, career orientation, and vocational training, communications and social relations, job search training, and family building.

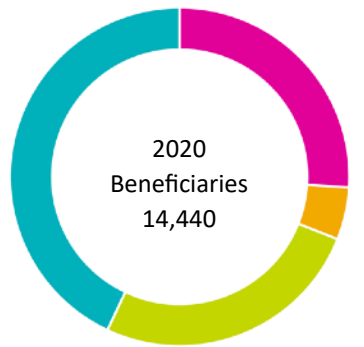


Camp Programs for Children Living with Serious Illness

In partnership with SeriousFun Children's Network, WWO runs camp programs in Ethiopia, Haiti, and Vietnam for children with serious illnesses. Our local teams conduct camps in collaboration with health care providers in local hospitals. WWO's professional staff adheres to the stringent guidelines of SeriousFun. In addition to residential programs, WWO conducts regular follow-up appointments throughout the year, as well as family weekends to increase the long-term impact of the camp experience. In 2020, we created a virtual camp program and distributed hundreds of Camp at Home program kits to youth through local hospitals, thus strengthening the relationship between healthcare providers and campers while leveraging the positive health messages from camp.

Please visit wwo.org/our-programs to learn more.

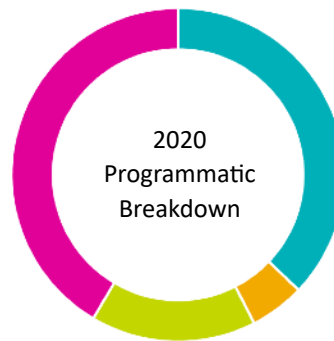
OUR IMPACT



■ Bulgaria ■ Ethiopia ■ Haiti ■ Vietnam



■ Children ■ Adults



■ Element of Play® & Element of Play® at Home ■ Camps for Children Living with Serious Illness
■ Positive Youth Development ■ COVID Relief Efforts

2020 Element of Play® and Element of Play® at Home Programs Impact

98% of children showed improved developmental outcomes

98% of caregivers reported a strengthened relationship with their children

96% of both children and adults reported and demonstrated improved psychosocial wellbeing

2020 Positive Youth Development Programs Impact

83% of youth and adults re-enrolled in school or became gainfully employed

89% of beneficiaries achieved increased job skills

98% of youth demonstrated improved socio-emotional skills, including healthy peer relationships

2020 Camp Programs for Children Living with Serious Illness Impact

75% of campers demonstrated improved adherence to medication

100% of campers reported improved peer and family relationships

100% of campers demonstrated improved emotional health and wellbeing

Please visit: wwo.org/our-impact to learn more.

OUR COVID-19 RELIEF IMPACT

We worked diligently to support the vulnerable children, families and communities we serve, all of whom were impacted by the pandemic. We distributed emergency relief kits that included essential food items, hygiene products, safety instructions, early childhood activities in our Element of Play® at Home program, and we adapted to change in this most difficult of times. Our priority was to feed our children so they would remain healthy and would continue to learn and thrive.



Please visit wwo.org/relief-response to learn more.

WHERE WE WORK

Nearly 15,000 children and adults served in 2020

Nearly 160,000 children and adults served since 1997

Haiti

3,737 children and adults served in 2020
13,737 children and adults served since 2010

Bulgaria

3,746 children and adults served in 2020
22,186 children and adults served since 2009



Ethiopia

688 children and adults served in 2020
86,688 children and adults served since 2005

Vietnam

6,269 children and adults served in 2020
36,269 children and adults served since 2004

Please visit wwo.org/where-we-work to learn more.

BULGARIA

When we first entered the pediatric ward of Targovishte Hospital in Bulgaria in 2017, we saw frightened and depressed children waiting for their next medical treatment. We worked with the hospital to open an Element of Play® Learning Space where children could play, learn and thrive, together.

Emir is sick often and hospitalized multiple times each year. He spends the majority of his time in our Learning Space. His doctor administers his treatments there to make the experience better for him. Like so many, Emir loves our Element of Play® Learning Space so much, he doesn't want to leave the hospital. He was delighted to learn he could utilize our Learning Space in Targovishte.

Children are recovering faster, undergoing their treatments with more ease, and making friends. While in the hospital, the children continue to learn and develop, and they adapt more easily after being discharged.

Our goal is to ensure that the hundreds of children who are hospitalized each year are able to experience the healing power of our Element of Play® program.

In Bulgaria, we've brought our Element of Play® Learning Spaces to hospitals where children with frequent admissions and chronic illnesses can continue their learning while lifting their spirits.



BULGARIA



■ Element of Play® & Element of Play at Home

Bulgaria, a country the size of Tennessee, has 22% of the population living in poverty. The majority of these families identify as Roma. Many Roma families choose to keep their young children home, not sending them to school until age six or seven for 1st grade. When children enter the classroom, they are often unfamiliar with the structure and rules and unable to understand or speak Bulgarian. As children move through the school system, the gap often widens leaving children and their families frustrated, feeling stigmatized and often withdrawing from formal learning.

Our work in Bulgaria is addressing the tragic loss of human potential due to poverty, stigma, cultural and language barriers. Through our professional development workshops, 84 field workers are now implementing Element of Play® for children from birth to eight years of age. This program supports a child's language development, social skills, problem solving and creates a structured routine to support the transition into the classroom, regardless of the age or grade level at which a child first enters.

In 2020, we brought COVID-19 Relief kits and our early childhood education programs to over 3,700 children and their parents across Bulgaria through our 26 collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations, municipalities, and health centers. Over half of our partnerships (60%) are intentionally selected to ensure Roma families have access to our quality play-based programs.

Through these collaborative efforts our Element of Play® Learning Spaces strengthen local staff through high impact professional development courses and bring evidence-based programs into cultural community centers that are close to the homes and meeting the needs of Roma children and their families. Through focus groups held in 2020, positive feedback was received from 100% of parents. They reported an increase in their own understanding of their child's development, an improved relationship between themselves and their child, and a marked improvement in their child's language and social skills.

Please visit wwo.org/bulgaria-program to learn more.



ETHIOPIA

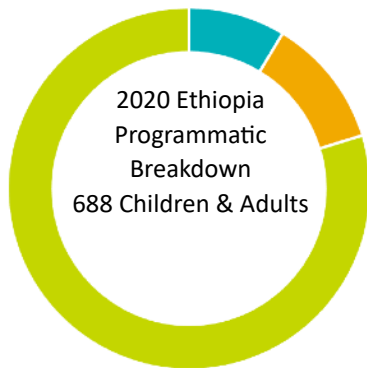
Eleven years ago, WWO was asked by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health to assume guardianship of 42 orphans.

At 8 years old, Misikir was one of these children. Now 19 years old, he is very accomplished academically. He stood in the top 2% of the country on his 8th grade exam results, received several awards since his primary school years, and as a 12th grade student is doing remarkably well. Misikir enjoys helping his peers with their homework. He believes his goals are attainable through hard work and is on a career path in medicine.

We have worked hard to develop a care plan for each of the children that supports their unique talents and abilities. Eight of our youth have been adopted or reunited with their families, seven are in vocational school, have graduated from college or are living independently, while the rest live either in peer homes because they are old enough to care for themselves or in group homes where a house mother lives with them and helps with the daily chores and care. Our staff visits the youth every day to check in with them and ensure they have everything they need to survive and thrive as they grow into successful adults.

In Ethiopia, in addition to our groundbreaking work bringing our Element of Play® program into government preschools, we are the guardians of 26 young people who came into our care over 11 years ago and like a family we provide everything they need to thrive as they become independent adults.





- Element of Play® & Element of Play at Home
- Camps for Children Living with Serious Illness
- Positive Youth Development

In 2020, we launched a unique partnership with four government-run preschools in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to tackle the underlying factors that cause a lack of learning and to ensure preschoolers develop a solid foundation for learning throughout their educational trajectory. Learning begins with the motivated teachers who are using play-based methodologies and have the materials their students need.

We surveyed preschool teachers and found that before our trainings, the majority believed that rote memorization was the best way to teach preschool students. After this training, 91% of teachers realized

that children in early childhood learn best through play. By the end of 2020, each of the four preschools had a dedicated WWO Element of Play® Learning Space, equipped with books, toys, arts and crafts materials, as well as trained and motivated teachers who provide endless opportunities to bring the joy of learning to their 1,780 students.

We continued our positive youth development program for the extraordinary children in our Community Based Youth Support Program. In our care for 12 years, they received food, shelter, healthcare, as well as psychosocial and educational support during a most challenging year. In 2020, three students are waiting to sit for their grade 12 national exam, one graduated from vocational school with a diploma in Hotel Operations and Management Services, one is ready to sit for the 8th grade national exam and all 26 continued to thrive on their journey toward a happy, independent life.

Through our camp in Addis Ababa, 141 youth living with serious illness, experienced the positive effects of virtual camp. Reconnecting with their peers from 2019, our virtual camp in 2020 reignited the joy and memories of residential camp with Camp at Home activities, games, and songs. Meeting an important goal of the camp program, 75% of campers reported they were more compliant with their medication regimen, keeping them healthier and happier through this harrowing year.

Please visit wwo.org/ethiopia-program to learn more.



HAITI

We began working in Haiti after the devastating earthquake of 2010. We have seen the importance of engaging parents of the children in our Element of Play® program over the past decade.

Rihana and Gaelle began attending our Element of Play® program earlier this year. Their mother, Exuna, an elementary school teacher, immediately saw the impact that our program had on her children and was impressed with how our team worked with each child and focused on their particular needs.

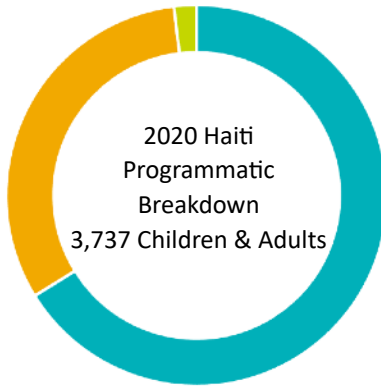
When the pandemic hit and our in-person program was closed temporarily, we provided nearly 150 parents with weekly telephone training and support along with our Element of Play® at Home program so that they could facilitate activities at home with their children.

Exuna was inspired to work with parents in her neighborhood, championing our Element of Play® at Home program so that their 20 children were able to stay on track with their developmental milestones. She made a significant difference in her community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are building a solid foundation for the community to work together to address the needs of their most vulnerable members, the children.

In Haiti, we continue to be amazed by the power of parenting. By bringing our Element of Play® program into their homes, by providing the families with the coaching and support that they need from our team, we are ensuring that learning continues throughout the pandemic.





- Element of Play® & Element of Play at Home
- Camps for Children Living with Serious Illness
- Positive Youth Development

According to the World Bank, a child born in Haiti will become only 45% as productive as they could have been if they had enjoyed a full education and good health. With the majority of families living on less than \$2 a day, the cost of sending a child to preschool remains beyond the reach of most parents.

We are helping to fill the gap in Haiti to ensure children have access to play-based learning opportunities. In 2020, we served 1,307 preschool children by bringing our early childhood

education program into free community centers in Haiti, where preschool is not for all. The majority of schools are private and the majority of families cannot afford the annual tuition. Our Element of Play® Learning Spaces brought vital listening, language, and learning skills to children who would have gone without. Through our joyful, play-based programs, 97% of the children who started the program with delays (as measured by the ASQ-3), are now on-track developmentally. All of the children who have aged out of our program and into primary schools have developed the social, language and listening skills needed to thrive.

Adolescence is difficult. We create a circle of support through trusting relationships that bring vulnerable youth the life and job skills needed to create a happy, productive life. 98% of interns in our Positive Youth Development program reported improved socio-emotional skills, including healthy peer relationships.

In a year when children living with serious illness faced the additional challenge of surviving the pandemic, we served 450 children through our Camp at Home kits. 100% of our 2020 campers reported that these joyful activities, games, and crafts helped improve their emotional health and wellbeing. By connecting with peers virtually, they tackled the tough issues they face, including stigma, depression, and false information about their illness, together.

Please visit www.ww.org/haiti-program to learn more.



VIETNAM

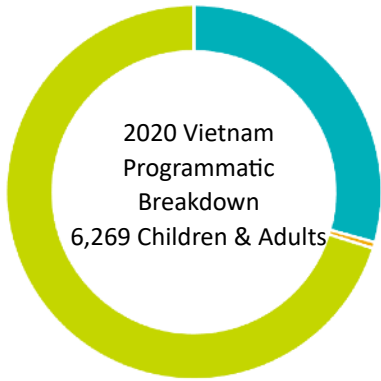
Lan ran away at age 11 because of trauma she experienced in her home. She was collected from the street and put into a government center.

We have provided her with physical and mental care as well as life skills, cooking, dancing, English and computer classes over the past five years. Lan has also attended our day camp as well as our career guidance and job preparedness seminars. When she turns 16 next year, she will need to leave the center.

Our goal is to prepare these young people with the life skills needed to thrive independently through our Future Skills project.

In Vietnam, through our collaboration with over 30 community-based organizations, we bring critical life and job skills to over 1,000 formerly homeless youth. Our goal is for them to one day become independent adults.





■ Element of Play® & Element of Play at Home ■ Camps for Children Living with Serious Illness
■ Positive Youth Development

In 2020, we served nearly 600 children with disabilities throughout rural Vietnam through our Element of Play® program. Realizing these preschool aged children lack access to the early childhood development programs that would enable them to learn and engage with the world around them, we trained caregivers to provide critical learning through play, movement, and music that has helped reduce their children’s developmental delays by 98% and bring joy into their lives.

We also impacted over 1,600 youth through our Positive Youth Development program. The work we are doing is deep and meaningful, so powerful in fact, that over 90% of youth who graduate from our program are able to secure a job upon completion. Searching for a way to support themselves and/or their families back home, children make a dangerous trek from the countryside to the streets of Saigon or Hanoi. Danger is present both day and night, whether being picked up by police and placed into state run institutions, or facing exploitation and abuse, the streets are not safe. Once these youth are in government care, the clock is ticking for each one and the deadline is their 16th birthday. They must gain the skills necessary to survive once released, to secure proper documentation to ensure they are registered with the government and able to access social services, healthcare and an education. We walk side-by-side with street children who have been swept up into this reality. Through our relationship building and life skills training, we create a culture shift in care, from fear-based to friendly, engaged, and nurturing.

Our camp in Vietnam was severely impacted by the pandemic, keeping children living with serious illness away from the positive peer and adult relationships that have proven so critical for their continued resilience, and their physical and emotional wellbeing. We were able to train 17 doctors, nurses and social workers from an oncology hospital to create camp-like activities for children and how to provide emotional support to the families and children in their care.

Please visit wwo.org/vietnam-program to learn more.



OUR DONORS

We couldn't bring our life changing work to underserved communities without the compassion, commitment and generosity of our donors. Thank you for choosing WWO. Together, we are transforming lives.

Highlighted below are three individuals who have been inspired to make a long-term investment in our mission, ensuring we are able to confidently plan for the future.



Ronnie Cruz

My sister Rowena and I have been supporting WWO since 2014. Helping children and giving aid to children, especially those who are most vulnerable and who are the most marginalized, was something we had always wanted to do. What WWO provides for children, top to bottom, from basic necessities of food, nutrition and health, to childhood development, to providing support and education for caregivers and the community around these kids, it is such an amazing, complete picture. We absolutely fell in love with the organization's mission, started contributing immediately, and have no intention of ever stopping.



Constantine "Conner" Kechriotis

"I became involved with WWO in 2018 and was immediately drawn to their human focused work and the values. I firmly believe to help move humankind forward, we must not just help each other get by, but also find opportunities to show warmth and kindness to each other, create communities built on something positive, and build leaders with strong values who are able to carry on the mission. I've been impressed by how WWO employs their deep expertise in the field of health and childhood development to craft innovative solutions to help children and marginalized communities, and am inspired by their ability to strive in the face of adversity, seamlessly responding almost as soon as challenges come their way, growing from experiences that would likely cause major setbacks for other non-profits. I feel fortunate to have found an organization that gives me a vehicle to advance the values I hold dear and inspires me at a personal level to become a stronger more resilient human being."



Julia Weaver

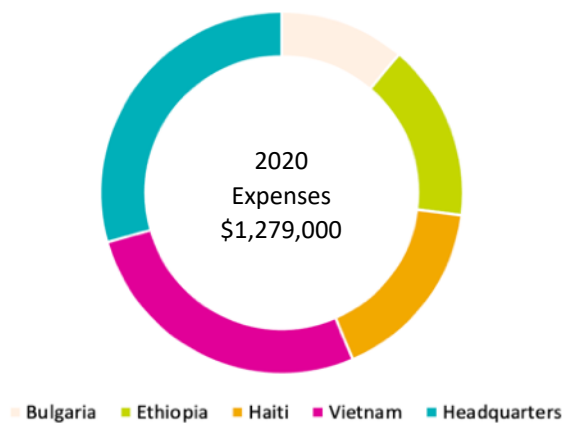
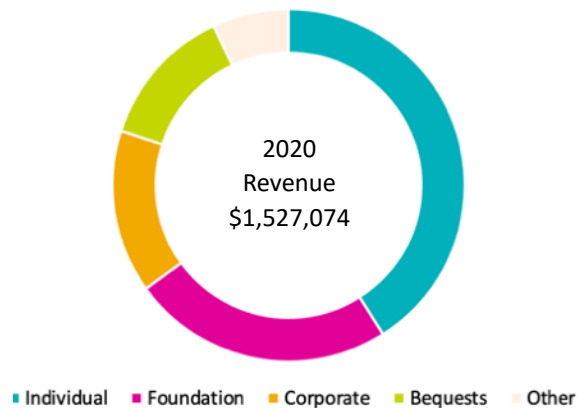
"When exploring a future working with children, I came across WWO and was amazed how the organization transformed lives in various communities. I am now a third-year early childhood educator and fervently believe that helping students to love learning at an early age will support their development intellectually, socially, and emotionally. WWO's Element of Play® program closely mirrors my own values and approach by recognizing the importance of building relationships with children, engaging in play, and fostering learning through love, encouragement, and respect. I am proud knowing my support goes directly to fostering curiosity, intellectual development, and a love of learning. I look forward to continuing to champion the amazing and essential work of WWO."

Please visit wwo.org/make-a-gift to learn more.

OUR FINANCIALS

We are fully committed to and thoroughly embrace the values of accountability and transparency as a matter of ethical leadership, as well as legal compliance.

We know that financial transparency helps to preserve the very important trust our constituents place in us.



Please visit wwo.org/transparency to view our policies, IRS Form 990s and audited financials.



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