

World Vision

ENOUGH
END CHILD HUNGER AND NUTRITION

**POLICY INSIGHTS IN
ENDING CHILD HUNGER
AND MALNUTRITION
IN EAST AFRICA**



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Written By: William Oticha, Advocacy and External Engagement.

Managing Editor: Ruth Koshal, Regional Communications and Advocacy Director

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Copy-editing and Review: Wandia Muchiri, Advocacy and External Engagement Intern. Tom Brothwell, Simon Mort Reports Limited

Graphic Design: Diana De León

Cover photo: ©World Vision / Jon Warren

For inquiries or feedback regarding this report, please contact: ruth_koshal@wvi.org

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ASAL	Arid and Semi- Arid Lands
AU	African Union
AULO	African Union Liaison Office
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
FONEB	Forum des Organisations de la Société Civile Œuvrant dans le Domaine de l'Enfant au Burundi
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
PRONIANUT	Programme National Intégré d'Alimentation et de Nutrition au Tchad
SUN CSN	Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

World Vision's ENOUGH Campaign calls for urgent and coordinated action to ensure that all children have access to adequate and nutritious food. The campaign emphasises increased funding for nutrition, expansion of school meal programmes, and stronger accountability to address the structural drivers of hunger, including the triple threats of conflict, climate shocks and cost of living. Above all, the campaign recognises that policies are at the centre of achieving any meaningful progress in ending child hunger and malnutrition.

Child hunger and malnutrition remain pressing challenges in East Africa. The region faces some of the world's highest rates of stunting and wasting among children under five, with significant disparities between and within countries. These outcomes are largely driven by recurring natural calamities, conflict and displacement, economic hardship, and fragile health and social protection systems.

This policy brief examines the policy environment surrounding child hunger and malnutrition in East Africa. It provides an overview of the regional hunger crisis; analyses the international, regional, and particularly national policy frameworks that shape responses to child nutrition; and offers strategic recommendations aimed at improving policy implementation, coordination, and sustainability.

International frameworks such as the *Sustainable Development Goals*, particularly Goal 2 on Zero Hunger, as well as the *African Union Malabo Declaration on Agricultural Growth and Transformation* support the implementation of the campaign. As this brief notes, at the national level, countries where World Vision operates in East Africa have nutrition policies and strategies in place, but with many opportunities to improve in financing, multi-sectoral coordination, enforcement mechanisms, and capacity for local implementation.

In light of these challenges, this brief recommends several actions to strengthen the policy response to child hunger and malnutrition:

- It emphasises the need to improve coordination by establishing or strengthening multi-sectoral bodies that can oversee child nutrition and food security policies across government levels, increasing public investment in nutrition programmes.
- In addition, enhancing the capacity of local governments and grassroot organisations through training and technical support can improve the delivery and sustainability of interventions.
- It also recommends robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms, to ensure that nutrition standards are enforced and progress is tracked.
- Integrating climate-smart agriculture into national nutrition strategies will help to build resilience against future food crises, while partnerships with the private sector can bring innovation and efficiency to nutrition and food systems.
- What is more, child participation and community involvement in the design and implementation of policies can be critical in tailoring programmes that are responsive to their lived experiences.
- Lastly, the brief recommends scaling up school meal programmes across the region, in order to significantly improve children's nutrition, school attendance, and learning outcomes.



1. INTRODUCTION

World Vision is a global Christian humanitarian, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. In East Africa, we are spread across nine countries, implementing more than 900 projects that reached 26 million people, 16.4 million of whom were children, in FY 2025 alone, with a budget of more than US\$ 798 million and 6,500 staff. WV's work in the East Africa region spans across community development, emergency response and disaster management, as well as advocacy and policy influence.

The 2025 Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates published by UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank Group indicates 150.2 million children under 5 affected by stunting globally majority of whom are from Africa and Asia. 42.8 million children under 5 suffer from wasting, of which 12.2 million have severe wasting according to the same analysis¹. The consequences extend beyond the immediate health concerns apparent in the significant number of malnourished and stunted children, as well as those displaying wasting. The situation perpetuates cycles of poverty, entrenches human suffering and significantly contributes to underdevelopment.

The ENOUGH campaign is World Vision's global response to ensure that no vulnerable child goes hungry and that every child has access to adequate nutrition. It was officially launched globally on the side-lines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 20th September, 2023. Eight World Vision East Africa Region Field Offices launched the ENOUGH Campaign in 2024.

At its core, the campaign emphasises urgent calls to action: enough of the right food for children in crisis; enough funding to combat child malnutrition; school meals which can change the world; listening to children; counting children through data and statistics; nutrition policies and services; and regulation of food and beverages marketed to children.

This brief examines the policy environment in which the campaign finds itself in its efforts to combat child hunger and malnutrition across Eastern Africa. It highlights the scope of the problem, policy gaps impeding progress, and achievements made through advocacy and collaboration. By providing actionable recommendations, this brief seeks to empower policymakers, partners, and other stakeholders to intensify their efforts in building a hunger-free future for the children of Eastern Africa.



¹ UNICEF (2023). [Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition 2023](#)

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 State of Hunger and Malnutrition in East Africa

In East Africa, child hunger and malnutrition remain critical challenges, compounded by conflict, rising living costs, and the effects of climate change. The Food and Agriculture Organization defines hunger as “the uneasy or painful sensation caused by lack of food” or, more appropriately in this context, “the recurrent and involuntary lack of access to food”. Hunger in this sense often leads to malnutrition over time. Malnutrition is defined as “deficiencies or excesses in nutrient intake, imbalance of essential nutrients, or impaired nutrient utilisation”. Malnutrition resulting from macronutrient deficiencies commonly manifests as stunting, underweight, or wasting, while micronutrient deficiencies frequently lead to anaemia.

According to the Global Nutrition Report, the prevalence of stunting in Eastern Africa is 32.6%, significantly higher than the global average of 22.0%. Conversely, the Eastern Africa subregion’s prevalence of wasting is 5.2%, which is lower than the global average of 6.7%.

Country	Child Stunting (<5 years) %	Child Wasting (<5 years) %	Child Mortality (<5 Years) x deaths/1000 live births	Malnutrition Deficiency %	Data Source
Burundi	55.8	4.8	52.6	61.0	The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World Report, 2025
Ethiopia	40.0	5.0	51.0	18.0	Demographic and Health Survey 2024-2025
Kenya	17.6	5.0	39.9	No recent data available	Kenya Health and Demographic Survey 2022
Rwanda	27.0	1.0	36.0	37.0	Demographic and Health Survey 2025
Somalia	28.0	12.4	111.8	43.3	The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World Report, 2025
South Sudan	31.3	22.7	99.0	62.7	
Sudan	36.6	14.1	54.9	42.3	
Tanzania	30.0	3.0	43.0	38.9	
Uganda	26.0	2.9	52.0	31.7	

Table 1: The State of Malnutrition and Child Mortality in 9 East African Countries



©World Vision/ Ben Adams

These statistics underscore the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to address the root causes of malnutrition, including food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and poor sanitation, to improve the well-being of children in Eastern Africa.

Various realities in the region worsen the situation. Persistent food insecurity, fueled by climate change, conflicts, and economic instability, continues to threaten the lives of millions of children. Limited access to health and nutrition services, coupled with inadequate policies and insufficient funding, further compound the crisis.

2.2 ENOUGH Intervention in East Africa

World Vision's ENOUGH campaign in East Africa focuses on a series of strategic interventions, both in the short term and in the long term, aimed at eradicating the crises that contribute to food insecurity in the region.

Each World Vision national office, depending on the domestic landscape, focuses on multiple key areas of the campaign to exert its influence or intervention.

There are efforts to expand school meals programmes to provide nutritious meals that improve children's health, boost school attendance, and enhance educational outcomes. It also focuses on strengthening nutrition policies and services, particularly in regions with the highest malnutrition rates, by advocating for better food security systems, increased funding, and improved healthcare infrastructure to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

Additionally, the campaign promotes sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture to help smallholder farmers increase local food production and improve community food security. Through advocacy and policy influence, ENOUGH urges governments, donors, and international bodies to prioritise child nutrition, increase investments, and build inclusive, resilient food systems, tackling both immediate needs and long-term solutions for child hunger in East Africa.

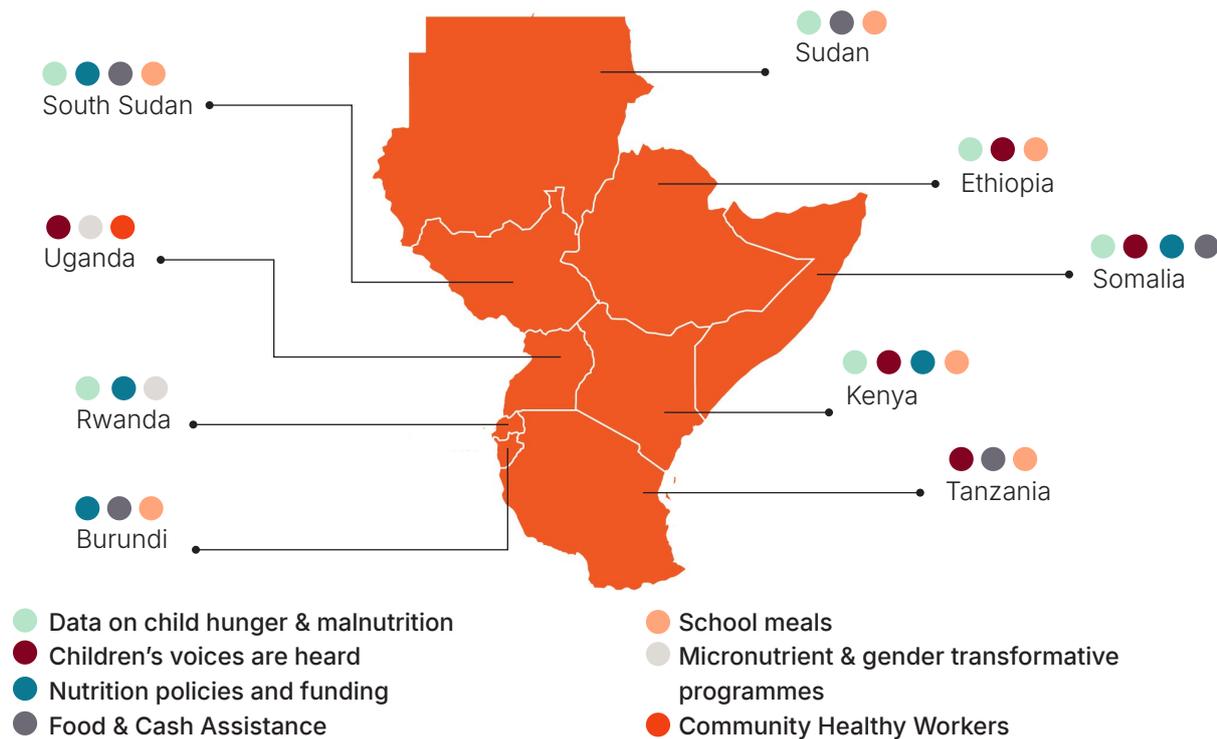


Table 2: ENOUGH Campaign Focus Areas per Country in East Africa

2.2.1 Child Participation in the ENOUGH Campaign

Various international and regional frameworks provide for structured child participation in matters affecting children. From the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) to which all World Vision East African countries are party, the need to involve children in decision making cannot be stressed more, including in policies that affect them. A 2019 study by World Vision International and the University of Edinburgh, on child activism to end child marriage, confirmed that children are not only capable of identifying problems, but can also offer actionable solutions². WV's Enough campaign in East Africa campaign recognises the importance of this insight, and has taken deliberate effort to involve children in its programming and child-led advocacy.

The formation of the East Africa Children Advisory Group, which brings together child

advocates from all the Field Offices in the region, is the hallmark of child involvement. On top of sharing their own recommendations for interventions in the ENOUGH campaign, the members of the Children Advisory Group have also taken part in a nutrition dialogue that culminated in them giving further recommendations on what can be done to curb child hunger and malnutrition.

These recommendations span various areas, reflecting the children's different experiences, contexts and unique perspectives. Themes the group has collectively suggested include: **initiation or expansion of school meals; promotion of agricultural education; climate smart agriculture, including irrigation; and promotion of peace in volatile regions.** These recommendations, although expressed in different ways and contexts, underscore the fact that the children are aware of the problems that communities face.

² World Vision International (2019). [Child activism to end child marriages](#)

2.2.2 Partners

Achieving the goals of the campaign requires strong partnerships with organisations that share a commitment to ending hunger and improving livelihoods, especially of vulnerable children. Key partners play critical roles in supporting the campaign through policy advocacy, humanitarian interventions, and regional cooperation, helping to drive meaningful change by amplifying the campaign's message and ensuring that governments and stakeholders take concrete action to end food insecurity. Some key partners include:

- **Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network (SUN CSN):** SUN CSN strengthens the ENOUGH campaign by advocating for improved nutrition policies and mobilising grassroots efforts to push for stronger government action against malnutrition and food insecurity.
- **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD):** As a regional body, IGAD supports policy coordination among member states, promoting food system resilience, cross-border cooperation, and climate adaptation to address hunger at its roots.
Notably, World Vision East Africa actively participated in the adoption of IGAD's first-ever *Child Policy*. The policy, developed through a collaborative process involving IGAD member states, the Secretariat, children, and key stakeholders, aligns with international and regional child rights instruments, including the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* and the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)*. World Vision contributed technical expertise and advocacy input throughout the process, helping to shape policy priorities that address peace and security, the social and economic well-being of children, and governance frameworks, including budgeting and accountability.
- **African Union (AU):** The AU complements these efforts through continental policies like the *Malabo Declaration* and *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development*, and various continental commemorations, encouraging investments in agriculture and rural development while addressing humanitarian crises.
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):** UNICEF complements World Vision's ENOUGH campaign's impact through large-scale nutrition programmes, research, and emergency nutrition responses, ensuring that vulnerable children receive the support they need.



3. POLICY LANDSCAPE IN ENDING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN EAST AFRICA

3.1 International and Regional Frameworks

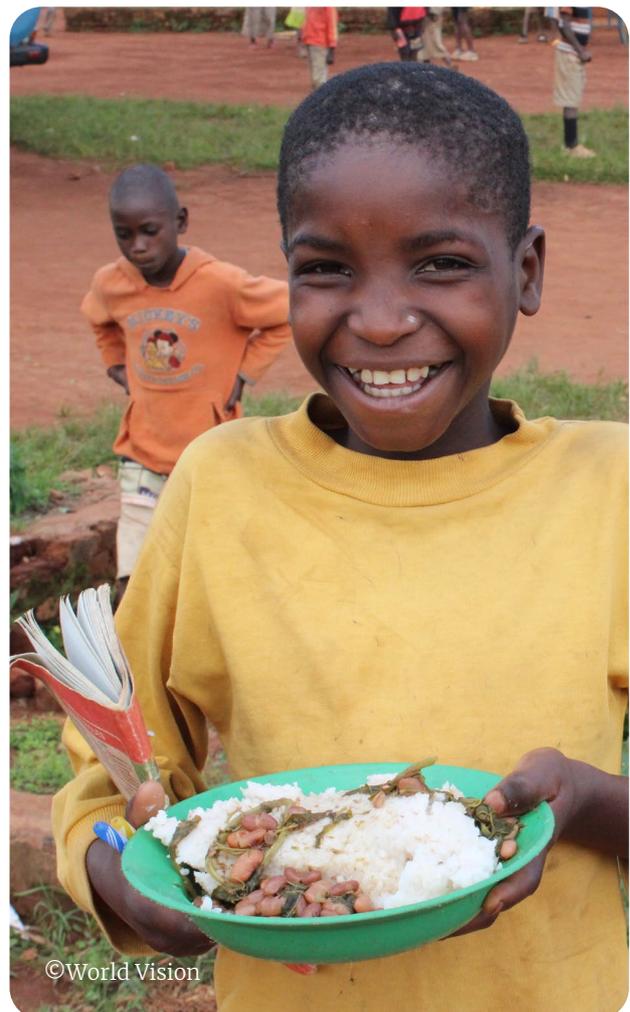
Efforts to end child hunger and malnutrition in East Africa are broadly shaped by a combination of international, regional and municipal policies and agreements. These frameworks provide a foundation for addressing food insecurity, improving nutrition, and enhancing agricultural resilience in the region.

At the international level, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), sets ambitious targets for ending hunger, achieving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture. World Vision's ENOUGH campaign encourages East African countries to incorporate these goals into national policies, aiming to improve agricultural productivity and nutrition outcomes.

At the continental level, the *Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth*³, adopted by the African Union (AU), remains a cornerstone policy for addressing hunger in Africa. This declaration commits governments to ending hunger by 2025 through increased agricultural productivity, investments in food security, and improved nutrition. It also sets targets to reduce child stunting to 10% and underweight prevalence to 5%, while advocating for the allocation of at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture.

The African Union's *Agenda 2063* is a strategic framework for the continent's socio-economic transformation, aiming to create a prosperous, inclusive, and food-secure Africa. One of its key aspirations is to ensure a high standard of living, quality health care, and well-nourished

citizens. The ENOUGH campaign directly aligns with this vision by addressing child hunger and malnutrition through advocacy for policy change, increased investment in school feeding, and sustainable, climate-smart agriculture. By promoting nutritious meals and strengthening food systems, the campaign supports Agenda 2063's goals of ending poverty, improving human development, and fostering inclusive growth.



³ African Union (2014). [Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods](#)

Regionally, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) leads the *Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)*, which focuses on mitigating the impacts of recurrent droughts and food insecurity in the Horn of Africa. This initiative emphasises early warning systems, sustainable land management, and support for cross-border pastoralist communities. Similarly, the East African Community (EAC) *Food Security Action Plan (2019-2023)*⁴ has been instrumental in guiding efforts to enhance food availability, strengthen food safety standards, and build resilience to climate change.

3.2 Domestic Frameworks

The domestic frameworks for addressing child hunger and malnutrition in East Africa refer to the domestic policies in place in different countries with regards to combating child hunger and malnutrition. For purposes of this analysis, the ENOUGH national assessments conducted across all nine Field Offices form the perfect backdrop and a valuable resource. These assessments have provided a comprehensive policy outlook, offering critical insights into the gaps and existing policies aimed at combating hunger and malnutrition, since they capture each country's focus areas.

3.2.1 Burundi



The Republic of Burundi has taken meaningful steps to address child hunger and malnutrition through a range of national strategies and institutional frameworks. The government's draft *Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition and Food Security (2025)*⁵ and the *National Health Policy (2016–2025)* reflect a commitment to improving nutrition outcomes, particularly for children under five. These policies are supported by operational structures such as the National Commission for Social Protection and the Nutrition Sector led by Programme National Intégré d'Alimentation et de Nutrition.

School feeding programmes have been rolled out in seven provinces, and the government has validated nutritional guidelines to ensure that meals are balanced and appropriate. Community health workers are active at the grassroots level, and the country has adopted the *Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Protocol* to guide treatment and referral systems.

WV Burundi has made strides in institutionalising child participation, by electing child representatives to the FONEB forum and facilitating their engagement in regional forums. It prepared for the ENOUGH campaign launch in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs, and initiated joint efforts with other ministries on child labor and school dropout issues.

3.2.2 Ethiopia



The Federal Government of Ethiopia has demonstrated commitment in tackling hunger and malnutrition, particularly among children. The government has launched several key policy initiatives, including the *National Food and Nutrition Policy (2018)*⁶, the *Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategy*⁷, and the *Seqota Declaration (2015–2030)*, which commits to ending stunting among children under two by 2030. These frameworks are complemented by the *Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)*, which integrates nutrition-sensitive interventions, and school feeding programmes that support education and nutrition outcomes for vulnerable children. Moreover, Ethiopia has made progress in aligning with global frameworks such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and the SDG 2 commitments, and has developed a national food systems transformation roadmap in line with its homegrown economic reform agenda.

World Vision Ethiopia has collaborated with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and the World Bank to advance the development of an *Early Childhood Development (ECD)* strategy that integrates school feeding as a core

⁴ East African Community (2019). [EAC Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan. \(2019-2023\)](#)

⁵ World Food Programme (2023). WFP and Social Protection Annual Review 2022. [Burundi National Multisectoral plan for food and Nutrition security. \(2024-2027\)](#)

⁶ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (2018). [Food and Nutrition Policy](#)

⁷ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia & Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). [Nutrition sensitive Agriculture policy](#)

component. The office also convened a high-level policy dialogue focused on incorporating *Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration* (FMNR) into national policies related to environment, agriculture, land use, and climate resilience. Through the ENOUGH campaign, WV Ethiopia implemented large-scale cash programming that distributed over USD 2 million, benefiting more than 170,000 individuals. Furthermore, the organization facilitated the delivery of over 29,000 metric tons of food to refugees and internally displaced persons, reaching a total of more than one million people with critical humanitarian assistance.

3.2.3 Kenya



Kenya has adopted key policies that support the ENOUGH campaign's goal to end child hunger and malnutrition. These include the *Kenya Nutrition Action Plan*⁸ and

County Integrated Development Plans, which promote coordinated, multisectoral action; the *School Meals and Nutrition Strategy*⁹, which improves child nutrition in schools; the *Health Policy*¹⁰, which ensures access to essential nutrition services; and the *Food and Nutrition Security Policy*¹¹, which provides a national framework for addressing hunger through shared responsibility.

Although policy frameworks are in place, there is room for improvement in their implementation and in enhancing transparency regarding government expenditure on food and nutrition security programmes. The government supports schools in ASAL (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) counties by providing staple foods such as maize, beans, and rice. However, schools outside these regions, as well as pre-primary children, have yet to be fully included in the national school meals programme. Additionally, food security efforts are largely focused on ASAL areas due to significant donor support, which may lead to regional disparities in programme reach.

Kenya has established coordination between national and sub-national governments to enhance the effectiveness of school meal programmes. The national government provides policy direction, funding, and oversight, while county governments play a key role in implementation, ensuring that meals reach schools efficiently. This collaboration enables tailored approaches that consider regional needs, particularly in ASAL counties where food security challenges are more pronounced. By working together, both levels of government aim to expand coverage, improve nutritional quality, and enhance sustainability through locally sourced foods and community involvement.

As part of the ENOUGH campaign, World Vision Kenya played a leading role in advocating for increased funding for school meals nationwide. World Vision submitted budget proposals to both the executive and legislative arms of government, and organised engagement sessions with Members of Parliament to push for the prioritisation of school feeding. Thanks to these advocacy efforts, the Kenyan government committed 3 billion Kenyan Shillings (about 23 million USD) in its annual budget to the school meals programme, which is expected to benefit around four million children across the country.

3.2.4 The Republic of Rwanda



The Republic of Rwanda has demonstrated significant commitment to improving child nutrition through a well-articulated policy framework.

The government's *Vision 2050 and National Strategy for Transformation (NST1: 2018–2024)*¹² prioritise human capital development, targeting a reduction in stunting from 33% in 2020 to 19% by 2024, and ultimately to 3% by 2050. These targets are backed by policies such as the *Fourth Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP IV)*¹³, the *Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Strategic*

⁸ Ministry of Health, Kenya (2021). [Nutrition action plan 2023–2027](#). *Global Nutrition Report*

⁹ Ministry of Health (2017). [National school meals and nutrition strategy 2017–2022-Kenya](#)

¹⁰ Ministry of Health (2014). [Kenya health policy 2014–2030](#)

¹¹ Ministry of Health (2011). [National food and nutrition security policy: Sessional paper](#)

¹² Republic of Rwanda & Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2018). [National food and nutrition policy 2013–2018](#)

¹³ Ministry of Health, Rwanda (2024). [Health Sector Strategic Plan \(HSSP V\) 2024/25–2028/29](#)

*Plan (2018–2024)*¹⁴, and the *Early Childhood Development (ECD) Policy*. Rwanda has also integrated nutrition across key sectors including agriculture through the *Fourth Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA4)*, which emphasises nutrition-sensitive agriculture, school feeding programmes, and kitchen gardens. These efforts are further supported by strong community engagement platforms, such as the “village kitchen” initiative and child-sensitive social protection systems.

World Vision Rwanda has augmented these efforts through the ENOUGH campaign, notably by promoting the Professional Umuganda model, which has gained recognition by local and national stakeholders, including NCD and districts’ leadership. Additionally, World Vision has supported local policy dialogues that have resulted in district-level nutrition action plans, aligned with national strategies. World Vision Rwanda also influenced the inclusion of large-scale fortification among the N4G commitments.

3.2.5 Federal Republic of Somalia



The Federal Republic of Somalia has taken important foundational steps toward addressing child hunger and malnutrition, despite operating in a humanitarian context marked by protracted conflict, displacement, and climatic shocks. Key achievements include the development of the *Somalia National Nutrition Strategy*¹⁵, and the adoption of *Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)* programmes. The government also participates in global frameworks and submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the *2030 Agenda* in 2022. Coordination efforts are facilitated through active national and regional nutrition clusters, and both a Food and Drug Authority (FDA) and Bureau of Standards have been established under relevant ministries to enhance food safety oversight.

WV Somalia received global recognition by securing third place in the Policy Wins Award at the Global Advocacy Summit. It contributed to

the national policy space through government consultations and youth-led dialogues on sexual and reproductive health rights. The ENOUGH campaign was actively advanced by mobilising resources for nutrition-sensitive programming and engaging adolescents in awareness on gender equality. WV Somalia also began preparations for launching the ENOUGH campaign in Somaliland and taking leadership of the SUN CSO Alliance.

3.2.6 Republic of South Sudan



The Government of the Republic of South Sudan has achieved key milestones in addressing child hunger and malnutrition through the development of key frameworks and partnerships. Notably, the *National Action Plan for Children (2020–2024)*¹⁶ reflects an intent to prioritise children’s well-being. The government has also supported the implementation of the *Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN)* programme, and collaborated with various international partners to deliver school feeding programmes, therapeutic nutrition interventions, and community-based management of acute malnutrition.

However, gaps and opportunities exist in the nutrition policy landscape. The implementation of existing policies is heavily reliant on international donors and humanitarian actors, with limited domestic financing and institutional capacity; additionally, the country has not made substantial progress toward its SDG 2 targets. Furthermore, the health system suffers from a shortage of trained personnel, and many vulnerable children remain unreached by food and cash assistance programmes, due to logistical and resource constraints. The absence of regulations to restrict the marketing of unhealthy foods to children and the limited integration of nutrition into broader health and social protection systems further hinder progress.

The government should operationalise the *National Action Plan for Children* and other nutrition-related strategies. The government

¹⁴ Ministry of Health, Rwanda (2023). [Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Strategic Plan \(2018–2024\)](#)

¹⁵ Federal Government of Somalia (2022). [National nutrition plan 2022–2026](#)

¹⁶ Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management & United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] (2024). [South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024–2028](#)



should prioritise building institutional capacity, particularly by training and deploying more health workers and enhancing data systems for monitoring nutrition outcomes. Strengthening multi-sectoral coordination, especially between the health, agriculture, education and social protection sectors is critical. Additionally, enforcing food quality regulations, scaling up school feeding programmes using locally sourced foods, and promoting community-based nutrition education can contribute to long-term resilience and improved child nutrition outcomes.

By collaborating with partners, World Vision South Sudan in FY2024 contributed to and supported several important policy changes that would have impacted the lives of at least two million children. These policy changes represent significant steps forward in addressing the needs of children and communities in South Sudan.

- **Expanded Free Education for All Policy:** Announced in 2023, this law aims to provide free primary and secondary education to approximately 4.75 million school-aged children, including 2.8 million out-of-school youth. Efforts are currently focused on establishing mechanisms for implementation.
- **South Sudan Nutrition Cluster 2024 Strategy:** The Nutrition Cluster 2024 Strategy addresses humanitarian nutrition needs, targeting 5.8 million food-insecure individuals, including 1.8 million children and women. World Vision South Sudan contributed vital data and insights to this strategy.

- **Scaling Up of the Boma Health Initiative (BHI):** World Vision South Sudan helped revise the Boma Health Initiative *strategy* by providing technical insights during workshops organised by the National Ministry of Health and UNICEF. A key component is the Health Sector Transformation Project, funded by the World Bank through UNICEF, aimed at reaching 2.6 million children, for which World Vision is an implementing partner.

In 2025, World Vision South Sudan, through its membership, leadership, and active participation at the Right 2 Grow Coalition and Joining Forces for Children Alliance, contributed to the following policies that play a significant role in children's health, nutrition, and participation:

- **National Nutrition Strategy 2024-2034:** This policy establishes a unified framework to coordinate national efforts to combat malnutrition, stunting, and wasting over the next decade, which is critical in achieving more effective and sustainable solutions to the country's nutrition situation. **Potential reach: 4.9 million children | Passed: June 2025**
- **National Children's Council Guidelines:** The Children's Council guidelines have been finalized and are ready to be launched. The guidelines are aimed at improving initiatives of the state and non-state actors in the implementation of the Children's Council. The guidelines are pivoted on the principles of participation found in the *Child Act 2008*, the *Transitional Constitution of South Sudan*

(2011), the ratified *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 2015*, and the *Africa Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)* pending ratification by South Sudan.

- WASH Caucus Constitution and Strategic Plan 2025-2028:** The *WASH Caucus Constitution and Strategic Plan* establishes a legal framework that strengthens broader advocacy efforts. This includes promoting equitable access to and distribution of WASH services, as well as pushing for adequate budget allocations. When implemented effectively, through both direct programming and advocacy, this framework can drive collective action toward improved health, nutrition, and protection for children.

Potential reach: 4.9 million children | Launched: July 2025

3.2.7 Republic of the Sudan



Sudan continues to show resilience in efforts to address child hunger and malnutrition. *The Sudan National Nutrition Policy and Key Strategies (2009)* and the *National Nutrition Strategic Plan (2014–*

*2025)*¹⁷ provide a comprehensive roadmap for improving nutrition outcomes, particularly among children under five. These frameworks emphasize prevention, detection, and treatment of nutrition-related disorders, and promote multi-sectoral engagement. Sudan is also a member of the *Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement*, and has committed to the *Nutrition for Growth agenda*.

Despite these commendable efforts, there is still room for improvement in the nutrition policy landscape. Implementation of national policies, particularly at the state and locality levels, is hindered by limited funding, weak institutional capacity, and the ongoing conflict. Sudan's progress toward SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) is stagnant, with high rates of stunting (36.6%), wasting (14.1%), and child mortality (54.9 per

1,000 live births)¹⁸. Furthermore, while the *National Adaptation Plan (2016)*¹⁹ outlines climate-resilient strategies, its implementation remains limited, and food security policies are not integrated with nutrition-sensitive agriculture at the community level.

To strengthen Sudan's nutrition policy environment, it is essential to operationalise and adequately fund existing frameworks, particularly the *National Nutrition Strategic Plan*, as well as to improve institutional capacity, ensuring that policies are translated into action through effective coordination and accountability mechanisms.

Strengthening the enforcement of food marketing regulations, investing in the training and deployment of health workers, and scaling up community-based nutrition programmes are critical.

3.2.8 United Republic of Tanzania



The United Republic of Tanzania has made good strides in improving child nutrition through a range of policy interventions. The *National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP)* and the

*Health Sector Strategic Plan V (2020–2024)*²⁰ are central to these efforts, aiming to reduce stunting and improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes. Tanzania has also made significant progress in aligning with global frameworks such as the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, particularly SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, and has committed to the Nutrition for Growth pathways. These commitments are reflected in national strategies that promote food security, climate-resilient agriculture, and school feeding programmes. The government's directive for local authorities to allocate funds for child nutrition and the establishment of multisectoral steering committees at regional and council levels further underscore its dedication to tackling malnutrition.

World Vision Tanzania has played a critical role in

¹⁷ Government of Sudan & Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO] (2014). [National Nutrition Strategic Plan 2014–2025](#)

¹⁸ UNICEF Sudan (2021). [Nutrition annual report 2021](#)

¹⁹ Government of Sudan & Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO] (2014). [National Nutrition Policy 2014–2023](#)

²⁰ Government of Tanzania, Prime Minister's Office (2021). [National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan II \(NMNAP II\) 2021/22–2025/26](#)

shaping the national nutrition agenda by actively participating in key policy dialogues, principle among them being the contribution of evidence-based recommendations and practical insights drawn from its field experience to influence the development of the *Country Nutrition Policy*. Through consistent engagement with government ministries, civil society networks, and development partners, World Vision Tanzania has helped ensure that the policy framework reflects the needs of vulnerable communities.

3.2.9 Republic of Uganda



The Government of Uganda is addressing child nutrition through a combination of policies. Anchored in frameworks such as the *Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II (2020/21–2024/25)*²¹ and the *Third National Development Plan (NDP III)*, Uganda has prioritised nutrition-sensitive programming across health, agriculture, and education sectors. The recent introduction of the *Food and Nutrition policy (2023)* and the anticipated approval of the *School Feeding Policy* signal a growing political will to institutionalize nutrition governance.

Despite these efforts, Uganda continues to face significant nutrition challenges. According to the 2022 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS), 26% of children under five are stunted, and 2.9% suffer from wasting. Anemia remains a critical concern, affecting 31.7% of children aged 6–59 months, while only 16.6% of children aged 6–23 months meet the minimum dietary diversity

criteria. Food insecurity is widespread, with 39% of the population classified as ‘food poor’, with rural households disproportionately affected²². Regions such as Karamoja, Acholi, and Bukedi report the highest levels of food poverty. These disparities are compounded by limited access to diverse diets, and by gaps in the referral and reporting systems for malnutrition.

World Vision Uganda aids efforts by regularly collaborating with civil society partners and development stakeholders to strengthen collective advocacy on public financing for children. As part of this effort, the organisations prepare joint statements and policy position papers in response to the National Budget Framework Paper and Ministerial Policy Statement. These joint submissions are strategically presented to relevant parliamentary committees, including those overseeing education, health, and social protection, in order to influence budget allocations and policy decisions.



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²¹ Government of Uganda (2019). [Uganda Nutrition Action Plan \(UNAP\) II, 2019–2025](#)

²² Uganda Bureau of Statistics [UBOS] (2023). [Uganda Demographic and Health Survey \(UDHS\) 2022: Key findings presentation](#)

4. KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are designed to address the critical gaps identified in the domestic frameworks for combating child hunger and malnutrition across East Africa, with a focus on strengthening the ENOUGH campaign's efforts. These recommendations are intended to enhance coordination, financial commitment, and policy implementation at national and local levels, while ensuring that food security and nutrition policies are more inclusive, sustainable, and responsive. By addressing key issues such as weak enforcement, inadequate funding, and poor integration of sectors, these strategies seek to foster a comprehensive and resilient approach to ending hunger and malnutrition in the region.

4.1 Strengthen Multi-Sectoral Coordination

Recommendation: Establish or enhance a dedicated national body or task force responsible for coordinating child nutrition, food security, and agricultural policies across ministries (health, agriculture, education, WASH, etc.). This body should also be tasked with ensuring the integration of these policies and effective monitoring.

Reasoning: Weak coordination between sectors is a common issue in many countries, leading to fragmented efforts. A dedicated body would ensure that policies are implemented holistically and sustainably.

4.2 Increase Financial Commitment and Investment

Recommendation: Advocate for a significant increase in public spending on child nutrition and food security programmes. Governments should commit to allocating a percentage of national budgets towards multi-year funding for these initiatives.

Reasoning: Financial constraints were identified as a barrier to successful policy implementation.

Ensuring sufficient and consistent funding will help overcome these limitations.

4.3 Enhance Capacity Building for Local Implementation

Recommendation: Provide training and capacity-building programmes for local governments and grassroots organisations involved in the implementation of nutrition and food security programmes.

Reasoning: Gaps in local-level implementation and monitoring systems exist due to a lack of capacity. Strengthening local governance will increase the reach and sustainability of programmes.

4.4 Improve Policy Enforcement and Monitoring

Recommendation: Develop robust mechanisms for the enforcement of food safety, nutrition standards, and programme monitoring. This includes setting up clear accountability structures, real-time data tracking, and periodic evaluations.

Reasoning: Many countries face weak enforcement and monitoring systems. Effective policy enforcement ensures that standards are adhered to, and that progress can be tracked.

4.5 Incorporate Climate Resilience into Nutrition Policies

Recommendation: Integrate climate change resilience into national nutrition and food security policies. This could involve promoting climate-smart agriculture and supporting nutrition-sensitive crops.

Reasoning: Climate change impacts were identified as a threat to food security. By

promoting climate-resilient agriculture, countries can ensure long-term food security even in the face of climate-related challenges.

4.6 Foster Public-Private Partnerships

Recommendation: Strengthen partnerships with private sector actors, especially in agriculture, food safety, and nutrition, in order to leverage resources, technology, and expertise.

Reasoning: Governments alone cannot address all the gaps. Public-private partnerships can bring in innovation, resources, and efficient systems to support nutrition and food security efforts.

4.7 Enhance Community and Child Participation

Recommendation: Establish mechanisms for child and community participation in policy development and programme implementation. Children, especially those affected by hunger, should have a voice in decision-making processes regarding nutrition programmes.

Reasoning: Gaps in child participation were noted, and involving children in policy development ensures that programmes are more relevant and tailored to their needs.

4.8 Focus on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

Recommendation: Invest in nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices that promote the production of nutrient-dense foods, particularly in areas affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

Reasoning: Integration of agriculture and nutrition policies is weak in many countries. Focusing on nutrition-sensitive agriculture can improve both food security and nutritional outcomes, especially for vulnerable populations.

4.9 Expand School Meal Programmes

Recommendation: Expand and standardise school meal programmes to ensure that all children, especially in vulnerable regions like ASAL areas, have access to nutritious meals. This could involve integrating locally sourced, nutritious foods into the meals.

Reasoning: Limited coverage of school meal programmes and regional disparities were identified. Expanding these programmes could have a significant impact on child nutrition.

4.10 Ensure Comprehensive Data Collection and Research Integration

Recommendation: Strengthen national data systems to capture comprehensive, accurate data on nutrition, food security, and child health. Use this data to inform policymaking and improve the integration of research into practice.

Reasoning: The lack of reliable data and weak research-extension linkages hinder effective policymaking. Better data will provide insights into progress, gaps, and areas that need targeted interventions.



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East Africa Regional Office
P.O.Box 133 - 00502 Karen Nairobi Kenya

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