

December 2021 Report

Key messages

This is a children's crisis: Almost 21 million children are one step away from famine and face starvation. Urgent life-saving action is needed NOW to prevent a humanitarian hunger crisis in which tens of thousands of children could die. Famine has no place in the 21st century and is entirely preventable.

Conflict, COVID-19 and climate change are now interacting to create new and worsening hunger hotspots and reversing the gains families had made to escape poverty.

Time is running out. If the world stands by and does too little too late, children and their families will be forced to make dangerous survival choices that will have lasting harmful consequences for girls and boys, including preventable death.

Humanitarian funding and access to those who are starving is vital if lives are to be saved.

Everyone is exhausted by the battle to defeat COVID-19 but in the poorest parts of the world, families are now confronted by new spikes in the virus (due to the spread of the Delta variant and the arrival of new variant Omicron) and literally looking for their next meal. People know the value in coming together to defeat the pandemic and now we must urgently stand together to prevent catastrophic levels of starvation.

World Vision is on the ground in hunger hotspots around the globe, providing life-saving assistance, tackling malnutrition, providing clean water and protecting children from harm. Our response will target 15 million people who face life-threatening starvation.

US \$ 300 million
programmes target



World Vision is responding to the impact of hunger globally and aims to reach
15 million
people

\$362m
programmes in
implementation

Humanitarian response

45 million people in **43 countries** are on the edge of starvation.*

World Vision is working in **19 countries** where people are suffering unimaginable levels of hunger, to save lives.** We partner with the UN World Food Programme, government, institutional and private donors to respond to urgent need IPC 4 (emergency) and IPC 5 (catastrophic) levels of hunger.***

More than **540,000** people face the threat of famine-like conditions^[1] in countries where World Vision funds operations. These countries are: South Sudan, Ethiopia and Yemen.

Afghanistan: Following the Taliban take-over the country is facing a massive hunger crisis with more than 8.7m people one step away from starvation (IPC4)^[1]. A financial and banking crisis, the withdrawal of international funding and economic collapse are leaving people desperate. The impact of drought combined with months of winter that will cut off villages from help, means food must be urgently pre-positioned. World Vision is distributing food, providing emergency nutrition and running mobile health clinics reaching more than 231,000 people.

South Sudan: More than 2.5 million people are one step from starvation (IPC 4&5)^[2]. The crisis has come about due to a mix of reasons, including flooding, conflict, displacement, pest invasions and poor rains during the cropping season. World Vision has been responding with food distributions, school-feeding programmes and working in partnership with WFP on food air drops into remote locations, reaching more than 1.3 million people.

Hunger brought about by a range of drivers, including COVID-19, climate change, hurricanes and drought, and economic challenges, are driving increased vulnerability, widespread hunger and migration in Central America and Venezuela.

* The 45m is the total number of people facing IPC 4 and 5 levels of hunger: source: [WFP](#)

**The 19 countries include: Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela

*** The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) system is 1) a standardised scale of food insecurity; and 2) a process for building interagency technical consensus on the state of food insecurity in a specific country at a given moment and aims to inform evidence-based decision making. The 5 'phases' of the IPC scale are: Phase 1 (None/Minimal), Phase 2 (Stressed), Phase 3 (Crisis), Phase 4 (Emergency) and Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine).

Response achievements

1

Improve access to clean water hygiene and sanitation promotion services to mitigate waterborne diseases



831,874

People reached with access to clean, potable water

2

Improve access to food for affected households



3,762,374

People reached with (in-kind) food assistance

3

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



271,195

Children reached with supplementary and therapeutic food

4

Improve sustainable livelihoods to support households and communities to multiply resilient food systems



174,945

People reached through provision of livelihood assets

5

Ensure protection for children, women and vulnerable groups, including psychosocial support for girls and women



41,300

People receiving psychosocial support

Achievements to date*



7,666,185

People reached



Adults 3,356,720



Children 4,309,465



1,746,384

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



US\$ 55.2M

Amount of cash and voucher assistance distributed



441,445

Children receiving hot meals and/or dry rations through school feeding



336,581

People reached through primary healthcare support



181,677

Children reached through management of Severe Acute Malnutrition & Moderate Acute Malnutrition

Key concerns

Conflict: Conflict continues to be the primary driver of an alarming rise of food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly among refugees, internally displaced and the most vulnerable.

Economic collapse: The withdrawal of international funding, the freezing of central bank reserves in the US, and international and aid funding restrictions introduced following the overthrow of the last government has led to an economic meltdown, mass job losses, and a lack of cash liquidity. This has led to widespread deprivation and hunger.

COVID-19: The pandemic has led to currency depreciation, income losses, rapid inflation, and has exacerbated pre-existing macroeconomic fragilities and debt levels in many countries. The spread of the Omicron variant has resulted in border closures and restrictions for a number of nations and led to travel, trade, economic and health impacts that affect the most vulnerable.

Climate change: Forecast below average rainfall seasons and dry conditions are likely to affect agricultural production.



Advocacy and external engagement

- For the Senior Officials' Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Central Sahel, organised by the EU, Germany, Denmark and OCHA, World Vision engaged in advocacy via social media, with West Africa Regional Leader Carla Denizard publishing a call to action for donors ([available here](#)). In follow-up to this high-level meeting, country, regional and global level colleagues will work on continued advocacy to raise awareness and commitments of flexible, multi-year funding to address growing needs. The Humanitarian Response Plans in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger are severely underfunded, as political instability and continued insecurity worsens these spiraling crises.
- In Geneva, WV has been contributing to inter-agency efforts on structures and strategies for famine prevention via collective advocacy.
- World Vision remains very engaged with WFP in the process of developing the Joint Compact on Famine Prevention, an advocacy initiative bringing together UN, government, and NGO partners.

*Includes people supported in 19 countries globally for the reporting period 01 April - 30 December, 2021

*The impact numbers take into account the risk of double counting.

Country Overview

GLOBAL HUNGER INITIATIVE 19 Focus Countries



AFGHANISTAN

- Drought, conflict and economic collapse have created extreme fragility and the need for urgent emergency humanitarian assistance. 22.8 million (55% of the population) now face acute food insecurity (IPC3 and above). Of this number, nearly 8.8 million Afghans are one step away from famine (IPC4). Approximately 3.4 million men, women, boys and girls fall within World Vision's operational areas.
- **World Vision is reaching more than 337,000 people through food distribution, emergency nutrition and mobile health clinics.**



ANGOLA

- Half way into the 2021/22 rainfall season, south west Angola has been dry, an indication of another looming drought which will worsen the food, nutrition and water security situation. More than 416,000 people face emergency levels of hunger (IPC4).
- **World Vision is working with the Government of Angola on nutrition screening, and engaging donors of the current hunger response projects as well as appraising other potential donors of the deteriorating hunger situation. Two rapid assessment surveys in various provinces are also currently being conducted with funding from UNICEF and WFP.**



BURKINA FASO

- Families have fled their home localities because of armed attacks that have plagued the country since 2015. September 2021 displacement figures stood at 1,447,026 people (23,648 refugees and 1,423,378 internally displaced [UNHCR]). More than 340,000 people face IPC4 levels of food insecurity with COVID-19 and conflict-induced displacements contributing to a sharp spike in numbers.
- **World Vision has provided more than 5,000 individuals with cash assistance and livelihood assets.**



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the effects of natural disasters, ongoing conflicts in several areas, structural weaknesses, and the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have left 2.8 million people extremely vulnerable. IPC estimates are that >214,000 children and 98,000 women will likely suffer acute malnutrition with >2.1 million people highly food insecure (IPC3 and above), including >620,000 facing IPC4 food insecurity.
- **In December, World Vision finished the construction of two boreholes and the rehabilitation of three more to meet the urgent clean water needs of affected people.**



Alimatou and her family are among Internally Displaced Persons who have fled violence in Mali. Displaced families face shortages of essential life-saving items like food and shelter.



CHAD

- The situation in Chad continues to worsen with agricultural production decreasing and the food crisis mainly affecting children and pregnant and lactating women. Frequent droughts and the economic impacts of COVID-19 strain vulnerable families whose livelihoods mostly depend on farming and livestock.
- **World Vision has trained 346 households in market gardening and other simple gardening techniques. 1 water point had been built to supply clean water to 6,500 people in Ngourkosso.**



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- According to IPC, the country has the largest number of highly food insecure people in the world with an estimated 27 million people experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC3 and above) by the end of 2021. 6.1 million people are experiencing emergency (IPC4) levels of food insecurity.
- **World Vision has provided food support to more than 92,000 people, 77% of whom are children. Cash has also been distributed to vulnerable households, assisting more than 33,000 people of whom approximately 50% were children. Water points have been rehabilitated to provide >59,000 people with drinking water.**



ETHIOPIA

- The October to December rainfall was delayed with prolonged dry conditions in many southern and southeastern pastoral areas. As a result, pastoral areas suffered over 50% of crop loss and massive livestock mortalities.
- **World Vision supported the screening of more than 3,800 children for malnutrition and linked them with nutrition services.**
- Capacity building trainings on child protection issues conducted for 361 community volunteers and government sector experts.



GUATEMALA

- Guatemala is among the ten countries most vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change. Over the past three years, extended dry seasons have had a severe impact on the livelihoods of subsistence farmers, who rely on rain-fed agriculture.
- **World Vision has provided cash and voucher assistance to more than 25,000 beneficiaries to meet immediate basic needs. In December, a water point was rehabilitated, providing 371 people from vulnerable families with clean drinking water.**



HONDURAS

- The continuation of high food, fuel, and service prices throughout the region is limiting economic recovery. The population in IPC 3 and 4 require urgent support with response interventions focused on saving lives and livelihoods with a response plan that includes food aid, monetary assistance and asset distribution.
- **In December, World Vision distributed cash worth USD\$84,350 to 1,823 individuals. More than 11,000 people have been provided access to clean, potable water.**



KENYA

- More than 367,000 people in the country are facing IPC 4 levels of food insecurity. Nutrition related illnesses have also been observed among pregnant, lactating women and children below 5 years.
- **In December, World Vision held screening and malnutrition case identification outreaches, taking middle upper arm circumference measurements. Cash was given to 330 households.**



MALI

- During October-December 2021, nearly 1.2 million people needed emergency food assistance (IPC3 and 4). By June 2022, this number is likely to reach nearly 1.8 million if nothing is done to drastically improve the response, including through the mobilisation of short term and long-term funding.
- **World Vision has held trainings on protection, education in emergencies, conflict and disaster risk reduction for 146 people, including religious and village leaders. 396 hygiene and sanitation materials have been distributed to schools while water purification kits were provided to 480 households.**



NIGER

- Due to the shortfall in agricultural and food production in 2021 (36% less than in 2020), the Humanitarian Country Team has estimated that over 3.8 million people will face food insecurity between November 2021 and March 2022.
- **World Vision distributed USD \$123,505 to 7,497 individuals in Ouallam and Maradi. 25,768 people were provided with access to potable water while 6,510 individuals were assisted with livelihood support through the distribution of goats, seeds and items for income generating activity start-up.**



SOMALIA

- Drought in Somalia has continued to worsen. A 90% likely prediction for a La Niña-like climate between March and May, 2022 will worsen the multi-season drought food insecurity.
- **World Vision provided multi-purpose cash transfers of USD\$280,084 to 6,352 households. 899 heads of livestock were treated against internal/ external parasites and disease. Construction of 15 latrines with hand-washing stations and soap were completed in 3 IDP camps in Baidoa. World Vision, in collaboration with the government mapped all World Vision water points.**



SOUTH SUDAN

- More than 835,000 people were reported as affected by flooding across the country since May. People in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states were the worst affected, adding to the already dire food security situation.
- **In December, food assistance support was given to 56,600 people while cash was distributed to 12,600 beneficiaries. 250 people have been equipped with food security and livelihood knowledge and skills. More than 1,700 children were reached with nutrition related interventions.**



SUDAN

- Humanitarian assistance needs remained high in December 2021, despite being the harvest season. This was driven by political instability, above-average food prices, and reduced household purchasing power, along with the impact of increased conflict, tribal clashes, and protracted displacement in parts of Darfur, Kordofan, and Blue Nile state, plus Ethiopian and South Sudanese refugee arrivals.
- **World Vision is operating in all four states to provide cash and food assistance support to more than 700,000 people.**



SYRIA

- More than a decade of conflict, a widespread economic crisis and the lack of accountability for the grave violations against children and civilians have taken a deep toll on Syrian children, their families, and communities. >1.3 million people are in emergency (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity.
- **Through a partnering response, World Vision has provided WASH, nutrition and psychological support to over 400,000 refugees, IDPs, and local communities.**



UGANDA

- The impact of drought continued in December with agro-pastoralists struggling to find water and pasture for their livestock. More than 27,000 people suffered IPC4 levels of food insecurity in the Karamoja region.
- **In December, World Vision completed cash for assets activities in four districts. More than 5,000 children were screened for malnutrition. Sensitisation on early warning and early action was also provided for 480 people.**



VENEZUELA

- The ongoing displacement and economic crises in Venezuela have led to an estimated 2.3 million Venezuelans living in emergency (IPC4) levels of hunger. Humanitarian needs continue to increase due to fluctuating food prices, unemployment and insecurity, causing more families to leave the country and migrate to other Latin American states.
- **The privately funded VISSER project with the support of WV Taiwan hopes to benefit vulnerable people in remote and hard-to-reach areas, not only by providing food in kind but also by creating food plots for the community.**



YEMEN

- Yemen remains one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. In 2021, the situation, which is primarily driven by conflict and an economic collapse, has been exacerbated by COVID-19, heavy rains and flooding, and escalating hostilities. Children are particularly affected by this crisis, with four out of five needing humanitarian assistance. 195 humanitarian organisations continue to deliver aid to an average of 11.3 million people per month. WFP warns it is running out of funds to continue to provide food assistance to 13 million people. From January 2022, 8 million will receive a reduced food ration, while 5 million at immediate risk of slipping into famine conditions will remain on a full ration.
- **World Vision is partnering with Medair and ADH to reach vulnerable people in Yemen. While the project concluded at the close of 2021, a new project started in January 2022 to run for nine months.**



Wahi, Medair's BCC Officer, and Magdalena, Medair's Programme Funding Manager with Yasmin, the lead mother of the mother-to-mother support groups, who shares important messages on nutrition and breastfeeding with the other mothers in a community in Yemen.

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



World Food Programme

wfp.org



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



OCHA
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



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Aktion Deutschland Hilft
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Australia, Korea

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World Vision is focused on helping the most vulnerable children to overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places. Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness. Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.
wvi.org/emergencies/hunger-crisis