



EAST AFRICA REGION

**HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY
AFFAIRS**



**Annual Report
2024**

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This impact report provides an overview of World Vision's work in the East Africa Region from October 2023 to September 2024. World Vision International is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. We are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. World Vision International serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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Regional Leader's Foreword

In 2024, the East Africa Region continued to experience the worst humanitarian crises driven by climate change, conflicts, political instability, diseases, and economic shocks. Nearly 67 million people were in need of assistance, with refugees and asylum seekers accounting for more than 21 per cent of the global humanitarian caseload ([OCHA Eastern Africa: Humanitarian Snapshot \(As of September 2024\)](#))

Some countries in the region, such as Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan, continued to face a polycrisis. Ethiopia was beset by the cumulative impacts of extended conflict, harsh droughts, and flooding, resulting in over 21 million individuals requiring immediate aid. In Somalia, persistent climate-induced droughts and El Niño-related flooding have exacerbated food insecurity for over 4 million individuals, with approximately 1.7 million children experiencing acute malnutrition. Simultaneously, the conflict in Sudan has instigated one of the worst displacement crises in contemporary history, displacing almost 12 million from their homes and compelling over 3 million among them to seek refuge in the neighbouring countries.

Amid escalating pressures, World Vision and its partners have remained steadfast in their commitment to supporting the most vulnerable communities. In Fiscal Year 2024, we provided life-saving multisectoral support to about 17.9 million individuals in the region, including 9.5 million children through our initiatives in Cash and Voucher Assistance, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health and Nutrition, Education, and Protection.

We observed notable resilience from the communities we serve and rising prospects for growth. Our anticipatory action programmes have demonstrated their value, confirming that early warning systems and pre-emptive interventions reduce the effect of disasters. Moreover, localisation initiatives have been essential in enhancing emergency response. Strategic collaborations with local organisations and community-based disaster risk management groups have significantly enhanced the scope and effectiveness of our interventions.

Meaningful progress has been made in collaboration with our partners, but much more remains to be done to address the ongoing plight of children, particularly as the outlook for 2025 remains deeply concerning. In Sudan, the displacement due to the ongoing conflict has driven about 19 million children out of school. Drought and hunger continue to ravage the fragile countries with malnutrition levels worsening by the

day. In Somalia, for instance, UN OCHA estimates that about 4.4 million people are at risk of facing high levels of acute food insecurity, with an estimate of about 1.6 million children likely to suffer from acute malnutrition through July 2025.

While we remain optimistic about a better future, we are also cognisant of the complex and evolving challenges within our operating environment. Financial constraints, competing global crises, and evolving donor priorities continue to pose significant challenges on the scale and sustainability of our humanitarian efforts. Additionally, political instability across the region has introduced further operational complexities. Despite the challenges we may encounter, I remain optimistic that through the resilience of the communities we serve, the commitment of our field teams, and the solidarity of our partners, we can create a future in which the most vulnerable children and families receive the essential support they require in a timely and effective manner.

To all our donors & partners, including governments, multilateral agencies, faith-based organisations, private sector stakeholders and individual supporters, I say thank you. Your benevolence and steadfast support have enabled us to provide life-saving emergency assistance to 17.9 million people. Together, let us continue in our efforts to ensure that no child and family is left behind.



Lilian Dodzo
Regional leader - East Africa

Preface

In Fiscal Year 2024, the Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) teams throughout East Africa have demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to learning. In an area beset by intricate problems, including catastrophic droughts, floods, and intensifying conflicts, the challenge of tackling these multidimensional crises has proven both formidable and inspiring.

The figures clearly illustrate the scale of our efforts. In nine countries in the East Africa Region where we operate, we provided emergency aid to more than 17.9 million individuals. Our East Africa Hunger Emergency Response alone reached 8.2 million people, addressing acute food insecurity in some of the hardest-hit regions such as Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan. In Ethiopia, our response to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis delivered essential humanitarian assistance to 2.6 million conflict-affected individuals, while our efforts in Sudan benefitted over 1.2 million people despite significant operational challenges.

The impact of our interventions is evident in the resilience we continue to build in the targeted communities in partnership with the project participants, host governments, complimentary efforts of other humanitarian and development partners, and support from our donors. In Tanzania, we empowered communities affected by floods with livelihood recovery programmes, helping them bounce back better. In Uganda, we strengthened refugee integration efforts, equipping over 500,000 displaced individuals with food assistance, psychosocial support, and vocational training. Meanwhile, our education and child protection programmes provided thousands of refugee children with safe learning environments in Rwanda, reinforcing our commitment to holistic, child-focused interventions.

In Fiscal Year 2024, we were intentional to reinforce the capacities of our teams on anticipatory action, local capacity-building, and cross-sectoral coordination for purposes of sequencing and layering our interventions. Continued investment in early warning systems has enabled us to trigger early action and respond in a timely manner to save lives and livelihoods across the East Africa region, which is vulnerable to climate shocks.

Looking ahead, we recognise the need for sustained joint advocacy, enhanced funding mechanisms, and deeper collaboration with governments and other humanitarian and development partners. The humanitarian needs in East Africa are immense, but so is our resolve. Together, we will continue to respond with urgency, innovate for greater impact, and uphold the dignity and rights of the communities we serve and remain accountable for our actions.


I sincerely appreciate our field teams, partners, and donors who make this work possible. Your unwavering support is the foundation of our ability to transform lives despite the operating challenges. We remain committed to fostering hope, resilience, and lasting change across East Africa for vulnerable children and their families.




Gershon Mwakazi
Interim Regional Humanitarian and
Emergency Affairs Director

Humanitarian Impact Summary

Key Achievements

 **17.9 million**


People reached through humanitarian assistance in Fiscal Year 2024


 **Children 9.5 million**


 **Adults 8.4 million**


Impact by Sector

 **Food Security & Livelihoods**
People reached - **4.4 million**
Children Reached - **2.4 million**


 **Food Assistance**
People reached - **2.1 million**
Children reached - **1.3 million**

 **Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)**
People reached - **1.6 million**
Children reached - **0.7 million**

 **Health & Nutrition**
People reached - **2.9 million**
Children reached - **1.6 million**

 **Cash & Voucher Assistance**
People reached - **872,643**
Children reached - **0.5 million**

 **Education & Protection**
People reached - **1.6 million**
Children reached - **0.7 million**

 **Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFIs)**
People reached - **81k**
Children reached - **44k**

Key Achievements

East Africa Hunger Emergency Response
Sudan Crisis and Migration Emergency Response
South Sudan Floods Response
South Sudan Sustained Humanitarian Response
Children reached - **2.4 million**
People reached - **3.7 million**

East Africa Hunger Emergency Response Sudan
Crisis and Migration Emergency Response
Children Reached - **751K**
People reached - **1.3 million**

Ethiopia Sustained Humanitarian Response
East Africa Hunger Emergency Response
Sudan Crisis and Migration Emergency Response
Ethiopia Gofa Landslide Response
Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response (NECR)
Children reached - **2.9 million**
People reached - **5.5 million**

East Africa Hunger Emergency Response
Uganda Refugee Response (URR)
Uganda Flood Response
Children reached - **369K**
People reached - **565K**

Rwanda Floods Response
Refugee Programming
Children reached - **43,908**
People reached - **96,186**

Burundi Floods Response
Refugee Programming
Children reached - **185K**
People reached - **221K**

East Africa Hunger Emergency Response,
Somalia Sustained Humanitarian Response
Somalia Floods Response
Children reached - **2.4 million**
People Reached - **5.4 million**

East Africa Hunger Emergency Response
Kenya Floods Response
Refugee Programming
Children reached - **365K**
People reached - **893K**

East Africa Hunger Emergency Response
Hanang Floods Response
Refugee Programming
Children reached - **114K**
People reached - **202K**



Country Overview

Burundi

Burundi continues to experience the severe impacts of climate change, with natural disasters exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. 2024 was particularly challenging as the El Niño phenomenon triggered heavy rains from September 2023 to May 2024, causing widespread destruction and worsening food insecurity. By late 2024, 1.9 million people were classified as being in crisis or emergency levels (IPC 3 and 4), highlighting the urgent need for humanitarian support. Compounding these challenges, Burundi also faced a public health crisis, with the first MPOX case detected in July 2024. By year-end, the country had recorded 2,975 confirmed cases and one fatality, further straining the already fragile health and social systems.

In response to these crises, World Vision Burundi (WVB) declared a flood emergency in May, joining the government and other humanitarian partners in addressing the multifaceted impact of flooding. Across 20 communes in 13 provinces, WVB intervened with multi-sector initiatives including food security and livelihood reaching over 48,000 individuals with cash assistance and essential non-food items and another 150,000 with food assistance. To ensure the education of over 12,000 children is not disrupted, WVB improved the learning environment of the floods impacted schools by rehabilitation and construction of classrooms and latrines.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia continues to face a prolonged humanitarian crisis driven by years of ongoing conflict, recurring climate shocks, and political instability. In 2024, more than 21 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance as food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks worsened. Drought, flooding, and displacement have devastated communities, 1.5 million people affected by floods and more than 600,000 displaced from their homes.

World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) has been at the forefront of relief efforts, providing life-saving aid to 5.5 million people including 2.6 million children through multi donor support of over USD 165 million. Our integrated emergency response spans multiple regions, addressing critical needs in food security, WASH, health, protection, and cash assistance. Following the conflict in Sudan that erupted in April 2023, Ethiopia was a host to Sudanese refugees and returnees, reaching 49,000 people. Additionally, following the devastating Gofa Zone landslide, WVE swiftly launched a national emergency response, providing shelter, nutrition, and protection to more than 14,000 affected individuals.



Country Overview

Kenya

In FY24, Kenya's humanitarian situation remained relatively stable despite severe flooding caused by the El Niño phenomenon and long rains in addition to the perennial drought in some Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) parts of the country. Between March and June 2024, heavy rains and floods affected over 400,000 people across multiple counties, with devastating impacts. According to the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC), 315 lives were lost, 188 people were injured, and more than 293,200 individuals (58,641 families) were displaced. The floods also disrupted education, forcing approximately 350,000 learners out of school. However, there was a significant improvement in food security, with the number of food-insecure individuals dropping from 2 million in February 2024 to about 1 million in the last quarter of 2024, thanks to the above-average rainfall that boosted crop and livestock production.

In response to these hazards, World Vision Kenya (WVK) provided lifesaving humanitarian assistance to over 893,000 people. Through the Kenya floods response, WVK reached over 100,000 individuals, including 62,000 children, with vital support in WASH, Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFIs), Cash assistance, Nutrition, and Protection. Additionally, WVK continued its commitment to refugee support, reaching 88,898 individuals across Kenya and extending the general food distribution programme in Kakuma Camp. Through the Kenya Integrated Emergency Response Project (KIERP II), WVK also provided critical assistance to more than 133,000 drought-affected individuals in Kitui and Tana River counties. As Kenya continues to recover, these efforts offer a foundation for resilience, giving affected communities renewed hope and the resources to rebuild their lives.

Rwanda

World Vision Rwanda (WVR), in collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR, intensified its efforts to support vulnerable children in refugee camps across Rwanda as well as climate-induced shocks. As of September 2024, Rwanda hosted 140,017 refugees and asylum seekers. Since 2012, WVR has implemented both life-saving interventions and long-term livelihood programmes, including the PAC (Poverty Alleviation Coalition) model, which helps refugees move toward self-sufficiency. Key areas of support include WASH, education, livelihoods, and environmental protection.

Notably, in 2024, WVR reached over 43,000 students in Early Childhood Development, Primary, and Secondary schools across multiple refugee camps, ensuring children have access to learning. In response to the devastating floods and landslides in North West Rwanda between April and May 2024, WVR extended its emergency response to support affected families. Working closely with local authorities, district leaders, and MINEMA, WVR developed a targeted relief plan to provide essential non-food items (NFIs) to the affected communities. A total of 1,782 individuals received critical support, helping them recover and rebuild. Through these ongoing efforts, WVR remains committed to protecting and empowering vulnerable communities, fostering resilience, and creating pathways to long-term stability.

Country Overview

Somalia

Somalia remained in the grip of a severe humanitarian crisis in 2024 with 6.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, though this marked a 17% decrease from 2023. Climate-related disasters, including El Niño-induced floods and prolonged droughts, continued to drive food insecurity, leaving nearly 4 million people (21%) facing humanitarian challenges. Acute malnutrition affected 1.7 million children, while another 430,000 were classified as severely malnourished. The looming 2024-2025 La Niña drought is expected to exacerbate these challenges, worsening water scarcity for 2.7 million people and pushing almost 1 million into extreme food insecurity. Additionally, ongoing insecurity, particularly due to the anticipated African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) drawdown, has led to increased displacement and limited access to humanitarian aid, leaving 2 million women and girls at heightened risk of gender-based violence and protection concerns.

In FY24, World Vision Somalia (WVS) invested over USD 114 million in emergency, recovery, and climate adaptation programmes across multiple regions, reaching over 5.4 million people, including 2.4 million children. Through key initiatives like the Somalia Resilience Programme (SOMREP), Empowering Marginalised Groups through Economic Graduation in Somalia (EMERGE), Anticipatory Action & Climate Resilience along Transhumance Corridors in Somalia (AART), and the Nexus Accelerator Fund (NAF), WVS has played a significant role in strengthening food security, early recovery, and resilience efforts. Additionally, WVS provided lifesaving aid to over 400,000 flood-affected individuals and continued its work in WASH, education, health, shelter, and protection.

South Sudan

In FY24, South Sudan remained home to the world's fourth most neglected internal displacement crisis, with an estimated 2.3 million people displaced in the country ([IOM](#)). Ranked 161 out of 163 on the 2024 Global Peace Index, the country continues to grapple with ongoing conflict, sub-national violence, food insecurity, and climate shocks. Nearly half the population, 6.3 million people, are facing crisis-level food insecurity or worse, with 2.1 million children projected to suffer severe acute malnutrition by mid-2025. The influx of nearly 1 million refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan continues to put a strain on the available resources, lifesaving necessities and basic services, further pushing South Sudan's fragility, including food security, from bad to worse. In addition, catastrophic flooding displaced over 271,000 people, cut off key supply routes, and impacted more than 1 million people nationwide.

In response, World Vision South Sudan (WVSS) has been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts, investing \$89 million in reaching 3.2 million people across key intervention sectors like food security, health, WASH, and protection. In FY24, WVSS reached over 280,000 vulnerable people through the Sudan Crisis and Migration Emergency Response (SCRAMER), providing life-saving assistance in Shelter & NFIs, nutrition, and cash and food assistance. In addition, a six-month flood response supported nearly 80,000 individuals across three states, despite funding gaps. Looking ahead, WVSS has committed to a three-year Sustained Humanitarian Response (2025-2027) to improve the lives of 3 million vulnerable children, building resilience and hope through integrated programming that addresses both immediate needs and long-term recovery.



Country Overview

Sudan

The war that erupted in Sudan in April 2023 continued through 2024 and spread to new areas, with devastating consequences on the affected population. By the end of 2024, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) estimated that 11.5 million IDPs were in Sudan, out of which 8.8 million people were displaced post-April 2023. Over 3.4 million are estimated to have crossed borders to neighbouring countries of Egypt, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, and South Sudan. The humanitarian crisis was not limited only to war, but also natural disasters as heavy rains and flooding which affected 592,800 people in 15 states, including the displacement of over 180,000 people after the onset of the rainy season in June 2024. 51,000 cases of cholera were reported with 1,200 deaths (2.4% fatality rate) across 81 localities in 12 states. Additionally, according to the integrated food security classification (IPC), almost half of the population, 26 million, are food insecure, and just under 1 million already in famine-like conditions.

Despite the complex operating environment, World Vision Sudan (WVS) reached over 1.2 million people with critical humanitarian assistance through food distribution, cash assistance, and health and nutrition programs, addressing both immediate and long-term needs. These efforts included facilitating access to curative and preventive healthcare services to combat malnutrition and disease outbreaks, alongside providing clean and safe drinking water to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases. This comprehensive approach ensured lifesaving support for vulnerable communities while contributing to their resilience amidst ongoing challenges.

Tanzania

In December 2023, heavy rains on Hanang Mountain triggered devastating floods and landslides in Hanang District, Manyara region, claiming 89 lives and displacing over 1,500 households. More than 9,300 people were affected, with 750 acres of crops destroyed. The hardest-hit areas included Ganana, Gendabi, Jorodom, and Katesh Wards, where families sought shelter in community centres and schools. In response to government appeals, World Vision Tanzania (WVT) provided food aid, distributing 7,000 kg of soya beans and 2,000 kg of cooking oil to 3,444 people. Additionally, to support education continuity, 3,246 children across 16 schools received essential scholastic materials such as exercise books, pens, and school bags.

Beyond emergency response, WVT continues to support refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi in the western part of the country. In FY24, WVT in partnership with WFP, distributed over 28,000 metric tonnes of food valued at USD 8.99 million, reaching an average of 195,670 individuals, including a staggering 108,000 children. Supplementary feeding was also provided to pregnant and lactating women, people living with HIV, among other vulnerable groups. Additionally, WVT partnered with the Office of the Prime Minister's Disaster Management Department to train 365 key district officials in disaster preparedness across multiple regions, strengthening local capacity to manage future crises. Despite ongoing challenges, these efforts reflect WVT's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable communities and fostering resilience.

Uganda

In 2024, Uganda faced compounding humanitarian challenges, including extreme weather events and disease outbreaks. Severe flooding and landslides, particularly in Bulambuli district, led to 28 deaths, 113 missing persons, and the displacement of over 8,000 households across 14 districts. Prolonged droughts further deepened food insecurity in regions like Karamoja and Bundibugyo. Additionally, Uganda's location along multiple infectious disease transmission belts heightened its vulnerability to health crises, as seen in the 2024 monkeypox outbreak, which resulted in 1,830 confirmed cases, 112 hospitalizations, and 10 fatalities. Moreover, Uganda is home to Africa's largest refugee population, with nearly 1.8 million refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from Burundi, DRC, and South Sudan. Women and children account for 79% of this population, with the youth making up 25%. Refugee settlements remain densely populated, accommodating 91% of all refugees.

In FY24, World Vision Uganda (WVU) strengthened its triple nexus programming approach focusing its interventions in resilience, education, child protection, and WASH to over half a million refugees and vulnerable communities across multiple refugee settlements. Food and cash assistance as well as livelihood support helped families meet their immediate needs, with USD 2.38 million distributed in cash-based transfers and 2,460 metric tons of food reaching 165,229 individuals. In response to floods and landslides, WVU, in partnership with the Start Fund Network and Save the Children, provided financial relief, essential household items, and hygiene supplies to over 21,000 individuals. Additionally, World Vision strengthened child protection and mental health services, reaching thousands of children and caregivers with psychosocial support, case management, and educational materials.

Reflections from FY24: Challenges, Opportunities, and Lessons Learned

Challenges

East Africa continues to navigate a complex humanitarian landscape, where funding shortages, climate-induced disasters, conflict, and bureaucratic challenges significantly impact response efforts. Several WV offices faced significant funding cuts in Fiscal Year 2024, severely impacting emergency programming across the region. South Sudan experienced a staggering 48% decline in donor funding compared to Fiscal Year 2023, while funding in Somalia remained low, with key donors signalling further reductions in Fiscal Year 2025 due to shifting global socio-political priorities. In Kenya, WV was forced to scale down its Dadaab Refugee operations, while Burundi, Ethiopia, and Rwanda also saw decreased humanitarian funding, resulting in reduced project scope and limited coverage, leaving vulnerable populations without essential aid.

The escalating impacts of climate change further exacerbated humanitarian needs. Kenya transitioned from prolonged drought to El Niño-driven flooding, while Somalia endured a devastating La Niña drought, leading to food insecurity, water scarcity, and mass displacement. Rwanda's hillside communities faced recurrent landslides, and Uganda continued to struggle with recurring natural disasters.

Conflict and insecurity remained persistent across East Africa, with Sudan engulfed in violent power struggles between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) leading to mass displacement and a worsening humanitarian crisis. In Somalia, ongoing instability driven by Al-Shabaab's activities continued to threaten regional security, while Ethiopia faced escalating tensions in Amhara and Oromia, further displacing communities. The ripple effects of these conflicts contributed to a growing numbers of displaced populations.

Bureaucratic barriers further hampered humanitarian efforts, with Sudan's collapsed financial services and communication disruptions creating significant operational challenges. These interconnected crises underscore the urgent need for sustained donor engagement, strengthened policy support, and innovative solutions to ensure life-saving assistance reaches the most vulnerable communities across the region.



Opportunities

In 2024, emergency programming in East Africa highlighted several key opportunities to strengthen resilience, enhance local capacity, and leverage technological and strategic advancements across the region.

Regional Resource Optimisation emerged as a significant opportunity, with successful models like Ethiopia's Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) approach and Somalia's Nexus projects offering valuable lessons for regional collaboration. By sharing these models, countries in the region can further enhance their climate resilience. In Kenya, there is an opportunity to optimise available financial and technical resources for anticipatory action, ensuring better preparedness for future emergencies.

The Localisation Agenda was a major theme in 2024, with local partners primarily in Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda playing a crucial role in the effectiveness of emergency response. World Vision South Sudan continued to strengthen its localisation initiatives for impact by partnering with 36 local partners, including 18 National NGOs on joint project implementation. On the other hand, over 300 Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) groups in Somalia showcased the power of local structures in responding to crisis. Expanding similar efforts across the region would ensure that communities are empowered to take the lead in disaster preparedness and response.

Technological and strategic advancements presented several opportunities to improve emergency programming. In Somalia, long-term integrated projects like SOMREP (Somalia resilience programme), Empowering Marginalised Groups through Economic Graduation in Somalia (EMERGE), Nexus Accelerator Fund (NAF) and Anticipatory Action & Climate Resilience along Transhumance Corridors in Somalia (AART) offer an opportunity to scale climate-smart agriculture and adaptive livelihood strategies, addressing climate risks while improving food security. In South Sudan, the Fragile Context Programming Approach (FCPA) and Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Triple Nexus approach (survive, adapt, thrive) offers a comprehensive framework for addressing fragility and vulnerability. Sudan's exploration of Very Small Aperture Terminal (V-SAT) technology and cash/voucher programming highlights innovative solutions for overcoming communication barriers and reaching

communities in remote areas, ensuring aid reaches those who need it most.

Government and donor partnerships were also identified as key opportunities for strengthening emergency programming. In Burundi, continued engagement with national disaster risk management platforms can facilitate effective flood response and capacity-building for local authorities. Ethiopia's government has shown openness to adopting models like FMNR and nutrition programming, presenting an opportunity for deeper collaboration. In Kenya, maintaining strong relationships with donors like UN, USAID, and KOICA can unlock new funding streams to support ongoing humanitarian efforts. On the other hand, Somalia's collaboration with governments ensures that interventions reach the most vulnerable populations, providing an opportunity to deepen trust and enhance effectiveness.

External Engagements remain essential for mobilising resources and influencing regional policies. Burundi's active participation in UN clusters and partnerships with the World Food Programme (WFP) offer opportunities to secure funding for resilience-building projects. In Ethiopia, continued engagement in the HINGO forum can help share information and advocate for resources to address emerging needs. Kenya's leadership in refugee integration discussions with UNHCR, WFP, and the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) provides an opportunity to shape future refugee assistance strategies in the region.

Cross-Border Assessment and capacity building provides a critical opportunity to improve access to hard-to-reach locations. Sudan's cross-border operations, particularly in conflict-affected regions like Blue Nile and Darfur, can enhance humanitarian aid delivery and strengthen cross-border cooperation. On the other hand, capacity building remains a priority in ensuring preparedness for future emergencies.

In summary, the lessons learned from 2024's emergency programming in East Africa present multiple opportunities to improve preparedness, response, and long-term resilience. By building on regional collaboration, empowering local communities, and embracing technological innovations, East Africa can better position itself to address future emergencies effectively.



Lessons Learned

In FY24, humanitarian programming in East Africa highlighted critical lessons, drawn from diverse operational contexts, that are shaping more effective and sustainable emergency responses across the region.

1. Community Engagement Drives Success

Engaging local stakeholders emerged as a cornerstone of effective programming. In Ethiopia, collaboration with community volunteers and local actors enabled programme continuity despite external challenges. Tanzania leveraged faith leaders to identify and verify beneficiaries quickly, demonstrating the value of culturally aligned approaches. In Uganda, the involvement of local communities as first responders underscored their indispensable role in improving the timeliness and accuracy of aid delivery. Somalia showcased the impact of multi-sectoral approaches, integrating WASH, health, nutrition, and protection services in close alignment with community needs to enhance both effectiveness and sustainability.

2. Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Actions are Essential

Proactive disaster preparedness was recognised as critical for minimising risks and resource demands. Ethiopia's coordinated early warning systems mitigated potential impacts on vulnerable populations. Kenya highlighted the importance of budgeting for anticipatory actions as part of comprehensive preparedness efforts. In Burundi, pre-emptive agricultural interventions enabled communities to rebuild livelihoods while bolstering resilience against future shocks. Across the region, anticipatory actions proved cost-effective, reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening long-term stability.

3. Operational Preparedness Enhances Timely Responses

Investments in logistics and innovative strategies played a pivotal role in emergency responses. Somalia's boat-based flood relief efforts successfully delivered aid to inaccessible communities, overcoming logistical and security barriers. The strategic pre-positioning of supplies across Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda further demonstrated how advanced planning can reduce response times and mitigate crisis severity. These experiences underscored the value of preparedness in delivering timely, impactful aid.

4. Strategic Coordination Mechanisms Maximise Impact

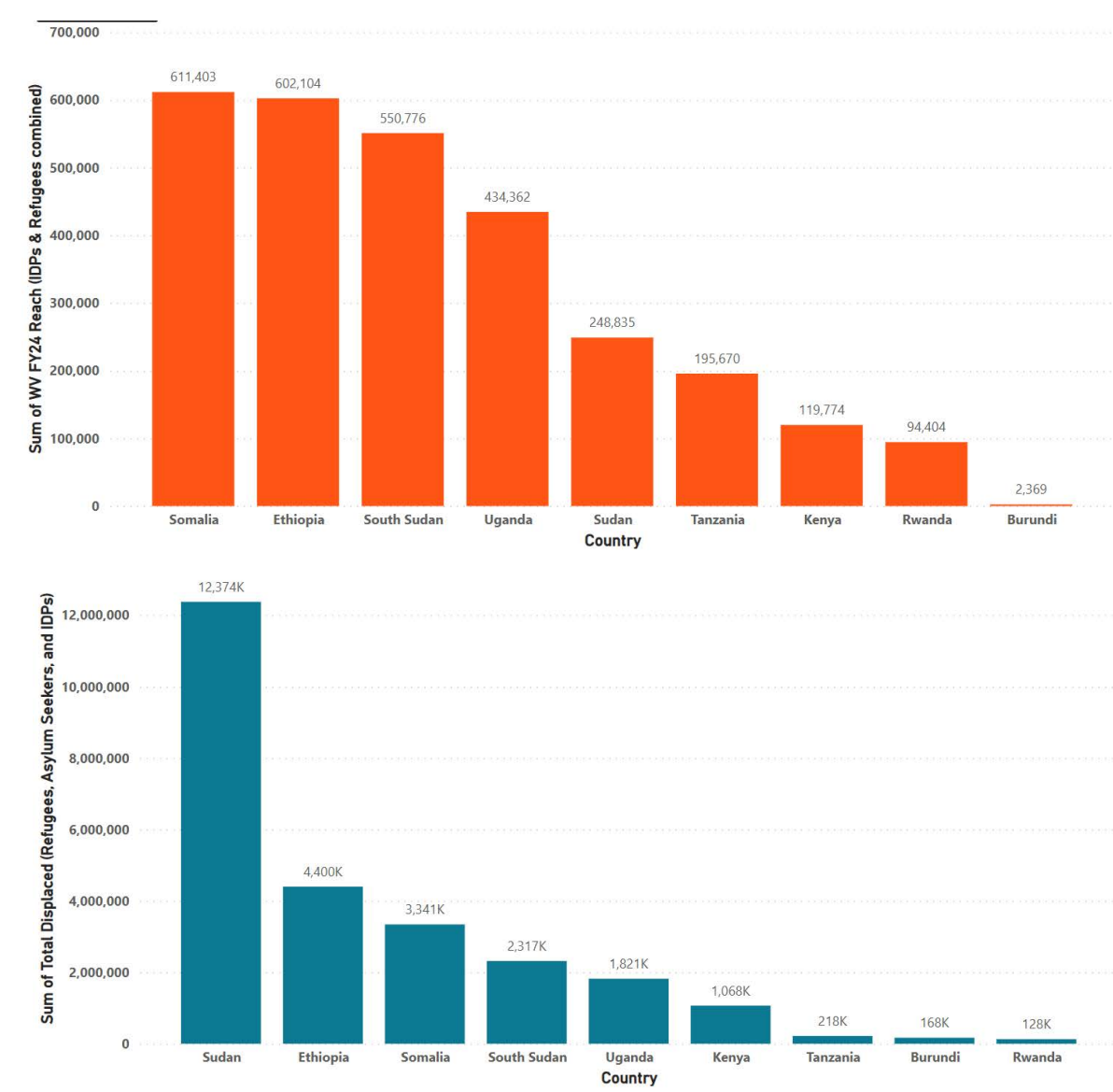
Effective partnerships and coordination were vital in overcoming operational challenges. Rwanda demonstrated the power of collaboration between government and humanitarian actors in managing refugee responses. Sudan highlighted joint advocacy and partnerships with local NGOs and international agencies, enabling access to hard-to-reach areas. However, Kenya's challenges with hub coordination, attributed to funding constraints, emphasised the need for adequate resources and streamlined multi-agency frameworks to enhance collective action.



Forced Displacement in East Africa

In FY24, more population around East Africa were forced from their homes as conflicts continued, climate shocks and instability destroyed communities. The number of African refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers grew by 14% in 2024 (By the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, September 4, 2024). In East Africa, conflict has consistently been the leading driver of displacement, and by the end of FY24, East Africa was a host to over 25.8 million IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers (about 20.2 million IDPs and 5.6 million refugees and asylum seekers).

In collaboration with partners, World Vision was able to reach about 2.9 million beneficiaries with multi sector programming including food assistance, emergency WASH, protection, education in emergencies, and emergency health. The humanitarian needs continue to grow and more still needs to be done!



World vision FY24
Reached (IDPs & Refugees combined)
2.9 million



20.2 million
IDPs in Country



5.6 million
Refugees and Asylum seekers
hosted in a country



25.8 million
Total Displaced (Refugees,
Asylum Seekers, and IDPs)

Climate Change and Climate Security

Evidence shows that climate change deepens fragility and contributes to humanitarian crises in different contexts around the world. Climate change presents the biggest threat to human development in our times and is contributing to increased number and severity of disasters. The year 2024 was one the warmest years on record. As unprecedented temperature records continue to be registered intensifying climate change impacts, the risk of related conflicts and insecurity is expected to increase.

Climate change impacts such as drought, floods, increased temperature and erratic rainfall can trigger competition over natural resources, insecure livelihoods, and mass displacement increasing the risk of social tensions, conflict and instability in the East Africa region. Water scarcity and low crop productivity is likely to hasten forced displacement. Unsustainable livelihood among the displaced population also drive landscape degradation and increase the likelihood of future disasters. This is even more complex in fragile contexts as the victims are already in dire need of humanitarian assistance. According to the Fragile States Index 2024, three of the five most fragile states in the world—Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan—are in the region.

In the East Africa region, the impact of climate change is a key driver of local conflicts and humanitarian needs as hotter temperatures, more frequent and severe droughts and floods are disrupting food and water security, degrading the environment, damaging human health and livelihoods, and displacing millions of people. Countries in the Horn of Africa for instance witnessed five consecutive failed rainy seasons between 2020 and 2022 resulting in a devastating drought that pushed millions into food insecurity and malnutrition as livelihoods were destroyed at a massive scale; a damage that will take families and communities many years to recover.

Climate change impacts are pushing pastoralists to move beyond their traditional routes, bringing them into conflict with other pastoralists and farmers. Across the region, women, children, youth and people with disabilities constitute a large socio-economic group that is extremely vulnerable to climate-induced and conflict-related shocks, being excluded from decision-making regarding access to and utilisation of productive assets, including natural resources, while at the same time they hold the potential to build sustainable resilience as agents of change for climate adaptation and peacebuilding in and between

communities. Addressing climate-induced risks to security requires integrated approaches. Efforts to help to reduce people's vulnerability to livelihood shocks can also help lower the risk of violent conflict.


World vision work on climate security revolves around addressing unique challenges faced by children and their caregivers in the context of climate risks. This has been done through developing climate-smart agriculture to build resilience in agriculture production and reduce food insecurity; implementing resilient livelihoods at household level through regreening community model techniques such as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) & energy-efficient cookstove utilisation. World Vision's Peacebuilding and Conflict Sensitivity (IPACS) tool (a highly participatory and inclusive assessment methodology, using focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) tools to build conflict sensitivity into a programme and identify opportunities for peacebuilding) has already been integrated into the World Vision regreening community programme model. In FY24, through FMNR, we restored over 316,000 hectares of degraded land and grew or regenerated 98 million trees.


FMNR and other low-cost agricultural practices have been proven to improve food security and resilience for small holder farmers and their families. For example, the Humbo and Sodo FMNR projects in Ethiopia have rehabilitated 3,227 hectares of land and strengthened local livelihoods by increasing grass cover for livestock, availability of firewood, recovery of springs and ground water, and reducing erosion and flooding. In the Aliék Payam region, Tonj North County in South Sudan, very severe dry seasons were forcing cattle keepers to migrate towards the swamps leading to heighten conflicts over resources resulting in death and loss of livestock, which is their main livelihood. In response, WVSS built a solar-powered multipurpose water source which has helped to manage the conflicts.

To minimise conflict between the host community and the refugees, World Vision Uganda is implementing a project to improve resilience and livelihood security. Currently, the project is empowering 30 groups, both in the settlements and host communities. These groups are involved in different activities, including seedling regeneration, tree planting, and environmental protection. The livelihood project covers refugee settlements of Mungula II, Maaji II and Maaji III, targeting both refugees and host communities. In Maaji refugee settlement, WV Uganda provided 300,000 seedlings of exotic trees to

the community nursery bed. Some of the varieties include grevillea, tick, eucalyptus, pine, mahogany, and aborea, planted on 17 acres.

 **+ 300,000**
Seedlings of exotic trees
provided

 **+ 316,000**
hectares of degraded land was
restored through FMNR

 **98 Million**
Trees grown and regenerated



Anticipatory Action(AA): Key Lessons from AA Pilot Project

Anticipatory Action refers to a set of actions taken to prevent or mitigate potential disaster impacts before a shock or before acute impacts are felt. It is increasingly recognised as a key solution to reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. AA is hinged on 3 pillars: Trigger/parameters for action (early warning mechanism), pre-agreed activities, and pre-committed financing. World Vision implemented a Pilot Anticipatory Action Project in Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, South Sudan, and Syria with a focus to enhance the level of readiness and pre-disaster action capacity at community level.

The key lessons learned from the anticipatory action project, particularly regarding drought and flooding as triggers for proactive interventions, emphasised the importance of holistic approaches incorporating sustainability, stakeholder engagement, technical capacity, integration of indigenous knowledge, community ownership, and attention to cross-cutting themes like gender and child protection.

Lesson 1: Recognising the Power of Contextual Triggers

The pilot underscored the critical importance of conducting precise risk assessments in various settings. Gaining insights into local climate patterns and historical

vulnerabilities enabled the development of customised approach in implementing Anticipatory Action. This deeper understanding was instrumental in ensuring proactive, culturally appropriate and structural realities that would make timely actions possible to prevent crises from escalating.

Lesson 2: Leveraging Indigenous Knowledge alongside Scientific Data

The pilot highlighted the significant benefits of integrating indigenous knowledge with scientific data to strengthen early warning systems. Indigenous communities offered valuable insights into local environmental shifts and past disaster responses, which, when combined with scientific information, created a more resilient and accurate system. This collaborative approach not only honoured local cultures but also enhanced scientific frameworks with practical, community-driven knowledge.

Lesson 3: Reaching Last Mile with Early Warning Information

The pilot revealed that for anticipatory action to be effective, early warning systems must be functional and be able to reach last mile. The pilot explored multiple early warning communication which enhanced

community-level preparedness and ownership. With communities being informed, they are willing to take up the anticipatory actions. Where early warning systems were not effective, there was minimal appreciation of anticipatory action.

Lesson 4: Building Sustainable Interventions

The pilot project highlighted the importance of ensuring that anticipatory actions have a lasting impact by prioritising sustainability. This involved embedding Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) into the project framework, supporting climate-resilient livelihoods, and carefully designing interventions to avoid negative effects on local ecosystems. By focusing on these sustainable practices, the anticipatory action can help strengthen long-term resilience within the communities.

Lesson 5: The Power of Stakeholder Engagement

The pilot demonstrated that engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, from local communities to government agencies and NGOs, was essential for success. By prioritising information-sharing and fostering collaboration, the Anticipatory Action programmes can build trust and encourage a sense of shared ownership across communities. This participatory approach ensures anticipatory action Initiatives remain adaptable and closely

aligned with the evolving needs of the community.

Lesson 6: Strengthening Technical Capacity of Government Staff

The pilot highlighted the critical importance of enhancing the technical capacity of government staff for effective response. Being a relatively new approach, it is critical to provide targeted training on the Anticipatory Action (AA) Protocol and trigger mechanisms. This plays a pivotal role in equipping technical staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement anticipatory actions efficiently. This capacity-building effort can ensure that the staff are well-prepared to manage and respond to future crises with greater confidence and competence even in the absence of World vision.

Lesson 7: AA Funding

Securing sustainable funding remains a critical challenge. Future initiatives should incorporate anticipatory action strategies into National Office annual budgets, particularly within the National Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund (NEPRF), to ensure ongoing financial support and programme viability beyond the limited lifespan of Anticipatory Action projects.



Mental Health & Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) in Responses

Disasters can have profound and lasting impacts on mental health in multiple ways. Unfortunately, these impacts are often overlooked in response efforts, as they are not considered immediate life-saving priorities. These can cause Trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to direct or indirect exposure to the hazard, with fear and uncertainty leading to anxiety disorders. These effects can have a lasting impact on individuals, highlighting the need for targeted programming to address mental health and psychosocial support

World Vision's specific interest in MHPSS dates back to the 1994 Rwanda Genocide emergency response where staff began to realise that the psychosocial consequences of the war were just as pertinent to peoples' recovery as was their needs for safety and material aid.

One of World Vision's earliest programmes in MHPSS was to develop a tool for measuring depression within the post-conflict Rwanda context. Using this tool, a series of Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Groups (IPTG) programmes were developed and later implemented in Uganda, particularly amongst people impacted by HIV/AIDS, with impressive results for sustained symptom reduction. Since then, IPTG has been rolled out in World Vision's programmes in different contexts. World Vision implements a range of MHPSS programmes in all parts of the world, during emergency responses and in transformational development programmes.

Within East African countries, we have been implementing comprehensive MHPSS programmes to address the mental well-being of vulnerable populations. World Vision Kenya, in partnership with the ministry of health, has been a leader in development and testing psychological interventions which saw more than 5,000 people treated with common mental health problems in less than 12 months.

World Vision implemented Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) in Uganda which improved access to mental health services through primary healthcare, significantly increasing community awareness and treatment uptake. A study in Uganda on Impact of MHPSS interventions like Early Adolescence Skills for Emotion (EASE) revealed that MHPSS created an impact on conflict affected children when it is integrated in child protection interventions in a protracted humanitarian setting.

Globally, WV has made significant impact through MHPSS; 2.3 million children and caregivers have been reached with messages and tools to support their psychosocial well-being including positive parenting skills. More than 500,000 people identified with common mental health problems are being reached with a psychological intervention; over 3,600 people affected by neurological and substance abuse disorders receive specialised treatment and more than 91,300 faith leaders were supported to provide psychological support programming.



Triple Nexus Programming: Key Learnings from Uganda and Ethiopia



Commitments in the 2016 World Summit called for a renewed way of thinking and working which called for humanitarian, development and peace partners/approaches to better partner and collaborate to see more sustainable results, provoking the Nexus Programming Approach. World Vision has over the years been implementing the Fragile Context Programming Approach which is relatively aligned to Nexus Programming. The Nexus approach is designed to incorporate long-term programming into responses which are normally short-term in nature with life-saving focus.

With the Nexus Programming, the shift is to not only focus on life-saving interventions but also incorporate resilience building that will reduce overall vulnerabilities and seek to address the root causes of the vulnerabilities, creating long-term solutions. World Vision takes an Area-based Programming approach enabling her to zoom into issues in depth across the nexus and build in sustainability beyond response. WV undertakes initiatives within the area programme that cut across disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, disaster response, climate-adaptive natural resource management, food security/agriculture development, economic empowerment, market systems development, productive assets development, education as well as health, nutrition, WASH, protection and mental health.

World Vision Uganda has been responding to the refugees Influx in West Nile since 2014 and has successfully incorporated Nexus Programming into this protracted crisis. The primary focus/ outcome areas of the programme are threefold; enhancing social cohesion and protection, improving livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable groups, and ensuring

operational accountability and effective project implementation. The concept of NEXUS programming integrates various themes addressing both the emergent and ongoing needs of refugees and host communities.

The Uganda Government policy on refugees has been friendly and supportive towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework which provides for the Nexus Programming Approach. Improved access to farmland is enabling resilience building. WV Uganda has been able to initiate Child Sponsorship Programme in the Refugee set-up, paving way for development projects. Five Area Programmes targeting refugee (30%) and host community (70%) children were started in 2024. This has contributed to the peaceful coexistence of host and refugee communities as a result of joint programme targeting. Refugee parents have increased their capacity to provide sustainably for their children having adopted resilient coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies.

World Vision Ethiopia's Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response (NECR) has been working to respond to the changing environment and needs of children and communities affected by the conflict since 2021. The Response has evolved from emergency relief operations into nexus approach with synergy of existing development resources with emergency grant projects. NECR covers 6 Area. Programmes, providing opportunity for intentional integration of humanitarian, development and peace programmes. Synergies of the APs and NECR have ensured that the existing resources and systems of development (APs programmes: manpower, physical and social institutions) are well-integrated to yield timely and successful response to the needy.

Capacity Building: Investing in Staff to Build a Stronger Response

East Africa is a region impacted by multiple hazards that are cyclical and continually increasing in severity. Towards building effective responses and preparedness, and in tandem with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Commitment 8 (People and communities interact with staff and volunteers that are respectful, competent and well-managed), World Vision partnership recognises the crucial role of well-equipped and skilled staff and has designed capacity-building interventions. In FY 24, we conducted National Disaster Management Team (NDMT) trainings for 125 staff reaching three National Offices Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan and also conducted Regional Disaster Management Team (RDMT) training with 34 staff graduating. The NDMT and RDMT are select team of experienced and highly skilled World Vision employees from National Offices who are equipped with capacity provide humanitarian leadership when a disaster is expected to strike/strikes.

The trainings include building global understanding of Humanitarian Principles & Code of Conduct, Core Humanitarian Standards, Sphere Standards, Emergency Management System, Cluster Coordination System, World Vision Disaster Management Standards, Security Risk Assessment and Planning for Emergency Response, among others. Simulation exercises of different disaster scenarios form a crucial part of the training which is critical for muscle memory development of the response teams.

Learning & Review: Towards the Core Humanitarian Standard Commitment seven which states, "People and communities access support that is continually adapted and improved based on feedback and learning," the responses conduct Real Time Learning/Evaluation (RTE) and After-Action Reviews which are geared towards improving the quality of responses. The lessons from such events are shared within the Partnership to ensure that best practices are adopted and lessons learnt integrated to improve future programming and operations. Learning events, mentoring/coaching, and team meetings have continued to be avenues for capacity strengthening of the staff. Equipped staff have been the bedrock of resourcing for rapid deployments both internationally and nationally.



Testimonials



By Hayat Muhammed, World Vision Sudan

“Having endured the war in Sudan which led to the destruction of livelihoods and mass displacement, my experience of being internally displaced twice and living as a refugee pushed me to become more resilient and advocate for the unheard voices of my people. With the support of the regional Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) team, I enrolled in strategic training programmes, including the Regional Disaster Management Team (RDMT) and the National Disaster Management Team (NDMT). These training programmes have equipped me and the rest of the World Vision Sudan staff with essential disaster management skills and knowledge, fostering personal and professional resilience.

My ability to advocate for the affected population in Sudan was greatly enhanced by my knowledge of disaster management and its connection to effective advocacy. This combined expertise empowered me to raise awareness about pressing humanitarian issues, including conflict, displacement, and food insecurity in forums like African Union (AU) Annual Humanitarian Symposium. My participation at the AU significantly advanced my advocacy efforts, enabling me to successfully raise awareness about the critical humanitarian issues facing vulnerable populations in Sudan. The trainings have equipped us to become more adaptable and flexible in our roles during responses and gave us insights into psychological first aid and trauma management, helping me better cope with my experiences while also supporting others, including fellow staff who may be affected by the conflict.



“From Personal Growth to Organisational Success: The Role of Capacity Building”

By Mary Akol, World Vision Uganda

“Capacity building has had a transformative impact on my role as a Disaster Management Manager and on World Vision Uganda (WVU) as an organisation. My coordination, proposal writing, and negotiation skills have improved, while my confidence in disaster management has increased, enabling me to engage effectively with stakeholders, both locally and internationally.

Exposure to mentors and donors through these platforms has sharpened my collaboration and fundraising skills, resulting the securing of over £325,000 and an additional \$216,579 for flood response and anticipatory action projects respectively in just 7 months. Furthermore, through capacity building, we have been able to develop a competent and reliable team, allowing me to deploy staff, delegate responsibilities effectively, and ensure uninterrupted project delivery even during my absence.

At an organisational level, capacity-building initiatives have strengthened our disaster management framework. With support from the regional office, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members were oriented on their roles and responsibilities in disaster management and guided through the DM standards. This deliberate effort has ensured that our responses are inclusive, timely, on budget, and delivered with exceptional quality. Furthermore, World Vision Uganda has established a National Disaster Management Team (NDMT) comprising an impressive 45 members who have been trained and are prepared for deployment within the country on just 24 hours' notice, as demonstrated during the flood responses.

While WVU may not be the best in every aspect, we excel in what we do, thanks to the capacity building both within the organisation and through the World Vision partnership, coupled with the strong and supportive leadership of World Vision Uganda.

Budget Summary, Donors and Partners

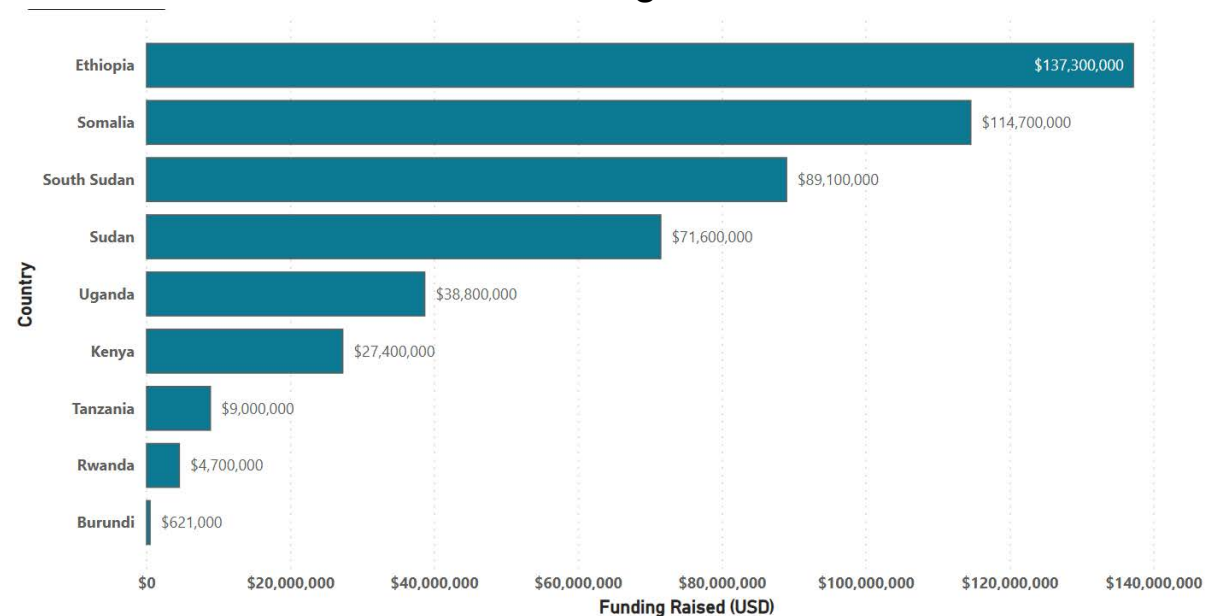
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors and partners for their generosity and unwavering support of World Vision's humanitarian efforts in East Africa. The following list, though not exhaustive, reflects just a glimpse of the incredible network of partners who have joined us in making a difference. Your support brings hope and change to the lives of the most vulnerable. Thank you.

Financial Summary

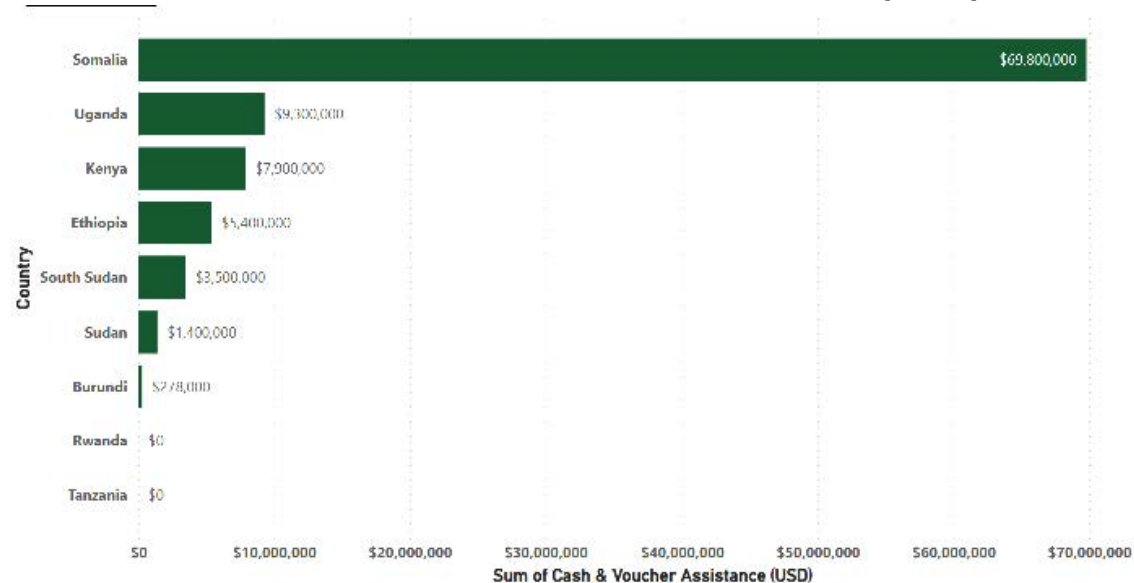
US\$ 493.3 million
Funding Raised

US\$ 97.6 million
Cash & Voucher Assistance

Sum of funding raised (USD)



Sum of Cash & Voucher Assistance (USD)



Our Support Offices

Australia
Austria
Canada
Finland
France
Germany
Hong Kong
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Korea

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