



World Vision



EMERGENCY
RELIEF

East Africa Children's Crisis » ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA,
SOUTH SUDAN, UGANDA

18-MONTH UPDATE

Prepared March 2019

EMERGENCY RELIEF IN EAST AFRICA

PROGRAM UPDATE

7.6 MILLION PEOPLE have been reached with food aid and humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda since 2017.

SITUATION UPDATE

Since May 2017, World Vision has been responding to an immense crisis in East Africa characterized by violence, natural disasters, disease, and displacement. With the help of generous donors like you, we have provided food; water; sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); livelihood support; education; relief items; and protection interventions.

As of December 2018, nearly 30 million people in East Africa are in need of humanitarian assistance—more than half of them children. Drought and conflict are the largest drivers of displacement, leaving children and their families reliant on aid.

Children are especially vulnerable under these circumstances, as their fragile bodies and minds are forced to endure hardships that no child should have to experience. To care for them, we raised awareness among adults about key child protection issues and set up spaces where children can play and feel secure. For example, in December 2018, 10 Child-Friendly Spaces in Somalia provided a safe haven for 923 children.

Since education for many children is disrupted by crises, we want to give them access to a learning environment. For example, our program in South Sudan is reintegrating children previously in armed conflict into formal education. In Rwanda, a program in refugee camps helped provide at least 27,000 refugees with education.

An estimated 15 million people across East Africa are at risk of not having enough food due to climatic conditions that led to poor harvests. In response, we screened children for malnutrition and other diseases, taught parents about proper nutrition, and provided healthcare services. For example, more than 2,000 children in Ethiopia benefited from a feeding program in December 2018 aimed at restoring the health of malnourished children.

Despite these achievements, this region continues to grapple with ongoing conflict, natural disasters, and the continual arrival of refugees in displacement camps. Thank you for enabling us to care for millions of people in East Africa during their time of greatest need.



With the help of partners like you, World Vision continues to help meet the greatest needs of children across East Africa, giving little girls like this one hope for a brighter future.

Response Achievements

(Life of project figures)

587,544 people reached with nutrition assistance

1,203,770 people reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions

330,889 people reached with protection services

202,020 people reached with education

432,575 people reached with shelter and other nonfood essentials

2,060,831 people reached with food security and livelihood assistance

1,026,773 people reached with food distributions

1,761,804 people reached with health assistance

RESPONSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY COUNTRY

ETHIOPIA

Since the East Africa Children's Crisis began in 2017, violence, displacement, hunger, and disease have cycled continually through Ethiopia. In mid-2018, we saw outbreaks of acute diarrhea, measles, and dengue fever. By the end of the year, 1,455 cases of diarrhea were reported in five regions and five deaths as a result. In many areas, people continue to be forced from their homes as a result of intercommunal violence. Conflict that began in mid-April 2018 in Ethiopia's Gedeo, Guji, and Somali regions left at least 102,600 displaced children without access to education. Between 2016 and 2018, at least 159 schools closed, straining and overcrowding schools in host communities that took in displaced children. In those schools, teachers have as many as 100 students each.

World Vision is adjusting our response to be able to help the growing number of people needing assistance, not only due to displacement, but also for those who are returning home. For returnees, our work aims to help rebuild lives and their lost livelihoods. At the end of 2018, the government conducted an assessment to take stock of the performance of summer and autumn rains on the harvests; these results will be critical in determining the humanitarian needs for 2019 and World Vision's plan to meet these needs.



These youth, who live in a refugee camp, are able to continue their education at a school supported by World Vision.

- **18,913** people reached with nutrition assistance
- **396,282** people reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions
- **74,300** people reached with protection services
- **47,170** people reached with education assistance
- **39,185** people reached with shelter and nonfood essentials
- **462,960** people reached with food security and livelihood assistance
- **257,464** people reached with food distributions
- **95,962** people reached with health assistance

Accomplishments over the past 18 months included the following:

World Vision launched several projects, including one to provide women- and child-friendly spaces and access to basic services for 25,867 people. Doing so increased the protection of vulnerable children and women in the West Guji zone. We also launched the Accelerated Learning Program, which helped 8,335 internally displaced children in the West Guji zone return to school.

To increase access to clean water and reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, we expanded a water system in Bule Horahas, benefiting 9,000 people. The system includes six taps, two hand-washing basins, one reservoir, and a three-mile pipeline.

World Vision trained community leaders on proper nutrition for infants and young children, and also trained health workers to ensure that children and mothers under their care are receiving appropriate health services. Also in the area of health, World Vision contributed to raising awareness of yellow fever and providing logistical support for yellow fever vaccination campaigns and activities. This included developing and disseminating information and key messages.

To help boost food production, World Vision gave improved seeds to 6,800 families, along with cash to buy more vegetable seeds.



Gardening for income and nutrition

Rewuda Shekdilil (left, in black) used to work as a day laborer on a farm. Yet, her husband and her combined incomes weren't enough to feed their four children. Through a World Vision gardening program, Rewuda and some neighbors joined together to start a vegetable garden and earned a significant amount from the first harvest. With the money, Rewuda bought two goats, paid for household needs, and saved the rest. The group continues to work hard and reap the nutritional and financial harvests of their gardening efforts.

KENYA

Over the past year and a half, Kenya has seen a significant amount of movement within the country, whether from people seeking asylum or internal displacement. As of November 2018, 1.8 million children were in need of humanitarian assistance, and more than 489,000 people were displaced. Refugees and asylum seekers are primarily from Somalia and South Sudan, with an estimated 20,000 new arrivals from South Sudan in 2018 alone. Intercommunal violence between neighboring communities has disrupted thousands of lives, creating urgent needs for food, shelter, healthcare, WASH, education, and the restoration of livelihoods.

After months of drought, heavy rain and thunderstorms in May 2018 hit multiple areas countrywide. The disaster impacted approximately 800,000 people, 300,000 of whom fled their homes and sought shelter on higher ground. More than 700 schools closed, with many classrooms damaged or destroyed. Water systems were ruined, leaving tens of thousands of people without access to clean water and susceptible to waterborne illnesses. Many children needed psychosocial support after losing loved ones or seeing their homes get washed away.



Refugees at a camp in northern Kenya receive food at one of World Vision's food distributions.

- **143,450** people reached with nutrition assistance
- **150,000** people reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions
- **75,000** people reached with protection services
- **27,564** people reached with education assistance
- **63,360** people reached with shelter and nonfood essentials
- **459,537** people reached with food security and livelihood assistance

Accomplishments over the past 18 months included the following:

World Vision distributed water filters, household and hygiene supplies, portable toilets, and other essential nonfood relief items (shelter materials, blankets, tarps, etc.) to people impacted by the flooding, and coordinated a school feeding program. We also partnered with Kenya's Ministry of Education to give children a place to learn and minimize the disruption of their education.

To care for the mental and emotional needs of people impacted by conflict, World Vision introduced 49 peer educators to a peacebuilding curriculum and trained 42 teachers on psychosocial first aid, giving them tools to address various issues and traumas.

With nearly 693,000 people needing WASH assistance, we extended a pipeline in Kilifi that gave 7,820 people access to clean water. More than 1,800 people learned about proper

sanitation and hygiene practices such as handwashing, waste disposal, and personal hygiene. We also trained 30 community health volunteers in Baringo on water treatment and hygiene and sanitation issues.

During fiscal year 2018 (October 2017 to September 2018), a project in Kenya's Turkana County increased water access from 2 gallons to 7 gallons per person, per day, benefiting 1,500 community members, a health center, and a primary school. Water committees were trained to manage the finances and maintenance of the well—a vital part in ensuring the sustainability of the water source.

World Vision also improved sanitation facilities at a school and a health center. More than 200 students now have urinals and new doors in their bathrooms, as well as proper hand-washing facilities and ramps for students with limited mobility.



An abundance of water, an abundance of time

Before World Vision's Turkana West Integrated Project installed a solar-powered borehole well in the Lomidat community, the residents depended on a generator to keep the well running. But without money to buy fuel for the generator, the community members often ran out of water. Now, they have more water than they need. "We used to rush from school every evening to collect some water, otherwise there wouldn't be any," said Lobuin (left). "Now we can come any time and still fetch water. I can now have spare time for reading and homework."

SOMALIA

By late 2017 and into 2018, some regions of Somalia had already experienced four consecutive seasons of drought. This led to water shortages, loss of livestock, crop failures, and critical levels of malnutrition among children.

In April 2018, heavy rains brought relief to some areas, while others were forced to flee from rising waters. Flooding affected 718,000 people, 228,000 of whom had to leave their homes. The rain caused flash and river flooding, damaging crops and properties and destroying livelihoods. Some households also are recovering from a cyclone in July 2018 that caused widespread damage, particularly among vulnerable households in Somaliland.

In late 2018, the overall food security situation had improved, but most likely will not be sustained for long because areas that rely on strong rainfall are still waiting for rain. At least 294,000 children under 5 are at risk of malnutrition, making the distribution of highly fortified therapeutic food to these children one of World Vision's priorities.

In the midst of these natural disasters, people across Somalia continue to be displaced. In November 2018, newly displaced families arrived at camps after fleeing increased conflict in the Southwest and Jubaland areas. The influx of new displacements has further overstretched available resources, so World Vision aims to allocate additional funding to meet these needs. We also seek to help families in displacement camps to develop sustainable means for income rather than continue relying on humanitarian aid.



As of December 2018, 2.7 million children in Somalia were in need of humanitarian assistance.

- **210,504** people reached with nutrition assistance
- **458,868** people reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions
- **3,125** people reached with protection services
- **15,713** people reached with education assistance
- **77,086** people reached with shelter and nonfood essentials
- **537,775** people reached with food security and livelihood assistance
- **394,983** people reached with health assistance

Accomplishments over the past 18 months included the following:

World Vision responded to the flooding by providing temporary shelter, clean water, food, and health services, and distributing essential items such as plastic sheets, blankets, clothes, and hygiene kits.

With children's health being one of our priorities, we screened children for malnutrition and referred families to nutrition programs aimed at getting children back to full health. In November 2018 alone, we provided basic healthcare services to nearly 60,000 people through 13 health centers and four mobile clinics. Of those served, more than 6,000 of them were children under age 5 who got free medical consultations.

Our work also focused on making sure children had continued access to quality education. This included providing monetary incentives to teachers to continue teaching. We also organized feeding programs at schools, which are shown to boost attendance.

Since many schools in displacement camps are not supported by state and federal governments, World Vision stepped in and built classrooms, making education possible for children living away from home. In addition, teachers were trained to care for students with special needs and nomadic lifestyles and manage gender-based violence.



A light for a hope-filled future

In many parts of Somalia, girls' development is threatened by militia attacks or assault, and ongoing conflict limits children's freedom to play or attend school. Rahma (left), 15, grew up in an area that saw frequent fighting between armed groups. There, many girls never got the chance to study. Now, Rahma lives in a community where she can go to school. World Vision recently gave her a solar lamp to help her study after dark and, more importantly, keep up with the rest of the class. Rahma dreams of peace in her country and hopes to one day become a nurse and serve her community.

SOUTH SUDAN

In September 2018, the president of South Sudan and the leader of the country's largest rebel group signed a peace agreement to end a civil war that began in late 2013. Since then, political violence has dropped, but conflict among other groups not involved in the peace agreement continues.

Since the conflict began five years ago, the country has suffered 380,000 deaths, the displacement of 4.4 million people, macroeconomic decline, and widespread food shortages. Security concerns in some parts of the country, and especially along major roads, have continued to challenge the ability of humanitarian workers to deliver much-needed aid to vulnerable areas. Among the country's population of more than 12 million people, 7 million still need humanitarian assistance.



With highly fortified therapeutic food from World Vision, malnourished children are able to regain their energy.

- **214,677** people reached with nutrition assistance
- **135,620** people reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions
- **91,911** people reached with protection services
- **81,925** people reached with education assistance
- **144,622** people reached with shelter and nonfood essentials
- **577,491** people reached with food security and livelihood assistance
- **1,270,859** people reached with health assistance

Accomplishments over the past 18 months included the following:

An August Ebola outbreak in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo and the possibility of a cross-border spread into South Sudan sparked a preparedness and response plan led by World Vision, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization, and other agencies. The response included screenings for the virus, distributing infection prevention material in health facilities, and sharing information about Ebola in public places such as churches, health facilities, schools, and markets.

World Vision screened children for malnutrition and followed up with treatment, if needed. We also taught parents about proper nutrition and hygiene, and increased access to clean water by installing new water sources, repairing pipelines and boreholes, and distributing water purification tablets. Over the last five years, 89 percent of the severely malnourished children we treated around the world have made a full recovery.

When families return home after being displaced, they are extremely vulnerable and need help rebuilding their lives and livelihoods. To help people navigate this challenging transition, we raised awareness about housing, land, and property rights. We also trained people in business skills, modern fishing techniques, and improved farming methods, empowering them to earn an income.

As of December 2018, almost 3,000 children being held by armed forces/groups in South Sudan had been released over the past year. Recognizing the complex and painful transition for these children, we launched the Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Actors Project to reunite children with their families and reintegrate them into their communities. The project operates interim care centers for unaccompanied children, provides individual and family counseling, helps children to enroll in school, provides medical checkups, and empowers youth through vocational and technical training.



Empowering women to raise healthy children

Grace (left) had already lost a baby to severe malnutrition and was terrified when her 6-month-old baby, Juliana, became ill. Just when Grace was losing hope, she received a home visit from a volunteer who was screening children for malnutrition. Juliana was referred to a World Vision–run nutrition center, where she was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition and given a vitamin- and protein-rich, ready-to-eat paste. Grace received a supply of paste to feed Juliana at home and also learned about proper nutrition and health. Within two months, Juliana had gained weight, began crawling, and was back to full health.

UGANDA

Since 2016, Uganda has been hosting more than 1 million refugees from DRC and South Sudan, straining the resources of humanitarian aid organizations and placing pressure on host communities and local infrastructure. The North and West Nile regions, where most refugees live, are among the poorest and most underdeveloped areas of Uganda.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), children, adolescents, and youth make up the largest population bracket among the displaced populations in Uganda. Without support, they will become increasingly vulnerable to the dangers and consequences associated with conflict and displacement.

A World Vision survey conducted in September 2018 revealed that more than half of all children in refugee settlements are at risk of malnutrition.

Only 19 percent of caregivers are able to provide for their children, and a mere 14 percent of children from host communities expressed optimism for the future. In addition, only one out of 10 schoolchildren can read. Classrooms in refugee settlements are overcrowded, restricting the ability of students to get a quality education. These results affirm World Vision's emphasis on child-focused interventions, such as education, psychosocial care, protection, and healthcare.



To care for children who fled South Sudan and are now living in refugee settlements in Uganda, World Vision provides safe places to learn and play.

- **63,000** people reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions
- **86,553** people reached with protection services
- **29,648** people reached with education assistance
- **108,322** people reached with shelter and nonfood essentials
- **23,068** people reached with food security and livelihood assistance
- **769,309** people reached with food distributions

Accomplishments over the past 18 months included the following:

Evidence of sustainable progress among refugees is the transition from dependency on aid to self-reliance. We are encouraged that an increasing number of refugees are engaging in income-generating activities to support their families—the most common enterprises being grocery stores, hair salons, crop production, retail shops, and restaurants. Vocational training, particularly for youth and women, is giving people skills to secure work and earn an income.

Financial services also are vital to helping families earn an income and build their future resilience. At the end of 2018, more than 12,000 refugees and members of host communities learned about savings and loan associations and

cash-based assistance to improve their household's resilience to future crises.

While we celebrate the transition of some refugees toward self-reliance, many remain in need of humanitarian assistance. World Vision assisted tens of thousands of people with relief packages consisting of kitchen supplies, blankets, soap, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and solar lamps.

To address the needs of vulnerable children, World Vision is running 42 Child-Friendly Spaces, where more than 57,000 children are benefiting from educational and psychosocial support, as well as life-skills training. World Vision also is actively involved in helping unaccompanied or separated children connect with their families.



Creating a new definition of family

When fighting broke out in a nearby village, these four siblings—ages 9 to 16—fled their home in South Sudan with only their clothes and school books. They arrived in northern Uganda as refugees, alone and without guidance. For this family, and many others like them, World Vision has found foster families—fellow South Sudanese refugees—for children to stay with and to provide a caring and safe place for the children to grow up. (Read more about this family on the last page.)

HUMANITARIAN DONORS

World Vision is able to reach more people because of our local and global partnerships within the public and private sectors.



MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF OUR RESOURCES

World Vision is focused on leveraging private resources for greater impact in the field. Leverage refers to a multiplier effect, when a smaller donation attracts additional funding, maximizing the yield for each dollar donated. It enables a donation to have a greater impact and allows World Vision to do something we could not have done otherwise.

During fiscal years 2017 and 2018, World Vision leveraged \$11 million in

private gifts to mobilize almost \$95 million in 50 grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development, UNHCR, UNICEF, and World Food Program (WFP). These grants alone enabled us to assist more than 4 million people. While the multiplier number varies across grants, the average is 1 to 9. This means for every dollar provided by private donors, World Vision is able to mobilize an additional \$9 in public grant money.

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

Embracing a second chance

Since February 2018, thousands of children in South Sudan who were abducted and used as child soldiers were released from captivity through the South Sudan National Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Program. Of this number, 752 are being supported by World Vision—in partnership with UNICEF—with comprehensive psychosocial care and support.

World Vision is helping young people through mental health and psychosocial support to reclaim their childhood, heal relationships with their family and community, and recognize their own value and potential.

Zekiah* (pictured at left), now 17, is among the youth participating in World Vision's program. He was abducted at age 15 on his way home from work. Held at gunpoint and greatly outnumbered, Zekiah felt like his only choices were to comply or be killed.

During his years in captivity, Zekiah was tortured and worked beyond his capacity. But, again, he felt like he had no choice. "They would give children massive luggage of looted properties from people's homes and we usually walked for about five hours carrying them to the camp," said Zekiah.

After he was released, Zekiah found out his mother had passed away shortly after he was abducted. He now lives with an uncle and his five siblings, with dreams of pursuing higher education and becoming an information minister for the government. In the meantime, he is learning to be a tailor so he can earn an income and support himself. He also meets with a World Vision social worker to work through the scars that remain after his horrific experience.

While he still is haunted by his memories, he is excited about his future opportunities and is determined to make the most of his second chance in life.



Youth like Zekiah are gaining skills to rebuild their lives—and restore their hope—after years of being in captivity.

* Name changed to protect the individual's identity



Mary and her children are building a new life—and a new family—in Uganda with other refugees from South Sudan.

Finding family after despair

The story of the family on page 6 is one that has been experienced across refugee settlements throughout northern Uganda. Children recall being attacked with tear gas, finding their dead parents, running for days, hiding from armed militia, and being hungry and frightened during their escape from South Sudan.

After being picked up at border points in northern Uganda, refugees are brought by bus to reception centers where they're officially registered to receive aid. Here, they come in contact with World Vision. We give them hot meals and connect them with child protection services, and also place unaccompanied children with a foster family.

When 16-year-old Stephen and his three younger siblings (pictured on page 6) arrived in Uganda, they found thousands of other refugees at the reception center. Then Stephen saw a familiar face. Mary (pictured at left), a mother of four, was an acquaintance from a neighboring village in South Sudan.

“When we met at the transit center, they came directly to me and asked if they could set up their shelter next to ours,” Mary said. The Ugandan government gives refugee families a plot of land where they can build their own home, so when Mary’s family received their land, Stephen and his siblings joined them.

Each day, Mary cooks, cleans, and cares for all eight children, and Stephen and his siblings help her with chores. World Vision provides foster families like Mary’s with essential household items and partners with WFP to provide refugees with monthly food rations. The children also have opportunities to attend a nearby school. With a new family and support system, Stephen and his siblings are eager to build a new life in Uganda.

WITH GRATITUDE

World Vision believes God has called us to walk alongside people in some of the darkest places in the world, helping families living without hope because conflict or disasters have torn their worlds apart. We hold to the belief that our faith demands a response, living out the example in Luke 10 of the Good Samaritan. Essentially, anyone who is suffering or in need is our neighbor, regardless of their religious beliefs, political stance, skin color, or language.

Your generosity enables us to respond like the Good Samaritan, to reach out to people who are broken and hurting as a result of conflict, hunger, violence, and displacement. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of people across East Africa!



For more information, contact your World Vision representative.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God’s unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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