



World Vision®



EMERGENCY  
RELIEF

**PROGRESS REPORT** » October 2016 through September 2017

*Prepared January 2018*

# EMERGENCY RELIEF

## GLOBAL SUMMARY

*Though 2017 was a year of historic natural disasters and humanitarian crises, it revealed Christ's light for this hurting world, through the compassion of donors like you.*

From deadly hurricanes to brutal conflicts and refugee crises, 2017 was a year filled with unimaginable humanitarian disasters on nearly every continent.

This includes a worsening refugee crisis in Bangladesh, where people who are widely considered the most persecuted minority group in the world have settled after fleeing extreme violence in Myanmar.

Currently, World Vision donors in the United States are reaching families in 36 countries across the globe with emergency aid. Among them are hurricane survivors in the U.S. and the Caribbean, families displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq, and communities coping with extreme

drought and hunger across East Africa.

But as World Vision U.S. President Richard Stearns said, "What we're seeing in Texas after Hurricane Harvey proves that disasters can bring out humanity's best. There are heroic rescues, volunteers working around the clock, and donations and support flowing in from all corners of the country."

These incredible acts of generosity and compassion are not just seen in Texas, but across the planet. Your support is saving lives, restoring dignity, and renewing hope in many of the world's hardest places. Thank you.



*While their parents collect relief supplies from a World Vision distribution, children affected by Hurricane Irma in Florida play by a storm clean-up kit, which includes gloves, scrub brushes, and other cleaning supplies.*

**919,083 PEOPLE** reached with emergency relief from October 2015 to September 2017 through private donors in the U.S.

*This number is constantly updated as projects are finalized, thus it does not reflect all people served in 2017.*

**81,714 PEOPLE** struggling to survive in the East Africa Hunger Crisis received life-saving food, water, healthcare, and livelihood support in FY17.

**99,080 PEOPLE** in Houston, Texas received emergency aid to help them recover in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in FY17.

**10,936 PEOPLE** from Myanmar who are seeking refuge from persecution in Bangladesh gained access to clean water, nutritious meals, and shelter through the Silent Disasters Fund in FY17.

# ANNUAL UPDATES

*This report highlights a few of the humanitarian emergency responses supported by private donors in the United States in fiscal year 2017. These responses were funded by World Vision offices across the globe, thus the numbers of people reached were supported by donors worldwide.*

## REFUGEE CRISIS IN MYANMAR-BANGLADESH

An estimated 867,000 refugees have fled extreme violence in Myanmar's Northern Rakhine State since late August. These refugees, most of whom identify as Rohingya, are widely considered the most persecuted minority group in the world.

They are seeking safety in Bangladesh, where most are crowded into refugee camps and makeshift settlements. More than half of these people are children, 36,000 of whom arrived in Bangladesh without an adult.

World Vision is deeply concerned about these unaccompanied children, as well as those who witnessed

horrific violence and are in need of targeted protection and psychosocial support.

Health and nutrition needs among the refugee communities are pronounced. There is a high level of water contamination, both at the water source and even more at household level, due to poor hygiene practices. Many are drinking dirty water from canals, leading to illness and elevated risks of disease outbreaks.

Although refugees are relieved to be free of the violence in Myanmar, their humanitarian situation continues to worsen in camps and settlements.



*Like many refugees in Bangladesh, Asif lost a loved one in Myanmar. His wife was killed while they were fleeing. He is now doing the best he can to care for their two young sons by himself, with aid from neighbors in the refugee camp and World Vision.*

## RESPONSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From September through December 2017, the support of donors across the globe enabled World Vision to reach more than 221,000 refugees in Bangladesh with life-saving aid.

Although the terrain and heavy rains added complexities to the response process, we worked closely with the government of Bangladesh and other aid agencies to maximize our support of vulnerable families. Thus far:

- 135,250 people received food supplies, including rice, lentils, salt, oil, and sugar through a partnership with World Food Program.
- 3,457 children under 5 were screened for malnutrition, with findings that 29 percent were moderately or severely malnourished. These children were referred to medical providers.
- 14 of the 90 planned wells have been drilled to provide ongoing clean water for those living in camps and settlements.
- The installation of 600 latrines and bathing spaces is in progress, and 6,650 people have been reached with training on proper sanitation and hygiene, which is essential for health and well-being in the crowded camps.
- 50,000 people are benefiting from shelter kits including tarps, blankets, sleeping mats, and rope.
- 14,500 people received hygiene kits and water cans, in partnership with UNICEF.
- 2,415 children received protection and psychosocial care through seven Child-Friendly Spaces. This support is especially critical for children who witnessed extreme violence before and during their escape from Myanmar.
- 6,720 pregnant and nursing mothers and their toddlers are using seven Women and Young Child Spaces (read more on page 3 about these spaces).

Currently, World Vision is leveraging your support to seek longer-term funding for this crisis through grant match opportunities.



2017 has been a tough time for us, but having my child back to his normal self seems to remind me that there is hope for this new year.”

—Sajeda

## A HEALTHY NEW YEAR

*Last year, Sajeda and her family fled violence in Myanmar and battled malnutrition in their own tent. But they have hope for a better year ahead, thanks to your support.*

2018 is off to a good start for Sajeda. More than four months after her family arrived in Bangladesh, she is finally able to breathe a sigh of relief. Harech, her 18-month-old son, is no longer severely malnourished.

“My baby is back to his old self—energetic, bubbly, and always asking for food,” she smiles.

Days after the family fled violence in Myanmar, Sajeda noticed that her baby had become unresponsive.

“He was not eating and his weight dropped significantly. In Myanmar, he used to laugh a lot but since we moved here, he became sickly. I thought I’d lose him,” she shares.

When World Vision started its Women and Young Child Spaces (WaYCS), Harech was one of the first children screened for malnutrition. A WaYCS is a dedicated space for pregnant women and nursing mothers to spend time with their children under 5, have their children screened for malnutrition, gain advice on how to boost their babies’ nutrition, and connect with other mothers.

“When they told me about his condition and the risks that come with it, I couldn’t sleep well,” she recalls.

Severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the most visible and extreme form of under-nutrition, is one of the world’s leading causes of death among children under 5.

Harech was immediately referred to the outpatient therapeutic program center where he could get proper treatment. Since then, the team has been following up on his status.

“The intervention doesn’t end with screening and referral. Follow-up is a crucial part of our program. Our facilitators are working nonstop to have all SAM-diagnosed children monitored as they get proper treatment,” explains Sahadat Hossain, a World Vision facilitator.

Twenty-five days after Harech was screened and started receiving treatment, he showed miraculous improvement.

Sajeda, and her husband Suna, learned that despite their challenging situation in Bangladesh, there is a lot they can do to keep their children healthy.

Sajeda continues to attend parenting sessions at the WaYCS, where she learns more about how to best care for herself and her children.

“I try my best to follow the facilitators’ advice. I drink a lot of water, I try to keep myself healthy, especially now that Harech is back to breastfeeding. I also keep our surroundings as clean as I can.”

“Harech is smiling and laughing again, and it makes me happy. 2017 has been a tough time for us, but having my child back to his normal self seems to remind me that there is hope for this new year.”

# HUNGER CRISIS ACROSS EAST AFRICA



In February 2017, World Vision declared a global response to the growing hunger crisis in East Africa—and our donors generously responded.

This complex crisis was driven by the region's most devastating drought in more than a decade, conflict in areas of South Sudan and Somalia, and political instability. It left more than 27 million people in need of life-saving assistance across Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.

In South Sudan, the situation resulted in an official famine declaration by the United Nations. This meant that at least 20 percent of households were facing extreme food shortages

and more than 30 percent of children were suffering from acute malnutrition.

In Uganda, more than 1 million refugees from South Sudan sought relief from hunger and violence. To date, 60 percent of these refugees are children.

Though this crisis remains dire, we thank God for the compassion of World Vision's donors, who allowed us to quickly scale up our efforts to reach families with life-saving food and critical support across the region.

## 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through the incredible support of our donors and partners, World Vision reached 4.3 million people with emergency aid across five countries from January through September 2017.

For every dollar raised, World Vision leveraged at least \$7 from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Food Program. Gifts from private donors in the U.S. supported the transportation of food and field staff costs, in addition to projects that help families regain their livelihoods. Because of gifts from donors worldwide:

- 1.6 million people received food assistance, in partnership with the World Food Program
- 858,000 people were reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene services
- 597,000 people gained health and nutrition support, including children suffering from malnutrition

- 797,000 people were reached with income-generation activities
- 88,000 children received education and protection through Child-Friendly Spaces and informal learning programs

In Uganda, 835,000 refugees living in five settlements received critical support, primarily in the form of emergency food supplies and child protection.

Due to the ongoing drought and hunger crisis in this region, World Vision aims to provide an additional 3 million people with life-saving assistance over the next six months.

# CONFLICT IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

*Through the support of World Vision donors and partners, more than 2 million people across the crisis in Syria and Iraq are receiving life-saving support each year.*

Since March 2011, conflict has devastated Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people have died, 5.1 million Syrians have fled the country as refugees, and 6.3 million Syrians are displaced within the country. Half of those affected are children.

Syrian children—the nation's hope for a better future—have lost loved ones, suffered injuries, missed years of schooling, and experienced unspeakable violence and brutality.

Throughout 2017, fierce battles raged across Syria and Iraq, and large swaths of territory were reclaimed from ISIL. In October, the city of Raqqa, ISIL's former stronghold in Syria, was retaken by a coalition of fighters supported by the United States.

However, the needs inside Syria have never been greater. Hundreds of thousands of people are returning to their homeland, where 95 percent of people lack adequate healthcare, 70 percent don't have regular access to clean water, and four-fifths of the population live in poverty.

World Vision's staff and partners are on the front lines of this crisis working in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq to bring aid and hope to children, families, and communities.

- **HEALTH:** Across the Kurdish region of Iraq and in relatively stable areas of Syria, World Vision is providing families with essential medical services through health clinics and mobile clinics.
- **WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE:** In the Bekaa

Valley of Lebanon, we are delivering water where the current systems are inefficient to serve the influx of people to the area. This support keeps people alive and healthy while longer-term water solutions are developed.

- **FOOD AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES:** Through the support of our donors and a partnership with the World Food Program, World Vision is reaching vulnerable families with food, warm bedding, heaters, cooking kits, and other essential supplies.
- **PROTECTION AND EDUCATION:** Across the region, we are providing psychosocial support and safe spaces for women and children. Boys and girls are receiving education to foster healthy development, and older youth are learning entrepreneurship skills.
- **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:** World Vision is launching livelihood projects in Iraq and Jordan to support the longer-term needs of families and begin the process of creating stability,

In addition, World Vision is equipping Christian churches to serve refugees and displaced families in their own communities. Last year, churches in Jordan and Syria reached families that were previously unreachable with food baskets, basic supplies, and child protection services.

None of this work would be possible without the support of our faithful donors. Thank you for your commitment to those whose lives have been torn apart by war.

## *Life-saving healthcare for children fleeing violence*

In February 2017, 4-year-old Moratab and her family fled Hawija, a city in northern Iraq, after hunger and death threats drove them to make the dangerous journey to escape. Shortly after they arrived in a camp, Moratab fell ill. In August, her situation dramatically declined when uncontrollable vomiting took over her body. Moratab's father learned about a World Vision health clinic, where his daughter finally received the treatment she needed. Children like Moratab, who have been displaced by conflict and now live in camps and host communities, are most at risk and in need of support.

With funding from the Office of U.S Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), World Vision set up seven mobile and static clinics in northern Iraq to provide life-saving healthcare to thousands of the most vulnerable children and their families.



# SEVERE FLOODING IN INDIA

Over the summer, a heavy monsoon season in South Asia left millions affected or displaced by severe flooding in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.

In India, at least 600 people lost their lives, and 226,000 were displaced from their submerged homes. Many others lost their crops, livestock, and everything they owned.

Floods disproportionately affect the poor, who generally live in low-lying areas. These families dwell in substandard housing, their children

are malnourished and more prone to disease, and they are without financial safeguards, such as savings or insurance.

During the flooding, families sought refuge on higher ground. In many cases, people huddled near roads that not only served as a place to sleep, but also as a makeshift toilet.

Budha Sada, 55, lost the house he and four other family members shared. During World Vision's rapid assessment of the situation, he said, "I can't think of rebuilding the house.

Right now, we don't have any food left. That is all I can think about."

Like Sada, most of the people in this region of India are day laborers in nearby farms or businesses. They earn just enough each day to pay for the basic essentials of life. The summer's flooding didn't just sweep away their homes and possessions, it robbed them of their opportunities to work.

In these communities, life came to a standstill and families worried that they would go hungry.

## Emergency food relief

*World Vision's food assistance programs—cash, voucher, and in-kind—stimulate food and livelihood security and aim to provide life-saving provision during desperate times. In India, people received vouchers before each distribution, which provided a safe, simple tracking mechanism that ensures the most vulnerable individuals are served. Beneficiaries included widows, single parents, elderly, and those with disabilities.*



# RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

World Vision launched a six-month response to help families recover from flood damage in five states across northeast India. In many districts, World Vision was the first and only private organization to provide relief. It was only through donor support that we were able to quickly respond to people's needs.

From July through December 2017, response teams reached 100,291 people across hundreds of villages with aid. The majority of these people belong to marginalized communities that are treated as outcasts by society.

- 8,360 people received relief kits that included rice, lentils, cooking oil, salt, cooking pots, spoons, bedding, feminine hygiene supplies, and a tarp.

- 100 families received materials to reconstruct their shelters, such as bamboo and tools. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity India, this project will reach an additional 1,800 households.
- 11,645 people received mosquito nets, and children who lost their education materials were provided with books and other supplies to help them return to school.
- An estimated 71,000 received food assistance to help sustain them for a few weeks while they recovered from the flood.

One father described the desperate situation his family was in after floodwaters covered his village.

They could not find or buy food anywhere, and went days without a meal or water.

He said, "The ration provided by World Vision has met our needs for at least a month. It is of great help and we are thankful to World Vision for the ration."

Looking ahead, World Vision aims to help families strengthen their livelihoods and diversify their income. We will also focus on helping families build more flood-resistant shelters and strengthen the education system by providing aid to schools that do not have adequate roof protection.

# CONFLICT IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

In mid-2016, DRC's previously peaceful Kasai region was rocked by militia attacks and counterattacks by armed groups.

Children were heavily recruited into armed groups, or they were attacked by villagers who accused them of being militia members.

Numerous children have fallen silent since conflict broke out, burdened by the atrocities that they experienced, or were forced to commit against others.

At the height of the crisis, 1.7 million people fled their homes to live as wanderers in their own country, or as refugees in Angola.

The situation began to stabilize in August 2017, and an estimated 710,000 have returned to their villages. But their situation remains dire, as most of them returned to find that nothing of their past lives remain. They now need to start over.

Although World Vision has worked in DRC for years, we scaled up our response in 2017 to address the increasing needs resulting from this crisis. Our initial interventions focused on food and child protection.

From August through December, we reached 187,000 people with emergency food assistance. Working with World Food Program, families received corn flour, beans, oil, and salt. In September, the teams distributed eight metric tons of high-energy biscuits to young children and pregnant mothers.

We are also working with a local organization to open six Child-Friendly Spaces, four of which were operational by December 2017. Together, these spaces will provide psychosocial care to 10,000 children who were displaced by conflict, recruited into armed groups, or otherwise affected by violence.

Through a multi-agency partnership, World Vision distributed backpacks and school supplies to 15,124 children, aiming to encourage them to register for school now that they are home.

In October, we began an education project with UNICEF to benefit 5,000 children in 15 schools. Students are receiving scholarships for their school fees and each school received a small fund to help in the rehabilitation of their facilities. In addition, teachers are being trained on positive conflict resolution, child protection measures, and psychosocial strategies for children.

Through the ongoing support of private donors and partnerships, World Vision is committed to empowering the people of Kasai over the coming year as they combat food shortages, threats against their children, and ongoing political tensions and conflict between communities.

## *Returning home from the bush*

One afternoon in May 2017, Mado gathered her children and ran past burning homes for the safety of the bush. One of the burning homes was hers.

"Hiding in the bush was terrible; it was a real struggle. We were sleeping on the ground with the children. And whenever it rained, we all got soaked through as there was nowhere to shelter. I tried to find cassava leaves to eat, and gave them to the children to get something in their stomachs. My children got sick and I didn't have any medicine to give them. The fact that they are still here is just by the grace of God. Many of

the other children who were in the bush with us died. You can't imagine what it was like out there."

"When we came back from the bush ... all of our possessions were destroyed, including the really valuable ones like my husband's bike, my sewing machine, and my diploma. It was like being stabbed in the heart, seeing all of that. I couldn't breathe," Mado said.

The Silent Disasters Fund is helping Mado and her family recover some of what they lost. Her children are attending a Child-Friendly Space, and the family now has regular, nutritious meals.



*Mado, her infant son Junior, and her husband, Medard, stand in what remains of their house.*



## CONFLICT IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

Through gifts to our Silent Disasters Fund, World Vision is helping women and children sustain life and hope in the dry and harsh region surrounding Lake Chad in western Africa.

Most of these families fled Boko Haram violence in Nigeria for the relative safety found in Chad and Niger.

Currently, 2,000 vulnerable children ages 2 to 18 attend Child-Friendly Spaces to participate in sports, crafts, songs, and informal learning. When all of our spaces are up and running, World Vision will be caring for 10,000 children in Niger and Chad.

Staff at the spaces provide children with psychosocial care, counseling,

hygiene training, and education on how to protect themselves.

Across the response, World Vision is focused on ensuring the well-being of children and building community resilience in the long term.

We are helping parents become self-reliant by training them in economic skills including income-generating activities and savings groups. Some families received goats or seeds to help them get started.

For those who settled in refugee camps, World Vision provided more than 61,000 people with access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities.

In addition, an estimated 5,000 people received relief supplies, including sleeping mats, mosquito nets, tarps, solar lamps, water cans, soap, kettles, and other hygiene items.

Thank you for supporting life-saving relief to forgotten communities around the world, including the Lake Chad Basin.



*In crises around the world, children are often the most affected. In the midst of devastation and loss, they must learn how to cope and survive with very few resources. But through your support of our emergency relief initiatives, World Vision is equipping children to thrive through education and other life-changing services.*



# HURRICANES IN THE U.S. AND CARIBBEAN

**191,980** PEOPLE provided with access to emergency relief in the United States from September through December 2017.

The 2017 hurricane season in the Caribbean and Atlantic region was one of historic proportions, bringing some of the strongest and wettest storms on record in hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

World Vision responded to all three disasters, sending truckloads of relief and rebuilding supplies to communities in Houston, Texas; Immokalee, Florida; and various sites in Puerto Rico to help some of the worst-affected storm survivors. Through donor support of our Silent Disasters Fund, World Vision also reached families in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where hurricanes Irma and Maria left thousands of people in need of support.

With the partnership of donors like you, churches in each of these areas were equipped to reach out to the vulnerable in their communities. They provided volunteers and staffing for assessment, identified people to receive supplies, warehoused the goods, and distributed them to families that needed them the most.

In Texas, where more than 60 church partners came together to help their neighbors, many families didn't have to go far to find help and greatly needed supplies. As stated by World Vision President Richard Stearns, "The church that rushes selflessly forth to soothe suffering wherever it happens is the real church. And it's the one that represents the real Jesus, the source of our hope and the One who taught us how to love."

## Reaching remote areas in Puerto Rico

Soon after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, World Vision and Calvary Church in Utuado teamed up to reach families in some of the most remote, hardest-hit areas. In the mountainous area of Consejo, we provided water, food, tarps, hygiene supplies, and other essentials to families who had been cut off from services by mudslides. "This is a relief for everybody," said one man named Agustin. "You guys are the first. The first meals, water, and tarps we got, we got from you guys."



*Thank you for supporting World Vision's Emergency Relief work around the world. You are making a difference in the lives of children, families, and communities close to home—and in fragile, forgotten places where people would struggle without any help at all, if not for generous donors like you.*



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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