

ISSUE 2 - SUMMER 2023

STRONG WOMEN STRONG WORLD

Dear friend...

It's hard to believe we're half way through the year already! Where has the time gone? I think it's flown for me because here at *Strong Women Strong World* (SWSW) we've been busy engaging with our passionate partners and hosting events. And on that note, thank you to everyone who attended our International Women's Day event in March - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! Keep reading on page two for the report and photos.

This month the world has been remembering refugees, as part of World Refugee Day on 20 June. It's devastating to realise that there are now **103 million people** who have been displaced - and of these **36 million are children**. They have been forced from home, becoming refugees, or displaced within their own country, through conflict and the impacts of climate change. Watch our [one-minute video here](#) to see more.

World Vision is working with refugees - and the good news is that there is hope. Read Yar's story on page three to see how she fled home with her children, felt traumatised, but has been empowered to build a new future for her family within the camp. As she says herself, "***I am now able to change my life.***"

Thank you for your support. It's because of you that women like Yar can be empowered and look forward to a brighter future.

Best Wishes,

Saramine

Saramine Mukute – Head of Key Relationships, Strategic Partnerships -
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Saramine Mukute
Head of Key Relationships

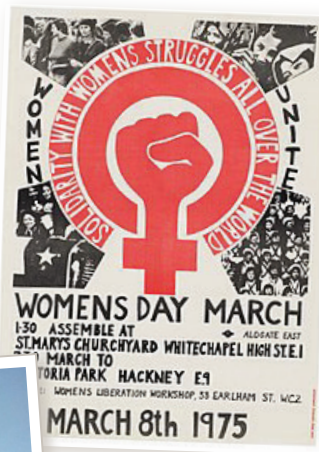
Saramine leads World Vision UK's *Strong Women Strong World* initiative. She thrives in building relationships and connecting philanthropists with projects that make a tangible difference. Having grown up and been educated in Zimbabwe, Saramine has a deep appreciation of the opportunities that life-changing interventions can bring to the disadvantaged rural communities of women and girls.

IMAGE ABOVE:

Yar is now happy she can provide for her family.
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1955



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf -
Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia,
during a state visit to Brazil, April 2010.
(Antonio Cruz/ABr, 2010)

Rosa Parks
Rosa Parks in Montgomery,
Alabama during the 1955 bus
boycott. (National Archives)



Valentina Tereshkova
pictured as a Major of the
Soviet Air Forces.
(RIA Novosti archive, 1969)

1977



Mother Theresa -
Mother Theresa in watercolour
generated by Midjourney AI (2023)

1997



Kamala Harris -
Official portrait of Vice President
Kamala Harris. (Lawrence Jackson)

2021

1963

What a night!

Our **International Women's Day** event in March began with an interactive timeline, spanning from the 1950s to now - highlighting stories of **#StrongWomen** and World Vision's achievements through the years.

Over drinks and canapés, the evening continued with a sit-down presentation, including highlights from our SWSW's flagship projects, where stories of hope and impact were shared from those who have benefited from the initiative.

Women like Agnes, a mother of two children from Rwanda. She learnt about financial literacy, savings and good agricultural practices through a World Vision project. Agnes says,

"I was recently able to buy 120 chickens and restart my poultry farming business. Today I can afford to buy health insurance for my children, buy them enough food and clothes and meet all my family's other needs, unlike before. I am no longer ranked among the poorest people in my community."

Read more about Agnes [here](#).

Thank you to all who attended the event, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. To those who were unable to make it, you can watch highlights [here](#).



CHANGEMAKERS GLOBAL MOMENT

In May the global It Takes a World: *Changemakers* campaign highlighted the vital role children and young people play as agents of change in their own communities, The global moment also recognised their contribution and leadership in influencing changes in policies and practices at local, regional, and global levels.

In London, World Vision was joined by young people, including girls from Bangladesh, Romania, Kenya, the UK and Ukraine. Throughout the campaign week, these young leaders shared their experiences and, importantly, the solutions they hold with key UK decision-makers - including the Chair of the International Development Committee, Members of Parliament, the Shadow Cabinet Minister for International Development, and representatives from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. These young changemakers developed their own **call to action**, which was handed in at 10 Downing Street to Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.

World Vision UK is continuing to call for a Youth Advisory Council within the FCDO to ensure the voices, needs, and hopes of the world's children are taken seriously.



103 million forced from home – what is World Vision doing?



There are more refugees and displaced people today than ever before.

We work alongside those who have lost everything, providing:

- Safe Zones, including Child Friendly Spaces where children can play and learn in the midst of chaos, and where people can access psychosocial and mental health support
- urgent food assistance providing nutritional meals for families
- clean water and sanitation helping reduce disease.



Photo: Yar, right, is now happy she can provide for her family.
© 2022 Scovia Faida Charles/
World Vision

She has a name: **Yar**

South Sudan is one of the world's top-spots for refugees, due to conflict and the impacts of climate change. For 29-year-old Yar it was flooding which forced her from home. **She and her family walked for six long hours before arriving at a camp for displaced people** in 2020. She desperately hoped to find a secure place for her six children and her orphaned nephew and niece, who she also takes care of.

Yar recalls, *"Before the floods, there was conflict in my village which claimed the life of my brother. Still, we never left because we had nowhere else to go. **But the floods forced us out: it swept away everything I called my own, destroyed my farm, small business and nine of my cows, leaving behind only one, which I had to sell in order to ride the boat to Juba.**"*

But arriving at the camp wasn't the end of the nightmare. *"My life, and that of my children, was so miserable when we first came to the camp. I was traumatised and [had] suicidal thoughts because of the stress, having left my home for the first time."*

Thankfully, Yar attended World Vision's Safe Zone, where women and girls are supported through processes of

empowerment and provided with psychosocial support and counselling.

Yar had counselling, which *"relieved me of the trauma and stress that I suffered from moving,"* she says.

Last year, World Vision offered Yar and other women and girls life skills in various areas, including tailoring, and provided sewing machines to help the group generate income to support their families.

"I am now able to change my life"

"With the support of this project and the women in my group, I am now able to change my life and support my family," Yar says smiling.

She hopes that her new income will help the children in her care attend school. Already fees have been paid for four of the children.

"The centre has become a safe haven for most of us women," says Yar. **"People now bring their clothes for sewing to the centre. I go every morning to get some cash to buy food for my children. I am also able to sew clothes for my children, thus [my] dependence...has reduced."**



Addys, 26, happy now she has been empowered to grow her business in Malawi, from selling tomatoes to buying land to farm, and animals. She is hoping to build her own house in the next two years. © 2022 World Vision.



The lives of these women in Kenya and many more were transformed when World Vision provided farmers with drip irrigation kits and helped run savings groups. Purity (not pictured) said, "My heart is filled with joy and gratitude because not so long ago I used to receive aid from World Vision. But now, I am a service provider for the organisation [providing catering]. I also donate food to the less fortunate in my community." © 2023 World Vision.

In partnership

We're aiming to reach **six million women** and girls by the end of 2024 – but we can't do this alone. Our impact is bigger when we work together – that's why **we need partners** who can help women and girls achieve their dreams, so they can become the next generation of strong women.

Please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

103 million forced from home – what can you do?

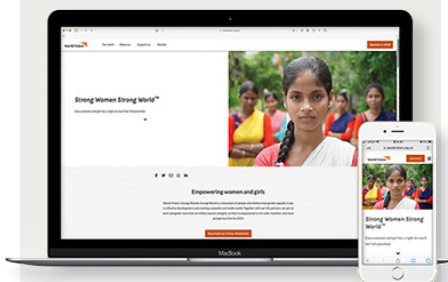


Social media and web

Why not join us on social media and share some of our amazing stories with your friends?

For more information check out our website

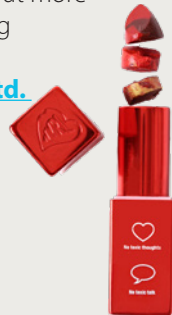
[worldvision.org.uk/
strongwomenstrongworld](http://worldvision.org.uk/strongwomenstrongworld)



Purchase a lipstick

So how can buying a lipstick help empower women and girls around the world? Find out more about our existing partnership with [WYRL Beauty Ltd.](#)

**Give WYRL
a whirl**



Raise awareness

Help us to share the obstacles girls face in the developing world and inspire more people to take action.

You can forward this newsletter, or a link to our [website](#), to someone you think would appreciate it.



Invest in women and girls

A donation to the [Strong Women Strong World Fund](#) will help empower women and girls through World Vision's programmes.



Contact us

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At World Vision, our focus is on helping the world's most vulnerable children overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. For over 70 years, we have worked together with communities – of all faiths and none – even in the most dangerous places, inspired by our Christian faith.

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