



**2023**

QUARTER 1 IMPACT REPORT

VisionTrust 

*They are worth more. A lot more.*



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

As our VisionTrust Dominicana Country Director, Mariluz, reflected on the first three months of 2023, she shared:

*“The fact that we can bring Jesus every day in all the activities we do gives us the hope of seeing many [children] serving God someday.”*

Our children enjoyed the visits from four different groups from the United States during this past quarter. Two program sites – Ensanche Altigracia and Brisas del Este – received reading corners thanks to the generosity of visiting short-term mission teams. The children are excited to have a cozy and comfortable spot to concentrate on reading. With our current focus on improving literacy skills, our program directors have an awakened desire to help their students fall in love with reading!

At our programs, our students celebrated various cultural holidays, including Juan Pablo Duarte day on January 26th and Independence Day on February 26th. The children at the San Miguel program observed Valentine’s Day by talking about true friendship and how God is their faithful friend. Across our program sites, twelve students made a first-time decision to follow Jesus.

Our leaders always find creative and impactful ways to care for and protect the health of our children. At our Tia Tatiana program, our female students ages 10-16 received a feminine hygiene kit from the company Nosotras and participated in a discussion about puberty. Representatives from the “Protégeme Project” visited our 6–8-year-olds to provide instruction on how to protect and care for their bodies. Students from the Dominican Dental University coached our children at the Ketty’s House Orphanage on proper oral hygiene. Although earthquakes are infrequent in the Dominican Republic, two happened recently, leading our staff to practice drills with our students so they are prepared to protect themselves in the event of seismic activity. We praise God for the multitude of ways our Dominican leaders protect and guide the children in their care.



# GUATEMALA

*“As we reflect on the first quarter of 2023, we are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving to our Lord for His constant blessings and care for our students.”*

These are the words of VisionTrust Guatemala Country Director, Rut, as she reflected on the first three months of the year. As students returned from holiday break, they started the new academic year with great excitement.

In March, our Cruz Blanca students celebrated World Down Syndrome Day. One of our Cruz Blanca students has Down Syndrome, and to reinforce that we all have the same rights and intrinsic value, the children all wore different colored socks in honor of their classmate. In our Cruz Blanca program, six students — Oscar, Henry, Maria, Victor, Erik, and Jonathan — made a first-time decision to follow Jesus. We also see a great eagerness in many of our students for spiritual growth. Mayerli encourages her friends to read the Bible. Astrid loves sharing with her teachers what she learned at church over the weekend. Edgar is inquisitive during Bible study time, asking questions so he can learn more about God’s word.

In Los Verdes, we are thrilled to have two recent high school graduates —Mabel and Jennifer — serving on our staff. Our youngest students in Los Verdes continue to enjoy the Montessori classroom, as they engage with creative and hands-on learning techniques. Our high school students in Los Verdes participated in an interactive workshop on the responsible use of social media networks. Prior to Easter break, our students all enjoyed a “splash day” outside, delighting in water play and the warm weather.

We praise God for all the ways — big and small — that His love is shaping the lives of the children we serve in Guatemala.



# BRAZIL

At our two VisionTrust Learning Centers in Brazil, the new year has brought incredible growth and opportunity. Despite the challenges of inflation, seasonal illnesses, and government instability, our students made great strides academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

Our students at both programs enjoyed educational workshops to promote literacy and math skills. One of our students, Bruna, has struggled with reading for a long time, and through the support she is receiving at the Learning Center, she has made notable progress. VisionTrust Brazil Country Director, Humberto, shared:

*“With the help of volunteer Mitiko who did an individual reading workshop with some students, today Bruna can read and is happier.”*

During the past months, university interns facilitated a food and nutrition program for our students at the Projeto Amar I program to learn about healthy eating. Our students also met with a psychologist to talk about important topics such as self-esteem, processing emotions, and coping with bullying. Students ages 8-14 participated in the “I Lead” program to develop their social-emotional and leadership skills. Additionally, thirteen students ages 12-16 participated in a creative entrepreneurship workshop to help prepare them for the job market. On March 22nd, the students celebrated World Water Day with engaging activities to reinforce the importance of water preservation.

In the area of spiritual development, our students enjoyed studying the topic of “listening to the voice of God.” With joy, our leaders reported that ten students made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus. Join us in praying for Arthur Costa, Kauê, José, Ester, Julia, Gislainy, Christian, Kamylla, Alice, and Arthur as they embrace this new season in their faith journey.



# PERU

During the first quarter of 2023, our students enjoyed a break from classes after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Throughout school vacation, the children at our Casa Luz orphanage participated in special activities, including karate and outdoor outings. They also enjoyed getting to know a new social worker that recently started serving at our program. Before the school year started in March, our Casa Luz students were blessed with new school uniforms thanks to the generosity of a faithful donor. After years of pandemic restrictions, our students loved having a traditional “back to school” experience.

Our VisionTrust Learning Center programs started gatherings again in February, and they are happy to attend the program four days a week for tutoring, meals, and Bible activities. At our Gethsemane Learning Center, the children celebrated World Water Day on March 22nd. At the Maranatha Learning Center, our leaders are facilitating special reading activities every Tuesday. At the Primitiva Learning Center, parents attended a gathering where our leaders were able to encourage and equip them with useful information. At the Rios de Agua Viva program, Dani, one of our teenagers, has impressed our staff with his significant growth. Previously, he was more focused on soccer than his studies, but now his attitude has improved. VisionTrust Peru Country Director, Ada, described Dani’s progress, stating:

*“In recent months, he has shown more interest in his future. He recently participated in a vocational talk where he expressed greater interest in studying, and he even said that he would like to become an architect and that he admires a relative who is a civil engineer.”*

In the area of spiritual development, our students continue to grow in their faith as they study the Bible, pray, and learn together. As the country of Peru continues to face challenges with political tension, drought, and inflation, the solace our students find in the love of Jesus strengthens and sustains them.





# SOUTH ASIA

Our students and staff started the new year after a beautiful two-hour prayer and testimony time at each of our VisionTrust Learning Centers on December 31st. In mid-January, students returned to their studies and started preparing for upcoming exams that occur during March and April. Our local leaders diligently started preparations for Vacation Bible School, which will be held in May. Our students anticipate this event all year long!

We continue to see incredible growth in the lives of our students. Our leaders provided the personal testimony of several students, two of which we are highlighting below.

## *Kiera\**

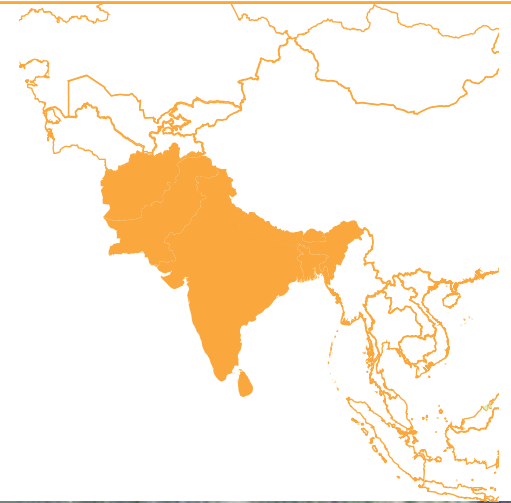
*“My father used to drink alcohol every day and beat me and my mother. This continued every day and we used to cry. Even while going to school, I’d be crying, and my friends used to ask me about it [...] I was not able to concentrate on my studies. After joining the [VisionTrust Learning Center], I started praying to the Lord to change my father. The teachers and other children too prayed for me [...] The Lord listened to my prayers and changed my father. He doesn’t drink or beat us now. He too prays every day. We are thankful to God for everything he has done in our lives. I am very happy now. Praise be to God!”*

## *Patricia\**

*I’m studying in the 10th grade. My father is an auto driver, and my mother works as a housekeeper. I have an elder sister. During COVID, my family struggled a lot to survive and make ends meet. I requested for my [VisionTrust] teachers to pray for us and I prayed to the Lord and placed my trust in him. God heard our prayers and helped my family. My father made enough to meet our needs. All glory to God!*

We praise God for the incredible ways he continues to work in the lives of our children and families we serve in South Asia.

\*Name changed for security and privacy reasons



# SOUTHEAST ASIA

While January typically brings a sense of new beginnings and opportunities, our children and staff in Southeast Asia continue to grapple with the ongoing political conflict in their region. Many families have fled their communities as robberies, bombings, and arson continue to compromise their physical and emotional security. The sustained conflict is increasing the costs of food staples, impeding transportation, and escalating unemployment.

This quarter, our students read and studied the life of Malala Yousafzai. They were deeply moved by Malala's resilience and dedication to learning amid unbelievable hardships. Our VisionTrust Southeast Asia Director shared:

*“In our country, [there is] no justice and most of the people are having to flee their homes because of the [civil unrest]. We prayed together for everyone to have an equal chance to make the country peaceful as soon as possible.”*

Amid formidable challenges, our VisionTrust staff are a steady presence of love, support, and solace for the children and adolescents in our ministry programs. Our children continue to enjoy nourishing meals at our program sites, and their families recently received food packages to help ease the burden of financial hardships at home. Seventeen students dedicated their lives to following Jesus and were baptized from January to March of 2023. We praise God for the amazing ways He is working in the lives of the children and adolescents we serve.



# LIBERIA

As Liberia faces supply chain challenges that are impacting food security throughout the country, we praise God that our VisionTrust programs provide consistent, nourishing meals to the children we serve. Our VisionTrust Liberia Country Director, Stephen, shared:

*“The feeding program the schools are conducting has been a motivator for students to show up on campus every day [...] It has been a game changer.”*

One of our eleven-year-old students from the VisionTrust Howein School, Joannah, has shown tremendous change since participating in our VisionTrust program. Before having access to our feeding program, she was always tired and distracted in class. The consistent meals have increased her focus, and she was even promoted to the next grade level mid-year because her progress was so dramatic. Her increased confidence in reading even led her to ask for her own Bible so she could study scripture independently!

Our Liberian leaders have also been working hard to guarantee access to clean, reliable water in all three of our VisionTrust schools. We are in the process of putting in new wells at the Howein and Gbarnga schools, and our staff at all three schools have been well-trained in how to use Sawyer filters so the water is safe for our children to consume.

We observed significant spiritual growth in the lives of our students this past quarter. Randall, Nathaniel, Kebbeh, Hanna, Paul, and Thomas all made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus. One of our students, Precious, enjoys leading devotionals and often is a peacemaker amongst her friends. Daniel enjoys hands-on work, and readily volunteers to clean his church and collaborates with other youth to raise funds for their congregation. We praise God for how our Liberian children live out the love of Jesus in tremendous ways in their classrooms, homes, and local community each day.



Joannah



# TANZANIA

As our VisionTrust Tanzania Country Director, Peter, reflected on the beginning months of 2023, he shared:

*“We thank God for the blessings and grace he continues to give us throughout the first quarter of the academic year [...] We are grateful that throughout this period we have continued to provide a quality education through the teaching and learning process, health, and spiritual care / growth at a high level that is pleasing to every child.”*

We have noted great progress in our students’ academics. This quarter, every 4th grade student and 7th grade student at the VisionTrust school in Morogoro passed their national examination and were able to advance to the next grade. At our Learning Center in Morogoro, our students enjoyed tutoring sessions that included activities to reinforce reading and writing. They also had a blast playing games and sports together.

Our students continue to face health challenges related to lack of nutritious food and unsafe drinking water in their homes. Our VisionTrust programs provide a vital, steady source of healthy meals and clean drinking water to the students in our ministry. Additionally, our students received important preventative health services, such as deworming and routine vaccinations, to help decrease preventable illnesses. Sadly, despite the health services we provide, we lost one of our 3rd grade students, Heliety, to cancer. We are thankful for the time we shared with this beautiful young girl, and we hold her teachers, peers, and family members in our prayers as they grieve.

This quarter, we had six students make a first-time decision to follow Jesus. We are thrilled for Hazidari, Jemes, Christina, Bunista, Annastazia, and Nurat as they embrace a new season of their faith journey.



# ZIMBABWE

Our VisionTrust Zimbabwe programs started the new year by having a belated Christmas celebration in January. The party was worth the wait — the children and adolescents had a memorable experience as they shared delicious food while enjoying music, dancing, and a time of sharing of the word of God! There were smiles all around as each student received a complete uniform set, school supplies, goodies, and games at the Christmas gathering.

Our leaders are grateful for God’s provision through VisionTrust for the school and examination fees for 2023 for all the students in our three Learning Center programs. Our feeding program is going very well, and our students have strong attendance at school. One of our students, Dephine, recently shared this testimony, which poignantly captures the impact of our ministry:

*“A life without a mother is the most difficult part of life one could experience. My mother died in 2015 and my grandmother and my grandfather could not afford to pay for my education and meet our needs. My performance at school decreased [...] In 2018 VisionTrust came, and I qualified to be enrolled in their program [...] After a few months, they sent me some books, uniform, and school shoes [...] As a result, my performance improved and I am one of the best learners at school.”*

While many of our students are thriving, our Zimbabwean leaders have noticed an increased occurrence in behavioral and emotional challenges in recent years. Pandemic-related trials continue to have adverse effects, and our leaders are working hard in discipleship gatherings to provide counsel, love, and spiritual guidance to help our students make wise and safe choices. This quarter, we celebrate eight students — Rejoice, Trymore, Maxwell, Molleen, Pamela, Forget, Kuzivakwashe, and Weldone — who made a first-time decision to follow Jesus. We pray that their faith will blossom and increase in the months to come.



Dephine

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Despite missing almost 20 days of academic instruction related to teacher strikes in the local school system, our Central African Republic students have stayed the course and have been working hard in their studies. We celebrate the success of Providence, who is ranked 2nd in her class. She is grateful for the guidance and support she receives at her VisionTrust Learning Center during tutoring time. In honor of her outstanding performance, our leaders gifted her a calculator in preparation for the higher-level math courses she will be taking.

In the area of spiritual development, we praise God that Esther, Chanel, and Elsa all were baptized at their local churches after deciding to follow Jesus. Jean Pierre, one of our older students, recently started serving as an assistant teacher at one of our Learning Centers. Our VisionTrust Centrafrique Country Director, Josué, shared:

*“From time to time, Jean Pierre teaches Bible lessons to the orphans [at his Learning Center]. The other orphans trust him because he fears God and always seeks to honor God through his words and deeds.”*

We praise God for students like Jean Pierre who are setting a wonderful example of faith to their friends and peers.

Our leaders remain deeply grateful for the health contract that we have with a local clinic, which enabled us to provide timely and proper medical care to sixty-two children during the first quarter of 2023. Our VisionTrust staff continue to coach our students on healthy behaviors, especially encouraging the students to abstain from sexual activity until marriage so they can stay committed to their academics and develop the skills, knowledge, and capacities they need to thrive when they reach adulthood.





# MALAWI

In early February 2023, Cyclone Freddy hit the country of Malawi, taking the lives of hundreds of people, and destroying thousands of homes. The storm's destruction was primarily in the southern part of the country, and we are thankful that our families were spared from any loss. Cholera is currently a significant concern in Malawi, and our leaders are working hard to reinforce the importance of drinking filtered water and practicing good handwashing before eating and after using the latrine.

During this past quarter, our children and leaders focused on the theme of love. Evance, our local VisionTrust leader, shared:

*“We managed to teach our kids about love as our main pillar at VisionTrust. We managed to let them understand that God is love and he loved us all by sending his only son [to] die for our sins.”*

We praise God for the growth we have witnessed in the lives of the children we serve. Esmay, one of our teenagers, joined the VisionTrust program when she was about five years old. She is the third born girl in her family and her parents struggle to make ends meet. The support she has received in health, education, and spiritual development has helped her become an intelligent and strong young woman. She enjoys studying, as well as attending church services in the community of Katsekera. She is a wonderful example to the younger children in the program who are following in her footsteps.



Esmay





**THANK YOU**  
for believing these children are worth more.





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