

This provides an update on World Vision water efforts to address the global water crisis.

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World Vision Water Update: July 2018



Elimination of Trachoma in Ghana

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently announced that Ghana has become the first African country to eliminate trachoma, the leading cause of infectious blindness. By providing clean water sources and improving hygiene and sanitation, World Vision, working with the Conrad N Hilton Foundation and other partners, has played a role in this remarkable achievement. Thanks to the many pioneers within World Vision's water program and our many donors and partners who have been part of this 25-year effort. This is a major victory for public health and shows the impact that we can have working together in transforming lives. Read the [full announcement here](#).

We Know How to Save Lives

World Vision knows how to save lives. That's a powerful statement. The ability to save lives at a large scale is humbling and carries with it a responsibility to do as much as you can and as quickly as you can. In this newsletter, we'll focus on our life-saving efforts to address the East Africa hunger crisis.

Prolonged drought in East Africa led to failed crops and extreme rates of malnutrition in the region. More than 12 million children go to bed hungry across South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya everyday. Nine million children require nutrition assistance to keep them from starving and to prevent irreversible growth stunting and brain underdevelopment.

Malnutrition can be assessed quickly in children by using a special cloth tape-measure wrapped around the middle of their upper arm. The tape-measure has a window that shows colors of green if the child has adequate weight, yellow if there is risk of moderate malnutrition, and red if the child is severely malnourished. Tragically, a severely malnourished child can die quickly because of their low weight and resulting reduced ability to fight infections. If you add contaminated water to the mix, then the situation becomes a death sentence for all too many children.



Thankfully, World Vision is a leader in addressing malnutrition.

When we provide nutritional supplements, 9 out of 10 severely malnourished children can recover. Clean water plays a critical role because when we eliminate diarrhea caused by unsafe water, the child can absorb more of the nutrients from the supplement.

I recently traveled to East Africa to see World Vision's response to the current hunger crisis. While it was hard to witness children suffering from malnutrition, I felt heartened by the large number of children we are able to save.

Please [watch this 2 minute video](#) to learn how we saved the life of Lashani and many others.



Our donors have responded by helping us respond at a massive scale. Recently, in one month alone, World Vision reached more than one million people in crisis in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan with nutritional supplements for malnourished children, food assistance, income-earning opportunities, and health care assistance.

As part of this effort, in a single month, we provided 259,509 people with clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Whenever possible, World Vision provides permanent water sources so that families have clean water immediately and also have water to withstand future droughts. For example, we have reached more than one million people in drought-affected areas in the last year with permanent water points.

Recently, rains have come to much of East Africa, but not in a helpful way, because it came as flooding. More than 700,000 people have been forced from their homes and hundreds of schools have closed. This is impacting the planting season for crops and so the people in East Africa need help in the coming months. As a result, World Vision has issued an emergency appeal for \$65 million. Please [go here](#) to see how you can help be part of this effort.

We remain committed to reaching everyone everywhere we work with clean water by 2030, while at the same time, we will work to save lives in these extreme crisis.



VISION TRIP

You are invited to join our upcoming Vision Trip to see our work in person October 13-19, 2018 in Southern Africa (Malawi or Zambia). Contact your donor representative if you are interested.

Prayer Requests

- Give praise for the elimination of trachoma in the entire country of Ghana.
- Give praise for World Vision's industry leading efforts to help malnourished children recover quickly.
- Give praise for the millions of dollars in donations that have helped World Vision respond to the East Africa hunger crisis.
- Pray for strength of families impacted by the crisis and that we can be an answer to their prayers.
- Pray that farmers can get back into their fields following the floods and plant crops for a fruitful harvest so that this starvation can end.



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Dr. Greg Allgood

Dr. Greg Allgood
Vice President, Water
World Vision U.S.



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