

EAST AFRICA HUNGER CRISIS RESPONSE

Progress Report: April 2023



OVERVIEW OF DISASTER


A deadly mix of conflict, COVID-19 and the climate crisis have pushed more than 10 million people across East Africa to the very brink of a hunger crisis. Of critical concern are vulnerable children who are experiencing high levels of malnutrition. According to UN OCHA, about 4.9 million children are acutely malnourished in drought-affected areas in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Conflict is one of the leading drivers of hunger globally. Every country where World Vision works in East Africa is either in conflict or neighbouring a country in conflict. The region has also endured substantial climate shocks, undermining people's ability to feed themselves. The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current ripple effect from the war in Ukraine is also driving hunger to unprecedented levels.

WORLD VISION'S RELIEF RESPONSE: IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, World Vision re-declared its multi-country hunger emergency response in East Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. The response goal is to save lives and address drivers of longer-term impacts of hunger through humanitarian assistance and recovery interventions. From April 2022 to January 2023, we have reached:

People reached

 **6,472,137**



Men **1,183,257**

Women **1,555,456**



Children **3,733,424**

Boys **1,818,483**

Girls **1,914,941**

Improve access to food for affected households



3,410,312

People reached with (in-kind) food assistance



1,906,492

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



US\$ 71M

Amount of cash and voucher assistance distributed



296,973

Children receiving hot meals and/or dry rations through school feeding



(Left) Ngasepicho serves food to students of Moite primary school in Kenya. (Right) Lokwang, Rihanna, and Naima enjoy a meal before resuming classes at Moite primary school. In partnership with the government and through cash transfers, children are able to stay in school and learn instead of families migrating in search of food.



Increase access to curative and preventive quality emergency health and nutrition services



316,649

People reached through primary healthcare support



108,047

Primary caregivers benefited from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion and action oriented sessions and counselling



114,469

Children reached through management of Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition



21,875

Children recovered from severe acute malnutrition

Maacad Mustafe Abdi, is one of the nutrition supplementary food beneficiaries in Somalia. She brought her child to the health facility to seek help. After screening the child was found to be severely malnourished.

She was given a one-month supply of PlumpyNuts and other nutritious food to help restore the child's health. Plumpy'Nut is a form of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). The peanut-based paste is packed with nutrients to help malnourished children regain their strength.



Improve access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation promotion services to mitigate waterborne diseases



314,253

People provided with access to clean, potable water



163,102

People that have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities with appropriate supplies

“My first challenge was access to clean water. We walked for an hour to another village to fetch 20 liters, which is not enough for the whole family. I have to spend six hours walking back and forth”, shares Angelina Nyanut, 28-year-old mother of four.

World Vision installed a solar-powered water yard in Majokyithiou, located at the border between South Sudan and Sudan addressing concerns about the lack of water facilities. Angelina says, *“Farming is what I know best, but I could not do it before because of the drought. Now, the water supply has not only solved the long-distance walk but also given me a source of income as I am now able to cultivate in my homestead”.*



“I once watched my children get dehydrated and fell sick due to the scorching heat and lack of drinking water. With clean water nearby I now have enough time to find food for my family”, she adds happily.

Improve household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods-related shocks



10,362

Households provided with livelihood physical agricultural assets



3,940

Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/ stresses



4,038

People trained in climate change resilient farming practices

“I felt sad for times hard for us because there wasn’t enough food to eat. I would come home at lunch time and find nothing to eat. Concentrating in class was not easy as I would be thinking of the food that was not available. Sometimes in the evening when there was no food too.”



“My dream came true when World Vision brought us a drip irrigation kit. We worked hard with my mother and I was not sure if the vegetables would grow but now, it is my favorite place to be when not in school,” says Stella, from Kilifi, Kenya, gleefully. “I don’t worry about lunch anymore because there is enough food at home. My mother’s food is now delicious because she cooks it with sweet pepper and fresh cucumbers.”

Ensure protection for children, women, and vulnerable groups including psychosocial support



9,301

People receiving psychosocial support



42,977

People receiving messages on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and/ or positive coping strategies



104

Faith leaders engaged in messages on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and/ or positive coping strategies

Born in a destitute family of thirteen children, 15-year-old Berite and her siblings are always in want but are not sure of getting a square meal per day. To reduce this economic burden, her family started thinking of arranging a marriage for her with an older guy, as having one less daughter to take care of means one less mouth to feed and one less education to pay for.

World Vision Ethiopia's child protection team took the time to meet with Berite and her family. Through multiple sessions at their homes and at her school, they learned about the long-term negative health and future outcomes and legal repercussions of child marriage, and the wedding was swiftly called off.

"We are grateful for World Vision's timely training and for saving our daughter's life. After getting the training, we realized 40K - 50K (US\$750-940) means nothing, but if our daughter keeps going to school she can be a doctor and have a better life," Tadelech, Berite's mother, concludes.

"Had we not received the training from World Vision, I would have been married by now. [I think] I would have been stressed and depressed and I would have had the burden of raising children. And I would have felt sad when seeing my friends go to school," Berite testifies, her voice breaking.



MOVING FORWARD

Thank you for your generosity and love for children and their families in their time of greatest need. On behalf of the children and families affected by the hunger crisis in East Africa who may never have a chance to thank you personally, we would like to extend our appreciation for your gift of hope and help in this emergency.

As humanitarian needs are immense and the impact on children, including safeguarding risks, is enormous, World Vision will continue to respond to the needs in East Africa to save lives and address drivers of longer-term impacts of hunger through humanitarian assistance and recovery interventions.

To make a difference to children affected by other disasters, please support The Survival Fund. Visit <https://www.worldvision.org.sg/en/the-survival-fund> to learn more.