

GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE

Situation report #11 | July 2023

The world is in a massive hunger crisis. **Tens of millions of children and their families are currently confronted with the real-life impacts of acute hunger, including starvation and other long-term health issues.** Driving this is a polycrisis made up of interconnected components including: conflict; an uneven global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; climate change; high inflation; as well as the rising cost of food, fuel, and fertiliser – prices of which have reached a 10-year high due to geopolitics.¹

By the end of last year, nearly **35 million people** across 39 countries or territories were enduring extremely severe, acute food insecurity (IPC 4+),² at risk of starvation, and after year-on-year increases, over a quarter of a billion people – 258 million – were estimated to be suffering acute food insecurity (IPC 3+).³ World Vision is responding to this global emergency with a **US\$2 billion appeal** – the largest in organisational history.

Food assistance and other life-saving support is needed immediately to prevent the deaths of thousands of people. Despite efforts from the United Nations (UN) and agencies like World Vision, needs continue to outpace international funding. World Vision's Global Hunger Response is targeting **30 million people in 28 countries of highest concern** experiencing acute hunger and the threat of famine.* Elsewhere World Vision continues to monitor the situation and is working to adapt programming and responses where cost-of-living price shocks are hurting the vulnerable.

* East Africa Emergency Hunger Response: Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda; West Africa Emergency Hunger Response: Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, CAR, Mauritania, Sierra Leone; other national responses include: Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, DRC, Angola, Lesotho, Eswatini, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Myanmar, Sri Lanka.

Situation overview

A complex interplay of factors, including economic stressors, climate shocks, displacement, and natural disasters are all converging to heighten levels of food and nutrition insecurity, and in some cases, even exacerbate conflicts.

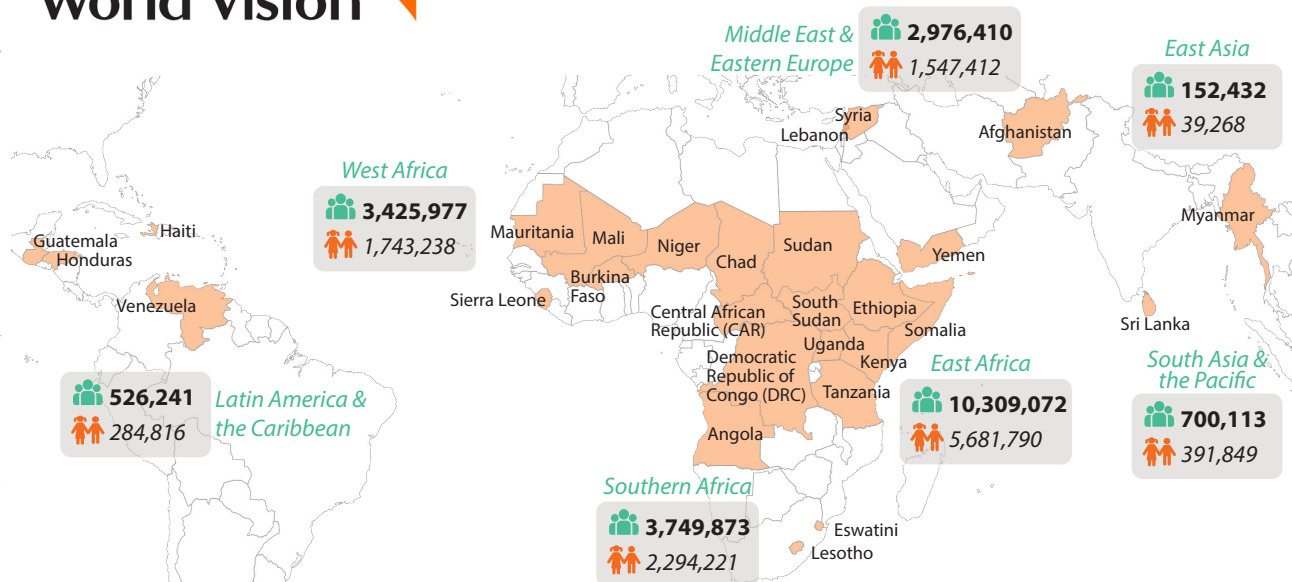
Weather extremes, including heavy rains, tropical storms, cyclones, flooding, drought, and increased climate variability, have been on the rise and are major contributors to the worsening food insecurity situation. With El Niño conditions developing in tropical Pacific for the first time in seven years, there is an increase in the likelihood of a surge in global temperatures and disruptive weather and climate patterns in many parts of the world.⁴ Early warnings and anticipatory action of extreme weather events are vital to save lives and livelihoods.

As a result, people's ability to meet their basic needs has been severely compromised, and their overall resilience weakened. Despite a modest drop in the number of people experiencing 'emergency' and 'catastrophic' hunger in 2022 – from its high of 50 million to 35 million, thanks to critical action taken – the number of overall people affected by acute food insecurity continues to

grow, its progress hindered by rising food and energy prices and the ongoing war in Ukraine, and billions of people now lack access to an affordable, healthy diet, particularly in Africa, Western Asia, and the Caribbean.⁵ Also, recent projections by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) warn that, even though fewer people are enduring IPC 5 'catastrophic' conditions, this phenomenon continues to spread. Without urgent intervention, nine countries⁶ (up from seven in May and five in January 2023) either already have populations in IPC 5 or are at risk of their contexts deteriorating into this condition by November 2023.⁷

However, it is children who are particularly affected by food insecurity with tens of millions of children under age 5 suffering from the physical impacts of malnutrition, including stunting (148 million), wasting (45 million), and overweight (37 million).⁸ Despite some progress in reducing child undernutrition, the world is not on track to achieve the associated SDG 2030 targets across all regions.⁹

World Vision



People reached

21,840,118

Men 4,323,804

Women 5,533,720

Children 11,982,594

Boys 5,672,346 Girls 6,310,248

*Based on figures as of 26 July 2023. People reached includes people supported in the responses GHR's, 28 countries of highest alert from 01 March 2021 through the current reporting period (30 June 2023).

Addressing these pressing challenges requires immediate and coordinated action from the international community, focussing on disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and sustainable solutions to combat hunger and malnutrition on a global scale.

¹ WFP (n.d.) 'A global food crisis', [Accessed as of 27/06/2023].

² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a system allowing governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and other relevant actors to work together to determine the severity and magnitude of acute and chronic food insecurity, and acute malnutrition situations in a country, according to internationally-recognised scientific standards.

³ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2023) *Global Report on Food Crises* (GRFC) 2023, p7.

⁴ World Meteorological Organization and World Health Organization (WHO) (2023) *Health and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), June 2023 update*.

⁵ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO (2023) *The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2023: Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum*. Rome, FAO.

⁶ i.e. Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen

⁷ WFP and FAO (2023) *Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, June 2023 to November 2023 outlook*, p7.

⁸ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO (2023) p9.

⁹ *Ibid*

Key concerns

- Most food assistance in **Ethiopia** has been paused since May 2023 due to food aid diversion findings by major donors, raising high concern for worsening food security considering the upcoming lean season.¹⁰ Without food assistance, hunger is projected to worsen throughout the country, including in the northern regions, where conflict has recently ended with the signing of a peace agreement.¹¹ In general, humanitarian needs remain very high in Ethiopia with over 19 million people projected to be in need.¹² With the pause in most food assistance, children and their families, especially those who are still displaced and living in crowded camps without any basic facilities, urgently require life-saving support.
- Since conflict broke out in **Sudan** in mid-April, over 3 million people – half of them children – have been internally displaced or forced to flee to neighbouring countries, including **Ethiopia, South Sudan, CAR, and Chad**.¹³ Half of the children remaining in Sudan, some 13.6 million, urgently need humanitarian assistance.¹⁴ Prices for food and non-food essentials have skyrocketed up to 135%, with gas prices surpassing US\$80/gallon.¹⁵ The West Darfur region is of highest concern as some households are likely experiencing extreme hunger, as a result of the atrocities committed against civilians, mass displacement, large-scale destruction of infrastructure and household assets, and massive disruption to livelihoods and cultivation.¹⁶
- Looking forward, extreme hunger is expected to continue rising, particularly in countries affected by climate change, conflict, and violence. **Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Haiti, and Burkina Faso** are all projected to have increasing populations in IPC 4 by January 2024.¹⁷ While some areas in South Sudan already have populations living in famine-like conditions, in the areas bordering Sudan, there is a risk that IPC 5 could also occur there over the next six months, if there is a resurgence of conflict or severe flooding.¹⁸ Camps housing thousands of internally displaced people in central Somalia in particular continue to be heavily dependent on food assistance and are projected to face IPC 5 conditions as well.¹⁹ Additionally, conflict-affected areas in northern Burkina Faso, such as Oudalan and Yagha, but particularly Soum, are experiencing severe food insecurity and remain at risk of famine-like conditions, especially if an increase in conflict

further restricts already low levels of crop cultivation and humanitarian assistance.²⁰

- The UN Security Council failed to re-authorise the extension of the cross-border resolution for **Syria**²¹ in early July, affecting the delivery of life-saving assistance to over 4.5 million people in Northwest Syria.²² With the Syria conflict extending over the past 12 years, Northwest Syria has been under the grip of ongoing conflict, persistent economic crises, and a cholera outbreak, all of which were exacerbated by the February earthquakes in Türkiye. The limitation of access threatens the food security of millions as it is currently estimated that 48% of people in the region are in need of humanitarian assistance²³ and approximately 3.3 million people are food insecure with malnutrition rates climbing.²⁴ Multiple international non-governmental organisations spoke jointly about what the Security Council's failure to reauthorise this aid means to the people living in northwest Syria: "[This] will only add to the anxiety and uncertainty that Syrians living there are already enduring. About 90% of the northwest region's population are living in poverty and struggling to feed their families."²⁵
- Venezuela's** refugee and migrant crisis continues to be the largest humanitarian emergency in the western hemisphere. Since 2015, over 7.3 million people²⁶ have fled the country as a result of the persistent political, social, and economic crisis. It is estimated that another 19.7 million people inside the country suffer from multi-dimensional poverty and require humanitarian assistance.²⁷
- In **Haiti**, WFP has been forced to radically reduce food aid, even as half of all Haitians go hungry, affecting more than 100,000 people in dire need of assistance.²⁸ This cut comes at a time where almost half of the population in Haiti is experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 and above)²⁹, including and estimated 1.81 million facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC 4) and an alarming 19,000 people facing catastrophic situations (IPC 5). The reduction

in aid from WFP comes as a result of significant funding shortfall – only 16% of the overall need has been secured to date – with worries of further cuts if the funding situation does not improve.³⁰



A group of women visit a World Vision mobile health clinic that manages malnutrition cases in Doolow, Somalia.
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¹⁰ [Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(FEWS NET\) \(30 May 2023\) Ethiopia food security alert](#), p1.

¹¹ [Ibid](#)
¹² FEWS NET (July 2023) [Food assistance outlook brief: Projected food assistance needs for January 2024](#), p3.

¹³ UNOCHA (15 July 2023) ['Misery deepens for Sudanese civilians, as conflict hits three-month mark'](#)

¹⁴ [Ibid](#)
¹⁵ FEWS NET (24 May 2023) [Sudan food security alert](#), p1.

¹⁶ FEWS NET (2023) [Food assistance outlook brief: Projected food assistance needs for January 2024](#), p3.

¹⁷ [Ibid](#), pp3-4

¹⁸ [Ibid](#), p3.

¹⁹ [Ibid](#), p3.

²⁰ [Ibid](#), p4.

²¹ UN (11 July 2023) ['Security council rejects two draft resolutions aimed at renewing cross-border humanitarian operations in Syria's North-West'](#)

²² UNOCHA (April 2023) [North-West Syria situation report](#)

²³ UNICEF (May 2023), [Syria humanitarian situation report No.10 \(earthquake\)](#)

²⁴ [UNOCHA \(April 2023\)](#)

²⁵ World Vision (11 July 2023) [NGOs call on UN Security Council to urgently convene and renew the Syria cross-border resolution for 12 months](#).

²⁶ Inter-Agency Coordination platform for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, ['End-year report 2022'](#) [As of 3 Aug 2023]

²⁷ Hum Venezuela (March 2023), [Hoja infográfica de impactos de la Emergencia Humanitaria Compleja en Venezuela](#)

²⁸ WFP (17 July 2023) ['WFP forced to slash food aid as half of all Haitians go hungry'](#)

²⁹ [GRFC 2023](#), p51

³⁰ [WFP \(17 July 2023\)](#)

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS

Through a series of meetings with government officials, including Guatemala's vice president, World Vision **Guatemala** and their partners successfully influenced the government to develop an agreement to generate actions, mechanisms, and/or strategies to assist the food and nutritionally insecure populations living in border areas, such as Alta Verapaz.

In June 2023, World Vision **Haiti** trained nearly 200 young people in social entrepreneurship to provide a supportive ecosystem for young entrepreneurs to develop and scale their own initiatives aimed at addressing food insecurity. These social entrepreneurs are also encouraged to advocate for policy implementation changes that prioritise food security and promote sustainable agricultural practices in their communities.

World Vision **Ireland's** editorial in [The Irish Times](#) reached 4,818,426 people with their call to action to the government to reaffirm its commitment to children in the face of rising hunger, malnutrition, child stunting, acute food insecurity, food price inflation, and extreme poverty.

World Vision **France** recently won a bronze award at the Cannes Lions 70th International Festival of Creativity in Print & Publishing for their series of shorts, *The Unshowable (or Les Immontrables)* – depicting scenes of daily life that some vulnerable children see in different parts of the world. One of those shorts [portrayed hunger in the Sahel](#) featuring an all-black screen with only sound design, allowing viewers to imagine the horrors of what some children have no choice but to see and experience, every day.



A [news article](#) about how World Vision **Kenya** has partnered with the local government to enhance households' resilience by providing training on resilient farming practices, seeds to grow these resilient crops, as well as the opportunity to diversify their households' incomes with new job opportunities at the processing plant that turns their local sweet potato crops into 4,000 edible products daily to address the challenges of malnutrition was seen by more than a million (1,369,456) people.

World Refugee Day

- World Vision released our third annual [World Refugee Day report](#), which showed that displaced children are hungrier and more at risk than ever before.
- World Vision offices around the world, including in **Mali** and **CAR**, attended refugee day events hosted by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on 20 June to raise awareness about the urgent need for action on malnutrition and hunger.
- As part of World Refugee Day celebrations, World Vision **Angola** hosted a symbolic handover of sustainably built houses to two refugee families identified as the most vulnerable in their community. World Vision aims to build 20 houses by the end of this year for other vulnerable people, including the elderly, those living with physical disabilities, and those suffering from chronic illnesses.

As part of the Aid for Afghanistan Coalition lobbying for Bill C-41, World Vision **Canada** welcomed [the bill's adoption](#) as a first step in enabling Canadian aid organisations to provide crucial humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and other similar contexts in order to improve access to health care, ensure access to food, water and sanitation, education, the protection of detainees, and protect human dignity.

World Vision [co-hosted a high-level event](#) as part of **Protection of Civilians Week** marking the 5th anniversary of the [UN Security Council Resolution 2417](#)³¹ and the creation of the [policy and advocacy agenda on conflict and hunger](#) in New York in May. Together with UN agencies including WFP, FAO, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); the governments of Switzerland, the Netherlands, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Ecuador, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ireland; and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including Action Against Hunger (ACF), Concern, Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Oxfam, the event showcased local voices and perspectives on conflict and hunger and pushed policymakers to take renewed action to implement 2417. World Vision was represented by our local Somali NGO partner Shaqodoon, dedicated to supporting resilience, livelihoods, and entrepreneurial solutions for Somali youth.

World Vision co-sponsored three side events at the UN's Economic and Social Council's Humanitarian Affairs Segment (**ECOSOC-HAS**) in Geneva in June.

- Global Hunger Response director, Mary Njeri, represented World Vision at the side event, *The global food crisis: What are the most impacted people and communities telling us at this extraordinary time? What are the solutions?* speaking to the impact of the global food crisis on children, particularly those experiencing forcible displacement, and highlighting key findings from World Vision's latest signature research report, [Invisible and forgotten: Displaced children hungrier and at more risk than ever](#), launched in advance of World Refugee Day on 20 June. Mary also shared her reflections on solutions to global hunger, based on success stories drawn from field offices participating in World Vision's Response. The event also featured a powerful video testimony from a Burkinabè person affected by humanitarian crises and food insecurity.

³¹ UNSC Resolution 2417 is a landmark resolution that formally acknowledges the impacts of armed conflict on food insecurity, reinforces IHL, seeks to protect agriculture, agricultural assets, livestock, markets, irrigation and other aspects critical to preventing hunger, identifies the use of starvation as a weapon of war as a possible war crime, and establishes an early warning reporting mechanism.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS *cont'd...*

- World Vision was represented at a second side event, *Anticipatory action: The role of local and national actors in minimising and addressing climate induced disasters and crises*, by Clovis Tougma, speaking to why anticipatory action is so critical to help address climate change induced crises, reflecting on experience from Niger. He also shared reflections on opportunities and barriers to access sustainable funding to resource anticipatory action, and perspectives on how international actors can better support local and national actors, including local community groups, to take lead on anticipatory action.

At the **Humanitarian Network Partners Week**, World Vision presented the Global Hunger Response's [real-time learning findings](#) at a special event, *Tackling the next phase of the global food crisis in 2023: Employing lessons learned through collective advocacy and action to fight acute food insecurity*, hosted by the UN Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator.

Ahead of the **G7 Japan summit**:

- A [joint statement](#) made by World Vision Germany with other development organisations calling on the G7 to provide sufficient emergency aid to save people from starvation, was syndicated to more than 150 media outlets and received extensive coverage. 'The G7 must finally act decisively,' demanded Dirk Bathe from World Vision. "Any further hesitation costs millions of lives." Emphasising that in its most recent progress report, the G7 group itself rated its efforts to curb hunger and food security as 'inadequate', Bathe warned that: "As a result of inflation, increasing global climate shocks and conflicts – as is currently the case in Sudan – the numbers of starving and malnourished are increasing exorbitantly."
- A [second piece](#) calling for more commitment from the G7 countries to global problems, including investments in nutrition, was syndicated to 14 media outlets, including MSN Switzerland.
- A [coalition effort](#) by development agencies, including World Vision Germany, also called on the G7 to not to forget other humanitarian crises in the world through their

help in the Ukraine war, and was syndicated to 50 outlets by German news agency DPA (Deutsche Presse-Agentur).

Faith-based organisations have been a special partner for World Vision **Venezuela** as the national network, *Esperanza sin Fronteras*, enabled them to broaden their operational reach to build capacity to achieve the goals of the Sustained Humanitarian Response.

World Vision engaged with the European Union (EU) and its Member States at the **European Humanitarian Forum** (EHF) in Brussels and the **Education in Emergencies** (EiE) conference co-organised with UNICEF around their role within the humanitarian space:

- World Vision hosted a young person to attend a [high-level panel event](#) at the EHF with the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management in person and shared six pre-recorded messages from child advocates from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.
- World Vision's regional director for the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Eleanor Monbiot, participated in the EHF's high-level session, ['Stepping up the commitment to conflict-affected children: Working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus'](#). World Vision also supported a child advocate from South Sudan, Desiree, to present a pre-recorded testimony at the event.
- World Vision led two humanitarian talks at the EHF: 'Nexus "cash" (efficiency) in anticipatory action and social protection' with the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network and 'Starved from life: Protecting children from the effects of hunger crises' with Joining Forces.
- A comprehensive communications campaign was also launched around the EHF that showcased the added value of bringing children's voices to the forefront of the forum with a far-reaching impact.

Social media posts garnered engagement from priority stakeholders and posts on the young leader, Omega, receiving the highest engagement, being widely shared and quoted by high-level EU stakeholders.

- World Vision enabled the in-person participation of a 19-year-old South Sudanese refugee from Uganda at the [opening session](#) of the EiE, who spoke about what more needs to be done to protect children, calling on the international community to scale up support for the hunger crisis. Five different pre-recorded testimonies from children in [Ethiopia](#) and [Afghanistan](#) were also facilitated by World Vision and played during the break session.



Ismail, 15, with his family at a transit centre in South Sudan. New to being a refugee, Ismail says that he's relieved to feel safe after fleeing the fighting and killing in Sudan, but he wishes there was food and clean water as he is hungry most of the time and has had headaches and upset stomachs as a result.

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RESPONSE GOAL: 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

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



Improve access to food for affected households



6,601,526

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



US\$284,040,087

Cash and voucher assistance distributed



946,390

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



9,132,201

People reached with (in-kind) food assistance



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



1,298,806

People reached through primary health-care support



577,529

Children reached through severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) management



50,342

Children recovered from SAM



188,108

Primary caregivers benefited from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion and action oriented sessions and counselling



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



2,013,282

People with access to clean, potable water



852,749

People who have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities with appropriate supplies



including 2,708

Faith leaders engaged on hygiene promotion activities



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



271,566

People receiving prevention messages on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and/or positive coping strategies



including 8,291

Faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention messages on PSEA and/or positive coping mechanisms



154,265

People receiving psychosocial support



Enhance household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods-related shocks



7,781

Households provided with conditional cash or vouchers to procure agricultural physical assets



60,868

Households provided with (in-kind) livelihood physical agricultural assets



25,926

Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/stresses



51%

Proportion of households with alternative and diversified sources of income



21,924

People trained in climate change resilient farming practices

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

- [Baidoa: Displaced families who have made a change in their lives after starting a business with aid money](#)
- [Impressive, look at this new potato processing plant in this county](#)
- [Protecting Children in South Sudan's Food Security Crisis](#)
- [NGOs call on UN Security Council to urgently convene and renew the Syria cross-border resolution for 12 months](#)
- [Faithful food systems demand focus on people and planet over profit](#)
- [Saving lives and assets: The value of nexus 'cash' approaches to anticipatory action and social protection during climate-induced crises](#)
- [Invisible and forgotten: Displaced children hungrier and at more risk than ever](#)
- [Hunger and risk levels increase for third year in a row for the world's forgotten refugee children](#)
- [World Refugee Day 2023: Invisible and forgotten video](#)
- [A call for a bold, visible hope for refugees especially those in South Sudan](#)
- [World Vision warns of deadly impact of climate change in DR Congo as hundreds of pupils still missing following flood disaster](#)
- [World Vision and KOICA partner to tackle climate change induced droughts in Narok County \[Kenya\] with KSh. 177 million investment](#)
- [One year on: Global Hunger Response](#)
- [World leaders at G7 can stop the hunger crisis, so children can thrive](#)
- [Fighting in Sudan rapidly worsening an already dire humanitarian situation for children, warn UNICEF, Save the Children and World Vision](#)
- [Hunger and obesity: A frightening food see-saw](#)
- [Only God knows whether the hunger crisis can get any worse](#)
- [Overwhelmed frontline health workers a symptom of a sick system](#)
- [School meals are life-changing, but not as easy as ABC](#)



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Other donors include:

AFD, BMZ, DFAT, FCDO, GFFO, GPE, Institute Camões,

Dutch Relief Alliance, Embassy of the Netherlands, SIDA, UNHCR, Visser Relief Fund, World Bank



World Vision is focussed 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

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