



pact



WORTH's Global Reach

The **Pact WORTH program** is an award winning empowerment program based on the premise that dependency is not empowering. The WORTH program brings together groups of poor women and uses a combination of literacy training, community banking, and microbusiness development to help the women help themselves and each other to end poverty. Unlike many development programs that provide participants with capital and a variety of inputs needed for program delivery, WORTH offers no seed money, no matching grants, no subsidized interest rates and no classroom teachers.

Our Reach

The potential for the WORTH program's replication and ability to reach significant scale is well proven and demonstrated. Since its inception in 1998, **WORTH has operated in 14 countries** including Cambodia, Colombia, Myanmar, Nepal, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Swaziland, Lesotho, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

The program has formed **over 17,330 women's empowerment groups and reached more than 381,000 women**. In addition to the expansion that Pact supports, WORTH women themselves replicate the model as new women in their communities see the benefits of the group and want to participate. These replications are more difficult to track but demonstrate an important message about the value of the program to the women and communities where we work.

95 percent of WORTH members in Nepal reported engaging in social action to benefit those in their community¹.

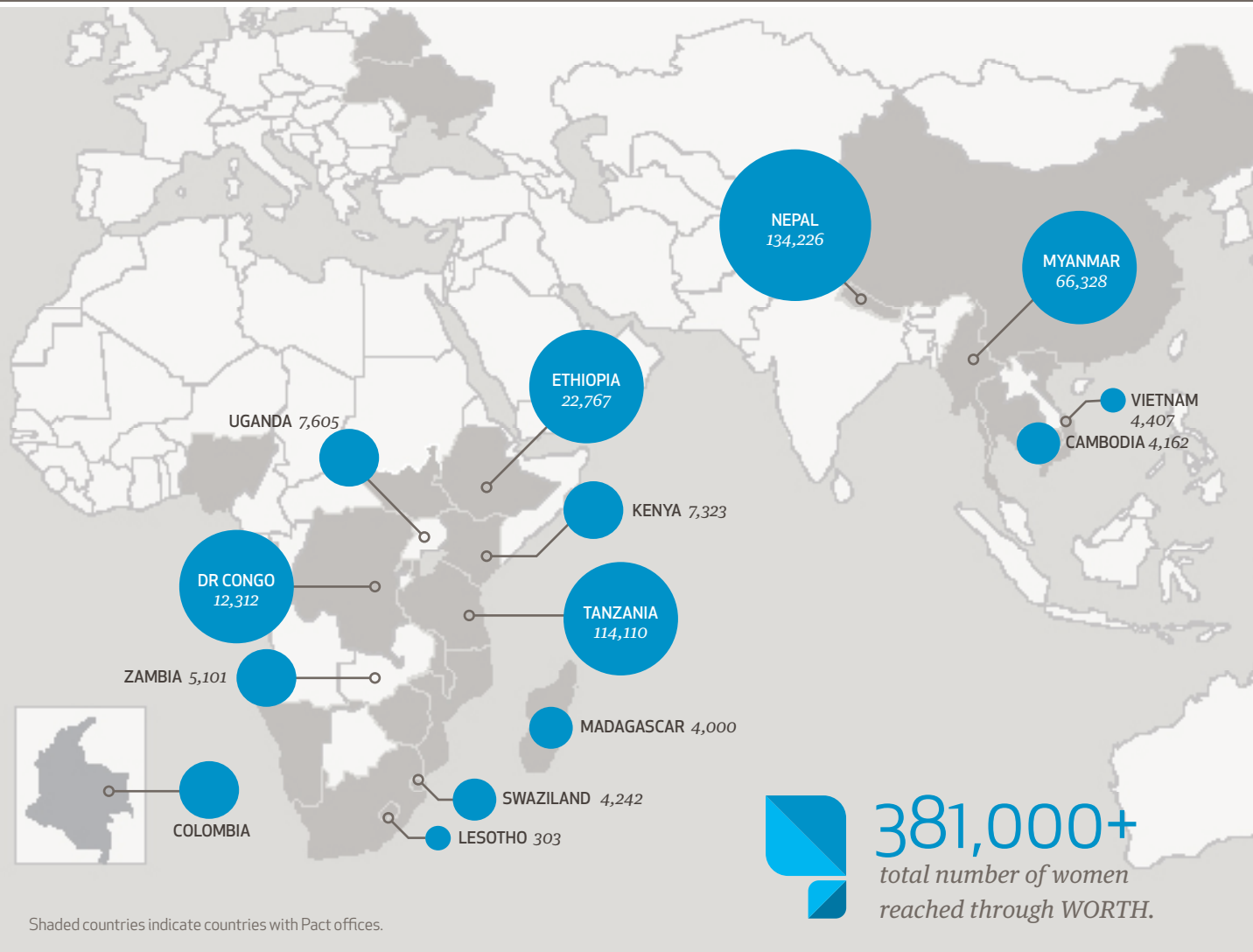
Our Impact

WORTH strengthens women's social networks and enables them to become activists, entrepreneurs, and effective leaders who bring about change in their communities. Our evaluations indicate that the program improves women's confidence as wealth generators, caregivers, decision-makers and agents of change in their homes and their communities. As a result of participating in WORTH's pioneer program in Nepal, an average of 89,000 women reported increased decision-making authority in the areas of family planning, marriage of children, buying and selling property and girl's schooling.

Similarly, when polled 83% of Ethiopian women noted an increase in their ability to make decisions related to their families after participating in the program. WORTH also promotes community action as the women use their new social networks to change the world around them. For example, 95% of WORTH members in Nepal reported engaging in social action to benefit those in their community¹.

pact

1828 L street nw • suite 300
washington, dc 20036
202.466.5666 • pactworld.org
info@pactworld.org



HIGHLIGHT: ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING FOR OVC IN TANZANIA

In Tanzania, Pact’s WORTH program is improving the protection and care of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and most vulnerable children (MVC) by advancing the economic development of their female caregivers and community members.

Shelter and Care

42% of WORTH households reported an improvement in shelter and care compared to only 18% in non-WORTH households in the past 12 months. Of those who reported improvements, 23% of WORTH group members reported they had been able to get a permanent house compared to only 6% of non-WORTH respondents. The respondents attributed the changes in shelter and care to WORTH participation.

Food security

71% of WORTH respondents reported that they and their children had three meals a day or more compared

to 54% of respondents from non-WORTH households. Respondents from WORTH households attributed the changes to the ability to generate more income, support from the WORTH group, nutritional education from the WORTH group, and increased farm production.

Health care

77% of respondents from WORTH households reported improved health among MVC compared to 65% of respondents from non-WORTH households. The majority of WORTH households reported that the improvements in children’s health was a result of their increased ability to pay for their children’s health care.

1. Mayoux, Linda. 2008. “Women Ending Poverty. The WORTH Program in Nepal: Empowerment through Literacy Banking and Business”. Kathmandu, Nepal: Valley Research Group.