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One year on

Global Hunger Response

May 2023

Foreword

Leading the Global Hunger Response these last nine months has been both profoundly challenging and rewarding – hunger continues to ravish so many girls and boys unjustly but World Vision is responding and adapting every day. It started in 2022, with a visit to Isiolo county in my home country of Kenya followed by a trip to Baidoa in Southwest Somalia's Bay region to see the conditions firsthand. I continue to be moved by the stories shared by our Response staff from around the world. They describe how conflict, climate change, the indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the soaring costs of food, fuel, and fertiliser are forcing millions of children to go without food every single day. They relay concerns about the development and well-being of children in their communities as they see parents forced into making difficult decisions, like marrying off their children or sending them out into the streets to earn money so they can survive.

Between nightmares of children dying of malnutrition, I lie awake thinking about how the long-term impacts of hunger will affect children's futures, robbing them of their God-given potential. However, I find some comfort in knowing that our Global Hunger Response is having a real impact. Thanks to the efforts of World Vision staff and our partners, **more than 21.3 million people – 11 million of whom are children – in 28 countries facing the most severe levels of hunger, have received life-saving assistance** due to our interventions. Hundreds of thousands of children who once were suffering from severe or moderate acute malnutrition are now recovering. Families that were relying on wild fruits to survive now have access to nutritious food. Communities experiencing droughts are more stable as they work to regreen their lands so families don't have to uproot their children's lives in search of pastures and water. School meal programmes are helping students return to and

stay in school. Families are more resilient to climate-driven shocks and parents have new skills to help them earn money during lean seasons.

It is because of these efforts that I am convinced there is hope for a better future for the millions of children who don't know where or when their next meal will come.

This Response would not have been possible without our supporters, donors, and partners. To date, **we have raised nearly 80% (US\$1.57 billion) of our US\$2 billion appeal goal**, but we know that needs continue to grow exponentially, far outpacing the funding available. We must apply the lessons we have learnt along this journey and lead the way as we reimagine our humanitarian response as one that can be fully integrated to not only provide urgent life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable but also one that enables us to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition and help build people's resilience.

We must remain focussed on the tens of millions of children whose lives and futures are at stake, but who persist, despite countless challenges, always hoping for a better day. **Let us pray that the God of all hope will fill them with joy and peace as they trust in him (Romans 15:13).** Be encouraged and inspired by their perseverance as we work alongside our colleagues and partners to ensure that all children are empowered to change the world around them and have the opportunity to experience life in all its fullness.



Mary Njeri
Global Hunger Response, Director
World Vision International



Introduction

A year on since World Vision declared a Category III global emergency to respond to the mounting hunger crisis, we take this opportunity to reflect on the worsening crisis alongside our achievements and areas for improvement. We listen to girls, boys, women, men, and other vulnerable people speak about the impact of the crisis on their lives and how they are adapting, surviving, and even thriving in these tough circumstances.

We are encouraged to note **the significant impact by Global Hunger Response interventions in the lives of those most affected, reaching 21.3 million people – 73% of our 30 million target – in 28 countries** around the world. There have also been lessons learnt in addressing our objectives, especially in improving the resilience of the most vulnerable people. Yet, the main challenge to achieving the Response objectives is the growing gap between the escalating humanitarian need, which is fast outpacing the available/almost static funding. As an understandable result, life-saving activities, such as food and cash distributions, have been prioritised, while interventions, such as resilience building and diversifying livelihoods, are less likely to be funded.

Prioritising life-saving activities at the expense of addressing root causes is not unique to World Vision. United Nations (UN) agencies, peer non-governmental organisations

(NGOs), and partners are all struggling to keep pace with the growing number of people needing immediate life-saving interventions over addressing the drivers of these crises, creating a vicious cycle. This gap is pushing vulnerable populations into increasing vulnerability, forcing families and communities to make difficult and dangerous choices that have far-reaching consequences to children's well-being, now and in the future. These include engaging in begging, child labour, dropping out of school, sexual exploitation, and child marriage as coping mechanisms for risking hunger.

While the Global Hunger Response continues, **we need new means to work across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus and scale up advocacy efforts to find sustainable solutions.** The findings from the Response's recent real-time learning exercise – detailed on page 20 – reveals the need for better integration between relief and development interventions to urgently provide humanitarian assistance while also addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity. What we are facing today is nothing less than the mass exclusion of the most vulnerable – we need to apply every tool we have and more.



The Global Hunger Response is World Vision's largest humanitarian response appeal to date, with a goal to raise US\$2 billion to reduce acute food insecurity and improve the resilience of 30 million of the most vulnerable people in countries experiencing growing hunger and the threat of famine.



Global Hunger Response

World Vision's
US\$2 billion
response reached
people across 28 countries

Key concerns

The number of people affected by acute food insecurity has nearly doubled over the past three years, from 135 million people across 55 countries and territories in 2019¹ to a record 258 million in 58 countries in 2022² – even more than last year's mid-year projection that, without urgent action, 222 million across 53 countries and territories could face 'crisis' (IPC 3)³ conditions or worse.⁴ Yet, it is the significant number of girls, boys, women, and men who are living in 'emergency' (IPC 4) and 'catastrophic' (IPC 5) hunger situations which is most alarming. By the end of 2022, 376,400 people across seven countries had experienced famine-like conditions (IPC 5) at some point during the year, despite the full employment of coping strategies, according to the most recent Global Report on Food Crises.⁵ More than half (214,100) of the people enduring this life-threatening situation were in Somalia, but 87,000 people in South Sudan, 31,000 in Yemen, 20,300 in Afghanistan, 19,200 in Haiti, 3,000 in Nigeria, and 1,800 in Burkina Faso also lived in these extreme conditions.⁶

Resilience in affected areas has been stretched to its limits. Economic shocks brought on or exacerbated by the uneven COVID-19 pandemic recovery and the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine increasingly pushed vulnerable people into acute food insecurity, with conflict, insecurity, and weather/climate shocks also continuing to act as the main drivers of the deepening crisis we see unfolding today.⁷

People reached

21.3 million*

including 11.7 million children

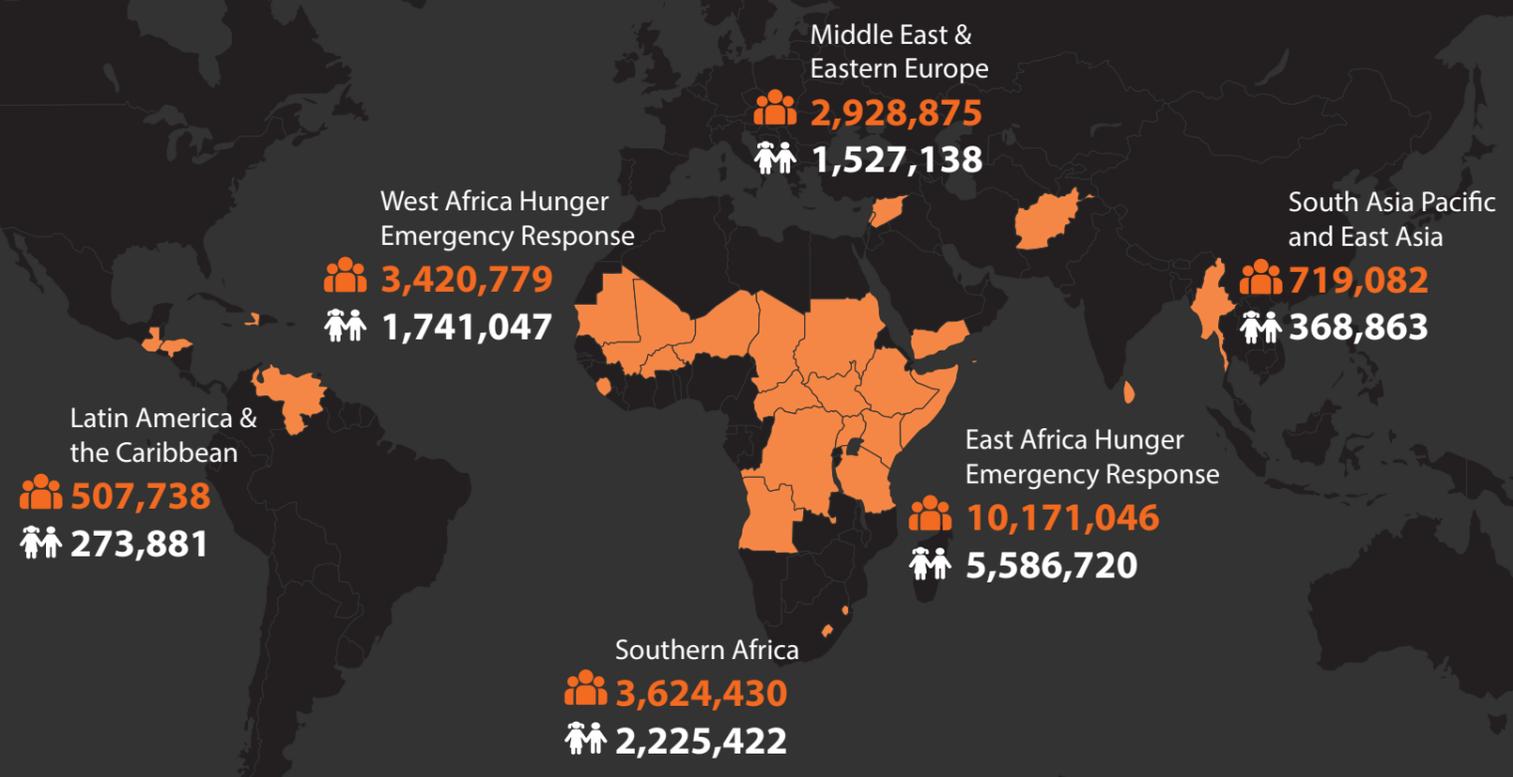


Photo: © World Vision/Jon Warren

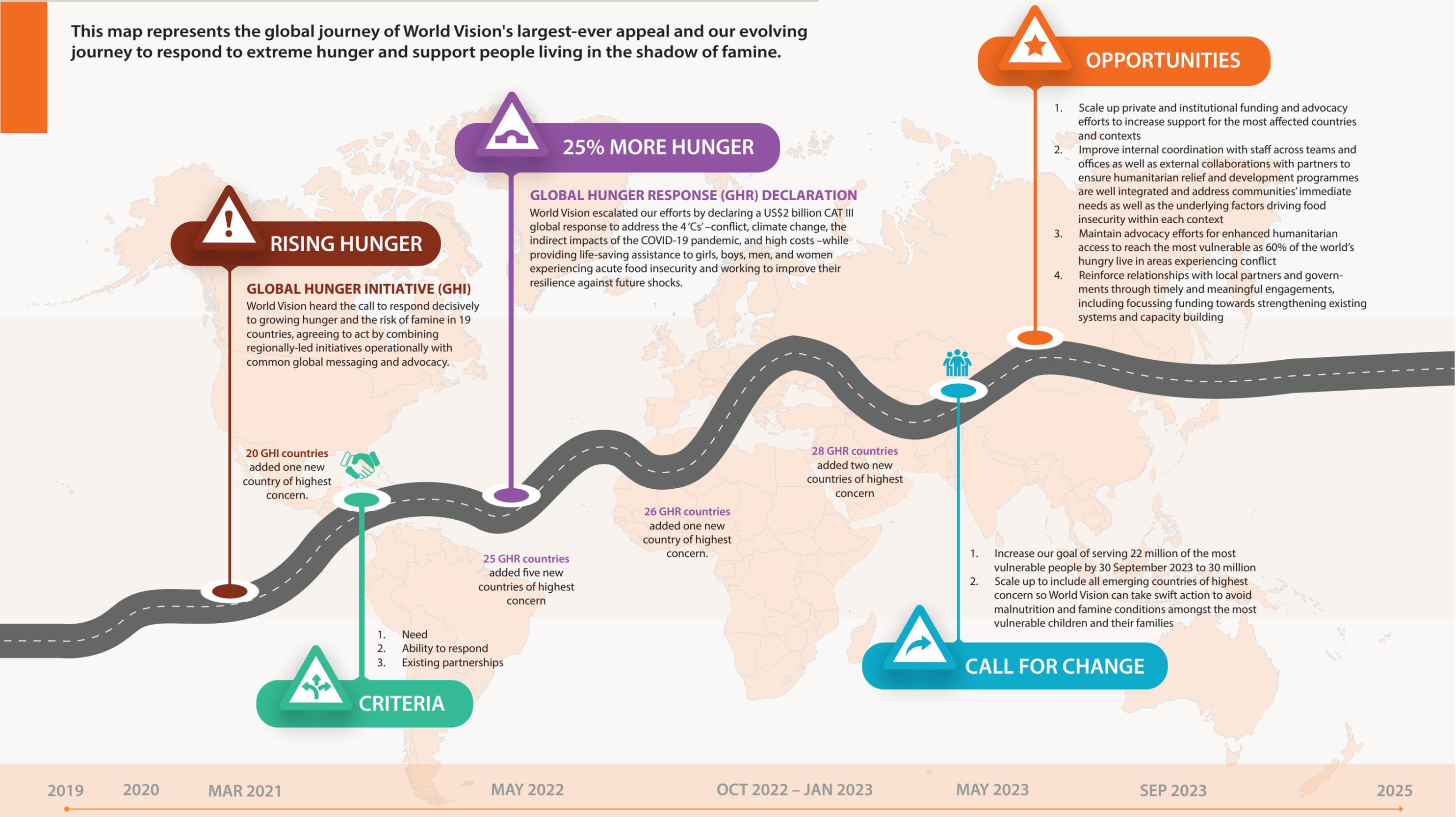
People reached
 Children reached

Countries of highest concern

*All figures related to the Global Hunger Response are cumulative (i.e. people reached includes people supported in the Response's countries of highest alert from 01 March 2021 through 31 March 2023).

The GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE journey

This map represents the global journey of World Vision's largest-ever appeal and our evolving journey to respond to extreme hunger and support people living in the shadow of famine.



RISING HUNGER

GLOBAL HUNGER INITIATIVE (GHI)
World Vision heard the call to respond decisively to growing hunger and the risk of famine in 19 countries, agreeing to act by combining regionally-led initiatives operationally with common global messaging and advocacy.

20 GHI countries added one new country of highest concern.

CRITERIA

1. Need
2. Ability to respond
3. Existing partnerships

25% MORE HUNGER

GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE (GHR) DECLARATION
World Vision escalated our efforts by declaring a US\$2 billion CAT III global response to address the 4 'Cs' – conflict, climate change, the indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and high costs – while providing life-saving assistance to girls, boys, men, and women experiencing acute food insecurity and working to improve their resilience against future shocks.

25 GHR countries added five new countries of highest concern

26 GHR countries added one new country of highest concern.

28 GHR countries added two new countries of highest concern

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Scale up private and institutional funding and advocacy efforts to increase support for the most affected countries and contexts
2. Improve internal coordination with staff across teams and offices as well as external collaborations with partners to ensure humanitarian relief and development programmes are well integrated and address communities' immediate needs as well as the underlying factors driving food insecurity within each context
3. Maintain advocacy efforts for enhanced humanitarian access to reach the most vulnerable as 60% of the world's hungry live in areas experiencing conflict
4. Reinforce relationships with local partners and governments through timely and meaningful engagements, including focussing funding towards strengthening existing systems and capacity building

CALL FOR CHANGE

1. Increase our goal of serving 22 million of the most vulnerable people by 30 September 2023 to 30 million
2. Scale up to include all emerging countries of highest concern so World Vision can take swift action to avoid malnutrition and famine conditions amongst the most vulnerable children and their families

2019 2020 MAR 2021 MAY 2022 OCT 2022 – JAN 2023 MAY 2023 SEP 2023 2025

IPC5: 84,500 in 3 countries	IPC4: 34 million in 36 countries IPC5: 132,900 in 3 countries	IPC4: 34 million IPC5: 155,000	IPC4: 49 million in 46 countries IPC5: 750,000 in 5 countries	IPC4: 45 million in 37 countries IPC5: 970,000 in 5 countries	IPC4: 35 million in 29 countries IPC5: 376,400 in 7 countries
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Our impact



Objective 1: Improve access to food for affected households



6,278,585 people reached with cash and voucher assistance



US\$238,670,386 cash and voucher assistance distributed



935,824 children receiving hot meals and/or dry rations through school feeding



8,993,720 people reached with (in-kind) food assistance

KEY FOR CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Faith



Gender



Climate Change



Partnering



Accountability



CHILDREN RECEIVING REGULAR NUTRITIOUS MEALS THROUGH SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES IN SUDAN

Acute malnutrition is a persistent problem in Sudan with 3 million children⁸ under age 5 suffering annually. World Vision and the World Food Programme (WFP) are working together to change that. A school meal programme in 266 schools across eastern and southern Darfur is providing over 140,000 children with nutritious meals. The school feeding programme not only increased enrolment but also led to improved performance of the school. The school enrolled 1,353 students in 2022 compared to 803 students in 2021 and 694 students in 2020. As attendance improved, so too did secondary school graduation rates from 78.9% in 2020 to 92.8% in 2022.



Photo: © World Vision/Gamal Ghalab



Photo: © World Vision/Edward Renner, Sia Jones



CASH TRANSFERS ENABLE RESILIENCY IN SIERRA LEONE

"With this money, my children will have enough to eat in the coming days. I am so excited." – Cash transfer recipient, Sierra Leone

By providing vulnerable households with cash transfers, families are empowered to prioritise their own needs and purchase food, medical supplies, and other essentials, helping alleviate the devastating effects of the hunger crisis. Cash transfers have also enabled some recipients to start small businesses, send their children to school, and purchase livestock to improve their long-term food security.



Photo: © World Vision/George Mghames



FOOD PARCELS FILLING THE GAP IN LEBANON

"I need five bags of bread every day, [but] it's expensive. Sometimes we can't afford it. Last week we didn't have bread... [and] the children were without bread and food. Everything is expensive; we are not able to buy meat or chicken. This support we are receiving, thankfully, is helping us go through this period." – Zeinab, 45, Lebanon

Due to compounded crises in Lebanon, including economic, financial, COVID-19, and the 2020 Beirut explosion, Lebanese families and refugees are overwhelmed with their survival threatened daily. In November 2022, World Vision partnered with WFP Lebanon to distribute in-kind food parcels to 22,795 families monthly that include essential items, such as rice, oil, and lentils, which can last a family of five for a month.



FOOD RATIONS COVER FAMILIES' BASIC NEEDS IN HONDURAS

A recipient of monthly in-kind food assistance carries his family's allotted rations – a 55 kilogramme (kg) / 120 pound bag of food. World Vision and WFP delivered rations to 21,750 families (108,750 people) in Honduras' northern municipalities in December 2022.



Photo: © World Vision/Andre Guardiola





Objective 2: Increase access to curative and preventive quality emergency health and nutrition services



1,187,680 people reached through primary health-care support



527,551 children reached through management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)



39,672 children recovered from SAM



170,591 primary caregivers benefited from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion and action oriented sessions and counselling



STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERING RESPONSE IN YEMEN

Combined with hunger, economic, and climate change crises, eight years of conflict have forced 21.6 million people to rely on humanitarian assistance for survival.⁹ To help combat the worsening situation, in a context where health-care infrastructure and access to essential services have been severely affected by the ongoing conflict and 3.5 million people already suffer from acute malnutrition, World Vision is strengthening primary health-care services through local partners and the Ministry of Health.¹⁰ By leveraging existing resources and expertise, World Vision ensures critical health-care resources and services, including treatment for malnutrition and maternal and child health services, are available in vulnerable communities and local health-care providers have the capacity to deliver these essential services.



Photo: © World Vision/Karam Kamal



PREVENTING AND TREATING MALNUTRITION IN BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, more than 1.7 million people are internally displaced and humanitarian access remains a major challenge, particularly in conflict-affected areas where insecurity is a constant threat.

“Where there is an access challenge, that is where there is a humanitarian challenge.” – Jonas Zoumboudre, World Vision field programme security and access officer, Burkina Faso

“The deterioration of the security situation with the arrival of armed groups forced us to flee our villages. [Now], for the last two years, we no longer have enough to eat.” – Zeynabou, internally displaced Burkinabé

World Vision focusses on the prevention and treatment of malnutrition amongst vulnerable communities. This includes reaching those in need via partnerships with local organisations and leveraging their expertise to deliver critical food assistance and nutrition services.



Photo: © World Vision/Noëlie Sawadogo



HOPE FOR HAMDI IN SOMALIA

In July 2022, Hamdi, a 7-month-old baby girl, arrived in Baidoa, Somalia severely malnourished weighing only 4 kgs. She was admitted to a government-run stabilisation centre supported by NGOs, like World Vision, where she could receive specialised treatment reserved for the most critical life-threatening cases due to limited resources and overwhelming need. Once her condition improved, she was able to be admitted to a World Vision-supported malnutrition clinic for follow-up care to ensure she does not relapse, and her health continues to improve. Hamdi’s family was also registered to receive unconditional monthly cash transfers from World Vision to guarantee they could immediately access food and other necessities. This combined approach proved successful – at Hamdi’s one-month check-up, her health was remarkably improved, and she had already gained 1.2 kgs.



Photo: © World Vision/Gwayi Patrick



BABY-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IMPROVE CHILD NUTRITION IN KENYA

In Kenya, World Vision aims to optimise children’s development by empowering caregivers with the knowledge and skills they need to provide adequate care and nutrition. By working closely with local administrators, chiefs, and faith leaders as we carry out these engagements, we can ensure that the initiatives are sustainable, accountable to the communities they serve, and encourage ease of access to nearby health facilities, resources, and support to improve child nutrition and well-being in the long-term. In 2022 alone, World Vision supported 3,415 community health workers to form caregiver support groups and conduct monthly meetings. Through these, World Vision trained 5,068 community health volunteers and caregivers on protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding, optimal complementary feeding, and maternal nutrition.



Photo: © World Vision/Martin Muluka



Objective 3: Improve access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services to mitigate waterborne diseases



1,933,880 people with access to clean, potable water



668,132 people that have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities with appropriate supplies



including **2,473** faith leaders engaged in hygiene promotion activities



WHEN CHILDHOOD IS STOLEN BY DROUGHT IN SOMALIA

“The drought affected us a lot. Earlier we could eat many times [a day], but when the drought happened, we only ate lunch and slept hungry at night. [That’s why] getting water is so important for us. Water is our life.” – Faduma, age 10, Somaliland

The longest and most severe drought in recent history continues to unfold in the Horn of Africa. Five failed rainy seasons have stretched livelihoods to a breaking point, driven up hunger, severely reduced access to safe water, and displaced more than 2.2 million people.¹¹ Faduma’s parents were forced to leave her with her grandmother, abandoning their home, daughter, and livestock in search of work and humanitarian aid as climate change threatens their way of life.

Trucking in clean water is just one of the first ways World Vision is responding to the many pressing needs in Somaliland and ensuring families like Faduma’s can survive. The next step is to work alongside communities to find long-term solutions to help them recover and build a more resilient future to withstand future shocks.



Photo: © World Vision/Peter Caton



NO MORE SCHOOL INTERRUPTIONS TO FIND WATER IN CHAD

Poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure has long been a major barrier to children’s education and well-being in Chad. To address this, World Vision is investing in school infrastructure, and clean WASH facilities so children can attend school without interruption, improving their well-being as well as their educational outcomes.

“The presence of drinking water in the school has increased school attendance and reduced water-related diseases in our community. [Thanks to the human-powered pump,] many parents come to register their children in our school.” – Bekoutou, Korkoin Community School director, Logone Occidental, Chad



Photo: © World Vision Chad

These investments have not only improved access to clean water and sanitation but also contributed to a reduction in waterborne illnesses and improved school attendance rates. Before a pump was installed at the school, Patricia had to run 800 metres (approximately half a mile) home to get a drink of water during the school day.

“The drinking water that World Vision has given us is not only used to quench our thirst, but also allows us to attend classes and give our best to the school.” – Patricia, age 15, Chad



CLEAN WATER BENEFITS HEALTH, NUTRITION, SECURITY, AND EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA

“It was really my day-to-day headache to think of fetching water and going to school.” – Siti, age 13, Ethiopia

Siti, a young girl in Ethiopia, used to have to travel three hours to and from the closest water point to collect water for her family, which sometimes made her miss school. Thanks to World Vision Ethiopia, she no longer must plan for long travel days or worry about missing classes. Now that she can easily access clean water from a new water point nearby her door, she is totally focussed on her studies. Siti is amongst the 88,845 people who have gained access to clean water from World Vision interventions in Ethiopia as of April 2023.



Photo: © World Vision/ Workineh Muleta



PROMOTING GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES IN YEMEN

Women and children are bearing the brunt of Yemen’s crisis with a quarter (26%) of displaced households headed by women.¹² Through our partnership with Medair, World Vision supports internally displaced persons (IDPs) with WASH and health and nutrition services in areas where access to basic services has been limited due to ongoing conflicts. Through this collaboration, World Vision has supported the training of community mobilisers to educate their peers on good hygiene practices and promote behaviour change.



Photo: © World Vision/Karam Kamal

“Since the WASH behaviour change communication [BCC] team arrived in our camp, I participated with them and learned how to store drinking water, so it stays clean, how to wash my hands, and how to keep my environment clean. My friends and I enjoy going around the camp to find areas that need to be cleaned, to keep our home nice. The community hygiene volunteers call me the Junior BCC Officer because every day I give them reports on the places that we cleaned and if we need their support. Now, they sometimes come and watch how I teach others in the camp. My dream is to go to school so I can one day become a teacher like one of the BCC Officers.” – Anood, age 10, Al Auterra IDP camp, Yemen

By leveraging existing community networks, World Vision has been able to scale up hygiene promotion. Through connections with local health centres, schools, and community groups, World Vision is ensuring sustained access to clean water and sanitation facilities and promoting good hygiene practices to improve the health and well-being of 18,239 children and their families.





Objective 4: Ensure protection for children, women, and vulnerable groups, including psychosocial support and provision of dignity kits for reproductive age girls and women



259,306 people receiving prevention messages on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and/or positive coping strategies



including **10,701** faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention messages on PSEA and/or positive coping mechanisms



146,643 people receiving psychosocial support



PREVENTING EARLY MARRIAGE IS MORE THAN A DREAM IN MALI

Early marriage has immeasurable consequences on children’s development, severely limiting their health, wellness, and opportunities in life. Girls who are married early often leave school, depriving them of education and limiting their opportunities, for themselves and their families.

Nani, a 15-year-old grade 6 student in Mali, dreams of becoming a doctor. However, one day after school, her parents informed her that they had accepted a man’s marriage proposal on her behalf. Upset, she told them she was not interested in getting married and did not want to stop studying after 9th grade, as her husband expected. Fortunately, thanks to an ongoing World Vision Canada-funded project started in 2020, Dedicated to Reduce Early Marriage (DREAM), Nani’s school principal and teachers had been trained to understand the consequences of child marriage and intervened, convincing her parents to postpone the arranged marriage so she could continue her studies. Ensuring girls like Nani can remain in school helps to work towards building the overall well-being and resilience of communities and leads to positive nutrition and food security outcomes.

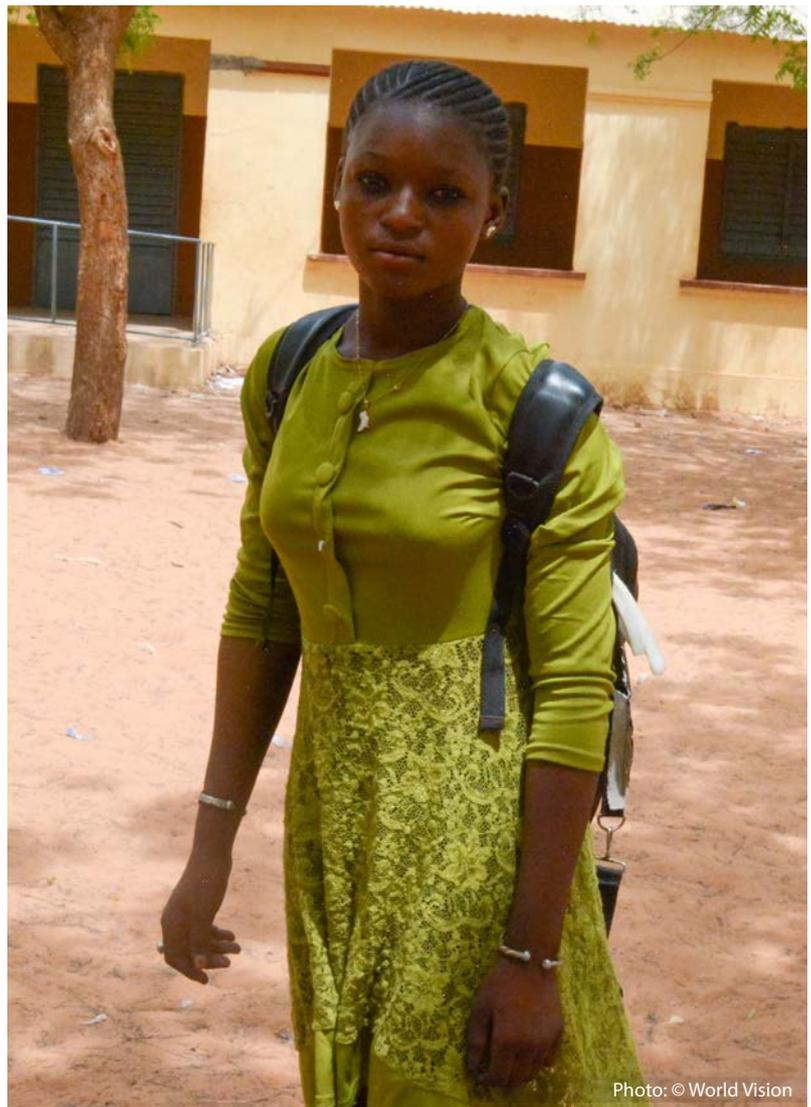


Photo: © World Vision



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN VENEZUELA

"I believe in them [the children and adolescents]. I believe they are good soil. Where anything we sow will grow. They will grow and bear fruits according to what we plant in them." – Angi Montesinos, pastor, *El Sembrador* church, Venezuela

World Vision is collaborating with over 1,680 churches in Venezuela, as part of their *Esperanza sin Fronteras* initiative, to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable children and adolescents as part of a network of churches and faith-based organisations for social action, working together for humanitarian response, advocacy, and child protection. This collaboration aims to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition by providing children a safe and nurturing environment where they can be themselves and talk about issues they are facing. One of the partner churches, *El Sembrador*, has trained volunteers and members on child protection so they are able to identify abuse and provide children with necessary psychosocial first aid to deal with emotional issues. This also enables the faith leaders to identify which children and young people are particularly vulnerable so they can promptly provide them with targeted support based on their needs.



Photo: © World Vision/Erica Bohorquez



WHEN HOUSEHOLD DIALOGUE REDUCES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE DRC

"I led an unhappy life and was the sole decision maker; the sale of the agricultural produce was done only by myself followed by abusive use of the money, immorality, drunkenness, and exaggerated public quarrels. This situation affected my wife and the children. My children missed school due to lack of school fees and other school requirements. I hit [my wife], even in the presence of my children." – Burafiki, father of eight, Tchofi, DRC

One of 1,728 people trained as part of a United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) food security project conducted by World Vision in eastern DRC, Burafiki received training on gender-based violence and other related issues. Recognising that his attitude was the root of his family's issues, he has become a changed man, encouraging his wife to participate in household decisions, collaborating with her on financial planning, and treating her with respect.

Since then, Burafiki has been elected as a community leader where he hosts bi-monthly meetings with other men in his village to discuss harmful gender norms and practises and gender-based violence, advise, and support each other. His family's economic situation has also improved and he is determined to continue working to improve his children's nutritional status.

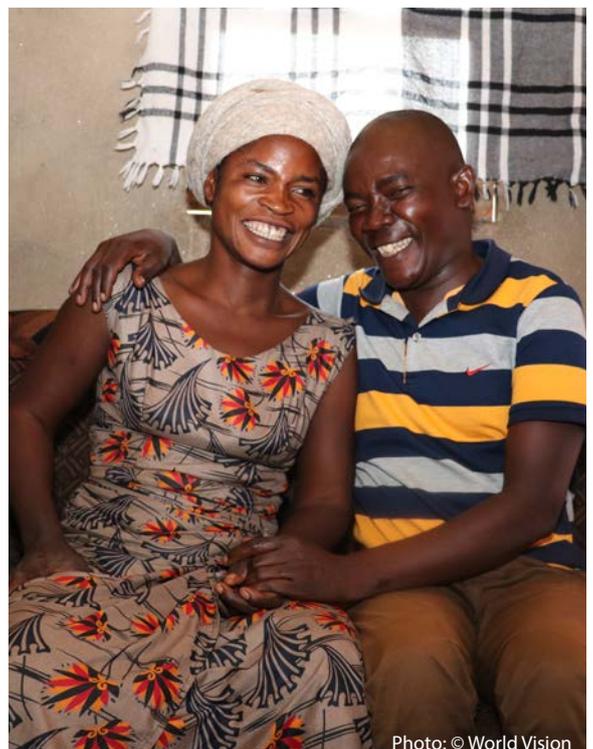


Photo: © World Vision





Objective 5: Enhance household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods-related shocks



7,778 households provided with conditional cash or vouchers to procure agricultural physical assets



53,964 households provided with livelihood physical agricultural assets



20,199 households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/stresses



51% proportion of households with alternative and diversified sources of income



12,634 people trained in climate change resilient farming practices



TRAINING IMPROVES FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE IN MYANMAR

Myanmar has experienced social, economic, and civil upheaval since early 2021, leaving many families, including Htet's, at risk of hunger. Several years ago Htet's family was selected to participate in World Vision's ultra-poor graduation programme. They received six months of food rations, which helped build their resilience by allowing them to use the money they would have spent on food to invest in growing their family's business. They also had the opportunity to participate in caregiver education on topics like child nutrition, protection, and health; life skills counselling; personal finance and savings guidance; and vocational trainings on home gardening, healthy meal preparation, livestock breeding, and systematic vegetable planting.

Now, his family has planted mushrooms and is raising chickens and cows for food and sale thanks to the knowledge they have gained via training, and have a reliable income source and are able to save money through their local savings for transformation (S4T) group. Since graduating from the programme in 2021, they are now participating in World Vision's building secured livelihoods programme to help them further enhance their income sources and strengthen their financial and social resilience.

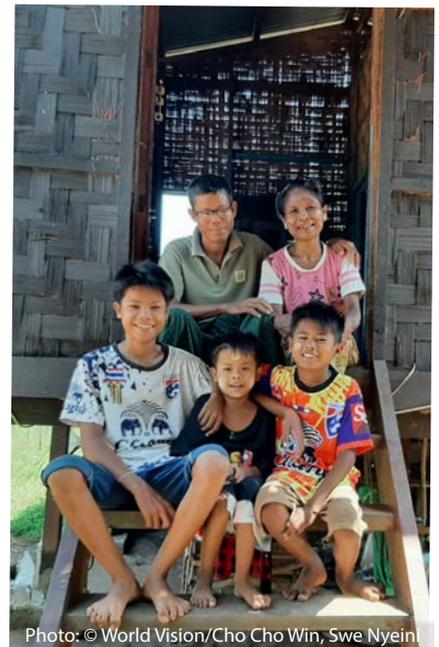


Photo: © World Vision/Cho Cho Win, Swe Nyein

"It was difficult for our family to eat three meals a day. [Now,] my parents are able to generate a reliable source of income from home gardening and raising livestock. We have now regular family dinner time. Also, my parents can focus on our education and health needs." – Htet, age 13, Mawlamyine, Myanmar





Photo: © World Vision/Brian Mungu Jakisa



REFUGEE FAMILIES ADOPT BLOCK FARMING TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY IN UGANDA

Before the global hunger crisis struck, every household in BidiBidi Refugee Settlement received monthly rations of 4.2 kgs of beans and 12 kgs of maize per person. However, quotas have been drastically reduced, forcing families to find ways to stay afloat.

Based on this new reality where crisis drivers, like climate change, the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, indirect impacts of conflicts around the world, and rising food costs, World Vision Uganda, WFP, and the Ugandan Prime Minister's office came together to improve refugees' food security.

"I vividly recall when my children spent days without food. The teary eyes, weary faces and fading voices rendered me hopeless and restless. I could not bear the sight. I always wished to grow my food and take charge of how and when my family eats. [Now, however,] this piece of land is exactly doing that. I am confident my family can't go hungry." – Joyce, age 31, mother of five, BidiBidi Refugee Settlement, Uganda

The project has also helped to enhance the livelihoods of not just the refugees but also the host community by providing agricultural training, seeds, and farming tools, preparing them both for future shocks. With refugee families working closely with the host community to produce more food, block farming could be the missing piece to secure bright futures for many vulnerable families in fragile contexts.



Photo: © World Vision/Nelswa Simelane, Sanele Lushaba



FOOD-FOR-ASSET PROGRAMME SPURS COMMUNITY INTO ACTION IN ESWATINI

In Eswatini, World Vision is encouraging communities to participate in community-driven development initiatives through food-for-asset programmes to help nurture household resilience. In 2022, this approach reached 47,070 people.

"We started our dam project with 36 members; but, ever since World Vision saw our efforts of trying to complete the project, they introduced food-for-asset to us; I kid you not when I say we now have a total of 174 community members involved in the dam construction project. This is not a payment or some sort of wage. This is basically World Vision empowering us to keep doing the great work. This dam will allow our livestock and other domestic animals to have a drinking source, and, on top of that, we can also venture into other new economic activities, like gardening." – Themba, Sinyamantulwa, Eswatini



Photo: © World Vision/Noelie Sawadogo



WEAVING A WAY TO FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE IN BURKINA FASO

Habib, one of 17 women trained over a six-week period on loincloth weaving and entrepreneurship in Burkina Faso, used her new skills to start her own business. This course, implemented as part of an integrated food assistance and livelihoods project funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) for vulnerable populations affected by violence in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, has empowered 270 community members – 70% of whom were female – to choose a trade to learn, such as weaving, poultry farming, saponification, wire mesh manufacturing, solar energy, and market gardening.



Advocacy highlights

Collaborating and advocating to ensure the most vulnerable are protected

Since the launch of World Vision's Global Hunger Response in May 2022, World Vision has actively engaged in advocacy at all levels to raise the alarm about the immediate and long-term impacts of this growing crisis on children, families, and communities, and utilise our experience and expertise to inform immediate calls to action for key stakeholders. Highlights include:

- World Vision has participated in a number of initiatives to raise visibility around the dire situation in the **Horn of Africa** and provide concrete calls to action for stakeholders and donors to issue an urgent response. In March 2023, World Vision's Regional Emergency and Humanitarian Affairs Director for East Africa, Joseph Kamara, spoke at the 2023 European Humanitarian Forum event, 'Starved from life: Protecting children from the effects of the hunger crisis'. Additional initiatives include a private NGO briefing for Member States in Geneva in October 2022 and the release of joint statements and letters to donor governments to rapidly fund a scaled-up response (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

DECEMBER 19, 2022 • DEVELOPMENT, DISASTERS

We Dare Not Look Away from the Urgent Situation in Somalia

More than 7 million Somalis need life-saving aid to prevent another famine.

GWAYI PATRICK



Images: World Vision
Dahabo (center) with others at camp for displaced people

recently served a six-month deployment in emergency communications for World Vision in Somalia, and nothing could have prepared me for the real-life emergency unfolding before my eyes.

- In **Somalia**, World Vision continues to advocate publicly through the media for urgent actions to scale up the response (read more [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).
 - In March 2023, **the Somali government**, in cooperation with World Vision, convened a high-level event 'Reaching the unreached: A call to increase international support for the growing humanitarian needs in Somalia,' to raise the alarm

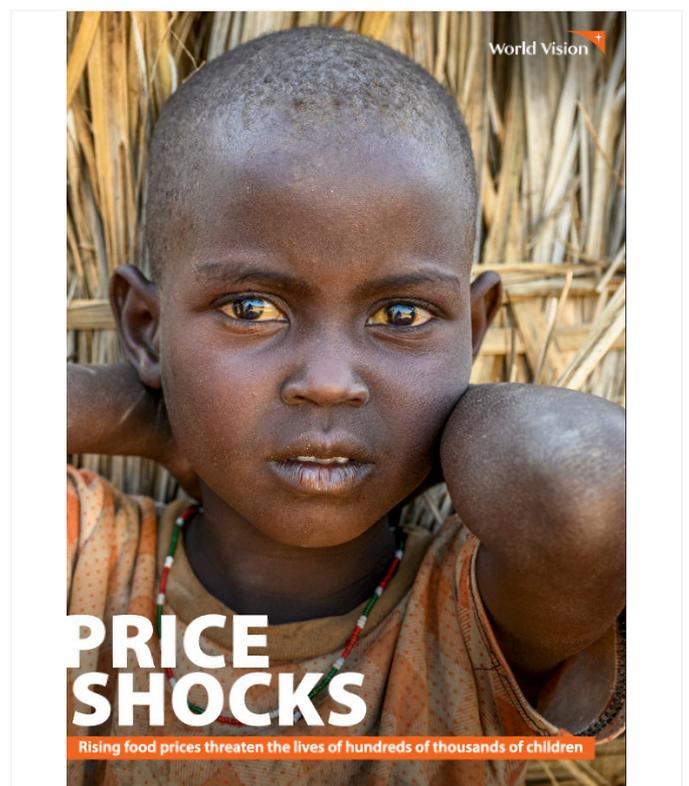
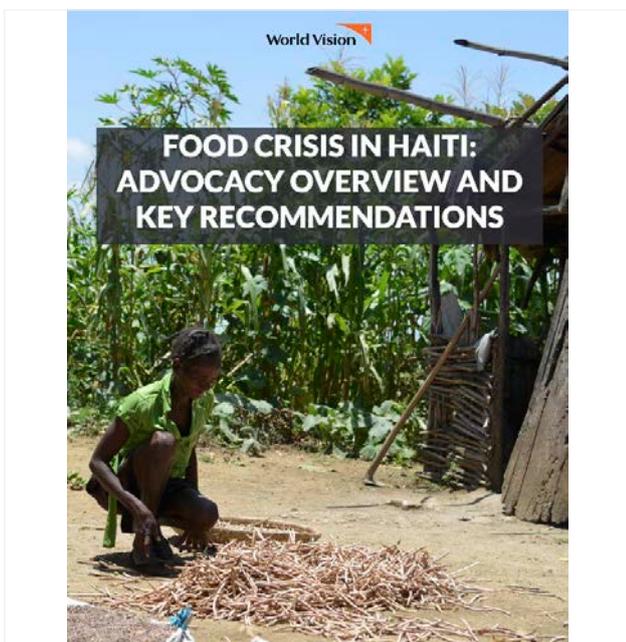
on the worsening situation and the critical actions needed by the international community to support a broader, multi-sectoral response.

- World Vision United States' (US) Vice President of Humanitarian Affairs, Mark Smith, visited **Somalia** with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Emergency Directors Group's (EDG) July 2022 mission as the NGO representative to assess the current context, challenges, and opportunities for a response scale up. In the intervening months he spoke about their findings at Member State NGO briefings in New York and Geneva.
- In March 2023, World Vision, the International Rescue Committee, and Action Against Hunger [joined forces to successfully advocate for reforms to the UN's High-Level Task Force on Famine Prevention](#). The platform will have an expanded membership inclusive of NGO representation, links to development assistance decision makers, and focus on IPC4/5 situations.
- On behalf of IASC, Mark Smith represented World Vision during the [EDG's Haiti mission](#) in March 2023, helping to assess the context and make recommendations for possible scale up of the international response, including a follow-up NGO briefing on the trip.
- World Vision co-hosted a private high-level roundtable 'A crisis within a crisis: The silent nutrition crisis at the heart of the global food crisis' in February 2023 alongside the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union (EU) and Generation Nutrition to highlight the urgent need to keep nutrition at the centre of the **EU's food crisis response**, take stock of the European Commission's Nutrition for Growth 2021 commitments, and reflect on opportunities to further strengthen the EU's leadership, policies, and actions on food and nutrition security.
- World Vision, peer NGOs, and UN agencies successfully advocated to extend authorisation for cross-border operations in **Syria** twice – in July 2022 and January 2023. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2762, which allows for life-saving aid to continue to reach over 4 million people, primarily women and children, with cross-border deliveries for an additional six months. More than 80% of these deliveries are food assistance crucial to mitigating the deepening hunger crisis in Northwest Syria.
- In January 2023, **World Vision and peer NGOs** issued letters to both [USAID's administrator, Samantha Power](#), and the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth,

and Development Office's Director General for Humanitarian Affairs and Development, Nick Dyer, with key recommendations around urgent actions to support the scale-up of treatment for child wasting.

- In December 2022, World Vision collectively advocated alongside other stakeholders to lift sanctions affecting NGOs' ability to deliver food and nutrition programming within contexts where the UN had listed terrorist parties as present, including **23 emergencies and humanitarian crises** where World Vision is currently responding. This resulted in a 'game changing' policy win whereby the UN Security Council adopted [a resolution exempting all humanitarian aid from UN sanctions](#).
- As a **Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies member**, World Vision contributed to a December 2022 [statement](#) calling out the threat that the ongoing global food and nutrition crisis poses to the learning and development of millions of children. This was shared with the Permanent Missions of Member States to the UN in Geneva and the IASC Secretariat, amongst others.
- In 2022, **World Vision US** led a coalition of NGOs in drafting, advancing through Congress, and [successfully passing two resolutions](#) (S.Res. 669 and H.Res. 922) condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and the denial of humanitarian access. These decrees outline the ways in which conflict drives hunger and encourage US engagement through diplomatic action as well as support for emergency and development food security programming.
- World Vision published an [advocacy brief](#) on food insecurity in **Haiti** and produced and disseminated an [awareness-raising video](#) on food insecurity, nutrition, and children's rights together with local partner, Partnership for Local Development, in November 2022.

- During the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) 73rd executive committee meeting, **World Vision's Global Hunger Response** director, Mary Njeri, was a panellist at the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) side event on 14 October 2022, 'What's stopping us? Acting on the "lessons learned" from system-wide shocks' calling for system reforms and equitable financing in response to forced displacement; scaled-up support to address the food and protection crisis; and the reversal of inequitable and discriminatory approaches to the international protection of refugees. World Vision demonstrated how recent trends in global food insecurity are negatively affecting forcibly displaced populations and called for: 1) urgency in responding to the hunger crisis to avoid preventable deaths and 2) for humanitarian actors to embrace anticipatory action and early warning that result in the early action absolutely crucial to avoiding catastrophic impacts.
- Every October, World Vision marks **World Food Day** with events and global awareness raising; 2022 efforts included:
 - a Global Hunger Response flagship report, [Price shocks: Rising food prices threaten the lives of thousands of children](#) – a year-on-year study detailing how rising food prices are affecting the immediate and long-term health and well-being of children and their families **around the world**, including recommended calls to action for key stakeholders to help address these impacts.
 - a national media briefing and panel, co-hosted by World Vision, on **Uganda's** hunger situation featuring the minister of the agriculture, animal



industry and fisheries ministry (MAAIF), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP country representatives, the Food Rights Alliance’s executive director, and a World Vision technical expert.

- influencing and supporting Ugandan members of parliament (MPs) to assemble a panel and press conference focussed on food security which resulted in a commitment by the MAAIF to work with other ministries to amend **Uganda’s** Food and Nutrition Bill in parliament and by MPs to ensure the amended bill is tabled and passed, including any policies contributing to food and nutrition security.
- For the **UN General Assembly** (UNGA) held in September 2022, World Vision:
 - helped pen an [open letter to UN Member States](#) on the global food crisis – as part of a joint initiative between the Advocacy Compact on Famine Prevention and Mitigation, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 Advocacy Hub, and ONE Campaign – calling on world leaders to take urgent action to save lives as they gathered for the UNGA. The open letter was co-signed by 238 civil society and NGOs from 75 countries. A [joint press release](#) led by World Vision generated coverage in at least six languages across **14 countries and six continents**.
 - presented at the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)-hosted high-level roundtable, '[The road to the UNGA: Preventing famine and fighting food insecurity](#)', sharing reflections from recent discussions

with children and families in **Afghanistan** as well as key findings from our report [Afghanistan: A children’s crisis](#) on the humanitarian crisis’ impacts on children’s food security, education, nutritional status, and their families’ livelihoods.



- President and CEO, Andrew Morley, and the CEOs of Save the Children, Plan International, SOS Children’s Villages, and ChildFund Alliance convened a breakfast briefing for ambassadors and other senior government officials to discuss the global hunger crisis and its impact on children and child rights.



Humanitarian organisations estimate one person dying of hunger every four seconds

As world leaders gather for the United Nations General Assembly, 238 civil society organisations demand urgent action to save lives now.

[NEW YORK, 20 SEPTEMBER] — With one person estimated to be dying of hunger every four seconds, 238 local and international non-governmental organisations are calling on leaders gathering at the 77th UN General Assembly to take decisive action to end the spiralling global hunger crisis.

Organisations from 75 countries have signed an [open letter](#) expressing outrage at skyrocketing hunger levels and recommendations for action. A staggering 345 million people are now experiencing acute hunger, a number that has more than doubled since 2019.

Despite promises from world leaders to never allow famine again in the 21st century, famine is once more imminent in Somalia. Around the world, 50 million people are on the brink of starvation in 45 countries.

Mohanna Ahmed Ali Eljabaly from the Yemen Family Care Association, one of the letter’s signatories, said:

“It is abysmal that with all the technology in agriculture and harvesting techniques today we are still talking about famine in the 21st century. This is not about one country or one continent and hunger never only has one cause. This is about the injustice of the whole of humanity. It is extremely difficult to see people suffering while others sharing the same planet have plenty of food. We must not wait a moment longer to focus both on providing immediate lifesaving food and longer-term support so people can take charge of their futures and provide for themselves and their families.”

Sumaya, a 32-year-old mother who lives with her four children in a displacement camp in the Somali region of Ethiopia, is one of the millions facing catastrophic levels of hunger.

“No water, no food, a hopeless life,” she said. “Above all, my children are starving. They are on the verge of death. Unless they get some food, I’m afraid they will die.”

The global hunger crisis has been fuelled by a deadly mix of poverty, social injustice, gender inequality, conflict, climate change, and economic shocks, with the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine further driving up food prices and the cost of living.

Those with the power and money to change this must come together to better respond to current crises and prevent and prepare for future ones.

ENDS

- In June 2022, World Vision, alongside WFP, FAO, UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), International Federation of the Red Cross, Concern Worldwide and Action Against Hunger, co-organised a side event at the UN’s Economic and Social Council Humanitarian Affairs Segment (ECOSOC HAS), ‘Fighting food insecurity and famine: A call for coordinated action and multi-sectoral solutions against global hunger’, which built on hunger-related events at the UN in New York in May 2022 and aimed to continue the conversation around improved response and stepped up urgent actions. The national director of World Vision **Mali**, Patrick Daniere, represented World Vision as an event speaker.
- In Spring 2022, World Vision carried out an advocacy campaign to influence the International Group of Seven (**G7 Famine Compact**) ahead of the G7 leaders’ summit, where an additional US\$4.5 billion pledge was made to tackle the hunger crisis.

- Ahead of the **African Union's High-Level Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference** in May 2022, World Vision contributed to a joint [policy brief](#) focussed on the ongoing food crisis across sub-Saharan Africa published by Joining Forces—an alliance of the six largest child-focussed agencies.
- For the **Protection of Civilians Week in New York** in May 2022:
 - World Vision convened a virtual session, 'Addressing the impact of conflict on hunger' alongside the governments of Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the US, together with WFP, FAO, GNAFC, Action Against Hunger, CARE, Concern Worldwide, Save the Children, and Global Rights Compliance. The session aimed to bring attention to the growing impacts of conflict on food systems and food security and the disproportionate impact on women, children, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups.
- In the days prior to this event, the US Mission to the UN, in its role as Security Council President, held two events on global food security and conflict-induced hunger: a ministerial-level meeting and a Security Council open debate. Ahead of these high-level events, World Vision worked with partners to draft a [joint NGO statement](#) that was endorsed by 40 NGOs and NGO networks.



Listening to learn

Why World Vision maintains a culture of collaborative learning by listening to staff and partners' perspectives

By Luphathe Nyathi, Technical Advisor Programme Quality, Programme Learning and Effectiveness

When situations are desperate and food access is the number one thing standing between a child and death, why do we need to spend time conducting real-time learning (RTL) evaluations?

In a nutshell, regular systematic review of our responses for successes and challenges from a variety of perspectives helps enable World Vision to continuously improve, standardise practises, and improve effectiveness and efficiency. The questions we raise are essential to ensure we: 1) continue responding in a way that meets the evolving needs of children and their communities and 2) improve future responses.

Why must we burden those individuals delivering the urgent, life-saving activities directly to the communities though?

Without these voices, we would not be able to hear the most valuable perspectives and insights on our interventions and activities. It is the people on the frontlines, our staff and external partners, who are directly supporting the most vulnerable girls, boys, women, and men to combat the impacts of the hunger crisis who can offer the most relevant feedback and suggestions for improvement based on their lived experiences.

We listened to

the views of

367 staff 

119 partners 

across nine countries

We heard: We're doing 'good', but there's always room for improvement

Survey results were reviewed by participating offices (i.e. Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Myanmar, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, and Venezuela) and they collectively voted their Response ratings along a four-point scale ranging from 'very good' to 'poor'.

Analysis of this qualitative and quantitative data helped us identify successes – such as our ability to improve access to food for affected families – as well as areas for improvement, particularly around addressing the drivers of the hunger crisis and building resilience to deal with its long-term impacts on children and future generations.

Five overarching themes emerged from the RTL process

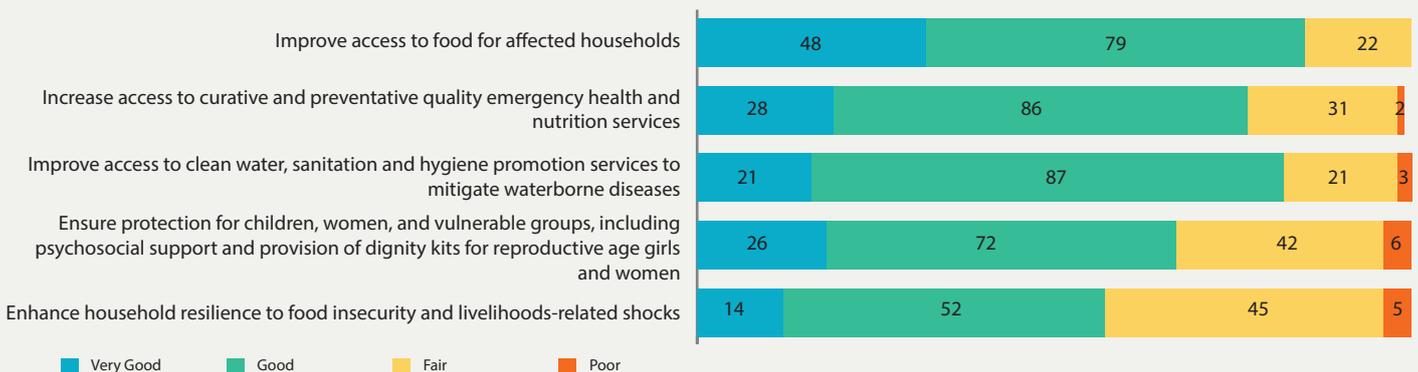
1. Coordination and influence

World Vision staff reported that they think the Response has a healthy relationship with governments, NGOs, clusters, and other external partners but that this could be improved in future responses by engaging partners from the earliest stages of a response and regularly communicating throughout for reflection and forward planning.

a. Room for improvement:

- i. engage partners early and often to assess progress, discuss challenges, and brainstorm solutions and necessary programmatic adaptations
- ii. invest in key national and local stakeholders through ongoing capacity building

Performance rating by objectives



2. Organisational efficiency

RTL results indicate that World Vision declared our Global Hunger Response in a timely manner – engaging necessary staff, building capacity, fundraising, and supporting advocacy; activated support from key internal teams; and adopted enabling technology. Because of this well-timed internal call to action, the Global Hunger Response was able to immediately launch a variety of interventions to mitigate the hunger crisis for the most vulnerable.

a. Room for improvement:

- i. adapt emergency procedures at the outset to tackle unexpected supply chain delays
- ii. improve offices' early warning systems and needs assessments, along with communication and advocacy capacity, to communicate with government and international donors early with timely and reliable information

3. Relevance

The needs continue to far outpace the resources available, including funding for emergency programmes, systems strengthening, and capacity building. However, the overall findings of the RTL exercise demonstrate that the Response's interventions are fully aligned to the communities' needs and priorities.

a. Room for improvement:

- i. due to the scale of the needs on the ground and funding constraints, increase efforts to expand assistance so it can reach all of the most vulnerable community members
- ii. shift to focus not only on the impacts of shocks but also on the root causes of the food crisis

4. Effectiveness

Most of the surveyed staff and partners indicated that the Response has achieved the expected deliverables well across the objectives and was effective in addressing the immediate needs of the communities across targeted sectors.

a. Room for improvement:

- i. increase fundraising (e.g. for emergency programmes, systems strengthening, and capacity building) to stem the escalating needs which already far outpace available resources
- ii. improve integration of resilience interventions into ongoing projects and new proposals, given the limited budgets

- iii. hope for the best but prepare for the worst – consider what will happen if the situation worsens in already hard-to-reach, insecure locations and/or contexts with access limitations, hindering access to operations
- iv. maintain a robust accountability mechanism for affected populations to enable communities to effectively participate in Response activities and empower them to raise concerns

5. Connectedness and integration

The integration of programming responding to the immediate needs of the communities with long-term needs was welcomed and seen to bolster households' resilience to recurring hunger crises.

a. Room for improvement:

- i. prioritise the integration of immediate and long-term resilience programming approaches and asset creation
- ii. integrate the Empowered World View project model alongside other interventions and encourage faith leaders' participation
- iii. develop early warning systems, along with communication and advocacy, to support resilience programming
- iv. strengthen messaging to prepare communities for future shocks
- v. build capacity in livelihoods programming approaches that strengthen resilience
- vi. encourage farmers to implement agroforestry systems and drought-resistant crops to sustain production

What's next?

We must work together to:

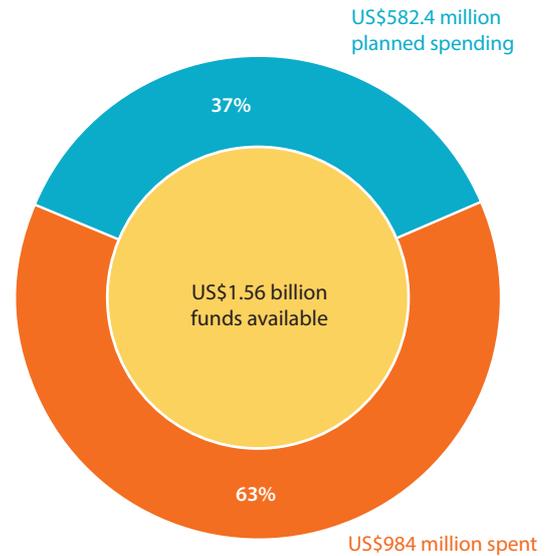
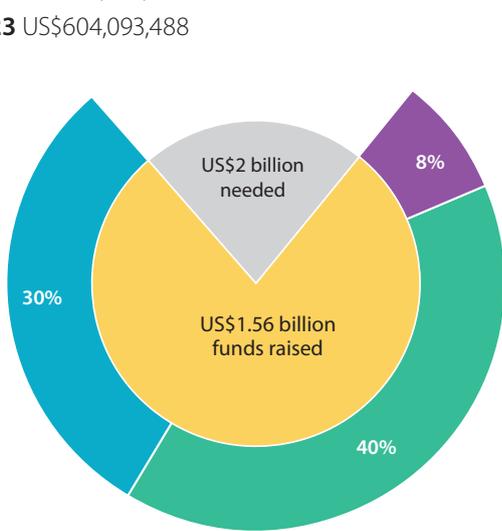
- advocate with donors for work across the nexus
- enhance humanitarian access to reach the most vulnerable
- develop more climate change interventions
- channel funding to system strengthening and capacity building
- act upon enhanced early warning systems and preparedness
- strengthen engagement with local partners and governments
- increase fundraising for the hunger crisis through advocacy and communications

Funding overview

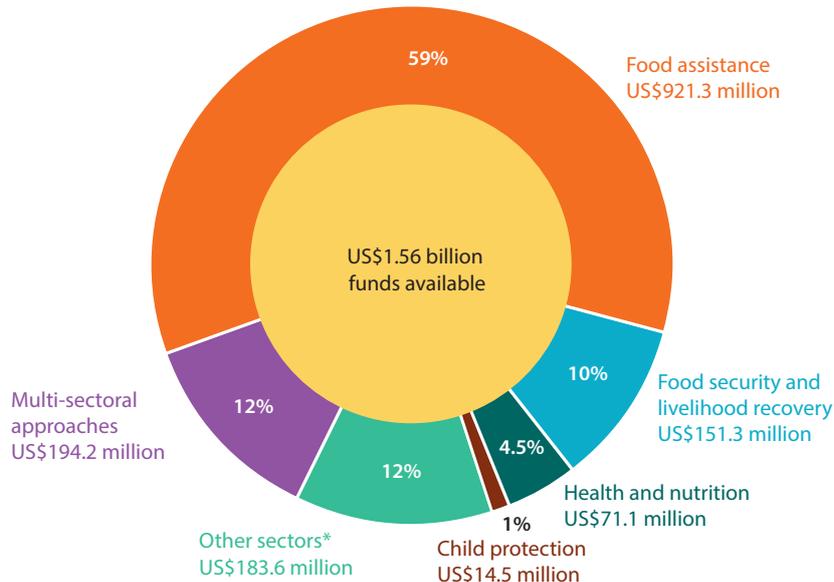
One year on, World Vision is well on the way to meeting our target to raise the US\$2 billion needed to reach the most vulnerable children and families affected by acute hunger. World Vision has spent nearly two-thirds (63%) of the funds raised so far. Remaining funds and new funding will go towards providing immediate, life-saving food aid and supporting programming to build resilience and combat the indirect impacts of hunger. World Vision was also able to scale up its overall funding by 30% across the targeted countries to respond to the sharp increase in needs.

World Vision scaled up its funding by 30% to respond to the sharp increase in needs

- 2021 US\$164,371,510
- 2022 US\$798,049,916
- 2023 US\$604,093,488



Funding by strategic objective



* Other sectors, such as education, life skills, and unspecified emergency response activities

Resources

To read our thought leadership pieces on hunger and related topics, click [here](#).
For an overview of our response, approach, and impact, visit our [website](#).

Policy briefs

[Nourish the body, nourish the bond: Integrating early care and nutrition in emergencies](#)

[Food crisis in Haiti: Advocacy overview and key recommendations](#)

[Progress report on World Vision's commitments made at the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit](#)

[There is no place for famine in the 21st century](#)

[Tackling a double threat: Children at the front and centre of urban fragility and climate change](#)

Reports

[Global Hunger Response response plan](#)

[Global Hunger Response situation updates #1– 9](#)

[Regreening communities project model](#)

[Climate smart agriculture project in Laos \(to improve food security\)](#)

[Dire consequences: 12 years of suffering in Syria](#)

[Impact of economic crisis on food insecurity in Laos](#)

[Out in the cold: Winter-related challenges for displaced female-headed households from or within Ukraine, Syria, and Afghanistan – A comparative analysis of three large displacement crises](#)

[Global Hunger Response capacity statement](#)

[Price shocks: Rising food prices threaten the lives of thousands of children](#)

[Afghanistan: A children's crisis](#)

[Global Hunger Response food and nutrition capacity statement](#)

[Hungry and unprotected children: The forgotten refugees](#)

[Climate change, hunger children's futures: A dangerously under-discussed consequence of climate change](#)

[COVID-19 and child marriage: How COVID-19's impact on hunger and education is forcing children into marriage](#)

Other statements and guidance

[Reform of UN famine taskforce needed to save lives, NGOs say](#)

[USA First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visits World Vision nutrition outreach programme in Kajiado, Kenya](#)

[Sierra Leone Hunger Response cash transfer](#)

[World Vision & WFP - #1 partners](#)

[What is famine?](#)

[World Vision and peer organisations provide recommendations for scaling up child wasting treatment](#)

[Child voices on how hunger impacts them](#)

[The world must not abandon children who face violence and hunger](#)

[Urgent action needed to avert hunger wide scale catastrophe in the DRC](#)

[Weekend of prayer and action against hunger: Prayer and activity guide](#)

[Weekend of prayer and action against hunger](#)

[Global survey reveals food prices vastly outpacing inflation as millions of children at risk of death from hunger](#)

[10 facts about food price inflation](#)

[10 facts about the link between poverty and climate change](#)

[Immediate action needed to protect children from the global hunger crisis](#)

[Asuntha Charles, National Director for World Vision Afghanistan shares her thoughts about current situation of the country and concerns for the children of Afghanistan](#)

[Vulnerable children will suffer from G7 leaders tunnel vision](#)

[Hunger is on our doorstep, the time to act is now – worldwide, there are 270 million at risk of starvation](#)

[FALLOUT: When hunger has no borders](#)

Endnotes

- 1 International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2023) *Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2023*, Available from: <https://www.fsinplatform.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/GRFC2023-compressed.pdf> p7.
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- 10 WFP (2021) *Food: The priority for the vulnerable in Yemen*, Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/foodthe-priority-vulnerable-yemen-enar>.
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World Food Programme (WFP)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Global Affairs Canada

European Union

United Nations Office for the
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Visser Relief Fund; World Bank



World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

World Vision



www.wvi.org/emergencies/hunger-crisis

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