



Worldwide Orphans Foundation



PLAY • LEARN • THRIVE

2022 Impact Report

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Dear Friends,

In 2020 and 2021, our ability to serve disadvantaged families through a global pandemic was tested, however in 2022 it was our ability to serve children in war torn communities. The challenges of gang violence in Haiti, civil war in Ethiopia, and an international war in Ukraine, pushed, already depleted families, to their limits.

This year, our local teams demonstrated a level of tenacity, creativity, and compassion that went beyond all expectations. In Vietnam we met the needs of our families despite the extended lockdowns and the mental health challenges that these lockdowns caused. In Bulgaria we served our network of collaborative partners while bringing early childhood programs and access to psychological services to Ukrainian mothers and their children. In Haiti we responded to increased famine and a cholera outbreak by distributing essential food, hygiene products, and water purification tablets to families.

When confronted with growing national needs, we began working with the Montefiore School Health Programs, the largest school-based health program in the US. Their extensive network of over 30 clinics, serving 99 schools in the Bronx, serves over 8,000 public school students under eight years old. We look forward to training the talented teachers in these schools in the Element of Play® method, bringing them techniques that will enhance the listening, language, and social skills of their students.

Adjusting to the needs of our communities takes commitment, courage, and connection. The challenges outlined above would not have been met without the commitment of our exceptional donors. The services that were delivered to families living in extreme deprivation, would not have been delivered without the extraordinary courage of our local staff. And most importantly, the courageous actions and the commitment would not have been possible without the deep connection that we all feel for the work of the Worldwide Orphans Foundation.

With gratitude,

Claudia Fleming



Worldwide Orphans is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN 13-3968225. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution, therefore, your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

VISION

A world where children are prepared to learn, youth are prepared for life, and communities are prepared to support them.

WHERE WE WORK



New York
Haiti

Bulgaria
Ukraine

Ethiopia
Vietnam

MISSION

Worldwide Orphans Foundation invests in the strength of communities by providing local opportunities for children and youth to learn and thrive through play.

WHAT WE DO



PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Worldwide Orphans (WVO) was founded with the belief that play holds a transformative power for both children and adults. WVO provides local opportunities for children and youth to learn and thrive through play. Today, we have operating teams in Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Haiti, The Bronx, Ukraine, and Vietnam. WVO has worked with more than 200,000 vulnerable children and their caregivers over the past 26 years and is a trusted partner across our locations.

We work to ensure that every investment in WVO produces a significant impact: teaching the children and caregivers, supporting the family, and building a healthier community. We train caregivers, teachers, and other adults to use play-based, early childhood lessons, camp methodology, and youth programming to support healthy growth and development. We care deeply about monitoring, evaluation, and program metrics. In fact, preschool students with access to our program are 3 times more likely to be prepared for 1st grade than those who were not enrolled and 85% of participating youth are financially independent when they graduate from our programs. Our goal is to reach as many underserved children and families as possible.



WVO's programs are guided by the components of the Nurturing Care Model, including good health, adequate nutrition, safety and security, opportunities for early learning and responsive caregiving.

To learn more, visit: nurturing-care.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Element of Play® is WVO's trademarked program developed to support early childhood development, bring about psychosocial change and rehabilitate communities in areas of extreme poverty and disaster. Adverse childhood experiences cause trauma in children which often causes them to miss critical developmental milestones and creates lasting negative consequences in their lives. These developmental delays produce a cumulative effect on their communities.

What differentiates Element of Play® is our theory of change. True change happens when a community works together to care for one another. The key to this program's success comes from our foundational premise – children thrive when the adults around them engage in the play, too. Element of Play® brings trauma-informed, play-based programs to young children and our Element of Play® Professional Development Training brings the mastery of this methodology to the professionals who work with children in the community. By building the capacity of these professionals, a mutually beneficial relationship between children and adults is facilitated, positively impacting their health and well-being and improving the community as a whole.

Element of Play® program and Professional Training goals include:

- A strengthened relationship between adults and children
- Improved developmental outcomes for children
- Improved psychosocial wellbeing for both children and adults

Click [Here](#) to Review WVO's Element of Play Theory of Change



Students accessing WVO's Element of Play® program are 3 times more likely to be ready for 1st grade than children who did not participate.

Data Collected from students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2021
Data Analyzed by Albert Einstein Medical College Interns



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Adverse childhood experiences can cause trauma in children. These negative experiences interrupt a child's ability to develop positive relationships. This trauma causes them to miss critical developmental milestones and creates lasting negative consequences. Youth and adults who have experienced significant childhood trauma are more likely to drop out of school, leaving them unable to achieve their full productive potential. Low skills perpetuate poverty and inequality and the cycle continues. According to the World Bank, one third of the working age population in low- and middle-income countries lack the basic skills required to get quality jobs.

Our goal is to support young people by increasing their skills and capacity to make healthy choices, cope with adversity, and develop positive peer relationships to move from merely surviving each day to actively participating in their own and their community's positive development. Our Skills Development curriculum covers topics from self-care, to education, vocational training, job skills, and building healthy families.

Positive Youth Development program goals include:

- Improved socio-emotional skills, including positive youth development and healthy peer relationships
- Increased job skills
- Increased number of youth and adults re-enrolling in school or becoming gainfully employed

Click [Here](#) to Review WWO's Positive Youth Development Theory of Change



*80% of youth participating in our PYD program in Vietnam are enrolled in vocational training courses

*100% of youth trained as Element of Play® specialists in Haiti are also re-enrolled in school and are pursuing their high school or University degrees



SUMMER CAMP



In partnership with SeriousFun Children's Network,* we provide camp experiences for children living with serious illness in Ethiopia, Haiti, and Vietnam.

Children living with illnesses face difficult emotional and social challenges, including higher rates of anxiety and depression. They must learn life skills to help manage their illness, stay as healthy as possible, and cope with future obstacles that may arise.

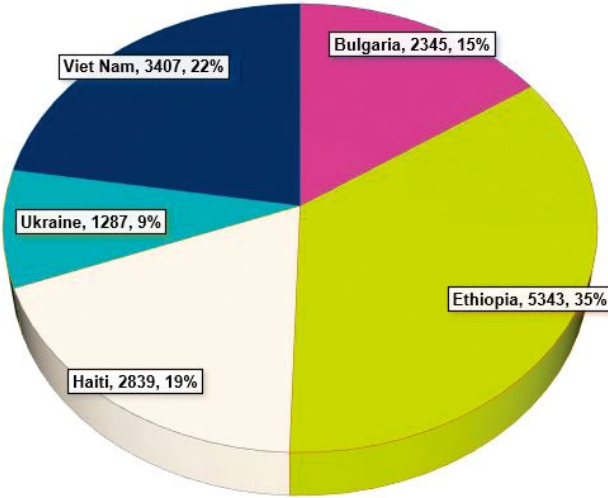
We provide opportunity for children to access residential camp (4-5 days away from home), day camp and family weekend activities that provide deep and meaningful impact, increased knowledge, and create strong and lasting bonds with peers who face similar struggles.

An outcomes evaluation, in partnership with San Diego State University, exploring the impact of camp programming in Ethiopia and Vietnam found that campers build stronger peer and family relationships, take their medication correctly and consistently (improved adherence), and show an increase in positive health and hygiene behaviors.



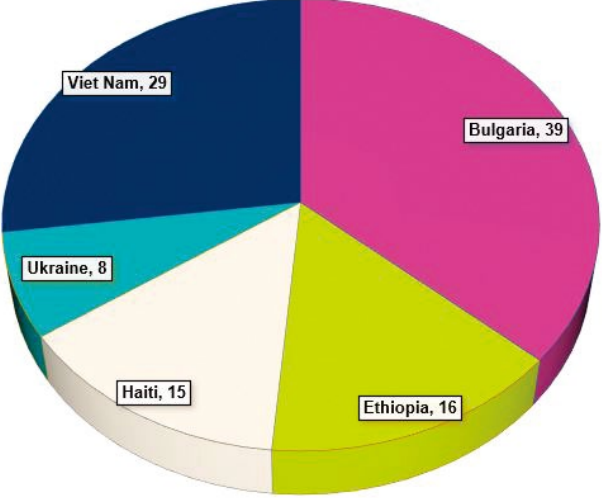
OUR IMPACT

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES SERVED



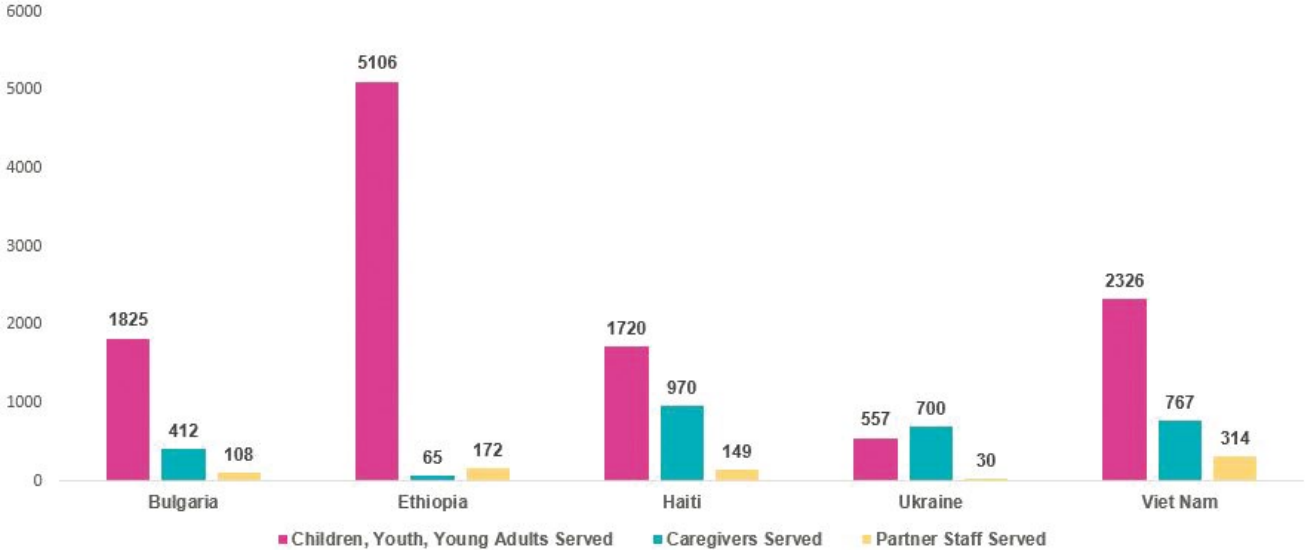
15,221

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



107

BENEFICIARIES SERVED BY GROUP



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. Our Audited Financial Statements for 2022 will be completed in November of 2023. Therefore, the most accurate depiction of our financial position can be viewed on Charity Navigator for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Please visit wwo.org/transparency to view our policies, IRS Form 990s and Audited Financials.



We are also fully committed to transparency and are proud to display our 2022 platinum seal, the highest level of recognition offered by Guidestar/Candid. Please visit our profile: bit.ly/WWOGuidestar.



BULGARIA



In 2022, WWO Bulgaria responded quickly to the consequences of the **war in Ukraine**. In response to the flow of refugees entering the country, WWO quickly established early learning groups in Sofia, where parents and young children received educational, social, and humanitarian support. In addition, through its partners in Targovishte and Lovech, WWO Bulgaria provided refugee support in reception centers in these cities.

WWO Bulgaria also increased the number of Element of Play® Learning Spaces that serve marginalized Bulgarian children. Establishing 15 new locations, in vulnerable communities, providing play-based programming to support pre-literacy, listening, language, and social skills, to hundreds of children.

WWO Bulgaria started two important initiatives in 2022. The first will contribute to the development of the organization’s advocacy activities around play based learning across Bulgaria. The second is related to the nationalization and certification of the Element of Play® program in Bulgaria, supporting the implementation of the Element of Play® method in kindergartens across the country.



2,345
Beneficiaries Served



Collaborative Partners:
11 Kindergartens/Educational Centers
9 Centers for Children with Disabilities
8 Centers for At-risk Children
6 Community Centers
2 Hospitals
2 Orphanages
1 Refugee Center



Meet Eva

Eva was only 2 years old when the war began. Melitopol, where Eva’s family lived, was one of the most severely bombed areas in Ukraine. The explosions interrupted her family’s peaceful life, and they were forced to hide in their basement to survive. Eva was scared and couldn’t make sense of what was going on. Before the war, she had gone to kindergarten where every day had been filled with fun.

Leaving Melitopol, and the stability of her home, was traumatic for her and her family. With the help of volunteers, they escaped to Warsaw, Poland where the father awaited them.



Initially, the family stayed at a refugee camp, but Eva found the crowds and noises difficult to cope with. She did not want to leave her mom’s side and did not willingly visit the camp’s kindergarten.

In the summer, the family left Poland and managed to get to Sofia, Bulgaria where they finally found a safe and secure home. The Ukrainian community in Sofia referred the family to WWO’s EOP® program in December. During her first few visits, Eva feared the loud games and laughter of the children in the Learning Space. She cried and refused to stay in the group without her mom. However, with a lot of care and patience, our play specialist Svetlana bonded with Eva, and she started staying in the group without her mother. Only two months later, Eva now takes part in all group activities with the children. Her drawings, once dominated by black paint, are now full of color. Every day she becomes more and more active in the games, she engages with the other children, and expresses curiosity about the world around her.



ETHIOPIA



2008

In 2022, our **EOP® program** was working in the Ethiopian government preschools providing play-based learning for nearly 6,000 eager students. Building the capacity of Ethiopian caregivers and teachers, we have trained 240 adults in the Element of Play®. We have renovated all of our learning spaces bringing color, order, and additional learning materials, making the rooms inviting for the children and staff. This year, WWO Ethiopia also introduced the International Development and Early Learning Assessment tool (IDELA) created by Save the Children, to evaluate the impact of our work at all of its sites.

Positive Youth Development - Our Community Based Youth Support Program has provided 14 years of holistic care and support to young people who have been or will be reintegrated into the communities. Among the 42 students who were originally placed in the full care of WWO, 25 have graduated from the program and are now living independently. The remaining youth in our care, are receiving daily support and guidance, including housing, nutritional meals, education, health care services, and life skills lessons that will prepare them for an independent and happy adulthood.

WWO's Camp Addis has been providing camp programming in partnership with SeriousFun Children's Network, since 2009, giving youth living with serious illness an opportunity to bond and learn together. However, at the beginning of the pandemic, residential camp programs were redesigned to be held as home-based camp. Fortunately, in 2022, our traditional camp programs for youth and caregiver weekends were held in person with the campers, family members, and counsellors on site. WWO brought the sense of belonging, the confidence building, and the lifesaving messaging around taking medication on schedule, to 162 campers and caregivers in Addis.



2022

Meet Nahom



Nahom Danielis is now 23 years old, and graduated in August, 2022 with a degree in Information Technology. Nahom was 8 years old when he came to WWO with his brother Teddy from the former orphanage. Their aunt had placed them in the orphanage, because she was unable to support them after their biological parents passed away. When their orphanage was closed, in February, 2009, WWO took over the care of the two brothers. Since that time, Nathom received all of the care and support that a child deserves from the WWO Team and the live-in "house mother." He received not only a formal education but the skills

he needed to become a productive, confident, and responsible member of his community. Today, Nahom is living with his brother, he is employed, and healthy, he has earned a college degree, and he regularly sees his "brothers and sisters" from the Community Based Youth Support Program.



5,343
Beneficiaries Served



Collaborative Partners:
7 Schools
4 Universities
3 Government Agencies
1 Clinic
1 NGO



HAITI



In 2022, Haiti continued to heal from the global pandemic, the earthquake, the political upheaval, a cholera outbreak, and the violence that has taken over much of the country. With schools closed for much of the year due to these challenges, WWO Haiti needed to adapt to keep the early childhood, positive youth development, and camp programs going. Keeping the safety and security of the children and staff as a top priority, WWO conducted **Element of Play® and Positive Youth Development training** for the staff of our collaborative partners and for our interns. We trained teachers in early childhood development and the importance of play in learning, providing the critical professional development that school

teachers in Haiti need and are eager to receive in order to hone their skills. In addition to training adults, and bringing our programs to thousands of children, we collected data from hundreds of the students to monitor the impact of our programs.

In response to the violence, which led to food scarcity, and a sanitation crisis which caused a cholera outbreak, WWO distributed hundreds of **emergency kits** containing food, hygiene items, and water purification tablets to prevent the consumption of contaminated water. We held training sessions for our staff and interns on how to respond to cholera and the appropriate precautions to take to help stem the spread of this dangerous and contagious illness.

Despite the challenges, WWO Haiti was able to conduct traditional, in-person **summer camp programs** for children living with serious illness in partnership with SeriousFun Children's Network, as well as weekend programs for caregivers. Learning from the adaptations required during the pandemic, WWO Haiti maintained the **Camp-at-Home** program distributing hundreds of camp kits to campers who came to the hospital for their health check-ups and to receive their medications.



Meet Moise

Kevin Moise Leandro was born in 2021 and joined WWO Haiti's Learning Space when he was six months old. After our staff evaluated him, they determined that he was behind in his development. With help from the WWO Element of Play® program, he quickly started to respond to songs, join in the activities, and respond to simple commands. Soon, he was walking alone and searching for his favorite toys. Within months Moise could speak 15 words and respond appropriately to questions. Unfortunately,



due to an accident, Moise needed to stay at home for 3

months, he fell behind in his development, lost interest in play and did not want to interact with other children. However, with the attention and care of the WWO team, he was soon smiling again, he regained his confidence and again began participating in all of the learning space activities. In his most recent evaluation, Moise, is right on track!



2,839
Beneficiaries Served



Collaborative Partners:
7 Schools
1 Hospital
3 NGOs
2 Community Based Learning Centers
1 Church



NEW YORK CITY

Montefiore School Health Program

Founded in 1983, MSHP is the largest and most comprehensive school-based health program in the country, providing coordinated primary and preventive healthcare to public elementary, middle, and high school students in 31 locations

throughout the Bronx, serving 95 schools. MSHP partners with students' primary and specialty providers to tailor services to the needs of each individual student. Working in partnership with P.S. 199X through the Montefiore School Health Programs (MSHP) in the Bronx, WWO is increasing the capacity of their preschool teachers and professionals by training them in the Element of Play® methodology, demonstrating the lessons, and evaluating and monitoring the impact of the program within each of the classrooms. In 2022, we trained teachers in four classes, and we plan to expand into more schools in 2023.

Twenty of the schools in the MSHP network we work with have children in the age group where early childhood interventions have the biggest impact on the trajectory of a child's life. By bringing the Element of Play® program to pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade classrooms, these children will build a foundation of preliteracy, numeracy, listening, and language skills that is necessary to thrive not only in their childhood, but throughout adulthood.



WWO partnered with the New York Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Family Justice Centers (FJC) in early 2022. We prepared

site recommendations for the Child Centers in the five boroughs of NYC in preparation to welcome children from birth to three years old into the FJC child centers. This thoughtfully prepares these centers to address the childcare needs of the 15,906 clients using FJC services annually. In the future, clients with appointments with lawyers, psychologists, and social workers will be able to access childcare for their children age birth through three years old, in the child centers. WWO will be conducting early childhood development training with the FJC Child Center staff in 2023.



UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Nearly 100 days into the war, UNICEF declared in June of 2022, that this war, has wrought devastating consequences for children at a scale and speed not seen since World War II. More than 7.1 million people have been displaced by the war, causing the UNHCR to state in their Situation Report #18, that this is the largest human displacement crisis in the world today and its effects will be felt by the country for years to come.

Now over a year has passed, children living in and through this war are facing many threats to their safety and wellbeing, often with distressing impacts to their development. Many children have seen their community destroyed, been displaced from their home, school, friends and loved ones, faced deprivation, and been exposed to traumatic events. Providing a safe space for children and caregivers while preserving and supporting their psychosocial well-being is extremely important in an emergency situation.



In response to the war, WWO quickly raised funds to launch our trauma-informed, Element of Play® early childhood development program in sites across the country. Our first program was held in a library in Lviv, we then expanded our programs into five additional cities in western Ukraine and opened 10 learning spaces in libraries, preschools, a public refuges center and we established a WWO Center of Excellence where large group training sessions are held with local partners including Zahyst, UNICEF and We Are Ukraine.

In 2023, WWO will be expanding to more sites in more cities and towns across Ukraine.



1,287
Beneficiaries Served



Collaborative Partners:

- 4 NGOs
- 3 Libraries
- 1 School



VIETNAM

To reduce the post-pandemic impact of COVID-19, in 2022, we continued to create access and opportunities to address both urgent and long-term needs of the children and people we served. WWO Vietnam responded with timely financial support, helping over 3,000 children and caregivers overcome immediate adversity and trauma. This critical, urgent response was made possible by generous funding received from KKR/AVPN. Thanks to support received from HSBC for families who lost a family member in the pandemic, WWO was able to provide for the long-term needs of these families. In 2022, WWO Vietnam was recognized by the Vinh Long and Dong Nai provinces for our contribution to mitigating the post-pandemic impact and to the social development in 2019-2022.



Using our robust monitoring and evaluation assessments, WWO Vietnam found that that nearly **100% of our clients recovered** from the wellness and economic challenges that occurred during the pandemic. 100% of the children participating in our **Element of Play/Early Childhood Development** program improved their functional development and adaptive behavior and became ready for their ongoing education. The young people from our **Positive Youth Development Programs** made steady progress at the Vocational Schools in our collaborative network, 70% of them got a job before graduation. Clearly showing their perseverance to overcome their trauma as well as the impact of our skills development program. **Parent training** sessions were held to communicate the importance of playing with their child and how to provide daily therapeutic support.

Camp programs in partnership with SeriousFun Children’s Network were conducted for children and caregivers. Serving children from the HIV-infected population, oncology pediatric patients, and children living with disabilities.



3,407

Beneficiaries Served



Collaborative Partners:

- 7 Hospitals
- 6 Orphanages
- 5 Rehab Schools (Children w/ Disabilities)
- 5 Social Work Centers
- 3 Vocational Schools
- 3 Universities



Meet Minh Khoi & His Grandmother

At WWO, we appreciate the different abilities that arrive at birth, or are acquired as a child grows. It is impossible to overstate the joy of watching a child with cerebral palsy take their first steps. Likewise, the exhilaration of accompanying them to school after years of support, from their family and the WWO Team.



In school, Minh would sit next to his peers, enjoying their company while trying to tighten his grasp on the pencil. When home, he would proudly report to his grandma about how he could print the first letters on his brand-new notebook. What may be taken for granted by many, is a precious victory to this child. He would insist on going to school on his own bicycle, even if he needs to concentrate much harder than any other child does, to pedal and not fall. While Minh goes to school, his grandma does extra work to earn more money.



As he progresses in school, there are more books than ever before. His grandma is his consistent playmate, she learns with him, listens to his story of the day, or gives him a hug when he struggles with homework. Soon, his grandma cannot tutor him anymore, as Minh has learned so much, at this point, an older student from the neighborhood would visits in evenings to help with math or to write essays. Unfortunately, some days his headache returns, or his muscles cramp painfully. Some days he feels so poorly that Minh does not want to eat. Thankfully, on days like this WWO sends a physical therapist who gives him words of comfort during the therapy session.

Even during these difficult days, Minh is happy, he is connected to his community, and he is growing stronger. Before his grandmother realized that he could one day move, that he could learn, and play with the other children in the neighborhood, Minh would lay in the dark on his cot. WWO Vietnam has changed the lives of many children like Minh. They have worked with caregivers and with the children directly, bringing children like Minh, out of the dark.



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 Nina McElroy
 Maya Samadani
 Mandy Edmund
 Nathan Jerome
 Misha Rubin
 Coco Sellman
 Natalie Troubh
 Ali Wing

STAFF LEADERSHIP

WWO has 4 FT & 4 PT US staff and 40 FT and 13 PT staff and 80 interns staff across the other five countries.

Our Leadership Team includes:

Claudia Fleming, *Executive Director*
 Melissa Middaugh, *Chief Program Officer*
 Kristy Aicroth, *Chief Operating Officer*
 Amy Tobias, *Director of Development & Communications*
 Lois Kam Heymann, *WWO Element of Play® Program Consultant, Speech & Language Pathologist*
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 Krystyna Volodymyrivna, *WWO Ukraine Program Manager*



LOOKING FORWARD & ENDING THE WAIT

Within each country there is more to be done. Thousands of children and families are **waiting** for our programs. Right in our backyard, in the Bronx, New York City, there are 18 preschools within the Montefiore School Health Program with 8,000 preschoolers that would benefit from our early development programming. *They are waiting.* In Haiti, where preschools were temporarily closed in 2022 due to immense social unrest, there are children flooding into local community centers, and hospitals, **waiting** for more WWO learning spaces. In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, there are 10 additional school districts **waiting** to join our Element of Play network. This story is the same in Vietnam, Bulgaria, and Ukraine, as there is so much to be done. As we look forward to 2023 and beyond, **our goal is to end the wait...**

[Click Here for a Video featuring more stories from the communities we serve.](#)



Worldwide Orphans Foundation



PLAY • LEARN • THRIVE

wwf.org

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