



The Challenge of Climate Disasters

From delivering aid to ending need

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Published by the El Niño Task Force on behalf of World Vision International.

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Contents

In the wake of El Niño	2
World Vision's Response	3
Disasters & Development	4
The Philippines	4
Delia's Story	5
Reducing Risk	6
Zambia	6
Alvina's Story	7
Aiding Recovery	8
Alice's Story	9
Building Resilience	10
Ethiopia	10
Ramate's Story	11
Captions	12
Contact Details	13

In the wake of El Niño

We are living in the most unusually warm period in history and this is taking a huge toll on the world's most vulnerable. 2015 was the hottest year on record and 2016 looks set to be even hotter.

As this year's El Niño in the Pacific lurches towards becoming a La Niña¹, the run of record temperatures looks set to be broken again. But in some ways, this year is not unique. It has become widely acknowledged among the development community that weather-related disasters are the 'new normal'.

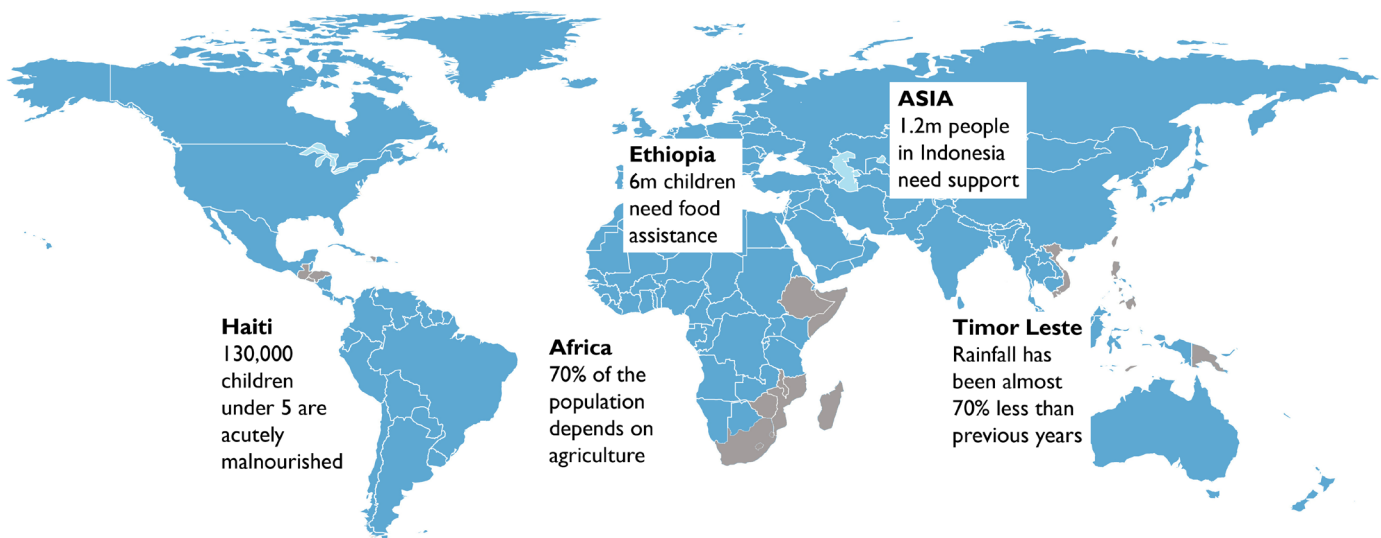
Over the last twenty years, 90 percent of disasters have been caused by floods, storms, heatwaves and other weather-related events. Over this period,

weather-related disasters claimed 606,000 lives, an average of some 30,000 per annum, with an additional 4.1 billion people injured, left homeless or in need of emergency assistance.²

60 million people are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance due to El Niño.³ More than **26 million children** are at risk from hunger, disease and lack of water in Africa alone.⁴ On a continent where 70 percent of the population is dependent upon agriculture,⁵ El Niño is having catastrophic consequences. Economic losses due to disasters can be 20 times greater (as a percentage of GDP) in developing countries compared to developed countries.

El Niño is a term for the warming phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). It is a warming of the central to eastern tropical Pacific that occurs, on average, every three to seven years. During an El Niño event, sea surface temperatures across the Pacific can warm by 1–3°F or more for anything between a few months to two years. El Niño impacts weather systems around the globe so that some places receive more rain while others receive none at all, often in a reversal of their usual weather pattern.

(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)



¹ NOAA - http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

² The Human Cost of Disasters, 1995 – 2015, CRED & UNISDR

³ El Niño: Overview of Impacts and Humanitarian Needs in Africa, OCHA, 22 June 2016

⁴ http://www.unicef.org/media/media_91809.html

⁵ ibid

World Vision's Response

A dollar invested in resilience, disaster risk reduction and early action can save around four dollars in emergency relief.⁶ Funding needs to support these kinds of programmes as well as humanitarian relief. It also needs to be multi-year and flexible – at least ten percent of development finance needs to be made available to manage climate risks.

World Vision works in and with communities for up to 15 years and is able to release 20 percent of its community development budget for immediate humanitarian support.

Officially, World Vision has emergency responses to the disaster in 16 countries (Angola, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Haiti, Somalia, Honduras)

Recognising the unjust toll that disasters take on those who are already struggling, World Vision has focused on four specific areas in order to minimise the impact of some of the worst weather-related disasters:

- Preparedness & response,
- Resilience,
- Disaster risk reduction; and
- Recovery.

In the Philippines, we have integrated development with emergency response in our nutrition hubs. In Ethiopia, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration has made communities resilient and resistant to drought. In Zambia, our water programmes have reduced the affects of disasters by reducing the exposure to water borne diseases that so many children are susceptible to.

World Vision has so far reached over five million people affected by El Niño – half of those were children.

⁶ SOMALIA RESILIENCE PROGRAMME



Disasters & Development

With the ever growing number of disasters caused by extreme weather and conflict, development and humanitarian relief needs to be increasingly integrated.⁷ This is a challenge for many sectors but one sector that has combined both, to some degree, is food assistance.

World Vision's food security programmes help people produce their own food and access markets on a path to further development. When disasters strike, emergency food assistance meets immediate needs in some of the hardest to reach places.

THE PHILIPPINES

The frequency of natural disasters has doubled over 40 years to an average of 15 each year and the number of persons affected by natural disasters has more than doubled to around 50 million.⁸ 42 per cent of the Philippines was affected by drought or below average rainfall in 2016, affecting an estimated 3.5 million people, mostly in Mindanao, but 46 provinces, cities, municipalities and villages declared a state of calamity. USD85 million in crops have been lost.⁹ To compensate,

the Government is planning to import half a million tonnes of rice and has released USD114 million to address food insecurity, energy security and health and safety.¹⁰

FOOD ASSISTANCE

The Philippines susceptibility to natural disasters makes food security a pervasive issue in the Filipino way of life. As a consequence, World Vision has a holistic approach to food assistance there and in countries where weather-related disasters are increasing.

World Vision's agri-fishery programme gives farmers fishing boats, while the local government provides fishing tackle. The result is that they... now alternate between fishing and cropping so that have a food source all year round - even when crops fail during droughts.

Small children have different nutritional needs compared to adults and to ensure their food security, World Vision has established the Pinoy Nutrition Hub (PNH). Operating in the same areas as the agri-fishery programme the PNH aims to treat malnutrition in children under-five with local and affordable food. This also means changing the

Children in the Philippines (UNICEF)



3.6 million of children 0-59 months are underweight



4 million are stunted



Less than half of all children under 2 years of age are breastfed

⊖ Iodine

20 percent of children aged 6 – 12 are iodine deficient, which can decrease IQ by up to 15 points

⁷ World Humanitarian Summit - CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES: FROM DELIVERING AID TO ENDING NEED

⁸ The Human Cost of Weather-Related Disasters http://www.unisdr.org/2015/docs/climatechange/COP21_WeatherDisastersReport_2015_FINAL.pdf

⁹ <http://www.investphilippines.info/arangkada/climate/environment-and-natural-disasters/>

¹⁰ UNOCHA



way caregivers feed their children so that their diet improves. The Hub runs nutrition classes for mothers, trains health workers and distributes nutritional supplements.

To ensure that disasters do not jeopardise food security, preparedness plans need to include a nutrition component. Pre-positioning supplies of vitamin A capsules, iron tablets, micronutrient powder and other essentials at local health centres means that they can be distributed to compensate for dietary deficiencies which commonly occur during droughts.

Food assistance forms a critical global safety net that helps hungry, vulnerable people not only maintain their lives during disasters but also helps them to climb out of poverty. To achieve both of these aims, a wide range of interventions are necessary. As well as nutrition hubs and agri-fishery, World Vision implements cash and voucher programmes, distributes commodities and provides school meals across the Philippines.

DELIA'S STORY

Delia Kalabanit (38) and her husband Alex (40) support their six children from the produce of their vegetable farm in Central Mindanao, the Philippines. Alex planted eggplant, okra, cabbage, corn, cucumber, bitter melon, moringa, lemon grass and tomatoes, but El Niño created a drought that has destroyed millions of dollars' worth of crops, including that of this family.

"I sell my produce in the market. Last year has been a struggle. The weather has really hurt the business," says Alex. Normally, the husband and wife earn USD86 after every harvest but last season they lost most of his crop to the heat.

"I have six little mouths to feed and when food is hard to come by we really have to work hard," says Delia. The couple is grateful that they have another source of income to provide for the family – a large fishing boat provided by World Vision. It means that the family can enjoy a meal caught fresh from their father's boat. The family is grateful to have fish, a rich source of iron and protein, which helps them ward off malnutrition during drought. The catch feeds their family even when most of the other farmers in their village have lost their crops.

But Delia's small children need more than fish.

Fresh fish might help the family to earn income and keep hunger at bay for Delia's older children, but her younger children need breast milk and nutrients found in other food. Another of World Vision's programmes, the Pinoy Nutrition Hub, encourages mothers to breast-feed and helps inform them of the other kinds of food that their children need. The Hub also provides supplements so that infants and small children are protected from the worst effects of the hunger that El Niño has left in its wake.

☺ Last year
has been a
struggle ☹

Aaron Aspi



Reducing Risk

Disaster risk reduction combines efforts that analyse the causes of disasters with initiatives that reduce their effects. Reducing people's vulnerability through wise environmental management and improving preparedness are examples of this.¹¹

The weather extremes that El Niño has caused have resulted in a wide range of health problems, including disease outbreaks and malnutrition. Some places, such as in Paraguay where floods have affected more than 100,000 people, have received more rain than normal. In Tanzania and Zambia, excessive rainfall has caused severe outbreaks of cholera.¹² The climate may also have caused the spread of the Zika virus in Brazil and other countries in South America.¹³ The recent spike in yellow fever cases in Angola and Democratic Republic

of Congo and dengue fever cases in Vietnam are attributed to El Niño.¹⁴

Too much water causes disease epidemics during major disasters and too little water causes children to skip school as they spend hours finding and collecting it. Diarrhoea, which is caused by unclean water, can kill small children very quickly once they become dehydrated, making clean water critical at all times, not only during emergencies. (wvi.org/cleanwater) Clean water and satisfactory sanitation are among the first interventions that help stabilise populations affected by disaster – both in the short and long term. As a consequence, World Vision prioritised water and sanitation programmes a number of years ago, not only to boost development, but also to bolster communities against the effects of disasters.¹⁵

ZAMBIA

Zambia, like much of Southern Africa endured abnormally dry conditions through 2015 and much of 2016. This caused acute water shortages that resulted in a cholera outbreak. Over 1,000 cases of cholera were reported in 2016; over 80 percent in the capital city, Lusaka. 31 people have died from the disease. As a consequence, UNICEF launched the largest ever cholera vaccination campaign in April in Lusaka. Over half a million people are planned to receive the vaccine in order to curb the outbreak that began in February in the city's overcrowded townships.¹⁶

¹¹ <https://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr>

¹² <http://www.who.int/hac/crises/el-nino/el-nino-funding-2016/en/>

¹³ [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)00256-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)00256-7/fulltext)

¹⁴ OCHA weekly update, 16 Aug 2016

¹⁵ <http://wvi.org/cleanwater>

¹⁶ <http://reliefweb.int/report/zambia/zambia-cholera-outbreak-unicef-situation-report-2-3-march-2016>



Children in Zambia (WHO & UNICEF)



4.8 million people live without access to clean water



6.6 million have no access to sanitation.



Malaria and diarrhea causes a quarter of all deaths of children under 5

WATER

World Vision has been working in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for more than 50 years, starting in the 1960s with small water projects in individual communities. In the subsequent decades, programmes expanded through the West Africa Water Initiative – a large public-private partnership. In 2010, World Vision scaled-up its investment in WASH investing in 12 countries with

high need – ten in Africa. More than 5.8 million people have been reached with water, sanitation & hygiene programmes by World Vision between 2010-2014.

To quell the spread of disease in Zambia, World Vision has drilled over 1,000 boreholes for 364,063 people, including 177,061 children. 580 other water points were repaired during the crisis and they now provide safe water to over 200,000 people.

ALVINA'S STORY

"I was always scared to walk to the stream every day for water," recalls Alvina (13). One of four children, she lives with her family in a small hut in a remote mountainous village in southern Zambia. The family relies on a shallow stream to provide water. It looks clean, but it is actually dirty and unsafe to drink. Cows, goats and pigs defecate, bathe and drink in it.

"We used to wake up at 5am to walk to the stream," Alvina says. "It was still dark when we left home and we heard different animals along the way. We had to queue up before getting a chance to draw water and often got back home late," she says.

"I help mum with cleaning the dishes and sweeping the house after fetching water. I did not always finish my work on time to prepare for school because of the long wait at the queue for water. Often, I go to school late and very tired. I would sleep in class and miss out on many lessons. I had very little time to study or do my homework," Alvina says in a small but steady voice.

Alvina performed badly in school and this got worse when she contracted dysentery – a waterborne disease. "Missing school always

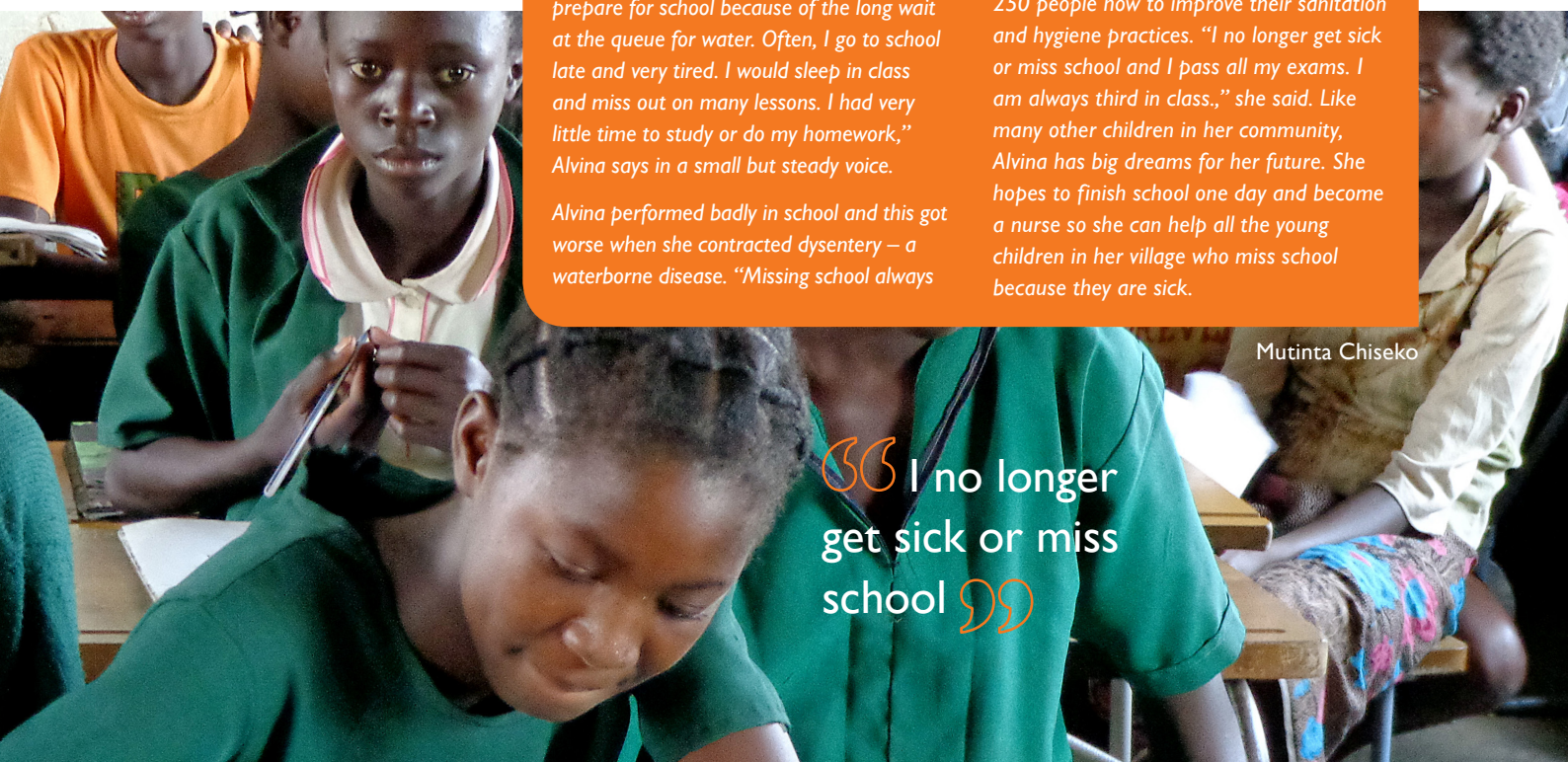
made me sad. I prayed to God each time I got sick," she said. The drought caused by El Niño dried up the stream completely. Everyone in Alvina's village was forced to walk another eight kilometres every day for water. Once they reached the water source, it was crowded with people from other villages - waiting for water was a long ordeal.

In 2016, World Vision drilled a borehole just three kilometres from Alvina's house. It changed her life. Together with other children, she can now go to school on time, focus on her lessons and pass her exams with flying colors. "I am very grateful to World Vision for bringing us clean water. We no longer have to wake up very early in the morning to queue for water. We always get enough sleep and are able to go to school on time," Alvina says smiling.

World Vision also taught the community of 250 people how to improve their sanitation and hygiene practices. "I no longer get sick or miss school and I pass all my exams. I am always third in class," she said. Like many other children in her community, Alvina has big dreams for her future. She hopes to finish school one day and become a nurse so she can help all the young children in her village who miss school because they are sick.

Mutinta Chiseko

"I no longer get sick or miss school"



Aiding Recovery

VisionFund pioneered recovery lending in the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan with great success. Issuing over 4,800 loans, almost all of the clients surveyed stated that the loans helped to restore their livelihoods – half said that they had fully recovered as a result of the loans.

The 'hand up' rather than 'hand out' empowers individuals to recreate their livelihoods; restoring independence. From a financial perspective, it can reduce the amount of grant aid needed to help communities recover while additionally attracting commercial funding to allow greater scale in the recovery response.

Families devastated by particularly severe El Niño weather patterns in Africa are benefitting from small loans as a result of a USD2.6 million 'returnable grant' from the UK Government. The funds provide additional resources to

VisionFund's micro-finance institutions to fund recovery loans in those countries. The loans are to help rebuild businesses destroyed by flooding and drought for around 18,000 families, including approximately 40,000 children.

Recovery lending can complement traditional humanitarian assistance by focusing on specific economic groups. Once individuals are ready to rebuild their businesses or start entrepreneurial activities, they may apply for a recovery loan. VisionFund ensures that any financial risk has been properly assessed for those who receive a loan and both World Vision and VisionFund work closely together to ensure that the loans are aligned and integrated with World Vision's humanitarian response. The opportunities for microfinance networks to integrate more with humanitarian organisations to improve the response to disasters is tremendous.

VisionFund

World Vision's microfinance arm, has been improving the lives of children in the developing world for more than a decade by offering small loans and other financial services to families living in poverty. The loans enable clients to develop successful businesses, which fund the health and education of their children.

In 2015, VisionFund provided 1.3 million loans at a 98% repayment rate, with nearly three-quarters of these going to women, and over half to clients actively involved in farming. Close to four million children were impacted by these loans across more than 30 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.



“...my husband told me not to lose heart”

KENYA - Loans have been made to over 1,700 clients in Kenya, with a value of USD575,000.

MALAWI - As of end of May, recovery loans have been made to nearly 1,400 clients in Malawi, with a value of USD143,000. VisionFund aims to support approximately 3,600 families by September 2016.

ZAMBIA - Lending commenced in May with 962 loans amounting to USD278,000. In Zambia, VisionFund is projecting support to 3,600 families by October 2016.

ALICE'S STORY

Clemensia and her sister Benadetta are smiling despite that fact that their parents' harvest was a disaster. The first time they planted, all the maize dried up. The second and third times it also amounted to nothing. Their mother Alice Mkumbadzala says that all she managed to get from the garden was 100 kilograms of maize. The family needs ten times that much to eat through the year. In a good year she can reap over 4000 kilograms.

Their community in Malawi is reeling from a drought that has brought insurmountable loss and hunger to the thousands of people who depend on agriculture. Across Africa, 70 percent of people rely on agriculture for the livelihood.

Living in a community like this means that even simple things are unimaginably hard. The Malawi government estimates that 6.5 million people will need relief food this year as production has almost halved. "It was so heart-breaking and we didn't know what would be of ourselves and the children," said Alice (35). "But my husband told me not to lose heart ... to stay focused and use the opportunities that we have to rebuild our livelihood," she added.

The drought followed a year of floods and Sydney, Alice's husband, says that they have been caught between different types of misery. "...the media went on telling us that this was an El Niño and rains would still be erratic," he said. As a result, he urged his wife to apply for a VisionFund Loan. She got the equivalent of USD70, which they invested in indigenous vegetable production as their garden lay close to a stream where they could get water.

Alice started producing vegetables, but never imagined that they would one day make a living from them, especially in a drought year. "We had a few vegetables in 2012 and used them for relish only," said Alice. But the loan has been well worth it. They bought fertiliser and fuel which was used in a pump that irrigates the gardens. Planted at the end of April, the family have struck gold and now sell the vegetables. In the area (Mposa), 150 people obtained loans after the maize crop failed. The income from growing vegetables has enabled women to cover most of their daily costs, including their children's school fees and the family's health care.

Alice and Sydney are more hopeful and ambitious. "As small-scale farmers, I believe that we will continue capitalising on the loans so that we can become a strong force to improve food security in our village," said Alice, who now considers agriculture her profession. Mposa is a severely marginalized community with little access to financial services. By extending credit to farmers, VisionFund has helped many of them acquire goats, irrigation equipment and even helped them build better homes.

So far, Alice has repaid 75 percent of her loan, including the interest rate of seven percent, and is expected to finish by the end of July. She says that this is very good considering loans from local money-lenders attract interest rates of over 60 percent. The Banks in Malawi charge interest rates of 45 percent which is a huge burden for poor people in a remote and forgotten community like Mposa. In Chamba and Mposa communities alone, World Vision has disbursed over USD20,000 in loans to 23 groups of people.

Building Resilience

Resilience is a person's ability to withstand or recover quickly from a crisis or natural disaster¹⁷. Incorporating resilience into programming means holistically assessing and addressing the risks that are prevalent in any environment. World Vision does this by building foundational assets, as well as protecting lives and livelihoods, with a strategy that combines quick wins with systemic change. Resilience includes programmes such as Community Based Disaster Risk Management, Credit-led Microfinance, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), Savings-led Microfinance (Savings Groups), Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Soil and Water Conservation Practices.¹⁸

FARMER MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION

Devised in the 1980s Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR - fmnrhub.com.au), is a low-cost, sustainable land-restoration technique used to combat desertification and natural resource degradation. By protecting existing vegetation from people and livestock, it regrows and the soil is replenished.

Farmers are encouraged to manage the forest by pruning, thinning and reducing tree stumps. All of these practices help to revitalize and regenerate the local ecosystems. FMNR nurtures environments that are rich in biodiversity and are more resilient ecosystems than artificial plantations.

Children in Ethiopia (UNICEF)



Over 400,000 children are severely malnourished



More than 1.7 million children, pregnant and lactating women need supplementary food



Over 40% of the population is stunted



10% of the population is wasted

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is facing its worst drought in decades, with over 10.2 million people in need of food aid due to El Niño. The failure of rains that normally feed 80 to 85 per cent of the country between June and September has left livelihoods devastated and greatly increased malnutrition rates across the country. The drought has also affected school attendance, with more than 2 million children on the verge of dropping out and over 3,000 schools at risk of closure.¹⁹

¹⁷ <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/how-we-work/resilience/en/>

¹⁸ Promoting resilience in development programming: World Vision UK's Approach 2013

¹⁹ <http://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/humanitarian-action-children-2016-ethiopia>



The benefits of FMNR include restoration of soil fertility, increased supply of fodder and firewood, greater retention of rainwater in the soil and stabilization of the micro-climate.

RAMATE'S STORY

In Ethiopia, there is a group of 300 men and women called the Edget Behibret. They are a forest-farm co-operative and one of their strongest advocates is a woman called Ramate Ashuro (35). "For many years, we have, sadly, abused the forest. We are hopeful that it is not too late to bring it back to life. After the training we received, I came to understand that this land and water is important to us in many ways," said Ramate.

The group understands that they are responsible for reviving the area so that the barren soil will turn fertile, that water will flow again from the springs; that floods will recede and they will profit from the land.

"Anybody could just take whatever they needed from the forest. Aside from crop failures caused by drought, flooding is also a serious problem ... There are not enough trees to hold the soil. Even a small amount of rain washes it away," said Melesse Morku, a World Vision staff member.

Ramate has seven children but still finds time to manage a plant nursery that has been funded by World Vision and the local government. The nursery has produced around 150,000 drought-tolerant seedlings that will be planted across 112 hectares of land. Seeds have also been given to members of the cooperatives so they can plant trees on their own land. Eventually, the bare soil will be covered with trees. "Now, we are committed to caring and protecting the forest. We have heard about the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and have started to let the soil and the newly planted trees recover," Ramate said. As land for FMNR has been sequestered, the cooperative has cleared it of grass and trees. They used the grass to feed their animals, repair their homes and to sell.

Many members of the cooperative have families to support, yet they all understand that the benefits of FMNR are long term. "While we can earn from the sale of grass, the future benefits of this forest are what I most look forward to," said Ramate.

"This cooperative was only formed in 2015, but we are already seeing impact. Five of our leaders were trained on forest, land, seedling and nursery management... The forest is the source of fresh air, clean water and food. There is no life without the forest," said Tadesse Getiso, cooperative chairman and father of six.

FMNR was formally introduced to Ethiopia in 2004 and World Vision is currently implementing FMNR in more than 36 districts across the country covering more than 600 hectares.

In two districts, in South Ethiopia, 13 springs were restored and five of them became permanently flowing. Agricultural productivity downstream increased more than three-fold, increasing the income earned from firewood, grasses and fodder more than ten times. The productivity of areas where FMNR is practiced means people profit by supplying neighbouring districts with agricultural products during drought years.

By far the biggest pay-off has been the earnings from carbon credits - USD425,074 - in Africa's first large-scale carbon trading project.

Funded by the World Bank, the income from the carbon trading scheme has paid for the construction of a grain store, irrigation schemes and a flour mill - benefitting over 5000 households. FMNR not only protects these districts from the worst of the drought, but has helped them to benefit from climate change making them truly resilient.

Diwa Gacosta

There is no life
without the forest



Captions



(Cover) 13 year old Precious looks at the sky over the farm that he works with his mother in Malawi. Although filled with clouds, El Niño has held back rain this year and left much of Malawi, including Precious' farm, barren. *Photo – Charles Kabena*



(Page 4) Precious (13) looks over the barren fields in his farm in Malawi. Last year, their land was flooded but this year this land is left barren by drought. *Photo – Charles Kabena*



(Page 5) Noe, a farmer in the Philippines, harvests okra which he has grown with water piped from a new irrigation system that saved him and 1,500 other farmers from widespread crop losses. *Photo – Mjimenez*



(Page 5) Delia holds her youngest child who has received supplements from the Pinoy Nutrition Hub operated by World Vision. The supplements have helped to stave off malnutrition during a drought which has affected 85 percent of the country. *Photo – Aaron Aspi*



(Page 6) A pond where villagers in Zambia gather water is also used by animals. A scarcity of clean water has forced children out of school and caused an increase in disease across Africa. *Photo – Jon Warren*



(Page 7) Alvina was forced to walk long distances and often missed school while she waited to collect clean water. World Vision built a well closer to her village and she is now on-time every day. *Photo - Mutinta Chiseko*



(Page 8) Chifundo is happy to be back in school. She was often absent due to a lack of food, but thanks to World Vision, she now eats a proper lunch and can concentrate all day. *Photo – Charles Kabena*



(Page 9) Alice received a USD70 loan from VisionFund to grow vegetables. She now makes a living from them and has paid back almost all of her loan. The vegetables have helped her through the severe drought caused by El Niño. *Photo – Charles Kabena*



(Page 10) "We used to fetch water from a spring. We have to wait for hours as many people collect water from one spring. Now thanks to World Vision we are healthy, we are drinking clean water and wash our clothes with clean water," Birke Alaye, 31, with 3 children. *Photo – Petterik Wiggers*



(Page 11) Ramate Ashuro, 35, and a mother of seven children. She helps to manage a nursery that has germinated around 150,000 seedlings which will be used to reforest 112 hectares of land. *Photo – Diwa Gacosta*

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