



EMERGENCY  
RELIEF

PROGRESS REPORT » October 2017 through March 2018

*Prepared July 2018*

# EMERGENCY RELIEF

## GLOBAL SUMMARY

Your support equipped World Vision to save lives, reduce suffering, and restore dignity in some of the world's hardest places.

Last year was marked by a significant number of humanitarian crises across the planet. Tragically, most of these humanitarian disasters occurred in the poorest countries in the world.

Through the support of our donors, World Vision responded to 170 disasters in 2017, reaching nearly 14 million people with emergency aid.

We assisted families in Democratic Republic of Congo—an area experiencing conflict and protracted fragility, where thousands of children were forced into armed groups and more than 1.4 million were displaced from their homes.

In Bangladesh, where more than 800,000 refugees poured in

after an eruption of violence and persecution in Myanmar, we met families at refugee shelters and in flooded villages—offering food, water, emergency supplies, and a reason to hope.

In addition, World Vision continues to serve families displaced by conflict inside Syria and Iraq, and those living as refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

Whenever possible, World Vision leverages your gift to attain additional funding from other donors, including the U.S. government. This allows us to reach more people with life-saving support and services.

Thank you for helping us serve children and their families in their greatest hour of need.



As families arrived at a displacement camp in Democratic Republic of Congo, World Vision provided emergency food supplies, including hot meals and high-energy biscuits.

**2 MILLION PEOPLE** reached with emergency relief from October 2015 to September 2017 through private donors in the U.S., including 1.1 million in the first half of fiscal year 2018.

**103,287 HURRICANE SURVIVORS** in Puerto Rico were reached with aid after Hurricane Maria.

**849,501 PEOPLE** struggling to overcome drought and hunger in East Africa received life-saving food, water, healthcare, and livelihood support.

**3,476 PEOPLE** displaced by conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo were assisted in their efforts to heal and thrive through the Silent Disasters Fund.

## WORLD VISION'S APPROACH

World Vision aims to respond to the changing dynamics and circumstances that threaten the safety and dignity of children affected by conflict, protracted fragility, displacement, and natural disasters. Our ultimate motivation is derived from what we have experienced in Jesus Christ and the belief that all of humanity is created in the image of God, and as such, has inherent value and dignity. Our faith calls us to protect lives, restore dignity, and renew hope.

We are guided by principles of disaster management and conflict response, including:

We believe that action should be taken to prevent and alleviate the suffering of children, their families, and communities arising out of disasters, fragility, and conflict—and will strive to do so wherever crises occur.

We work in partnership with affected children, their families, and communities to help them build their capacities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and shocks.

Our holistic response provides emergency services and long-term solutions across multiple humanitarian sectors depending on the situation and needs of the community.

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

World Vision is a proven and dedicated partner in the global effort to end hunger. Food assistance saves lives through addressing the most dire and immediate forms of food insecurity, while enhancing livelihoods, improving health and education, and empowering communities to become self-reliant. In many of our responses this year, providing food and nutrition support is a key priority.



Bangladesh: Serving refugees from Myanmar



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola: Serving displaced and refugee families

# SEMIANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This report highlights a few of the humanitarian emergency responses supported by private donors in the United States from October 2017 through March 2018. These response activities were funded by World Vision offices across the globe, thus the numbers of people reached were supported by donors worldwide and government grants.

## REFUGEE CRISIS IN MYANMAR AND BANGLADESH

Children are always among the most vulnerable in any humanitarian emergency. This is especially true in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh—home to more than 900,000 people from Myanmar, 54 percent of whom are children.

The international community describes the Rohingya people as one of the world's most persecuted minorities. Their rights have been consistently violated for decades, leading to a mass exodus of people from Myanmar in August 2017.

Today, these families live in limbo between two worlds. They are denied citizenship and recognition

at home in Myanmar, and are not officially recognized as refugees in Bangladesh.

In the camps, children report living in constant fear of being assaulted or separated from their families. They are vulnerable to road accidents, getting lost, and harassment when collecting firewood or water. Kidnapping, trafficking, and sexual assault are all threats from just outside their tents.

Feelings of physical insecurity in their environment has resulted in negative coping strategies being adopted by parents to protect their children in the only ways they know how—keeping their children, especially

their daughters, in their tents as much as possible.

However, children also report feeling unsafe in their tents because there are no doors to lock, and many feel vulnerable to flooding and landslides.

They face health risks, too. Without adequate access to safe water and sanitation facilities, these refugee children are vulnerable to diseases such as diphtheria and severe, life-threatening diarrhea.

Many suffer from malnutrition; thousands are engaged in child labor. All are deprived of a formal education.



Flooding and landslides from monsoon rains displaced refugee families from their tents and caused spikes in illnesses this past spring.

Though the weather created more suffering for people already struggling to survive, your support of the Silent Disasters Fund allowed World Vision to assist thousands of families in their recovery efforts.

# SAVING LIVES AND REDUCING SUFFERING

Thanks to your support, World Vision aims to serve 250,000 people affected by the refugee crisis in Bangladesh by the end of 2018.

Thus far, your gift allowed us to establish operations in the area, gain strong working relationships with the government and other local partners, and begin serving thousands of families with emergency support.

We are primarily focused on providing refugee families with food, water and sanitation, nutrition and protection services for women and young children, and shelter. Below are just a few of the recent highlights:

- As spring rains hit, World Vision supported nearly 10,000 refugee families (approximately 49,200 people) in weather-proofing their shelters. We distributed shelter upgrade kits consisting of 60 bamboo poles, ropes, and tarps. Skilled construction workers trained groups of 10 families each in methods for repairing their shelters using the new materials. Workers also renovated the tents of households headed by

single women. Female-headed households comprise an estimated 16 percent of all families in the camp.

- Seventeen wells were installed and are now providing at least 10,000 people with clean water. In addition, 232 latrines and 262 bathing spaces were constructed.
- Twelve Child-Friendly Spaces are now serving an average of 2,000 children each week. At these spaces and other learning centers, children report feeling safe and happy.

There is a clear link between increased access to education and child protection. Quality education in times of crises helps prevent all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence, and brings girls and boys closer to realizing their equal rights. Education for displaced children in crises makes a life-long difference.

- Ten Women, Adolescent, and Young Child Spaces (WAYCS) are serving 36,000 women and their

young children. While children are screened for malnutrition, women attend educational sessions on nutrition and hygiene, receive counseling and consultation on nursing, and participate in cooking demonstrations.

One mother said, "I feel uncomfortable to breastfeed my child in front of so many people. But here we have got a very private place to breastfeed our children ..."

- World Vision provided 6,000 families with baby kits (towel, blanket, baby oil, soap, washable diapers, nursing cover, zinc cream), 15,000 women with dignity kits (clothing and flashlight), and 6,000 nursing or pregnant mothers with post-natal supplies.

As we move forward, World Vision is leveraging additional support for this crisis response to seek longer-term grant funding.



From Left: Children attending a Child-Friendly Space, an infant being screened for malnutrition, and mother and daughter relaxing in the safety of a Women, Adolescent, and Young Child Space.



“This place is our home, where at least I can dream about living and surviving with my daughter.”

—Hasina, pictured with her daughter, Jannatul

## A PLACE TO CALL HOME

When monsoon rains hit the region, Hasina and Jannatul faced losing their shelter to floodwaters. Through World Vision’s ability to respond quickly, their home was saved and their security was restored.

“It happened last September. They arrived at night and started shooting. They set fire to our homes and burned our community to the ground. People were running everywhere.”

Hasina’s husband, two-year-old son, and baby were all killed in the violence that erupted in Myanmar last year. That night, she hid with her 4-year-old daughter, Jannatul, by a riverbank. At dawn, they began the long walk to Bangladesh with others from the village.

“We walked for a week in the rain, and for three days we didn’t eat. Jannatul was about to die when another family shared some rice with us. We saw so many people dying or dead on the roadside.”

After they crossed the river into Bangladesh, Hasina and Jannatul collapsed from relief and exhaustion on the road. After a few days, they cleared trees from a space on top of a hill and set up a tent for themselves.

Now, nine months later, Hasina works whenever possible in a nearby food stall, grinding spices all day long—onion, ginger, chili, turmeric, garlic, and mustard seeds.

With her income, she is able to buy firewood and a few vegetables. However, like most refugees, she is unable to afford meat.

“I try to buy firewood. This is my biggest difficulty. I do not have

anyone who can collect firewood for me from forests. It is too dangerous to send Jannatul there. She could be assaulted or bitten by snakes. I buy firewood from others who collect and sell it, but I have very little money.”

Each morning, she takes Jannatul to World Vision’s Child-Friendly Space.

“She loves playing there. There are no real schools operating in the camp. They are not allowed. I just want a stable place for Jannatul to be. Sometimes I am afraid to let her out of my sight. She is my only hope for the future.”

“We would happily go back home [to Myanmar] if we could be sure there would be peace. It’s like the world has fallen in on my head. I feel helpless. I pass the days with my grief.”

In March, the rainy season began, causing severe flooding across the camp. “I covered the roof with cloth to try and keep the rain out. During one storm, I was afraid it was going to fly off.”

Thankfully, Hasina and Jannatul received help with their shelter. World Vision provided them with the supplies and labor needed to strengthen the structure.

“It’s so much better now. I had no means to repair it on my own. It would have been wrecked by the winds. This place is our home, where at least I can dream about living and surviving with my daughter.”

## HUNGER CRISIS ACROSS EAST AFRICA

Throughout much of East Africa, children face fierce challenges to their ability to thrive—and for too many—simply to survive. Today, they are experiencing the effects of a rare combination of circumstances that continues to afflict the region: drought, flooding, and civil unrest.

These disasters—some natural, some man made—have created a vicious cycle that is putting the future of millions at risk, and at least half of them are children.

Despite these challenges, the faithful support of World Vision donors and partners is making a

significant difference for families in East Africa. We are on the ground, actively focused on saving lives and reducing suffering, and building resilience in the region through lasting solutions whenever possible.

With the help of our donors, in May 2018 alone, World Vision brought nutrition services to more than 180,000 children under 5 and pregnant or nursing women. Nearly 44,000 children received assistance for education, and more than 36,000 children benefited from activities to protect them from abuse and exploitation.

We also provided clean water, healthcare, and emergency supplies to vulnerable families across the region.

In addition, we are mobilizing faith and community leaders to facilitate peace-building in families and between communities, and act upon injustices against children.

Looking ahead, World Vision is deepening our commitment to children across East Africa. To save a generation of children, we need to go deeper and broaden our response to more sharply focus on activities that target precious lives.

## CONFLICT IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

Last year, World Vision supported almost 2.3 million people—1.3 million children—across the crises in Syria and Iraq. Through education, child protection including Child-Friendly Spaces, food and cash assistance, clean water and sanitation services, medical care, and winter supplies, we reached hundreds of thousands of people every month.

Since the war in Syria began seven years ago, World Vision has supported refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, as well as people displaced from their homes within Syria. Most recently, we began assisting families that are returning to their homes in Iraq and attempting to rebuild their lives.

To address the longer-term needs of refugees and displaced people, World Vision launched economic empowerment initiatives in Iraq and Lebanon over the past year. Due to the protracted nature of this conflict, sustainable solutions are needed to help communities begin to thrive.



Seventeen-year-old Saihan lives in a remote camp in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. She recently participated in World Vision's livelihoods program and completed a permaculture design course. With World Vision's support, the students are starting their own nursery business using a plot of land near the camp.

# CONFLICT IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Previously peaceful but desperately poor, the Kasai region of DRC erupted in violence in late 2016, causing millions of people to scatter.

An estimated 1.9 million people were newly displaced in 2017, bringing the DRC total to 4.3 million. That's the largest number of internally displaced people in Africa and second in the world after Syria.

But this crisis is first and foremost a child protection crisis, one of the worst in the world.

According to UNICEF, seven million children in the Kasai region have been exposed to many forms

of violence, including killings, mutilations, massive use by militias (forced recruitment), arbitrary arrest and detention, kidnapping, and sexual violence. They have watched their homes burn, and far too many lost family members. Many children were orphaned or abandoned.

In 2017, at least 3,270 grave violations against children in the DRC were documented. While the actual number is likely much higher, this figure already represents a 245 percent increase in just two years.

In addition, more than 400 schools were damaged, at least half of which were destroyed, leaving 150,000

children out of school.

Fleeing families missed multiple growing seasons, leaving millions of people without adequate food supplies. More than 2 million children suffer from acute malnutrition.

Clearly, this is a crisis that requires the world to take notice, to stand up for the rights of children. But sadly, most people do not want to hear about the DRC.

That is why partners like you are essential to World Vision's deepening commitment to serve children living in the world's hardest places.

Despite the challenges they face, children in the DRC hope for something better—and courageously pursue a better future. They still talk with hope and express dreams of a better life.

We must do all we can to show them they are not wrong.



## THE VOICES OF CHILDREN

"I was sleeping when the battle started in March. We heard the armed men going into the houses and killing people. My brother and I ran. When we arrived at our grandmother's house, months had passed. She told us that our papa, maman, and our brothers and sisters had all been killed."

—Pauline, 15

"I worry the most about my friends still in the woods. There are so many children still fighting, what will become of them?"

—Nicole, 16

"People wash their clothes and dishes at the stream. It is dirty, and it makes me sick, but we don't have other places to get water in my village."

—Ngalula, 12

"I started attending this [Child-Friendly Space] in December last year. My mother escorts me every morning. I don't feel safe at home when my parents are away. I am always afraid. I fear that the war will come again. I feel safer here. The teacher stays with us. Some children [child soldiers] were doing bad things

during the war. I was scared when I heard about them. But my teacher says we should love them. My teacher stays that we must love one another."

—Kanyeba, 10



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE DRC

Through the support of donors like you, World Vision was one of the first humanitarian organizations to begin reaching people in the Kasai region with urgently-needed support.

## Food and Nutrition

With the threat of severe food shortages and famine looming, World Vision and World Food Program reached nearly 389,000 people with food supplies. This included distributions to vulnerable families, school meal programs to encourage school attendance, and cash assistance.

With just \$19 to \$50, a family in DRC is able to pay for a month's supply of food, and even pay for medical care and school fees for their children. Regardless of what their most urgent needs are, cash assistance allows parents or caregivers to choose what is the top priority for their family.

In April 2018, we began working in 20 health centers to treat and prevent malnutrition. We trained 200 community health workers, treated nearly 7,000 children under 5 years of age for malnutrition, and provided nutritional supplements to an additional 12,415 children to prevent malnutrition.

## Child Protection

More than 7,000 children affected by conflict have received counseling, care, and protection through six Child-Friendly Spaces. Additional spaces are planned for this year, which will reach 10,000 additional children.

## Education

Education and life skills can provide alternatives to child labor, child marriage, and recruitment into armed groups—and provide the necessary tools for children to protect themselves from other harms, such as trafficking.

Over the past six months, 134 teachers and school staff were trained in methods to keep children safe and help them heal. We rehabilitated 81 classrooms, provided school supplies, organized school meals, and supported extracurricular activities for children.

In addition, World Vision provided 1,800 children who had dropped out of school with catch-up classes, and equipped 1,750 students with scholarships to cover their fees.

World Vision is also empowering children to become peacebuilders in their families and communities.

Through classes and clubs, children foster their abilities to have mutual respect and tolerance, and learn ways to contribute to a more peaceful and just community.

## Clean Water

Most recently, World Vision began providing families with clean water. Thus far, we drilled two wells that will serve people living in displacement camps, and provided communities with buckets, water cans, and soap. In addition, we installed water tanks at schools and distributed hygiene supplies.

## Livelihoods

Looking ahead, World Vision will soon begin empowering 1,700 people to restore their own income-generating abilities through vegetable gardening. We will provide tools, materials, and training.

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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