

2024 VULNERABLE CHILDREN FUND

IMPACT REPORT



A Second Chance

At just 15 years old, Josephine dropped out of school and got married against her parents' wishes. But she soon found that, 'married life was hard. My husband and I solely depended on his parents to provide for our daily needs.'

Josephine's father knew his daughter's marriage was against the law and because of the work of Baptist World Aid's Christian Partner he knew that there were people in his community who could help. He approached Josephine's aunt, who had received training on child rights and advocacy as a member of the local Child Protection Committee. She spoke with Josephine's in-laws and was successful in convincing them to allow her to return home. Just in time to give birth to a healthy baby boy!



Josephine thought it would be impossible to continue her education and be a mum. However, the local mother's group run by our Christian Partner were able to assist her to re-enrol in school!

Now, Josephine is passionate about seeing her generation support one another, attend school, and be free from substance abuse issues.

'I act as a role model to my friends by sharing my story and encouraging those who dropped out of school due to child marriage and pregnancy to go back to school.'

Your generous support has enabled us to establish community support groups and networks that give girls like Josephine a second chance at an education and hope for the future.

A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR IMPACT:

121,977

children were directly impacted, and

154,514

children were indirectly impacted by the projects Baptist World Aid supports.

51,101

people, including children and youth, gained access to quality health services.

12,553

people participated in child protection activities including awareness sessions and child protection community group meetings.

61

schools took positive steps towards being a 'child friendly school' where children felt safe, were supported by their teachers, and had their ideas and views incorporated into decision making.



Far From Average

In many ways, Bina is an average teenage girl. But she has achieved something far from average. She is the first Muslim girl from her community in southern Nepal to graduate year 10 and become eligible for university!

Completing secondary school is not the norm for Muslim girls in Nepal, and is sometimes viewed as counter to the local culture and religion. In this context, Bina's parents felt that it wasn't necessary for Bina to receive an education. That was until Bina's mother joined a Self-Help Group run by Baptist World Aid's local Partner. She learnt that receiving an education enables girls to have a bright future. So, Bina's mother petitioned her husband to allow Bina to enrol in year 7 at a government school. Bina's father was initially very reluctant until some of our Partner staff explained the details to him and he hesitantly agreed.



Now, Bina's father is proud of his daughter and all she has achieved. Bina worked hard at school and passed her year 10 examinations.

As a result, the local government awarded Bina with a prize of 10,000 Nepali Rupees or \$120 Australian dollars. And her success is contagious—eight more Muslim girls have now joined the local public school, with more to come as the community embraces girls' education!



FOR SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE CHILDREN FUND.

You're helping to make a difference in the lives of children and their families!



PLEASE PRAY THAT:

MORE GIRLS ACROSS THE WORLD WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION SO THEY CAN IMPACT THEIR COMMUNITIES

CHILD MARRIAGE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CONDEMNED BY GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES, AND THAT CHILDREN WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN EARLY MARRIAGES WOULD BE RELEASED

GOD WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR CHRISTIAN PARTNERS AS THEY FAITHFULLY SERVE VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

—PSALM 8:2