



LAKE CHAD BASIN CRISIS



World Vision[®]

INVESTING IN CHILD PROTECTION
AND PEACE





SAVING LIVES,
PROTECTING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES,
ENSURING RESILIENCE
AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE.

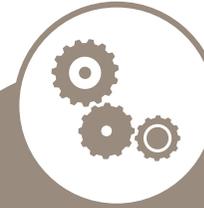
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Fully fund humanitarian response appeals across the Basin.



Ensure free and unimpeded humanitarian access.



Sustain activation of cluster coordination mechanisms in line with *Inter-Agency Standing Committee standards*.



Expand access to improved water and sanitation facilities.



Leverage multi-purpose cash transfers to support food security and protection and to strengthen national social safety nets.



Ensure children are protected in line with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and the *Minimum Standards on Child protection in Humanitarian Action*.

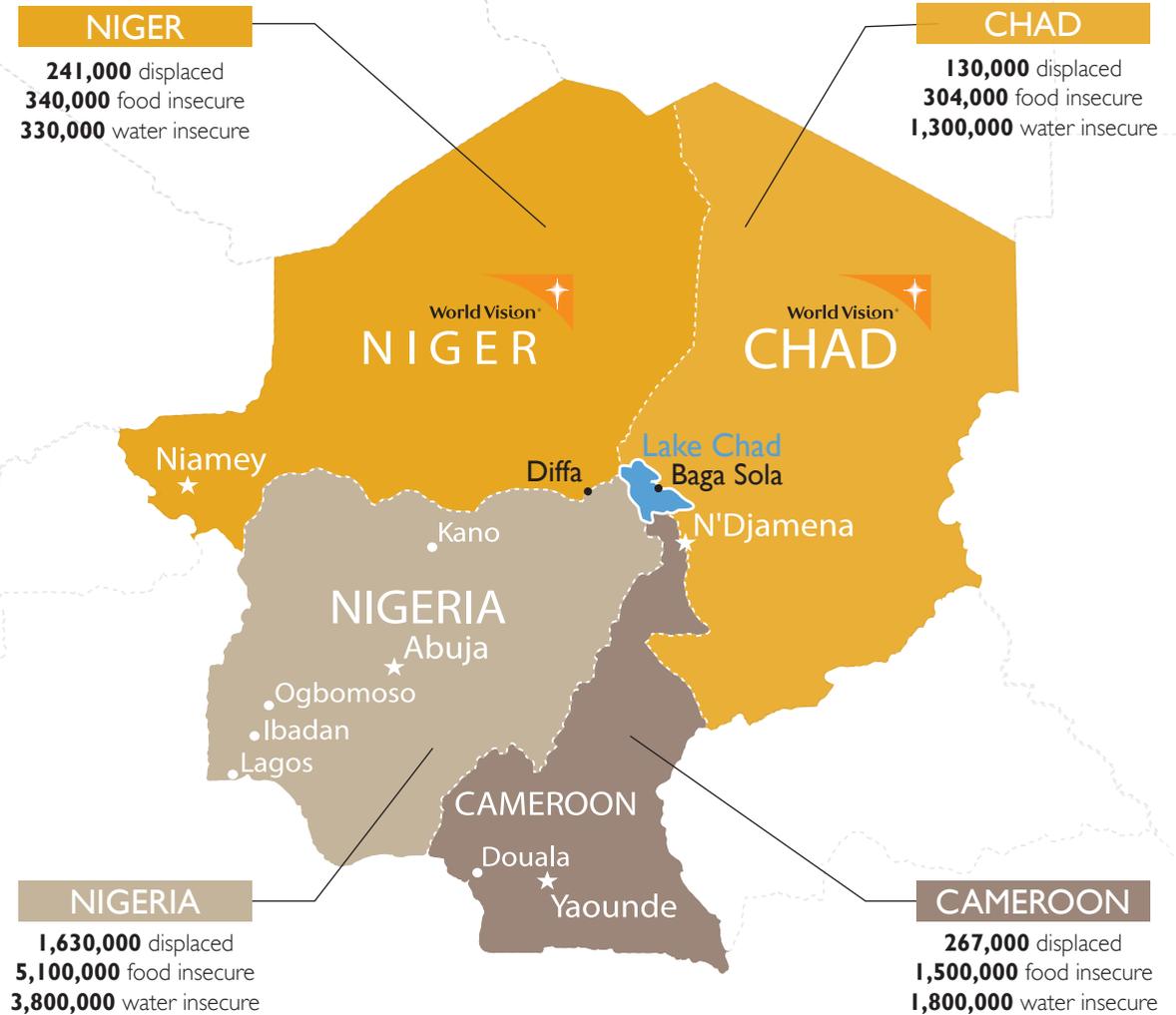


Enhance education in emergencies for children and life skills, vocational and entrepreneurial training for adolescents.



COUNTRIES AFFECTED

Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon – the four nations surrounding Lake Chad, are all directly impacted.



Map of the Lake Chad Basin, where 10.7 million persons need urgent humanitarian assistance.
World Vision has programmes in Niger and Chad.



PHOTO: BRUNO COL

CONTEXT

FORGET NO MORE...

Largely forgotten, the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin has decimated a region already under great strain. Long-running violence incited by Boko Haram and the military counter-offensive has forced millions of civilians to flee their homes, impacted water access, caused food insecurity and malnutrition and increased child protection risks. Climate change and poverty exacerbate this calamity. Decades of humanitarian and development gains are threatening to unravel if the global community continues to turn a blind eye to the scale and severity of the crisis.

THIS IS A CHILDREN'S CRISIS

Approximately 17 million people are struggling to survive in the affected areas; this includes 2.3 million displaced persons and 10.7 million people requiring urgent humanitarian assistance⁽¹⁾. Among these are 1.4 million children who have been displaced and at least another million who are trapped in hard-to-reach areas⁽²⁾. The crisis in the Lake Chad Basin is at an almost unprecedented scale; only the crises in Yemen and Syria affect more people⁽³⁾.





IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Children across the Lake Chad Basin are disproportionately affected by the ongoing crisis, as more than half of those in need are under 18 years of age⁽⁴⁾. As a child-focused organisation, World Vision is concerned about the well-being of children who have been affected by the conflict, particularly those who have been trapped by fighting, forcibly recruited into armed groups, made vulnerable to sexual exploitation and increased incidents of child marriage, exposed to violence and deprived of basic human rights, humanitarian assistance and education opportunities.

The conflict has completely disrupted education, livelihoods and daily life. Water, food and other necessities are scarce. Everyday survival has become a miracle. Feelings of home and safety are distant memories. Dreams of finishing school or securing employment have been dashed. And all the while, the future of an entire generation hangs in the balance.

Children have been forced to witness and endure the unimaginable. The impact of these and other horrors will likely haunt their psychological, physical and social well-being for years to come. No child should have to withstand such distress and suffering, including the children of the Lake Chad Basin.

WIPING OUT WATER

The land is parched and Lake Chad is receding⁽⁵⁾. Pipelines have been destroyed. Water points are scarce and water quality is poor. Limited water availability is strained all the more by the influx of displaced persons. This is contributing to malnutrition, childhood illnesses, livestock death, poor crop yields and rising social tensions.

Despite some improvements, gaps in access to water remain very high. Bacterial contamination and salinity are often above standards⁽⁶⁾.

WORLD VISION'S ASSESSMENTS FROM DIFFA, NIGER INDICATE WATER POINTS ARE SUPPORTING 80-100 PER CENT MORE PERSONS THAN RECOMMENDED BY HUMANITARIAN INDUSTRY STANDARDS⁽⁷⁾.

In the Lac region of Chad, 35 per cent of respondents in a World Vision rapid needs assessment indicated lack of water as their greatest challenge⁽⁸⁾. In the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Settlement of Magui, only 7 of the 10 wells provide potable water. For nearly 10,500 households in the N'gouboua district, water coverage is a mere 3 per cent according to an OCHA assessment. Water is essential. Without it, children - who are barely clinging on to survival - will perish.



PHOTO BY J. R. NOCOL

FAILING FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Food and nutrition insecurity is running rampant. The crisis is expected to deteriorate. Emergency thresholds have been surpassed. Famine-like pockets exist in Nigeria⁽⁹⁾. Food stocks and fishing gear were left behind as families fled in fear. Planting seasons have been lost. Commodity costs are expensive and climbing. Diets lack diversity and balance. Meals are small and infrequent. Pangs of hunger are persistent.

Half a million children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition across the Basin⁽¹⁰⁾. This malnutrition will challenge their physical, mental and socio-economic development for decades.

“FOOD” IS OVERWHELMINGLY THE RESPONSE TO, “WHAT DO CHILDREN NEED?” ACROSS THE LAC REGION OF CHAD. FURTHERMORE, 26 PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS TOLD WORLD VISION THEY HAD TO PURCHASE FOOD ON CREDIT DURING THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

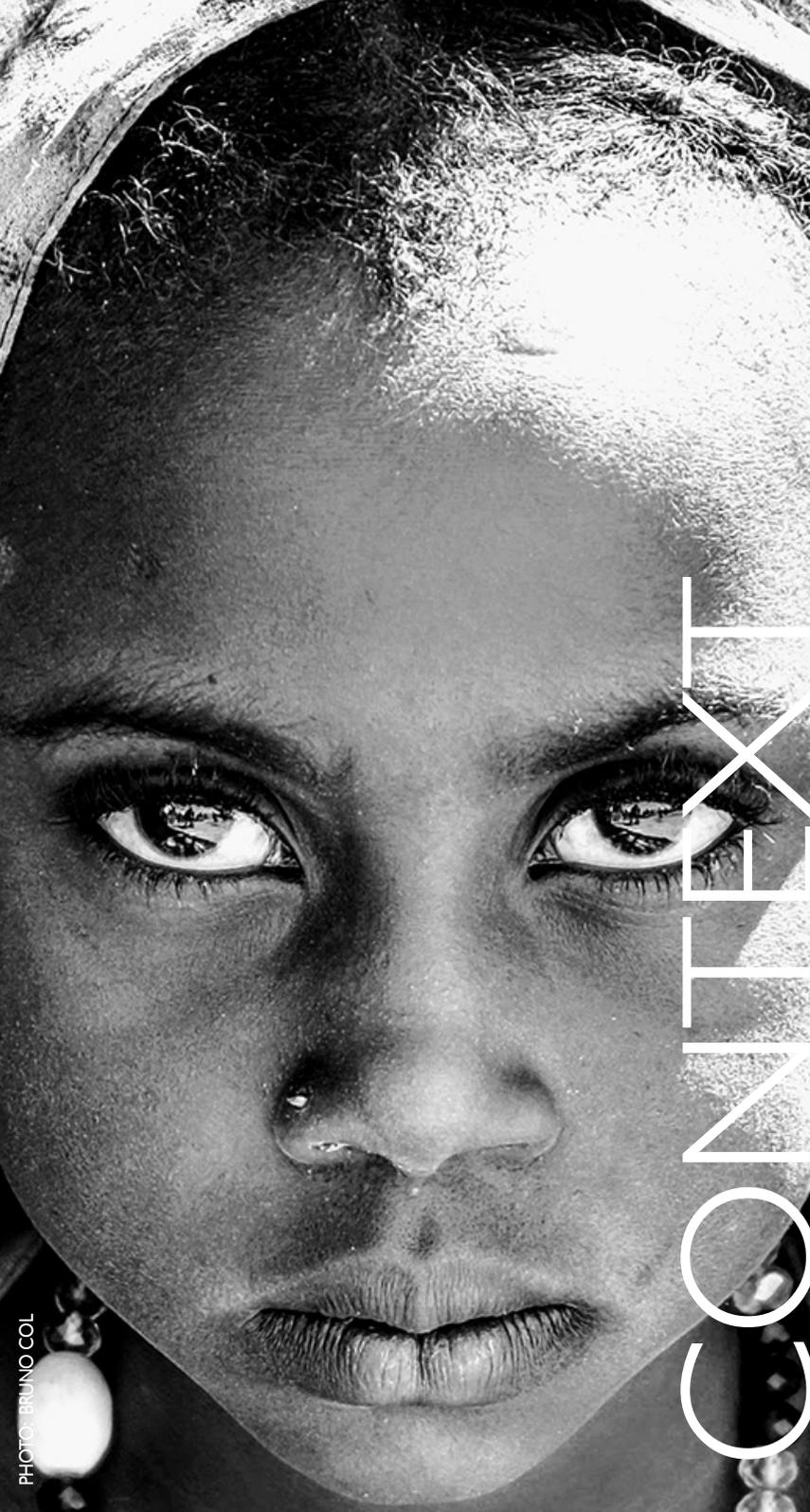
Humanitarian food assistance is staving off hunger. Therapeutic feeding is bringing children back from the brink of starvation, yet livelihoods are limited and even day labour opportunities are rare. Families struggle to survive without external assistance. Market price fluctuations further exacerbate the situation. This desperation fuels child marriages, sexual exploitation, child soldier recruitment and other grave negative child protection issues and coping strategies⁽¹¹⁾. Nutritious food is critical for child survival and well-being.

GRAVE CHILD PROTECTION RISKS AT EVERY TURN

Girls are kidnapped. Boys are conscripted to carry arms and carry out attacks⁽¹²⁾. Child marriages are ending childhoods and education is being disrupted. Children have the right to learn, live and thrive in peace. Today, the Lake Chad Basin provides most children with anything but. Reports of children used as suicide bombers are simply shocking⁽¹³⁾. Thousands of children have been physically, emotionally and physiologically abused. Displacement, separation and lack of education increase risks of kidnapping and conscription into armed groups⁽¹⁴⁾. The psychological and physical ramifications of these ordeals will remain etched in the memories of a generation.

Some girls in Chad have reported being married at as young as 10 years of age, despite laws prohibiting marriage until the age of 18. Stubbornly high levels of child marriage across the region have been exacerbated, with reports of thousands of girls forced into marriage by Boko Haram⁽¹⁵⁾.

Better investment in child protection interventions can provide children with a sense of safety and support for their families and their futures. Like all children, those in the Lake Chad Basin have the right to live in safety and security; yet right now, most rarely experience the joy of peace.



EDUCATION INTERRUPTED

Education services and infrastructure are exceedingly scarce. Violence, insecurity and fear disrupt classes and curriculums. Few trained teachers are on the ground and fewer are willing to work in affected areas. Remuneration, benefits and support for teachers suffer severe challenges. Communities where educational quality, access and resources have been limited, are now hosting displaced persons and returnees, further burdening a weak system stretched to breaking point.

It is estimated that 1.2 million children between the ages of 6 and 11 are out of school in Chad. Furthermore, 35 per cent of children who start primary school, do not complete coursework⁽¹⁶⁾. Hundreds of thousands of children are in need of education in emergencies across Niger and Chad⁽¹⁷⁾. The communities of Saila and Finde in Chad have no functioning schools or educational services⁽¹⁸⁾.

APART FROM LIFE-SAVING FOOD, ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE SCHOOL WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT NEED FOR CHILDREN IN THE LAC REGION OF CHAD, WHEN ASKED BY WORLD VISION⁽¹⁹⁾.

The absence of education will burden children's development and stifle their socio-economic potential.



PHOTO: BRUNO COI

POLICY

WORLD VISION BELIEVES A PEACEFUL LAKE CHAD BASIN IS POSSIBLE

In these highly violent and volatile circumstances, the humanitarian system is struggling to deliver enough emergency relief today, enhanced livelihoods for tomorrow and sustainable security for the future. Despite these challenges, World Vision believes international and national actors are capable of re-building a resilient, peaceful and prosperous future in the Lake Chad Basin for children and their families. To do this, all actors - governments, UN agencies, donors, faith communities, and more - must protect rights and uphold the rule of law, provide emergency water, help build economic resilience, and prioritise ending violence against children.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE



IMPROVE FUNDING

- Fully fund humanitarian response appeals across the Lake Chad Basin, as articulated in the UN Revised Requirements and Response Priorities for the Lake Chad Basin Emergency⁽²⁰⁾.
- Allow for flexible, predictable and sustained short-term and multi-year funding to meet immediate needs and build longer-term resilience of the host communities, as well as the displaced.
- Prioritise funding to organisations that have the capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance effectively and efficiently, in line with humanitarian principles and targeted towards the most vulnerable.

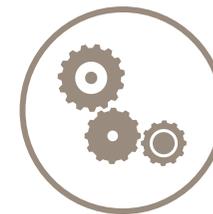


ENSURE HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Ensure free and unimpeded humanitarian access to the affected populations in line with humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence.
- Parties to the conflict must provide warnings and ensure safe passage for families fleeing active combat and violence to safe locations.
- Safeguard access to essential services, including via the provision of free identification and registration for all.

Concerted and sustained effort is needed by international and national partners to build a peaceful and prosperous Lake Chad Basin, with particular attention towards ending violence and improving protection for the most vulnerable children. Acting now will minimise human suffering and mitigate economic and social devastation. Both short-term and multi-year funding, humanitarian access and improved coordination are essential to ensuring the response is swift.

Furthermore, investing in economic development, social cohesion, and resilience-building over the long-term is vital towards a sustainable recovery of the Lake Chad Basin.



STREAMLINE COORDINATION

- Ensure sustained activation of sectoral cluster coordination mechanisms in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) standards⁽²¹⁾.
- Overcome the challenges facing host communities and the displaced, in line with the scale and complexity of the crisis via coordination between governments, UN agencies and implementing partners.



IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- Expand access to improved water points and sanitation facilities especially in transit centres, formal camps, spontaneous sites, health facilities and schools.
- Ensure the proper management and use of water resources for agriculture and livelihoods, with an aim to improve food security across the affected countries.
- Scale up hygiene education to avert disease outbreaks and hygiene-related increases of malnutrition.



END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- Ensure children are protected in line with international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law, the Minimum Standards on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action⁽²²⁾, the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child⁽²³⁾ and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict.
- All armed actors must cease recruiting and using children in direct hostilities; and release all children associated with armed groups into proper care of UN agencies.
- Recognise the heightened vulnerability of children to early marriage and sexual violence, addressing root causes such as their use as negative coping strategies by desperate families and gender inequality.
- Recognise child protection as a life-saving intervention to reduce violence against children and ensure adequate funding for child protection, including psychosocial support.



ENHANCE EDUCATION

- Ensure displaced children are given the opportunity to learn in their temporary location and access is equally available to boys and girls.
- Scale up funding and technical support for formal and non-formal education and life-skills across the Basin.
- Provide support to existing learning spaces to ensure continued access to learning opportunities for displaced and host community children and provide teachers with incentives to work in the Basin.
- Enhance off-farm livelihood opportunities for adolescents, including through life skills, vocational and entrepreneurial training.



SUSTAIN FOOD SECURITY

- Leverage multi-purpose, multi-sectorial cash transfers to support food security, nutrition and health, where markets are functioning and commodities are available.
- Improve provision of agriculture and animal husbandry extension, agricultural inputs and market access for smallholder farmers, especially women, to enhance sustainable livelihoods and resilience.
- Progressively leverage social safety net projects towards building a holistic national social safety net system that prioritises the most vulnerable.



HOW WORLD VISION IS ASSISTING

World Vision has worked alongside communities in West Africa to ensure the well-being of children for the past 30 years. The deteriorating humanitarian crisis across the Lake Chad Basin has moved World Vision to elevate its response to the equivalent of a UN Level 3 emergency. World Vision has established new programmes in Western Chad and scaled-up interventions in Eastern Niger to respond to the needs of 300,000 of the most vulnerable children and their families. World Vision is committed to building community resilience in the long-term.

World Vision is coordinating with governments, humanitarian partners and affected communities to:

EXPAND WASH FOR 192,000 PERSONS

- Drill boreholes, install hand pumps, repair broken water sources and conduct water quality tests.
- Train Water Committees, Sanitation Committees and Hygiene promoters.
- Construct emergency latrines.

BOOST RESILIENCE FOR 240,000 PERSONS

- Provide unconditional cash and voucher transfers, to enhance choice, dignity and the local economy.
- Implement natural resource management and resilience building initiatives to enhance long-term food security.
- Increase self-reliance of affected communities by improving economic skills, savings and loans.

ENSURE PROTECTION FOR 10,000 CHILDREN

- Establish and run Child Friendly Spaces, to provide psychosocial support for children and youth.
- Provide life skill training to adolescents and youth, including on reproductive health and self-protection.
- Refer children at high risk of abuse, violence and exploitation to special service providers, on a case-by-case basis.

MY DREAM? THAT MY CHILDREN HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT...

PHOTO: BARBARA NANA

STORY

BAGA SOLA

Eza Ali is an octogenarian woman who bends under the weight of lumbar pain due to age. She walks painfully and makes several stops before returning home. She returns from the center of her village, where World Vision documents households, for the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) scheduled for 8th December 2016. Eza's house is a straw hut covered with pieces of cloth torn here and there. Inside her hut, there is no equipment other than a mat set up on the sand, and a plastic water container. When I begin to converse with her, she confesses to me in a calm and smiling tone, "I do not really know my age, but I have lived long enough to survive many things such as the loss of my husband almost ten years ago." She continues: "I lived in Mao, with my husband and my children. Everything went normally, we lived as shepherds, and one day he died about ten years ago. The grass was already scarce, the cattle were dying,

and our resources were dwindling, then I decided to leave Mao with my five sons, three daughters and a good number of my tribesmen. We walked for many days, and when we arrived here, there were no other people around, we called this place WAIDE (one people)". She paused, her eyes staring at the ground. This narrative surely took her back to those difficult years she no doubt longs to forget. But, startled, as if to restore order in her thoughts, she looked up at me as if waiting for the next question. Eza and what remains of her family here in Chad, is among the 82,260 IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) who are affected by the conflict in northern Nigeria. Whether climatic or safety, the reasons for leaving their homes, forcing them to adapt to a way of life that they have not necessarily chosen, makes them extremely vulnerable, deprived, and in need. Would Eza lack water in Mao? Or cookware for cooking?

That's the question I asked myself when I looked at her 2mx2m hut. I tried to jostle her with a strange question: "Eza, is living here better than in Mao?" Her tone became serious and in a heavy voice, she answered: "Arriving here was not the promised land either, we had to fight and put together our efforts to have water, for it was obvious that if we stayed here, in the middle of nowhere, we would die of thirst and maybe of hunger. The men dug the well, and we the women had sown okra in the vicinity of the camp." As I wanted to know more I asked her: "Eza you say that the men dug the well, does that mean that your sons live with you here in the camp?" "No they are not here", she responded and continued, "Despite the well and the cultivation of okra, we do not have enough to eat here, so the young men who had more strength among whom were my sons, went to the shores of Lake Chad to make fields of corn and pea nuts. With

the harvests, they bought other food and returned with corn flour to the camp, but for the past two years the conflict in northern Nigeria has caused my sons to settle permanently in Niger because if they returned they could have been taken captive or killed like many who have died."

I went on to ask, "If this is the case, how do you find what to eat?" "We go back to God only", she replied; "when we have, we boil okra with oil and salt." "And what do you eat that with?" I interjected; "Often times without supplement" she responded; "Now tell me, how do you get corn flour?" I asked. "My daughters wait for the market day of Kutboul or Kiskawa to go and sell a goat, and with the money they buy the flour. We eat twice a day here in the morning around 10 am and in the evening." Then I looked at Zara (Eza's younger daughter) who was standing by her mother and had a two-year-old child in her arms, I looked directly in her eyes and I asked, "And if in the course of the day your child of two years is hungry and demands to eat, what do you do at such a moment?" She told me, "he will wait till evening to eat, I have no choice." To this answer I remained silent, as though struck by a shocking reality: A life of choice, this is what they do not have. In an attempt to raise a little hope in a life that has experienced so much, I asked her what dream she did have for her children. She told me: "You see we're all sick here, I'd like a doctor to come to treat us, we have no water from the pipes, there is no school, but what I dream above all else is that my children will have enough to eat."

World Vision distributed 680 blankets and 340 tents to protect families from the cold and dust that cause respiratory diseases in Waide in the month of December. World Vision also distributed 340 mats and buckets, 680 mosquito nets and 5,100 pieces of soap. This World Vision distribution reached 2,040 vulnerable people, including 1,200 children.



PHOTO: BARBARA NANA

GONI THE ARTIST, DREAMS OF BECOMING THE WISE MAN OF HIS VILLAGE

DIFFA

STORY

PHOTO: JOELMA PEREIRA



In crises or conflicts, children's drawings often tell the tale of what they have lived through, but also how they look back at their land of origin. Drawings can reveal problems they had to face, such as insecurity, fear and anxiety stemming from exposure to traumatic events. Although many of the drawings depict fear and terror, there is also an element of hope for the future and gratitude for the help received. The drawings from children attending the Child Friendly Space (CFS) at Sayam Forage refugee camp in Diffa, established by World Vision a year ago, confirm this narrative.

Behind each drawing is a story, and that was certainly the case of Goni who illustrated a convoy of armed vehicles, headed to war. Goni Mahamadou is a teenage refugee from Alagamo village in Borno state, Nigeria. He was shy to share his sad story, but eventually opened up. "Boko Haram attacked our village ten months ago. The attack took place during the four o'clock prayer. We heard gun fire from the north of our village. For some reason all my family members including my father were at home. We had to flee the house and my father took the lead. When we were out of the village, we were able to find a car, to travel to Bosso in Niger (around 450km from Alagamo). We stayed in Bosso for four months before going to GarinWanzam settlement in Diffa, because Boko Haram attacked Bosso in June 2016. From the settlement we were re-located to Sayam Forage camp. In this place, I have been living with my family for the past three months", Goni says.

Like many children, Goni describes his life back home, before the crisis. "Back home, I used to farm corn, attend Koranic school, ferry stuff at the local market using a two-wheeled trolley and I played a game called 'langa' (hopping on one leg) with my friends. With my

work I earned, 2 000 Naira (US \$5.00). I spent my earnings buying clothes, shoes and giving the rest to my mother", he adds. Goni while inking a new drawing.

After recalling his past experience, Goni was very keen to show me his first drawing, depicting army forces in a convoy, as he had seen during the attack in Bosso. When asked why he drew it, he said, "Because the Niger army have to pursue the people that forced us to leave our home".

Goni is pleased to draw a picture depicting his life at the camp. His second drawing is completely different from the first one. When asked to describe it, Goni says, "I have drawn an ambulance, a water truck, our home and my friend Mohamadou and I holding hands. The ambulance takes the sick from the camp to Diffa, and the water truck brings safe water to the camp, for us to drink, use for cooking and washing. Mohamadou is the friend I found at the CFS. I had lots of friends back home, but I have made more friends at the camp".

Although he would like to attend the CFS regularly, it is difficult now that his elder sister has passed away. Now Goni has to ensure the house chores are done daily. He fetches water, cooks and searches for firewood in the bush. By the time he is done with his chores, the CFS is closed for the day. Goni's dream is to go back to his normal life in Alagamo and later become the wise man of the village. When asked why, he says, "Because a wise man has a lot of respect, everybody consults him, and my father is one".

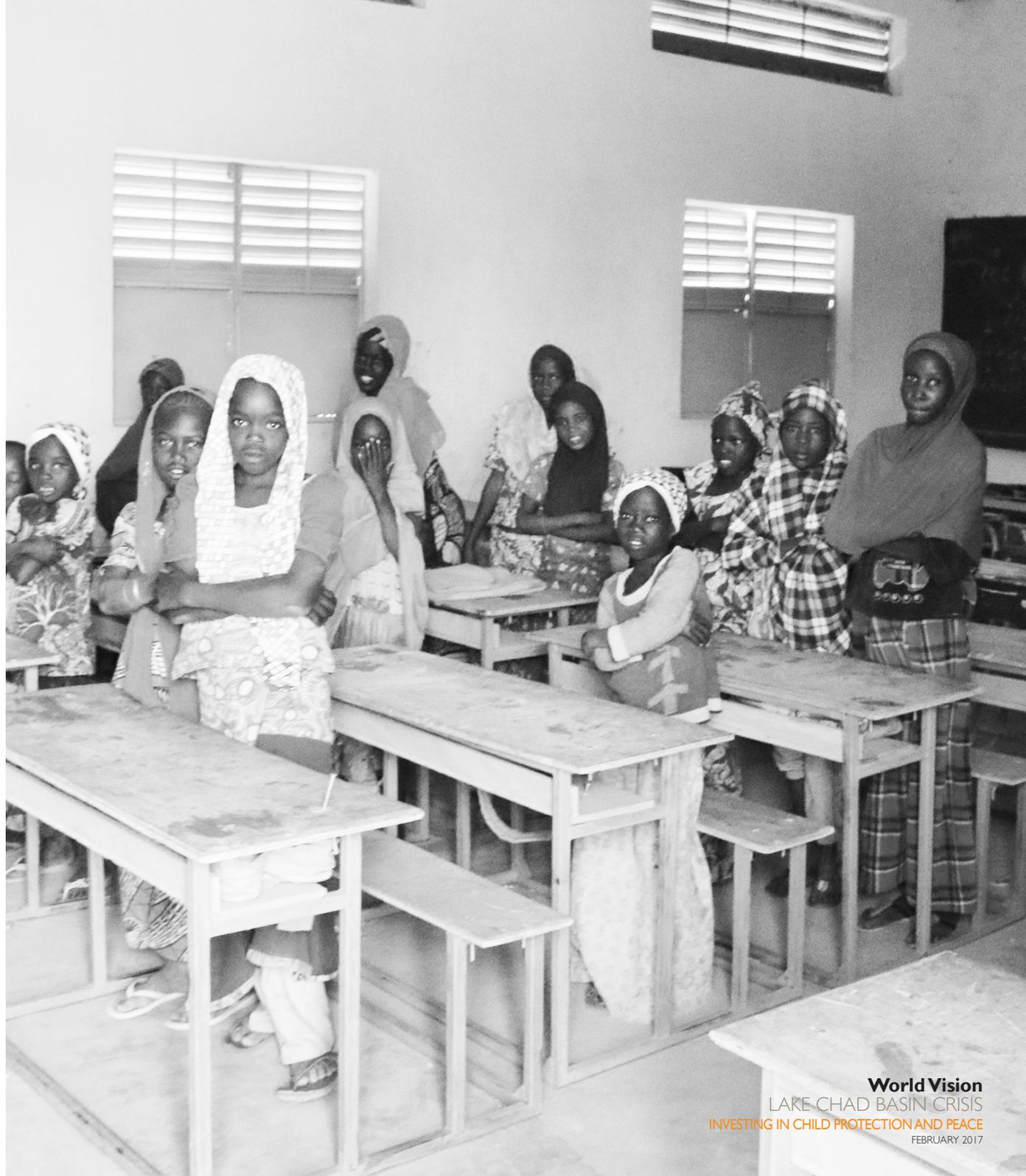
Salisou, one of the CFS animators present, says, "The child friendly space, allows children like Goni to forget the atrocities they witnessed during the attacks. Because here they play games that allow them to relax and stop having nightmares".

Goni is among the 1.4 million vulnerable children in the Lake Chad Basin crisis in need of protection and support to overcome the traumas of the crisis. World Vision calls on the donor and humanitarian community meeting in Oslo, Norway to provide psychosocial care, such as psychosocial first aid, and safe areas to play, interact and engage in group work, for children who have been exposed to traumatic events.

World Vision calls on donors meeting in Oslo to support the strengthening of the child protection system in the Lake Chad Basin such that the four countries affected by conflict have a qualified social welfare workforce providing quality child protection services to children affected by conflict

World Vision calls on donors to support the development of professionals with the ability to provide psychosocial support to children formerly associated with armed forces

World Vision calls on delegates at the Oslo meeting to support the criminalisation and prohibition of child recruitment into armed groups in countries where this law is not yet in place



« I NO LONGER FEEL AFRAID, THAT THEY WILL COME AFTER ME »

DIFFA

STORY

While the world focuses on mass kidnappings of women and girls in northern Nigeria, boys have suffered the brunt of the crisis, as many are also abducted and conscripted. Over the past three years, militant groups have kidnapped more than 10,000 boys and trained them in boot camps, abandoned villages and forest hide-outs, according to government officials in Nigeria and the Human Rights Watch. Boys, and at times girls, as young as five years old are being indoctrinated into violence and used as fighters, suicide bombers and spies. Since 2014, 86 children have been used as a suicide bombers, including 38 last year. One child who fled from the Nigerian state of Borno and is currently supported by World Vision in Niger tells a related story.

Mohamed Gonimy* (12), and his family, now live peacefully at one of the displaced people's camp where they have been for the past two years. He was kidnapped by Boko Haram. This is his story. "Before the crisis I was living in Damasak (Nigeria) with my family. I was enrolled in Koranic school, and I used to attend classes from 12:00 to 16:00 o'clock. My father looked after a vegetable garden and we all helped him with it. Every morning I used to sell fried yam at the local market and help my mother to sell condiments in town", Mohamed shyly explains.

"The day Boko Haram attacked our town for the first time, I was at the market selling yam. Disorientated and afraid, I run towards Komadugu River, but midway decided to go back home. On arrival home, I found the house empty, so my friends and I decided to go back to the river to cross. Unfortunately, this time we were unlucky, because we were kidnapped and taken to a big compound in town. 'We will educate you, teach you the Holy Qur'an and you will all become fighters,' the man who kidnapped us said. At the compound the person responsible for us had three soldiers with him.

He used to make us memorise and recite the sacred verses of the Qur'an every day, from morning to noon. He told us that the best boy among us would be conscripted and given a "Bundu" (a local name for a fire arm). Sometimes he used to hit us with a whip, because we used to take too long to do some tasks, like going to bed on time, but the good boys were allowed to wander outside the compound. I stayed at that place for over two months," he recalls.

Mohamed explains how he managed to escape from captivity with the help of his grandfather. "My grandfather stayed at Damasak because the elderly were spared. One day he picked up girls' clothes and during one of my visits home he asked me to wear them with a head scarf and advised me to tell the soldiers at the checkpoint that my name is Yana. That's how we went through Komadugu and later arrived at Gagamari (15 kilometers from Diffa)".

Mohamed and his grandfather, were very happy to find the rest of the family members at Gagamari settlement, before being relocated to a refugee camp.

"Soon after our arrival at a new camp, people from World Vision came to ask questions and then they set up this child friendly space, where children meet every day to play, sing, dance and learn new things. My parents are more reassured because of this space, because I stopped going to the bush or wandering around the camp. I stopped having nightmares and I no longer feel afraid, that I will be kidnapped. I feel happy here, because this place allows me to forget the time I spent at the compound. Here I received notebooks and other school materials. Here I attend Koranic school and at the end of the classes play with my friends in the CFS playground area."

Mohamed hopes to return home someday and become a well-known food trader when he grows up.

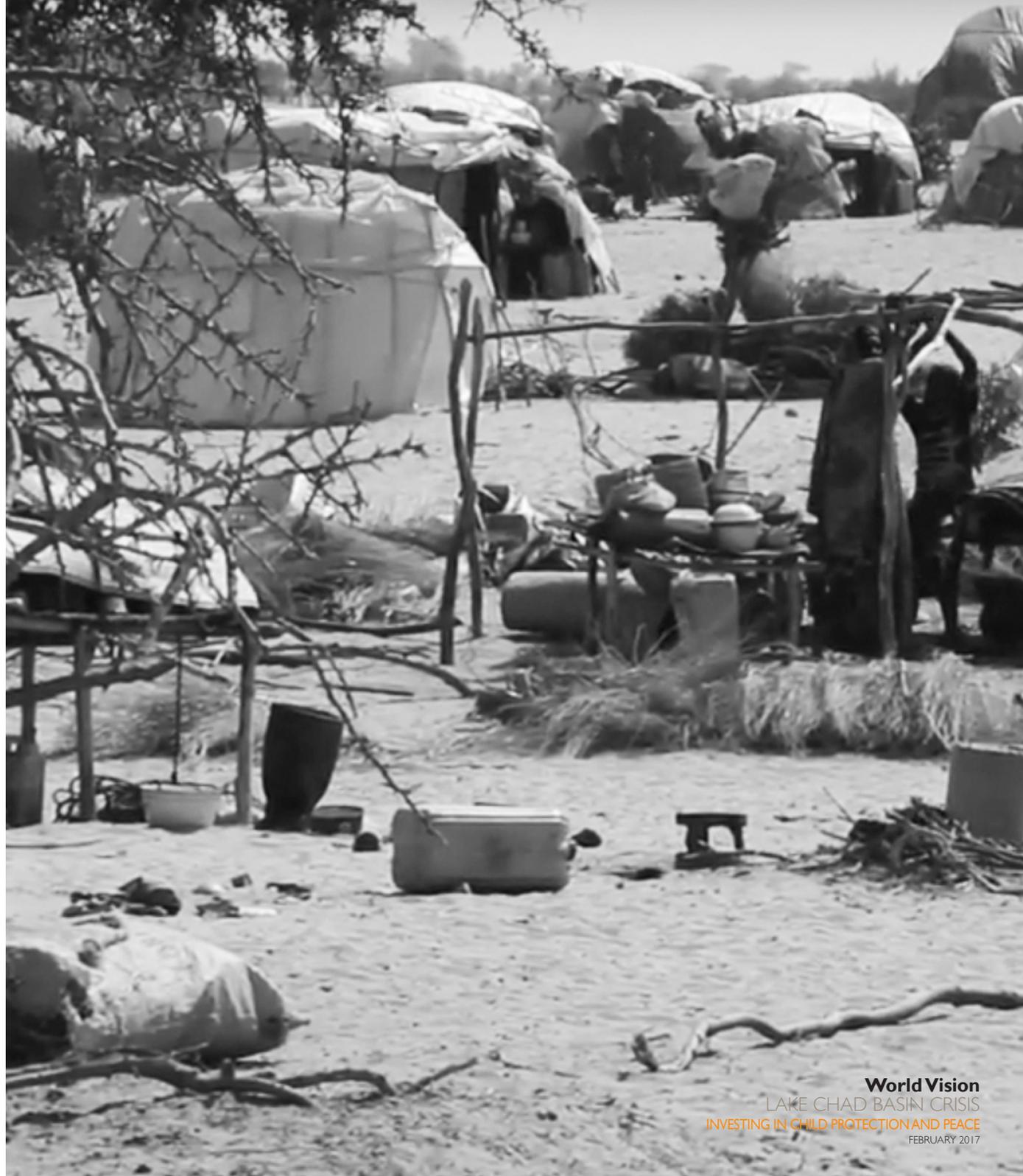
* "Mohamed" really name has been changed

Children like Mohamed will continue to pay the highest price for this crisis unless their humanitarian and protection needs are urgently met and there's a swift and sustainable resolution to the conflict. As donors and humanitarian actors meet in Oslo, Norway, World Vision calls on all parties to the conflict to take immediate measures to protect children and civilians from both direct involvement and the indirect effects of armed conflict.

Violence against children is a silent killer, resulting in the deaths of hordes of children and devastating their chances of bright future. World Vision calls on donors to:

- Ensure the 4 countries involved in the LCB are prioritizing and resourcing plans to implement SDG 16.2 to end violence against children and SDG 8.7 to end the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use by armed groups.
- Ensure child protection is recognised as lifesaving for the duration of the crisis.
- Provide funding for humanitarian organisations to scale up access to protective emergency learning spaces and longer-term education for children and youth affected by the conflict.
- Prioritise efforts to strengthen the community-based protective environment for children, including government and community protection systems, and build community and children's capacity to identify and act upon early warning signs of abduction or other child protection concerns.
- Support recovery and reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed groups.
- Prioritise programmes to strengthen boys' and girls' coping mechanisms and resilience and empower them to promote peace.

Protect children like Mohamed. Stand for safety today.



THE PRECIOUS SOURCE, IMPROVE LITTLE AICHA'S HEALTH



PHOTO: JOELMA PEREIRA

Water is life, and for many it represents good health, that's why World Vision believes that "Every child deserves clean water".

Unsafe water and poor sanitation are linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Inadequate water and sanitation services expose individuals, in particular children to preventable health risks. The risk of exposure is high in conflict or crisis contexts. Displaced children, and women are placed at additional risk of infection and disease when water, sanitation and hygiene services are lacking. This was the case for Aichatou's daughter, little Aicha, before World Vision constructed a borehole in the Maine Kaderi settlement of Internally Displaced People, where she lives.

Aichatou Malam Mane, (30) mother of seven children (five boys and two girls), who was forced to flee

Gaidam Tchuku village due to Boko Haram attacks in Damasak, shared her relief of having safe water in the settlement. "Life was very difficult in the settlement when we arrived, because my children and I used to fall ill with diarrhea and malaria all the time, particularly my little Aicha (1). I used to walk three kilometers to Gagamari village to fetch water three times a day and it's wasn't free, I had to pay \$ 0.5 USD for 25 liters. Although I knew that the water wasn't safe, I had no choice, because there was no other way to get water", says Aichatou.

Aichatou has been living in the settlement for the past eight months with her family, and hope to return to her normal life in Gaidam Tchuku soon. "My village is near a river and if you stand by its shore, you can see the town of Damasak. On the days of the attacks, you could see bullets and rockets flying towards our village from Damasak. After several attacks, our village

became, a very insecure place, so my husband decided that we should leave", Aichatou recalls.

"Back home I used to sell 'beigne'(local donut made of flour), every morning in front of my house, this activity gave me a profit of US \$2.6 a day. My husband had a big land where he farmed pepper which he would then sell at the local market. We were not rich, but our economic activities brought in enough to make ends meet", adds Aichatou, tightly holding Aicha.

The family of nine used to pay for 75 liters of water per day which corresponds to eight liters of drinking water per family member. But in reality the water paid was used for all the basic needs of the family including drinking. This quantity is way below the Sphere Standard for basic water needs in emergencies, (7.5 to 15 liters of drinking water per person per day). "After doing six kilometers, I used to feel very tired and yet I had to cook, do the washing up, clear the

tent, and with the remaining water wash the children and drink. In the past, Aicha only bathed once in two days", Aichatou says with a tinge of regret. According to Aichatou, the lack of safe water had serious consequences for her children's health, but the arrival of World Vision reversed the situation. World Vision drilled a borehole, built 70 emergency latrines and set up two committees, one for water management and the other for hygiene in the settlement. These actions have benefitted 570 internally displaced families. Since November 2016, Aichatou's family has 150 liters of free water per day (16 liters per family member) and she has free time on her hands to look after little Aicha. "Today I have time to fetch water, cook, clean the house, and wash the children and to rest. My baby's health has improved, I don't have to go with her to the Health Center at Chetimari (three kilometers from Aichatou's settlement) anymore". Aicha is among the 1.4 million vulnerable children in the forgotten Lake Chad Basin crisis in need of safe water for drinking and personal hygiene. World Vision calls on donors and humanitarian actors to remember that Aicha, and all children in the Lake Chad Basin, have the fundamental right to water. You have the power to prevent children like little Aicha from falling ill due to consuming unsafe water. The global community must urgently prioritise funding, coordination and implementation of programmes that aim to enhance sustainable access to water points and sanitation amenities, and scale up hygiene education to avert disease outbreaks and worsening malnutrition.

Do right for these children, and do it now.



PHOTO: JOELMA PEREIRA

VIDEOS



PHOTO: BRUNO COL



**ABDULAHI STORY
KATHRYN TAETZSCH'S APPEAL**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8tI9k7od2o&feature=youtu.be>



**THE STORY
OF RAHIMA**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXV-R5iropw&t=29s>

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