

Situation report #2 | 18 May 2021

Key messages

- A deadly mix of conflict, COVID-19 and the climate crisis have pushed more than 7 million people across six countries in East Africa to the very edge of starvation. According to UN reports, approximately 108,000 people in East Africa are under catastrophic famine-conditions, a phase marked by critical acute malnutrition, starvation, destitution and death – this phase is understood in the humanitarian sector as the highest and most urgent Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) of level 5. Additionally, almost 7 million people are exposed to emergency phase (IPC4), and if things worsen are one step away from famine, and as many as 27 million are classified at ‘crisis level’ (IPC3), where action is needed now to stop them sliding into emergency.
- The region has endured substantial and widespread breeding of desert locusts since late 2019, resulting in loss of pasture and crops. Added to this, between June – December 2020 rising conflict in countries such as Ethiopia has exacerbated the food insecurity situation in the region. The Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) and the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have both made predictions of dry conditions and worsening food insecurity situation in 2021. Coupled with economic impact of COVID-19 lockdowns continue to destroy livelihoods and push millions into desperation.
- This challenging period could erode human and economic development gains that have been made towards the global Sustainable Development Goals across the region. The rising food insecurity also increases the risks faced by women and girls, including gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Response countries



World Vision is responding to the impact of hunger in six countries in East Africa and is appealing for **US\$ 87 million** to reach **3.2 million** people, including **1.2 million** children.

Key concerns



7 million

people have been pushed to the very edge of starvation



33.8 million

people are acutely food insecure



Fragility in the region is acute. New conflict in Tigray, protracted conflict in South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia threaten human and economic development gains.



COVID-19 aftershocks ripple through communities with declining income opportunities, lost livelihoods and diminished purchasing power.



9.6 million

Internally displaced people



4.7 million

Refugees and asylum seekers



12.8 million

Acutely malnourished children

Source: UN OCHA

Strategic objectives



1. Improve access to clean water and sanitation services



2. Improve access to food for affected households



3. Increase access to curative and preventive quality emergency health and nutrition services



4. Improved sustainable livelihoods to support households and communities to multiply resilient food systems



5. Ensure protection for children, women and vulnerable groups, including psychosocial support and provision of dignity kits for reproductive age girls and women.

People reached



880,625

(as of 30 April 2021)



Men 190,450

Women 207,333



Children 482,842

Boys 240,848

Girls 241,994



91,356

People reached with access to clean, potable water



1,274

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



98,009

Number of people reached with (in kind) food assistance



13,561

People reached through primary healthcare support



240

Community health volunteers and or workers trained



1,913

Children under five reached through curative consultations provided by World Vision supported primary health care facilities.



6,825

Discharged cases (infants < 6 months, and children 6-59 months) from Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) or who recovered from severe acute malnutrition



240

People recalling target nutrition messaging



14,959

Children reached through Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) & Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) management



38,026

People reached through provision of livelihood assets



38,026

People reached through livelihood training support



ETHIOPIA

- More than seven million people are facing acute food insecurity, malnutrition and water shortages in the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities living in southern and south-eastern lowlands, (UN OCHA Situation report, 25 March 2021). Projections indicate that despite humanitarian assistance, 12.9 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 and above)*, including more than 2.6 million who are in emergency (IPC phase 4). These projections do not include any food security and livelihoods impacts caused by recent fighting in Tigray, which means the number of people in crisis or worse may be even higher, (FAO WFP, 23 Mar 2021).

GAPS AND NEEDS

- Food security analysis for rural populations in long and short rains dependent areas shows that more than 12.9 million people will be in crisis or worse condition (at least through June 2021) and will need urgent action to reduce food consumption gaps, and to restore and protect livelihoods.
- Current projections indicate that about one million children will suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), over 3.2 million children aged 6-59 months will suffer from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), and 2.9 million pregnant and lactating women (PLW) will suffer from acute malnutrition in high-risk districts.
- The total number of people in need of sanitation and hygiene services has increased from seven million to 10.1 million due to multiple and complex emergencies.



KENYA

- The delayed and below normal cumulative rainfall has negatively affected an already fragile food security situation in the arid and semi-arid lands. The number of people in need of relief assistance has risen from 739,000 to an estimated 2.4 million.
- More than 500,000 children and over 90,000 pregnant or lactating women require treatment for acute malnutrition. The nutrition situation has remained similar across arid counties compared to the August 2020 analysis and was critical (IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 4) in Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, North Horr and Laikipia sub-counties in Marsabit County and Tiaty in Baringo County. The main reason for the high levels of acute malnutrition is largely due to reduced milk production and consumption among children.

GAPS AND NEEDS

- Vulnerable families weakened by a combination of crises including hunger and COVID-19 related social and economic challenges.
- Inadequate knowledge and skills to manage increasing climate change related crop failure.



SOMALIA

- The main season (Gu) rains started in some parts of the country however, forecasts indicate below-average rainfall. The expected rains are not sufficient to alleviate the current drought conditions in the country. A potential flooding advisory has been issued by Somalia Water and Land Information Management Project (SWALIM), along river Shabelle.
- UN OCHA estimates at least 3.4 million people will be affected by the drought conditions towards the end of 2021, including more than 380,000 who will be displaced.
- Somalia received its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative on March 15. As of April 21, the Federal Government of Somalia, through the Ministry of Health had administered more than 118,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- In the wake of delayed Somalia presidential elections, an increase in attacks carried out by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) has been reported during the quarter.
- Desert locusts, the most migratory pest in the world, continues to pose a major threat to food security and livelihoods in Somalia. Hundreds of hectares of land, including cropland and pasture, have been affected.

GAPS AND NEEDS

- Urgent scale-up of water trucking intervention.
- Insufficient supplies at health and nutrition facilities has impeded quality of service delivery.

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

- World Vision disbursed cash transfers to vulnerable households as a cushion against food insecurity. In partnership with the World Food Programme, World Vision distributed Vitameals to vulnerable households in Garowe and Dhangorayo.

* The IPC Acute Food Insecurity classification provides differentiation between levels of severity of acute food insecurity. The units of analysis are classified in five distinct phases: (1) Minimal/None, (2) Stressed, (3) Crisis, (4) Emergency, (5) Catastrophe/Famine. Each of these phases has important and distinct implications for where and how best to intervene, and therefore influences priority response objectives.



SOUTH SUDAN

- More than 7 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure between April and July, including 108,000 people in hard-to-reach areas facing catastrophic conditions.

GAPS AND NEEDS

- There is a need to complement and strengthen food security and livelihood, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, health and protection services. Shelter, emergency food assistance, non-food items (NFI), WASH and hygiene facilities are lacking among the internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps.
- Health centres lack clean water and sanitation facilities.

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

- World Vision is responding to the needs of the affected population through distribution of food commodities and agricultural inputs to farmers, provision of basic nutrition, curative and preventive health care services, and addressing protection needs through awareness and provision of services through Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs).



32-year-old Monica Nyanut Nyok, a mother of five, with food she received through the Food Assistance Project for IDPs in Tonj North, South Sudan. The project is supported by the World Food Programme.



SUDAN

- According to UN OCHA at least 2.5 million people remain displaced in the greater Darfur Region and other parts of the Sudan due to conflict. Sudan also hosts 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers mainly from South Sudan, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Syria and most recently 62,000 people fleeing from the crisis in Ethiopia, Tigray region. IDPs, returnees, refugees and the vulnerable host population face high levels of poverty further exacerbated by the continued economic crisis and inflation, the COVID-19 pandemic and seasonal flooding.
- The economic crisis in Sudan continues to reduce households' purchasing power thus negatively impacting vulnerable children and households. According to the Sudanese Central Bureau of Statistics, annual inflation surged to 331 per cent in February 2021. This is the highest level of inflation in decades.
- Food insecurity remains alarmingly high in Sudan, where more than 7.1 million people (17 per cent of the population) are severely food insecure. At least 1.3 million people are facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity, while around 5.8 million people are facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity. Of the 7.1 million people severely food insecure, more than two million people (28 per cent) are in South Darfur, East Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, where World Vision operates.

GAPS AND NEEDS

- An estimated 365,000 individuals in the four States where World Vision operates, require cash for food security, nutrition services for prevention and treatment of malnutrition, provision of water and hygiene services and support for the upcoming agricultural season.



UGANDA

- Late and below-average cumulative rainfall has delayed planting by at least three weeks in northern and parts of eastern Uganda.
- In Karamoja, an increasing number of households face widening food consumption gaps and are utilizing negative livelihoods coping strategies, increasing the population that is experiencing severe levels of food insecurity which is currently reported to be more than 1.9 million people.
- A deteriorated food security situation is likely among households in flood-affected areas and some urban areas, where livelihood activities were significantly disrupted in 2020.
- Refugees with arable plots are engaging in ploughing and planting activities, though some lack access to inputs like seeds while others are yet to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 movement restrictions on food and income sources.

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

- Trained 400 lead farmers and 20 trainer of trainers in crop production and post-harvest handling of beans, cassava and orange flesh potatoes. More than 6,000 farmers received knowledge and skills on crop production and post-harvest handling.
- Conducted nutrition screening of more than 1,900 children to assess nutritional status of children under five. Children with SAM were referred to the health facility and are now in Out-Patient Care (OTC) management while those with MAM were linked with the Community Supplementary Feeding Program (CSFP) for management.
- Introduced appropriate feeding practices to more than 700 pregnant and lactating mothers leading to improved cognitive development, increased immunity and reduced prevalence of micro-nutrient deficiencies.



Children and their families in Sudan are threatened by severe food insecurity and lack of other basic needs driven by high inflation, COVID-19 and its effects, 2020 floods and conflict. World Vision is providing nutrition care and treatment for children admitted with malnutrition, and also conducting mass screening at community level to detect early cases of malnutrition for intervention.

We would like to thank our generous child sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions make this work possible, including:



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