



2022

2022 QUARTER 1 IMPACT REPORT

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Early in the new year, our Dominican leaders braced themselves for another lockdown as COVID cases surged in their country. Thankfully, the cases subsided and our VisionTrust Dominicana programs were able to start operating at full capacity for onsite gatherings with the children and the youth.

Our Dominican leaders have been working hard to support children in developing their reading and math skills. The children loved participating in special activities this quarter, such as celebrating Independence Day in February and International Women's Day in March. Across many of our programs, leaders are facing challenges with students misusing technology and social media. Our adolescents have been especially impacted by the pressures and isolation of the pandemic, and our staff are working to engage them in creative activities where they can socialize and have positive connections with peers.

“We can say our first quarter of the year has been about understanding how to start over after such a traumatic season for so many. The future is promising, and our people have their hearts full of hope and all the intention to move on for the sake of our little ones.”

—Mariluz, VisionTrust Dominicana Country Director



GUATEMALA



Despite many public schools throughout the country remaining closed, our VisionTrust Guatemala programs were able to receive the children and youth onsite when the new school year started in January.

“The most exciting part of all is to hear the laughter every day all day!”

—Rut, VisionTrust Guatemala Country Director

This quarter, local partners have been a great support in the health and spiritual development of our students. Health clinics have collaborated with our staff to bring important health services, such as deworming. A church from Guatemala City is providing a four-month leadership program to junior and senior students, as well as staff members from our ministry programs.

In Cruz Blanca, the older students enjoyed participating in a science fair, and in Los Verdes the visit of a short-term mission team from Connection Pointe Church brought great joy to the students and staff alike. A beautiful milestone at both programs was a presentation by the eight seniors that will graduate this October. These students presented their “Life Plan” to their teachers and parents – as they shared their hopes, dreams, and goals related to their future vocation. We know their futures are bright.



BRAZIL

The first quarter of 2022 has brought about wonderful and exciting changes. The children returned from Christmas break on January 19th, and they have enjoyed a variety of fun activities such as reading workshops, Portuguese lessons, judo classes, and chess games. The children participated in a Vacation Bible School based on John 1:12, learning that their true identity goes beyond what others say to them and that they are loved by God. They also celebrated special holidays, including International Women's Day and World Water Day.

Another highlight this quarter is that our VisionTrust Brazil team has started a partnership with a local Brazilian company that is also providing workshops for our adolescents on topics like communication, entrepreneurship, and personal finance management. This program will run through August and will end with a field trip to visit the company.

Our biggest victories are when we see life change in the children we serve. VisionTrust Brazil program leader, Jacira, shares this about one of her students:

“When Helosía arrived at the VisionTrust program, she didn’t know how to obey, she didn’t accept the rules, and she was aggressive with her words. But today she is a sweet and obedient girl, and she loves listening to Bible stories!”

It is evident that God is working in the hearts of the children our staff serve. As they embrace Christ's love, they become equipped to live with grace, goodness, and kindness. We are thankful for the growth we see in each child's life.



PERU



“We started this year with great enthusiasm to return to normality with work on each program. After two years of working remotely and with little contact, we believe that 2022 will be a great year!”

—Ada, VisionTrust Peru Country Director

During January and February, the VisionTrust Peru team prepared for the start of the academic year in March, spending time on staff development to prepare for a much-anticipated return to regular onsite gatherings. The re-opening of the programs in early March brought great joy to staff and students alike. One of the first activities the students worked on was writing letters to their supporters; they loved sharing news about their lives.

The construction of the Casa Luz Orphanage continues to progress well, and the VisionTrust Peru ministry was unexpectedly blessed by a generous donation of building materials from a local business. They anticipate moving the children into the new facility in June or July of 2022.

One of our greatest joys is seeing the children we serve decide to follow Christ. One of the Casa Luz children, Elizabeth, accepted Jesus as her Savior this quarter, and was baptized as a profession of her faith.



INDIA

During the first quarter of 2022, VisionTrust India began receiving children for regular onsite gatherings at our Learning Centers again. The older students returned to the programs in January, and the rest of the children joined in February. The government re-opened schools in February and students felt great stress as teachers were rushing through curriculum to help the students catch up on lost time. Our Learning Center staff were able to come alongside our children and youth with encouraging words and support as they worked diligently to prepare for upcoming exams.

In the area of health, our VisionTrust leaders continue to guide the children in proper masking and good hygiene to reduce the risk of contracting COVID or other diseases. A heatwave is currently gripping the country and the extreme heat is causing challenges with availability of clean drinking water and may have an adverse effect on crops.

After two years of pandemic restrictions, our local leaders are excited to be preparing for a Vacation Bible School program. It will be a joyful and fun opportunity to share God's love with the children and youth we serve through our Learning Center programs.



MALAWI



During the first quarter of 2022, our VisionTrust leaders faced some challenges, including a terrible storm in January that caused significant damage to the roof of the VisionTrust program site. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the facility was repaired quickly. We praise God that none of the children and families we serve sustained any significant injuries during the storm.

The VisionTrust Malawi team worked with the students this quarter to reinforce proper hygiene, such as practicing regular handwashing and bathing with soap. The ministry has been able to provide the children with soap so they can practice these healthy habits at home. The relationship with the local health partner continues to be a blessing, giving access to important immunizations for the children.

Our VisionTrust Malawi staff are ready to support families in moments of need. This past quarter, a young boy from our ministry named Anthony fell out of a tree and broke both arms. Our staff came alongside the family to ensure he had the care he needed. Praise God, both casts were removed in March and his arms are healed.



MYANMAR

Amid many hardships, our VisionTrust Myanmar team continues to lead the children forward in loving God and serving one another. The children regularly attend church services and participate in devotional times together. The youth take an active role in planning and leading worship service. They also look for practical and meaningful ways to share God's love. In February, twelve of our children did a special project to help build a house for a blind elderly man in their community.

Access to education continues to be a complicated situation for our students, as the military now runs public schools, and many families are not comfortable sending their children. Our VisionTrust staff support the students with their academics, providing tutoring and enrichment activities like playing guitar, keyboard, and violin.

Our children and youth were thankful for the food supplies, oral hygiene supplies, mosquito nets, and water filtration systems that were provided to them at their VisionTrust programs. The children also had the opportunity to exercise and work on their large motor skills through exciting group activities such as sports competitions and gymnastics. Group play not only strengthens their bodies, but also is beneficial for their mental and emotional health.



TANZANIA



Our VisionTrust Tanzania staff and children were excited to start the new school year on January 17th, 2022. Our staff are grateful to see good cooperation between the teachers and the parents, especially when it comes to supporting the health, education, and spiritual development of the children. At the Morogoro Baptist Primary School, the children are working to improve their reading, writing, and counting skills. They have enjoyed using games, interactive activities, and real objects while learning foundational math skills.

Our children are studying the Bible together regularly, and the activities and conversations that happen during small group time are particularly useful in helping the children grow in their faith. Recently, six children made a commitment to Jesus for the first time. Please pray for Taliq, Timothy, Elizabeth, Fahmu, Prisca, and Lucy as they grow in their love for Jesus.

Rising food prices have been a significant burden on our children and their families. The meals served at our VisionTrust programs are vital, as many families struggle to put food on the tables at home. Children were able to receive deworming medication to help prevent illnesses, which improves the children's ability to attend school consistently and be attentive in class.



ZIMBABWE

Despite the start of the new school year being delayed by four weeks due to another COVID lockdown, our VisionTrust Zimbabwe team was able to make great strides in the areas of health, education, and spiritual development during the first quarter of 2022. Our leaders are coming alongside students to support them with extra lessons, as they try to catch up after COVID-related scheduling setbacks.

In the area of health, it is exciting to see the community of Mavende rally together to work on digging trenches for piping that will bring water to the school where the VisionTrust program meets. In 2021, a new borehole was drilled, and we praise God for a reliable water source near the VisionTrust program site.

This quarter, our VisionTrust Zimbabwe leaders participated in a training on the “Spiritual Garden” curriculum. They are excited to teach students about topics such as deep roots, the importance of light, and how to be productive and mature – it will be amazing to see the children connect scriptures and stories from the Bible with their experience of growing plants in their Learning Center Garden.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



During the first quarter, the VisionTrust Centrafrique students studied a number of different parables of Jesus, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. The students also prayed intentionally over VisionTrust children in other countries, including Myanmar and the Dominican Republic. A joyful moment this quarter was seeing two students – Ketura and Yossette – commit their lives to Jesus for the first time.

Having a special visitor is always a highlight for the children, and in February, Tom Peters from our stateside staff was able to visit our VisionTrust Centrafrique Learning Centers to spend time with the children and staff members. After several years of paused travel, it was a happy reunion.

In our ministry, we serve a number of children that are HIV positive, and our VisionTrust Centrafrique staff was able to invite some guest speakers from a local university to do a two-day training to help strengthen their confidence and level of hope. Hearing from HIV positive trainers about their personal experiences and how they have combated stigma and discrimination was inspiring and empowering.

“Our orphans now know that with the disease, they can live a long time and realize their future plans.”

—Josué, VisionTrust Centrafrique Country Director



LIBERIA

During the first quarter, VisionTrust welcomed a new country director, Stephen Tamba, to our ministry in Liberia. Stephen has a wealth of ministry experience, and he is excited to equip our staff in our VisionTrust schools. During his youth, Stephen's faith in Christ helped him navigate the hardships of living in poverty through many years of political instability and war. As he met the children he would be serving in his new role, he shared:

“The hopeful faces of the children in the programs were testament enough to me that this will be an emotional and spiritually rewarding journey.”

This quarter, Stephen focused on getting to know our program leaders – Alphonso, Pastor Lloyd, and Paul – as well as the 250+ children they serve in their schools located outside of Monrovia. In the coming quarter, they plan to spend time supporting and equipping the staff and children in the VisionTrust school located in Bong County in the interior part of the country. The program directors and teaching staff are excited to receive training in the areas of health, education, and spiritual development so they can support the children in their care with excellence and effectiveness.





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for believing these children are worth more.



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