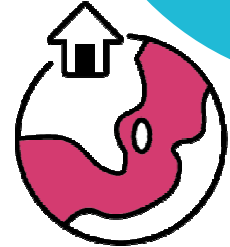


World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk – 2023 Report

1. The purpose of the World Weekend of Prayer

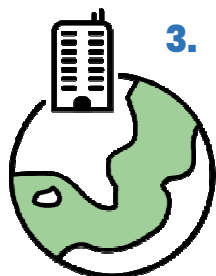
- i) Improve the lives of children through GLOBALLY UNITED prayer to God
- ii) Facilitate children praying for children: surely God loves children praying; (*Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Mt 18:3*)
- iii) Put children out at the front to lead; (*Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, Psalm 8:2*),
- iv) To draw more churches into our networks.



2. Everyone loved the 2023 theme: God's world – our home

Activities embraced and expanded the resources with imagination, e.g.:

- Daily or weekly messages in social media, WhatsApp etc in the month prior
- Devotional and study groups using the materials
- Prayer walks
- Cleaning up public parks
- Agro-ecological activities
- Slots in public radio and online radio
- Shadow art to illustrate God's creation
- Live online exchange between children in different countries



3. It's a very big world wide event!

- 34 countries (some where Viva not directly present yet)
 - 45 city networks of churches
 - About 4,300 churches and organisations involved
 - More than 600 were not yet network members
 - 625,000 adults and children participated
 - Includes 350,000 children and young people
- Picture gallery [Appendix I – photos](#) Latin America [YouTube report](#) –subtitled

4. All the resources made available centrally are well used

- Prayer resource guide (translated 13 languages)
- Song especially composed: 'It's perfect all that he has made.'
- Creation Powerpoint for use in talks
- Video clips
- Preparation prayer and Bible study resources for before the event

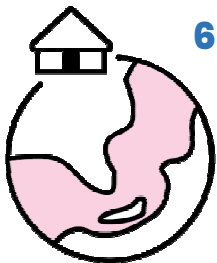
5. It's all about lives transformed through prayer

At first Merciya became nervous because of the crowd but later after seeing so many children of her age and other children leading and performing on stage, she felt confident to deliver her part in the programme.

*Seeing her confident and graceful deliverance, Merciya's mother, Mary, felt so happy and proud of her. Ms. Mary shared how in the community she lives; children are not given priority. **Nepal***



More stories [Appendix II Stories](#)



6. Planning and preparing for 2024 (1-2 June)

In many countries follow up meetings after the 2023 event have taken place. Please propose any new ideas to the centre.

We will be starting global planning meetings in November.

Appendix I – photos

Cambodia



Nepal



Nigeria



Tanzania



Latin America watch [YouTube report](#)



Zambia



Zimbabwe



Uganda



Appendix II Stories

Children said that praying together was more powerful. They said that they are like a king or queen as they lead the big group to pray. Church leaders acknowledged that they should train children, the next generation, to be ready for their responsibility in mission.

Cambodia

Asnath is a 15 year old young girl who lives with her mother after her parents marriage broke up . Asnath was among the children who participated in the world weekend of prayer last year. One of her personal prayer points was to see her family coming together again. This year Asnath told us, *“I thank God very much because of how he always cares for his people. For a long time my father and my mother were separated to such an extent that they would not even communicate with each other through their phones. At the end of the last year, they started calling each other. This gave me confidence to believe that soon they are going to re-unite once again. Glory be to God who is always answering our prayer”* **Tanzania**

Some reflections from children:

- *“I have learnt that God created the world and everything in it and he gave people the responsibility to love and care for the animals”*
- *“Pray for one another and trust in God. You can put anything in God’s hands even if you are in trouble God can help you and guide you.”*
- *“We need to take care of God’s creation. All children need to go to school and be educated.”* **Zambia**

One child who did the lesson felt she contributed well in encouraging other children across the world to appreciate God and to take responsibility of protecting and improving the world. Later, after the prayer meeting, one parent gave feedback that her child who had started being involved in drugs and self-destroying behaviour came back to confess and ask for guidance and support as he tried to reform back to being a responsible child. **Zimbabwe**