



## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

2023 IMPACT REPORT



## Isha's Story of Transformation

Violence and alcoholism plagued Isha's childhood home. Certain family members tried to push her into a life of prostitution and early marriage for money. Thankfully, in God's perfect timing, the troubled teenager entered a Kids Alive sports program where she found Christ, safety, and a better life path.

Isha grew in faith and eventually moved to another Kids Alive town, where she began ministering to others while working on a university degree to become a psychologist. She also received a full scholarship for a Biblical counseling certificate program.

Isha plans to serve the Lord in the Dominican Republic when she finishes her studies. She wants to help Kids Alive children and youth going through the same process of transformation she experienced.

## **Impact**

10-20% of Dominican adults.

**Kids Alive's alumni far exceed national high school graduation rates and church attendance averages.** A recent survey of 70 Kids Alive eighth grade graduates from ten years ago found that over 90% graduated from high school, compared to less than 30% in most communities. Additionally, about 60% stated they attend a local church, compared to

**Kids Alive's nutritional program is producing healthier children.** Around 80% of the children in our supplemental nutrition program enjoyed better health, and 27% progressed out of an at-risk status. We will monitor over 200 children in the same program this year.

Kids Alive staff reunited 26 children from our residential programs with their biological families. Some still live close enough to a Kids Alive school to continue their education with us. In all cases, a Kids Alive social worker continues to oversee the transition to help ensure long-term success.



## Felicia's Story of Perseverance

Felicia is a single mom who worked cleaning the Kids Alive Monte Plata school. One of our staff members encouraged Felicia to take night classes to earn a certificate in nursing. She took the advice, and we ultimately hired her to become the school's healthcare specialist.

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Felicia is full of joy, and her enthusiasm is evident when she teaches the students and staff healthcare skills. Felicia provides each one with love, a listening ear, and a helping hand. She exhibits excellent skill in managing the supplemental nutrition program, providing daily vitamins and food to approximately 30 students.



Felicia will finish her university degree in nursing this year and continue to apply her wisdom at Kids Alive. She is grateful for the educational opportunity we made available to her and is passionate about continuing to care for the students and serve alongside her colleagues.

#### News

**Palo Blanco School has more than doubled its capacity.** The original design accommodated 100 children. However, to meet the demands of steady growth over the last twenty years, we modernized our facilities to serve 320 students from preschool through 12th grade. We are grateful for a new cafeteria, kitchen, and covered sports court.

Constanza School is partnering with Wheaton Academy in Illinois to help children find prosperous careers. We piloted a life and job skills workshop over the summer and a 14-week

certificate program in the fall designed to help students obtain the tools needed to succeed in business. The program serves older high school

and university students and staff members. It includes topics such as risk assessment, money management, soft and hard work skills, and career planning. We are expanding the program to other schools

this winter.

Kids Alive's after-school sports programs are back to prepandemic full strength. Over 600 youth regularly play soccer, baseball, volleyball, and basketball through Kids Alive outreach. We have significant programs in four of our seven schools, providing the benefits of conditioning, self-control, teamwork, and discipleship in God's word. See how sports can impact the lives of children for Christ by reading Isha's story.





# **GUATEMALA**2023 IMPACT REPORT



### **Impact**

Kids Alive invested over 2,000 hours in bringing Christ to children. The Bible studies, prayers, and worship produced eternal results: ten children accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, eight were baptized, and over thirty enjoyed discipleship training under the leadership of our spiritual formation coordinator. Additionally, nine teenage girls from Oasis formed a student leadership team, which plans and runs weekly devotionals, worship, and games.

The Escuintla Justice Center closes the year with 64 active cases pursuing justice for children who were victims of sexual abuse. These numbers cap off an incredible year when we served over 100 families – totaling 360 people – providing social work, psychological support, and parental training to ensure children are protected from future abuse.

Our team prepared 20 children to testify against their abusers in a video testimony room, a safe and childfriendly space for a child to testify. The preparation involved the use of our "Soy David" (I am David) comicbook curriculum to help the children understand what would be involved in the legal process. Four abusers were convicted this year.

Six young women from Guatemala's Casa Ester independence program finished their first year of college. Kids Alive provided scholarships that made this possible as these women continue to receive guidance and support from Kids Alive staff, volunteers, and mentors.

Kids Alive Guatemala is helping children prepare for a life of independence by ensuring access to quality, real-world education and life skills. The investment is paying off!

- 6 young women needing long-term specialized care enrolled in Casa Ester's "Estercita" program received vocational training.
- 39 children and teens from the Oasis residential program completed the school year.
- 182 children and teenagers at the Source of Hope School in Zapote advanced to the next level.
- We invested over 1,700 hours in academic tutoring for the girls to prepare them for a life of independence and service.

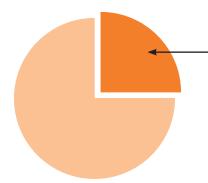


#### News

Kids Alive Foster Family and Escuintla Justice Center team members helped create and present a new policy for victims of crime at the first ever International Congress on Assistance and Care for Victims of Crime. This collaboration at a significant event, led by the Guatemalan justice department, is creating a system that better protects vulnerable children from violence and abuse.

Kids Alive Guatemala is partnering with local churches and national church movements to strengthen the spiritual lives of children. At the National Christian Movement Against Violence Towards Children we shared with hundreds of local pastors and denominational leadership representing more than 5,000 churches about preventing violence against children. We closed 2023 with five active partnerships with local churches, allowing the children we serve to foster relationships with other Christians and local churches.

The Guatemalan Social Services Department chose two Kids Alive caretakers as certified specialists in infant and toddler care. Kids Alive hosted several training sessions over the course of the eight-month certification process. People from other organizations also joined the workshops, learning about child protection, utilizing play in therapy, techniques to stimulate children's development and other best practices for working with children.



25% of all foster families in Guatemala come through Kids Alive partnerships.

## Miracles Exist, Light Amid the Darkness: The story of Manuela®

A quiet and shy girl named Manuela (12) arrived at Oasis in 2021 after three years of horrific experiences: her mother told her that nobody loved her, and her stepfather sexually abused her. Manuela's psychologist said that she had deep, complex trauma, as evidenced by her recurrent nightmares, loss of appetite, fear of the male figure, low self-esteem, depression, anger, and a sense of total hopelessness.

Manuela shared her story with her Kids Alive psychologist at their therapy sessions. Gradually, she began to heal. She forgave her mother, wants justice for her stepfather's actions, and dreams of living with a loving family.

The key to Manuela's new attitude was her faith in Christ and God's love, which she learned through therapy sessions and discipleship meetings and declared at her baptism. Manuela has become an example to her friends at Oasis.

Meanwhile, the staff worked hard to fulfill her longing for a loving family. Manuela told them about a woman she communicated with on social media who claimed to be her aunt. Working on that clue, they located her in early 2023 and verified she was a genuine relative. Manuela believed this was God's doing, bringing light into the midst of the darkness she overcame. Through regular online and in-person visits, Manuela and her aunt bonded. This past

December, Manuela went to live with her aunt and Manuela's dream came true!

Her psychologist says, "Manuela sees how God works a miracle in her life and gives her what she always dreamed of."

\*pseudonym, name changed for child protection and sensitivity







# **HAITI**2023 IMPACT REPORT



The ministry in Haiti is continuing to make a difference despite the upheavals, dangers, unreliable infrastructure, and limited access to safe drinking water. More than 70% of the population lives in poverty. Besides the political turmoil, Haiti is prone to hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes. The Kids Alive staff live in this environment daily. As you read this report, pray for them. It is nothing short of amazing that they accomplish so much in the face of so many trials.

#### News

"Protecting the privacy of children we're lending a hand to" is etched into the banner that hung over the joyous proceedings of Child Protection Week and the International Day of the Child. Kids Alive Haiti's staff and children participated in the event. Students enjoyed spelling, reading, writing, and game competitions. We designed each program to teach them about child safety and God's love: the choice of words, readings, and games guiding their thoughts in a positive direction. The lessons will stick with them for years to come. We concluded the week with an award ceremony to commend the children for their participation and the staff for their commitment to the cause of children.

**Kids Alive Haiti students excel in a country with the lowest educational system in the Western Hemisphere.** Of the 225 students we serve, about 94% demonstrated their academic prowess in their first quarterly exam. This remarkable achievement has brought great joy to the education staff, a testament to the collaborative efforts of educators and students and their commitment to excellence in learning. Education is transformative, especially in a country with a disastrous 61% literacy rate.

**The gospel is bearing fruit with children at Kids Alive Haiti.** Five children began their journey of faith after hearing the gospel from the staff and believing it. Pray they continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and make a difference in their communities.

# Finding Refuge from Voodoo in Christ: Charline's Story

Charline's father died soon after she was born. Her mother, unable to care for her, placed her in a foster family when she was three. Charline grew up in a family that practiced voodoo rituals and witchcraft, causing the young girl great fear, thinking evil spirits persecuted her.

Thankfully, she enrolled in first grade at Kids Alive and found Christ through the prayers of loving staff and instruction in the Scriptures. Charline professed her faith in baptism and grew up growing in God's grace despite the non-Christian homelife.

Charline is now a college freshman. She is also an active local church member, serving in its youth choir and youth group and spreading God's Word.

Thank God for a godly education!



## **Rose's Transformation**

Rose's parents praise God for the remarkable change they have seen in their preschool-aged daughter since she started at Kids Alive Haiti's school. They testify that Rose has become thoughtful, considering her words before she speaks. There has also been a transformation of her behavior and attitudes due to the godly instruction she receives.

Rose's parents are grateful, giving God the glory for the impact Kids Alive Haiti's school has made on their daughter, family, and countless others in the community.







#### News

**Kids Alive Kenya continues to share God's Word with the children across all its programs.** We held morning and evening Bible studies and devotions, Sunday School classes, and rallies. The students and caregivers benefitted from the spiritual nourishment and encouragement, for many confess that God's Word became clearer, especially the revelation of His character as a loving father. Pray that more children surviving trauma understand God's heart as a Father.

**Kids Alive Kenya enrolled over 1,000 children across its programs in 2023.** The Hall Mead School offers quality education, holistic care, and counseling to its 564 students. Most importantly, we provided Bible instruction regularly to every child in our care, for no education or counseling is complete without God's Word as the frame of reference.

Kids Alive Kenya conducted over 250 counseling and neurofeedback sessions at Nairobi Hope Center. These include speech and play therapies.

**Kids Alive Kenya reintegrated seven children with families across all its programs.** This is exciting news, for one of our global goals is to ensure children are living with families, free of fear and violence. No institution can replace the family.

**Kids Alive Kenya's staff participated in Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training sessions in Ethiopia.** TBRI is a model of care that enables our counselors to patiently apply Biblical principles to children who have experienced severe trauma to win their trust and instill godly self-love. Counselors have been changing the lives of children who went through severe trauma with this beautiful tool.

It was a Merry Christmas for the children at Kids Alive Kenya. We celebrated across all our programs, including alongside some local Christian families.

Everyone celebrated the good tidings of great joy, for unto us was born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

We crowned the year with spiritual and life-skills mentorship for 31 children at the Nairobi Hope Center. The event took place during the last two weeks of December and included spiritual and life-skills mentoring. Children learned about God's Word and how to do God's work in the world.



## Joan's Story: From Pain to Promise

Like many children in Kibera, twelve-year-old Joan and her siblings experienced unimaginable suffering, including starvation, verbal abuse, and abandonment. Joan began missing school, so a concerned teacher contacted Kids Alive. The Kids Alive Hope Center temporarily provided Joan with nutrition and supplies to help her get back on track with her education.

At the same time, the multi-disciplinary team counseled her mother on how to become self-sufficient to pay the expenses. Joan began attending school daily and jumped to the top of her class. Kids Alive continues to work with Joan, her siblings, and their mother, who was a victim of abuse when she was young, preparing them for a life of independence and service to their community.







### **Impact**

We are ensuring access to quality education and setting up young people for a life of independence and service. Our school ends with the sixth grade and we have been able to provide tuition and transportation support to nine students, including some children in our residential program, who recently completed the sixth grade. Also, a young man in our residential program is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer sciences and is looking forward to applying his education when he embarks upon his career.

More than 220 students enrolled in Kids Alive Lebanon programs for the 2022–23 academic year. About 90% of them are refugees living in harsh conditions. As a result, our psychologists and counsellors provide them with emotional support, and we are giving many of these families food vouchers to ensure the children have the energy to succeed in class.

**Five children have been reunified with their families.** Each one is with loving biological relatives, and they continue to attend school and receive after care support at Kids Alive Lebanon.

The Women's Ministry gathered regularly to discuss how they can overcome the past, build a healthy future, and strengthen their marriages. At the suggestion of the women, a special "Couples Night" was held where more than 40 couples attended to enjoy dinner, games, and learning about healthy parenting practices. One father expressed appreciation for learning new ways to better parent his children. The women also gathered for a special Christmas event where they heard the message "Emmanuel: God with us," played games, fellowshipped, and enjoyed delicious food.

**Kids Alive Lebanon cured the summertime blues for over 140 kids.** This year's summer break wasn't too much fun for most of these children because they come from low-income households and don't have the luxury of doing what kids should be doing during the summer – having fun. So, we held summer camps to get them out of their houses and enjoy the season. We also took the opportunity to share God's Word with them.

**Kids Alive Lebanon celebrated 75 years of ministry.** Among the 300 guests were a member of Parliament and a representative of the Ministry of Social Welfare, current and former staff, alumni, donors, pastors, volunteers, and friends from the Lebanese community.

**Kids Alive Lebanon's residential boys' soccer team is undefeated.** They play tournaments with local church teams every Sunday. The teams hear a devotion and pray before every game. So far, our team is 5-0, the first among the local soccer teams to be undefeated.

## Youssef's Story: A Good Teacher and Music Soothes the Soul

Youssef\* was a kindergarten student at DEA school who didn't like music. He was sensitive to the noise and movement of his classmates, covering his ears to quiet music, hiding under his desk as he tried to block out the activity or violently lashing out with clenched fists. This behavior went on for three weeks.

His teacher, Ms. Elham, recognized that he needed extra love and support. "I prayed: Lord, help me love Youssef," she shared. She started sitting next to him and asking, "How are you feeling today? What's bothering you? When your dad comes to pick you up from school, I'll tell him how smart you were today!" She also made some classroom adjustments that helped Youssef settle into kindergarten life and get along with the other kids.



Youssef's attitude began to change. "I engaged him in class, and I'd ask him to help me distribute papers to his classmates," said Ms. Elham. "A safe hug made a huge difference in him." Youssef made her so happy when he recently suggested to the class, "Let's listen to music today."

Ms. Elham's love, prayers, and practical wisdom helped make a positive difference in Youssef.

\*pseudonym, name changed for child protection and sensitivity

## Noah's Story: A Big, Bad Bully Becomes a Sweet, Caring, Christian Boy

It was four years ago when Noah\* and his brother sought refuge in our residential center after experiencing a rough family background and mistreatment at a previous shelter.

Hardened by his circumstances, Noah was foul-mouthed and aggressive from day one, violently acting out against children, teachers, and caregivers. He missed many classes because of his behavior and refused correction. Many would have considered him a lost cause.

But our staff didn't give up on him. Despite his behavior, they showered him with love and care, connecting with him and redirecting him. Noah met daily with the psychologist, who helped him heal and learn to trust again.

The foul-mouthed bully began to change his ways. He began listening to and trusting his teachers and wanting to do better. And an exchange with his teacher in front of his classmates was extremely encouraging given his reputation for bullying and seeking revenge.

In one of the Bible devotions, his teacher Ms. Daad was talking about sin. Noah said, "Miss, why shouldn't we commit sins?"

"Because sin separates us from God, and we need to spend our life with God," she replied.

"You're right. So, we need to control our behavior and speech so we don't commit sins that sadden our Lord. But I often can't control myself, and when someone bugs me, I need to respond, especially if that person bugs me intentionally."

"Yes, we don't like it when someone bugs us intentionally, and we try to retaliate. But you can pray and ask the Lord to help you respond as you should."

He enthusiastically responded, "I promise to pray and try to change my behavior. I can't help myself sometimes, but I promise to pray."

Noah continues to work on controlling his anger and is now able to politely ask to see the psychologist when he feels he needs extra help.





## PERU

2023 IMPACT REPORT





## **Impact**

Kids Alive advances a child-friendly justice system. With the help of a generous donor, Kids Alive installed a fully equipped video testimony room to provide a child-friendly and legally approved mechanism to record the testimonies of children who suffered violence. There were 300 registered cases of sexual abuse against children in the Ucayali region in 2023 and this jurisdiction previously lacked this child friendly environment. These video testimony rooms allow children to give testimonies against their oppressors in a non-intimidating environment, allowing them to tell their stories freely and fearlessly. Over 60 representatives from child protection agencies, the courts,

and the local media attended the space's inauguration. On the heels of this event, Kids Alive provided a training series to over 90 governmental and non-governmental professionals dedicated to child safety.

Four young people from two of our residential centers passed an exam that could lead to a university scholarship granted by the Peruvian government. Pray they win the award and continue toward independence and service to others.

The regional government of Ucayali is committed to child protection when testifying in court. Officials announced they will install two new video testimony rooms in this area. This is a victory for child justice since these environments protect children's rights and promote an environment free of fear and violence.

A young woman has advanced her family towards independence after starting a business with the help of Kids Alive.

This young woman received instruction on vocational skills and entrepreneurship through our family strengthening center which serves more than 300 people in a poor community in the Peruvian jungle, conducting workshops in many trades like sewing and confectionery. She began a confectionary business, realized enough profit to pay for school tuition, and help her family with living expenses.

**Kids Alive Peru is battling anemia with good nutrition.** About 60% of the children in the province of Ucayali suffer from the condition that develops in the blood. This dangerous sickness can have a long-term impact on children's physical and mental development because it makes them feel weak and tired. To combat the problem, our residential program in this area started a nutrition program that currently serves ten children. One girl's hemoglobin levels recently normalized, showing she overcame the disease.

**Two children are now living with stable and loving families.** Our team researched and located suitable families, conducted home visits, and provided parental training to ensure happy matches for the nine- and ten-year-old children. This process that led to adoption for these two children demonstrates our commitment to one of our global goals: to ensure children live safe with a family, free of fear and violence. No institution can replace the family.

**Kids Alive is exposing sexual violence in Peru and equipping children to provide for their safety.** As of August 2023, 14,500 cases of sexual violence have been registered; children and adolescents make up around 70% of the victims. Faced with this alarming situation, we provided ten preventive sessions at a local school that taught over 220 children how to protect themselves from abuse.

**Kids Alive Peru crowned the year by sharing the true story of Christmas.** We collaborated with local churches, businesses, and a university to organize holiday events for over 500 kids. The children played games, danced, watched puppet performances, and ate sweets. Every child received a gift; it was a dream come true for many of them. Most importantly, we shared with them God's supreme gift of God's Son to the world.

## Ana<sup>\*</sup> and Lucia's<sup>\*</sup> New Vision

Ana\*, 13, and Lucia\*, 17, were part of one of our residential programs. They both suffered from vision problems that made their lives and academic pursuits difficult, with no means to rectify the problem. Ana could barely see the blackboard, and Lucia experienced frequent headaches.

With support from our generous donors, Kids Alive was able to ensure both girls received the needed medical treatment. Doctors diagnosed Lucía with an inflamed optic nerve, needing corrective lenses and eye-drop treatment, and they diagnosed Ana with moderate myopia, requiring the permanent use of corrective lenses.

Lucia no longer suffers from headaches, and Ana sees clearly. They are now on the road to academic success. Lucia and Ana are grateful for the kindness.

\*pseudonym, name changed for child protection and sensitivity

## How God Answered Camila's Prayer for a Family

Camila, a 9-year-old girl who lived in one of our residential facilities, is an inspiration of faith and hope. With unwavering conviction, Camila prayed daily to find a family.

"I never tired of praying for a mom and dad, and God answered my prayers," she shared excitedly the day she received the news of her adoption.

She was overjoyed to finally have a family, a home, and a dog. Our team worked tirelessly to facilitate the adoption, encouraging the other children at the center to trust God to find them a family.









### **Impact**

Kids Alive Zambia helped 17 children find homes with loving families in 2023. Four of these happy events took place in the last quarter. One of Kids Alive's global goals is to help children who have experienced violence or neglect find safe and happy homes with families. We praise God for rewarding the strenuous efforts of our team to find suitable families for these children. No institution can replace a loving family.

Zambia's Spring of Life program helps spring children from prison. The Zambian correctional system allows jailed mothers to care for their innocent ones between the ages of 0 and 4 by living with them in prison. These children have nowhere to go, so the state permits this arrangement. However, the conditions are inadequate and the system does not provide appropriate nutrition or other support for these children. That's where our efforts for reform have produced fruit. Our ministry has developed a positive rapport with the Zambian government and recently influenced the president to call for a reduction of the prison population of mothers in this situation, so he pardoned 45 mothers who were there for non-violent crimes.

**Kids Alive Zambia ended the year by sharing Christ at the nation's largest women's prison.** In collaboration with the Zambia Correctional Service, we held a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving there on December 30th. We ministered the Word of God to the jailed mothers and their children and provided food. Our participation in this event as the only non-governmental organization involved is another example of the Zambian government's acknowledgement of our hard work to improve the well-being of the children and their mothers in these facilities.

**Kids Alive Academy saw 49 out of 60 (82%) students graduate from primary to secondary education.** Although this figure matches the national average, we must consider the background of the Kids Alive children and what they overcame to achieve academic success: poverty, abuse, neglect, hunger, and more. With that backdrop, the success rate is the result of God's grace, a caring staff, and children who are overcoming their trauma through the power of the gospel. Those who did not advance have an opportunity to repeat their classes.

**Biblically-based therapy sessions are bearing fruit at Chikondi.** Five children who are overcoming severe trauma showed marked improvements in recent months: they are coming out of isolation, controlling their anger, cleaning up their language, and refraining from fighting. The children have a better attitude towards their peers and teachers.

Twenty-three families in Lusaka enjoyed the healthy food they desperately needed, thanks to grocery donations. We delivered the relief in late 2023, demonstrating God's love for those in need.

**Kids Alive Zambia's education programs venture outside the classrooms.** The Academy hosted a school talent show featuring the students' singing, poetry, fine arts, and drama abilities. Children from our residential and trauma care center sites in the country's capital went on an educational tour of a beautiful nature preserve (Twin Lia Gardens) to learn about birds and crocodiles. Children from our residential centers and school participated in Zambia's Independence Day celebrations, learning about the freedom Zambia has enjoyed for over 59 years.

## Jane's Journey from Alienation to Reconciliation

Jane is twenty and about to enter college, but she wandered the streets one year ago begging for handouts. The one-year roller coaster journey is incredible.

Jane was a typical teenager, clashing with her family over her life choices. One day, her aunt, fed up with the eighteen-year-old's lifestyle, tossed her to the curb. Jane, alienated from her family, had to fend for herself. Social welfare learned about her situation and brought her to Kids Alive Zambia.

At first, Jane was scared, isolated, and disrespectful and refused to do her chores. However, her rebellious attitude began to change as she experienced God's love through the total care she received from our staff: physical, spiritual, educational, and emotional. After a few months of Biblically-based therapy and school attendance, Jane emerged from her shell, made friends, and became respectful of her elders. Most importantly, she received Christ as her Savior and took Bible study very seriously, eventually growing mature enough to lead devotions. Jane completed her education and is ready for college.

Here's more great news. Through the intervention of Jane's social worker, Jane reconciled with her aunt and recently moved back in with her. Pray for Jane and her family as she begins her college career and continues her spiritual growth.

## Grace's Story: From Illiteracy to Head of the Class

Grace couldn't read or write six years ago. Today, she's Kids Alive Academy's top student.

Grace's parents couldn't afford school fees for their eight-year-old girl, who couldn't read or write. That's when they found refuge at Kids Alive Academy, which backed her education. Grace's dream of becoming a medical doctor inspired her to overcome illiteracy. Through hard work and the patience of loving teachers, she learned to read fluently, write poetry, and master modern technologies, having spent many hours in the computer lab.

Grace is now 14, excelling in her studies, enjoying healthy friendships, singing in the choir, and playing sports. Recently, staff awarded her the title of Head Girl, which is like being student council president. Confidence, good grades, and exceptional relational skills earned her that title. With her eyes on her med-school prize, she is confident she will breeze through primary school with high honors.

