

A woman wearing a red headscarf and a patterned top is holding a young child. She is looking upwards with a serious, hopeful expression. The background is a textured, yellowish wall.

# WorldVision

SPRING 2012

.....

## HUNGER & HEARTACHE

*Helping families hold onto hope  
in the Horn of Africa*





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While mourning two dead children, Gaalo worries for her 6-year-old son, with her in Somalia.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



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# The Famine That Never Happened

BY RICH STEARNS

**A**lways remember this: God loves to take a hopeless, impossible situation and turn it into a source of abundance and joy.

It was through an old and tired woman, Sarah, whom God chose to give birth to Isaac. It was only when Gideon's army was culled to just 300 men that God gave them victory against a swarm of Midianites (Genesis 21; Judges 7).

Of course, Jesus is the greatest illustration of our God who works the impossible. After promising to reconcile God with his people, Jesus was sent to die on the cross. When the situation seemed its most hopeless, with Jesus still in the tomb on the third day, God dramatically turned the tables. Jesus arose from the grave.

Working in impossible situations, World Vision gets to see the God of impossibilities in action. Today, the worst drought in 60 years has caused tremendous suffering and has threatened the lives of millions in the Horn of Africa. But there is hope and life in the communities where God gives World Vision the privilege to work.

Across the drought region—roughly the size of all U.S. states east of the Mississippi River—World Vision operates in 87 areas, helping communities gain self-sufficiency and resilience to drought. Through water and irrigation projects as well as conservation and agriculture techniques, these communities are less susceptible when the rains fail.

We thank God that no child in a World Vision-supported community has died because of the region's drought. For these areas, this is a famine that never happened. As the psalmist wrote, God "turned the parched ground into flowing springs."

In these 87 communities we are doing the same kind of work we did following the Ethiopia famine of the 1980s. At that time, in Ethiopia's Antsokia Valley, deforestation and erosion had made it a valley of rock and dust. When the rain failed, the land produced nothing. During the famine, locals—many of them near starvation—asked World Vision to help.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION, 2004

*"He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs. ... They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest."*

—PSALM 107:35, 37

Antsokia Valley, Ethiopia, was transformed from a dust bowl in the 1980s to a thriving community.

World Vision remained in Antsokia Valley long after the world's attention turned elsewhere. We worked alongside locals for three decades. Now, the region once hard hit by famine has become a garden.

Orange groves, maize, sorghum, and grazing farm animals blanket the valley today. In the shadow of the surrounding hills, 20 million trees nourish the soil and bring income as farmers sell their fruit. More than 90 percent of the valley's children are in school. God has turned the parched ground into flowing springs.

During a more recent drought in 2000, farmers in Antsokia provided food for other regions in Ethiopia. The formerly dry valley became an oasis amid drought. This year

World Vision will phase out its work in the valley. We're no longer needed, as the farmers there are reaping "a fruitful harvest."

Today, the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa, especially Somalia, has seemed as hopeless as the Antsokia Valley did 30 years ago. But I believe God is already rolling the stone away from the tomb. Where things seem most desperate is where God is "turning the desert into pools of water."

As you will discover in this issue, God is working amid the famine. In World Vision communities, farmers are learning how to conserve water and promote rain by planting trees. Communities are working to become drought resistant. And we are reaching out to those who are hurting because of the famine, providing health care, food, and emergency supplies.

This work is changing the future. Years from now, we'll be talking again about *the famine that never happened.* ●



**KEEP UP AND ENGAGE WITH RICH STEARNS** at [www.facebook.com/RichardStearns.WVUS](http://www.facebook.com/RichardStearns.WVUS).



# FRONTLINES

## HAITI TWO YEARS LATER



MARY KATE MACISAAC/WORLD VISION

**Life has never been stable** for children in Haiti. Even before the January 2010 earthquake shook Port-au-Prince, the country had the highest child-mortality rate in the Western hemisphere. Only half of all primary-school-age children attended school in 2009, and one in five children was malnourished. That's why it's not enough to return to the way things were. These youth deserve better.

World Vision relied on its expertise in child well-being for its tireless relief efforts. Immediately following the quake, World Vision established a family tracing program to reunite separated children and their relatives. The organization initiated health programs and cholera-prevention activities and established nutrition support and baby-friendly areas. And its Child-Friendly Spaces (pictured) welcomed approximately 7,700 children and youth to safely sing, play, learn, and process their experiences, first in tents and later in more secure, comfortable transitional shelters.

World Vision is now working on longer term activities for earthquake-affected children, such as incorporating early childhood education facilities into existing schools. Children in Haiti know what it is to stand steady in the midst of adversity ... and your prayers today give them hope for tomorrow. ●

—Jodi Carlson





WORLD VISION STAFF

## INDIA | EARTHQUAKE TROUBLE

A 6.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Sikkim, other parts of northeast India, and Nepal in September. It killed hundreds of people and caused widespread destruction to roads and buildings in the mountainous region. World Vision was one of the first nongovernmental organizations on the ground, traversing by foot to reach remote villages. Providing assistance to 780 affected families, World Vision distributed dry food rations along with blankets, lanterns, tarpaulins, mattresses, bedsheets, and more.

## JAPAN | REBUILDING LIVES

Sept. 11 was not only the 10-year anniversary of 9/11, but also the six-month mark of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and ensuing tsunami that ravaged Japan's northeastern coast. In those six months, World Vision reached more than 147,000 people with emergency relief supplies and long-term recovery assistance. Seven Child-Friendly Spaces are in place to give children a chance to recover. Now World Vision is focusing on community building within the temporary shelter settlements, helping revitalize the local fishing industry, providing

child-focused support to families, and more.

## ALBANIA | PHOTO ADVOCACY

Thirty teens participated in a photo advocacy project, a partnership between World Vision and the UK charity Photovoice. During 10-day sessions, youth in Kurbin learned how to raise public awareness and advocate through photography in the areas of child protection, education, and economic development. "We want to show that if we can change things for better through our photos, then everyone can," says one participant.



ROGELIO CHAVEZ/WORLD VISION

## EL SALVADOR | DOWNPOURS

Extensive flooding and landslides in October forced tens of thousands to flee their homes for temporary shelters. More than 90 people were killed. About four feet of rain fell—43 percent more than the previous record set by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. World Vision delivered food and other emergency supplies to thousands, and plans

further work to rehabilitate agriculture, water supplies, and sanitation. It will also initiate programs to improve hygiene and prevent the transmission of disease.

## VIETNAM | SAFELY SWIMMING

Hundreds of children ages 8 to 14 can now swim after attending classes held by World Vision in cooperation with local authorities. According to government statistics, more than 6,000 children drown in Vietnam every year. The classes, lasting 15 to 20 days, teach children to swim, equip them with underwater survival skills, and provide first-aid



## MALARIA TARGETS CHILDREN

Malaria rates are on the decline—deaths caused by the disease are down 20 percent in the last 10 years—but many challenges remain.

**3.5 BILLION**  
PEOPLE AT RISK

**225 MILLION**  
PEOPLE INFECTED ANNUALLY

**781 THOUSAND**  
PEOPLE DIE ANNUALLY

**1,800**  
CHILDREN  
UNDER AGE 5  
DIE EVERY DAY

specifically for women, girls, and their communities. World Vision is building on two decades of experience in water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as its recently completed five-year West Africa Water Initiative in Ghana, Mali, and Niger. The announcement was made at the 2011 Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting.

### CHINA | IN WANT OF WATER

The continuous hot and dry weather in south China has affected more than 21 million people in Guizhou and Yunnan

Provinces since the end of July 2011. “Many families facing food shortages worry that they cannot provide enough food for their children due to failed harvests,” says World Vision China National Director Chao Wang. In addition, 6.2 million people are facing drinking water shortages. World Vision is focusing on improving access to food and water in affected communities.

### ROMANIA | PEACE PRIZE

Last September, World Vision awarded its annual Peace Prize to the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania. The institute operates worldwide to empower politicians, community leaders, children, women, and peacebuilding professionals to effectively address conflict in their communities. These initiatives and best practices have helped transform conflict zones such as Northern Ireland, Nepal, and Iraq.

### GLOBAL | A MILLION MOMS

Last fall, World Vision was part of an effort to connect millions of U.S. moms with millions of moms in developing countries. Called the “Million Moms Challenge,” this first-of-its-kind initiative was a joint effort between ABC News, the United Nations Foundation, and leading child-focused agencies including World Vision. Participants engaged on critical issues of pregnancy, maternal health, childbirth, and children’s health. Funds were raised to help mothers and children around the world. ●



WORLD VISION STAFF

training to help them save a drowning person.

### GEORGIA | AIDS AWARENESS

As a result of awareness-raising training and a new methodology with World Vision, several Georgian priests have begun addressing the issue of HIV and AIDS with their churchgoers. They are working to defeat the disease’s stigma and instead offer support. More than 100 Channels of Hope workshops have been held, training 2,783 youth and 38 faith leaders. The initiative is part of World Vision’s broader health programming, which seeks to ensure that all children enjoy good health and are cared for, protected, and participating in their communities.

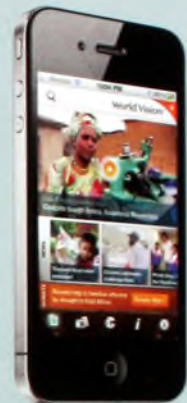
### AFRICA | SAFE WATER

World Vision recently launched a six-year, \$200-million water initiative in 10 African countries, expected to help 6.6 million people. The goal is to promote safe water



COLLINE KAUBER/WORLD VISION

AFRICA



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COURTESY AUSTIN GUTWEIN

# TOP OF THE CLASS

*An Arizona teen helps build a solar-powered computer lab in Zambia.*

When Austin Gutwein was just 9 years old, he was shocked to learn about the plight of African children who had lost their parents to AIDS. The youngster from Mesa, Ariz., took a day off school to raise awareness by shooting 2,057 basketball free throws—one for every child in the world orphaned by AIDS during a typical school day.

That commitment sparked a movement—Hoops of Hope—whereby other youngsters raise money for AIDS-devastated communities. Among their outstanding achievements: raising funds for World Vision to build a high school in Kalomo, a remote district of southern Zambia. (Formerly, the nearest high school had been 50 miles away.) The school was built in 2007, and continued funding has turned it into one of the best schools in the country.

Last May, Austin, now 17, traveled to Zambia to open the school's latest amenity—a

computer laboratory housed in a refitted shipping container. Because there is no electricity to the community, the lab and its 22 PCs are powered by solar energy.

The lab is the result of a partnership between Hoops of Hope, World Vision, and Intel Education Service Corps—which provided technical expertise and training. Solar-powered labs are now possible because personal computers consume minimal amounts of power. In addition, the lab also features low-wattage lighting and fans.

With no satellite dishes or cell towers in sight, Internet access is not currently possible. But the lab does feature an offline digital library containing tens of thousands of documents. The success of the project has encouraged World Vision and Intel to plan similar labs in other remote locations.

Facilities at the school are now so good that students from cities such as Lusaka and Livingstone are attending. Most local students come from families shattered by AIDS. "We wanted to give these kids the best," Austin says, and "give them the chance to have an amazing education."

Meanwhile, Austin is working on his second book, *More Than a Tuna Sandwich*. It's based on the biblical story of a boy who offered his lunch to feed 5,000 people, reflecting Austin's own experience with Hoops of Hope. He says that when we offer our gifts and talents to Jesus, he does incredible things with them. ●

—James Addis

The solar-powered computer lab in Zambia.



BERAND NOKORHAUSEN

**LEARN MORE** about Austin and his ministry at [www.hoopsofhope.org](http://www.hoopsofhope.org).



## CHANGE AGENT

**NAME** Andrea Zahler

**HOME** Northport, Ala.

**OCCUPATION** Campus ministry leader

**PROGRAM** Child Ambassadors

**THE BUZZ** After serving as a missionary in China, Andrea sought ways to keep an international perspective. She became a child sponsor with World Vision, then a Child Ambassador—introducing others to the joy of sponsorship. Recently, Andrea was wearing a World Vision jacket while attending a folk art festival in Alabama. She was spotted by May Yang, who had been helped by World Vision in the 1970s while a refugee living in a camp in Thailand. May was thrilled to meet someone connected with the organization and offered Andrea one of her beautiful embroidered textiles. It depicts May's dramatic trek from Laos. Now Andrea shows off the textile when talking to others about World Vision's work and child sponsorship. ●



ABBY BETTY/WORLD VISION

“After China, I was praying how I can still have a global influence while living in the States. Child sponsorship is a small way to make a big difference.”

—ANDREA ZAHLER

**SHARE THE JOY** of sponsorship by becoming a Child Ambassador. Visit [www.wvchildambassadors.com](http://www.wvchildambassadors.com).

## WATER COURSE

*Painful memories motivate a Chicago marathon runner.*

She had never previously run more than three miles at a time. And she was preparing for her wedding. Even so, Sandra Morais had no hesitation deciding to run the 26.2-mile Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

Sandra, 28, was one of about 1,000 Team World Vision runners aiming to raise \$1 million for impoverished communities in Africa. But her motivation came from direct personal experience: growing up in a makeshift hut in a village in Angola.

One of Sandra's most painful childhood memories was being forced to walk up to 10 miles a day simply to get water. “As soon as I could walk,” she says, “I had to start fetching water.”

It was filthy water too. Sandra recalls waking up several times to find one of her cousins or neighbors lying dead beside her because of the effects of cholera—a water-borne disease. And on one occasion, Sandra's throat was so parched that when she mistook a container of gasoline for water, she gulped it down.

Sandra, who now lives in Chicago and aspires to study international law in order to safeguard human rights for refugees, says such incidents have left painful scars that affect her family to this day. Even though her mother now lives in a house in Portugal with water on tap, she keeps buckets of it on hand in the bathroom lest she run out. Her mother also keeps extra food rations under her bed.

Sandra says other members of her extended family who still live in Angola continue to struggle every day to get clean water. The images propelled her feet through the marathon. “At mile 23 I felt I had no strength, but I just thought of my family and that kept me going,” she said after the race. “Even if I had to crawl, I had to finish it.”

“I'm hoping that through Team World Vision, I can really give back to Africa and help my country.” ●

—James Addis



JAMES ADDIS/WORLD VISION

## NEW WORLD VISION ONLINE STORE

*Wear your heart on your sleeve!*

Announcing an apparel line that will allow you to support World Vision in a new way. Thirty percent of every sale will be donated to World Vision to help tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. And now you can get 30 percent off your first purchase when you use the code **FIRST** at checkout. Visit [www.worldvisionshop.org](http://www.worldvisionshop.org) today!





# A NEW NORMAL

*A family rebuilds after a tornado, with World Vision's help.*



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Life has been full of changes for Rebecca and Tim Acrey since spring 2011. Two days after Rebecca found out she was pregnant with their second child, a tornado struck their valley in Etowah County, Ala., and destroyed the family's mobile home.

The tornado was part of what the National Climatic Data Center called the "Super Outbreak." Between April 25 and April 30, a total of 334 tornadoes touched down in 21 states, resulting in at least \$5.5 billion in damages.

Rebecca, 29, is relieved that they didn't stick with their original plan to stay in their mobile home and ride out the storm. Instead, the couple fled the house with their 2-year-old daughter, Audrey, and were forced to scurry into a ditch as the tornado cut off their escape route. After seeing the mobile home's mangled state, Rebecca knows they most likely would not have survived.

Although unhurt, the Acreys were among the 27 percent of homeowners in the area who were uninsured when the tornado hit. Susan Carter, from the United Way in Etowah County, says she often heard from families: "I had to let my insurance lapse because

I had a medical bill to pay," or "I just couldn't afford to keep it."

The Acreys took their FEMA grant money of \$30,000 and bought basic supplies to begin building. Rebecca figures that their new home will cost about \$50,000. World Vision donated concrete siding, roof shingles, and a bathtub to the family. Becky Ellis, also of United Way, says that World Vision's donations are "critical to the healing for a family, to helping them realize that a new normal can be found."

Despite having to start over, Rebecca feels very blessed. She reminds anyone who will listen: "There's still a lot of people that need a lot more help."

With thousands of homes still needing to be rebuilt or repaired, it will take years to fully restore the community. World Vision plans to remain in Alabama throughout the restoration process, providing building materials, school supplies, and basic family needs. ●

—Laura Reinhardt

**GIVE NOW** to U.S. disaster relief:  
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### CHILD INFORMATION

See your sponsored child's photo and read his or her story.

### EMAIL MY CHILD

Easily send an encouraging note to your child.

### COMMUNITY UPDATES

See photos, learn about recent accomplishments, and more. ●

## WHY I LOVE MY WORLD VISION

ALEXIS DIONNE, WASHINGTON, D.C.



COURTESY ALEXIS DIONNE

The new sponsor site—My World Vision—really helps me learn more about the worlds my sponsored children live in. I love the extra information about each community, especially where it shows the progress World Vision is making in working with the families who live there.

DEBBIE LOIZZO, WOODSTOCK, GA.

Building a relationship with my sponsored children is very important to me, so I write to them about twice a month—that's why the email



COURTESY DEBBIE LOIZZO

option at My World Vision is so great. All I need to do is go into my office and drop them a quick note. The world is so much smaller since I've become a sponsor, and this site helps make my children's worlds even more accessible. ●

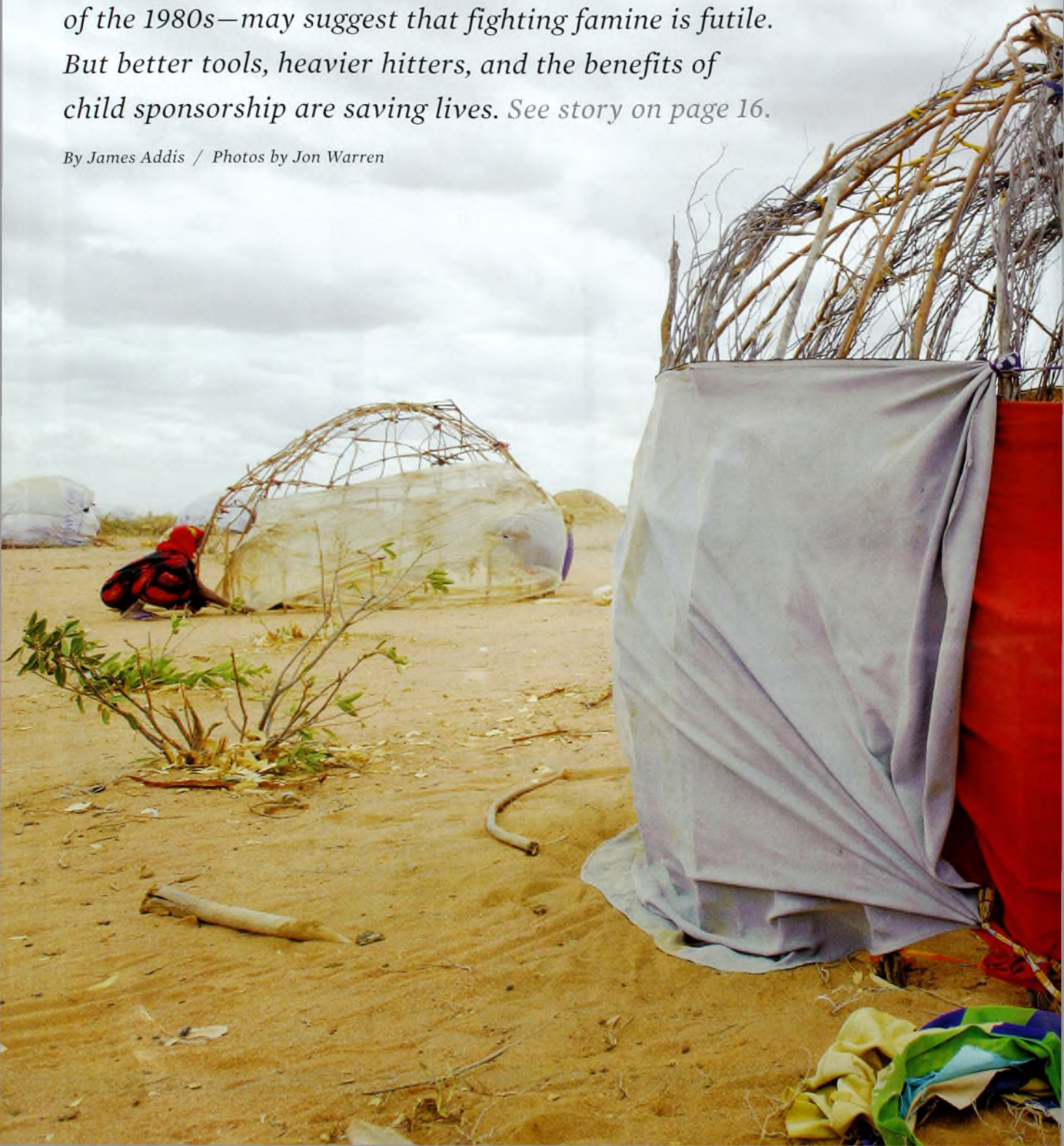
**TELL US YOUR STORY.** Why do you love being a child sponsor? Write the editors at [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).



# FAMINE NO

*The recent crisis in the Horn of Africa—so reminiscent of the 1980s—may suggest that fighting famine is futile. But better tools, heavier hitters, and the benefits of child sponsorship are saving lives. See story on page 16.*

*By James Addis / Photos by Jon Warren*





# MORE?

► Isnino Siyat made it to Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya, with her husband and two children after walking for 10 days from their village in Somalia. She said the drought “finished both our livestock and our farm,” killing their five cows and 10 goats one by one over three months. Reaching Dadaab, Isnino was exhausted but had to make her own hut out of sticks, borrowed clothing scraps, and burlap sacks that once contained relief food. She worked alone while her husband was elsewhere in the camp, preparing for burial the body of their 3-year-old nephew, who died on the journey (see page 15).







.....

> There was little privacy or protection in the makeshift home that Hadija Hassan Abdi, 28, constructed for herself and her seven children at the Burtinle camp in Puntland, Somalia. The family left Baidoa after the maize crop failed in 2011. They walked and hitched rides for eight days, begging for food as they went. Once at the camp, Hadija and her eldest daughter, 10-year-old Nurto, earned a little money by hauling garbage away for families in nearby Burtinle city.





.....

> Men in Dadaab camp attended to the grim task of preparing a child's grave—the third child buried that day. Three-year-old Ibrahim had trekked from Somalia to Kenya with his family, but like many children, he arrived hungry, weak, and sick, and he died at the camp clinic. Nearby, other graves, marked by earthen mounds of varying sizes, represented the toll of Somalia's crisis.





**T**

The first televised images of famine in 1984, showing thousands of starving children in Ethiopia, sent shockwaves throughout the world. Among those who reacted were rock stars. Bob Geldof organized fellow British performers to record the hit fundraising single “Do They Know It’s Christmas?” that inspired USA for Africa musicians to release the best-selling song “We Are the World.”

Bob Geldof was in the news again last September as a new famine deepened in the Horn of Africa, threatening some 13 million lives. Sir Bob pressed delegates attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York to sign a charter drafted by a coalition of aid agencies, including World Vision, asking for key commitments from world leaders to prevent future hunger disasters.

The resurfacing of Bob Geldof in this context prompts inevitable questions:

Why is this happening again? What progress has been made over the last 25 years to prevent these kinds of catastrophic events?

All the rock-star fundraisers in the world could not prevent the dire drought that gripped the Horn last year. But today there are new tools enabling the international community to predict and mitigate such a disaster. And a key point of progress is child sponsorship.

In drought-affected areas where World Vision works, communities proved themselves resilient, and none of the nearly 250,000 sponsored children succumbed to starvation.

#### ARMING AND ALARMING

One outcome of the 1980s famine in Ethiopia is the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)—the U.S. government’s foreign aid arm.

FEWS NET monitors changes in climate to predict adverse events like drought and uses satellites to analyze agricultural production in famine-prone regions. At the same time, on-the-ground monitoring looks closely at food prices in local markets. “Alarm bells ring as soon as food prices begin to rise,” says David Scheiman, director of World Vision’s Africa programs.

The collection of such data is greatly facilitated by the surprisingly good cellphone coverage that now exists in

much of Africa—technology that was unknown in the ’80s.

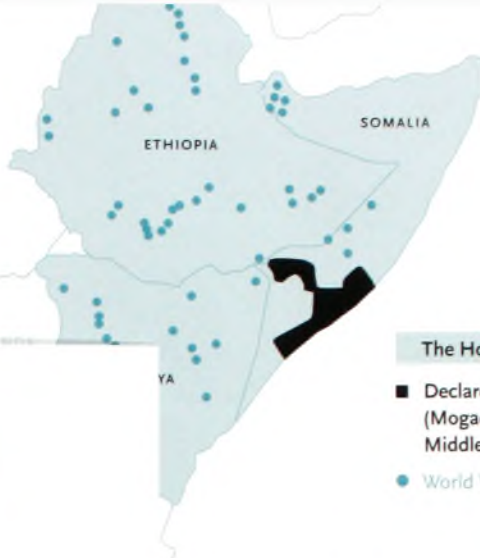
David is fond of recounting the story of Joseph in the Bible, who correctly interpreted Pharaoh’s dream indicating seven years of famine in Egypt. Armed with this information, Joseph proposed a plan to successfully withstand the calamity. “Similarly, with better information,” David says, “humanitarian organizations like World Vision can take more effective preventative measures against famine than ever before.”

USAID Administrator Dr. Raj Shah agrees, pointing out that FEWS NET indicated high risk in August 2010. “By September and October, we were able to provide early allocations of food security assistance to set up and work with a range of partners,” he says, “and to supplement some of the larger safety-net programs for [livestock-dependant] communities.”

Those safety-net programs, he adds, deserve the credit for keeping millions of people from starvation.

Therapeutic feeding products are a primary means of helping acutely malnourished children. One of the most exciting to emerge in recent years is Plumpy’nut—a peanut-based therapeutic food that requires no preparation or mixing with water. Parents can take the ready-to-eat packets home for their children. Plumpy’nut works fast and well. “I’ve personally seen children—little more than skeletons at death’s door—return to good health in weeks,” David says.





#### The Horn of Africa

- Declared famine regions (Mogadishu, Afgooye, Bakool, Middle and Lower Shabelle)
- World Vision program areas

World Vision



ABBY METTY/WORLD VISION

## TWO WAYS TO MAKE HUNGER HISTORY

Four pounds a day—that's how much food is available to feed every person on the planet. But still, empty stomachs cry out. World Vision delivers emergency food where it's most needed. **Give today and see your gift multiplied five times in impact.**

In the face of drought and other threats, sponsorship provides a safety net for children and their families. Thousands of children around the globe wait to be sponsored. **Say YES to a child today.**

You can make a difference in the fight against hunger.

and further tragedy. At the time of World Vision's expulsion, FEWS NET maps showed yellow (stressed) in places where World Vision operated. These areas were surrounded by a sea of red (emergency).

"We knew things were going to get bad," Chris says. "We just did not know the extent of how bad it was going to be."

The answer turned out to be very bad indeed. Dr. Raj Shah says the militants' actions helped contribute to this famine that has taken the lives of tens of thousands of children. Lack of food, water, and humanitarian assistance forced dozens of hundreds of thousands of Somalis, mainly women and children, to flee to overcrowded refugee camps in neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya, often facing robbery and sexual assault on the way.

—continued on page 20

TOUGH-FUELED HUNGER  
NOW-ONSET EMERGENCY,  
/HIGH DOESN'T ALWAYS  
PROMPT QUICK ACTION.





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PLEASE REMOVE BEFORE MAILING

## YES!

### I WANT TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER!

I WANT TO FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD—MY GIFT MULTIPLIES FIVE TIMES IN IMPACT WHEN PAIRED WITH MATCHING GRANTS. I'M GIVING:

- \$25 TO PROVIDE \$125 IN EMERGENCY FOOD.
- \$50 TO PROVIDE \$250 IN EMERGENCY FOOD.
- \$100 TO PROVIDE \$500 IN EMERGENCY FOOD.
- OTHER AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I WANT TO SPONSOR A CHILD FOR \$35/MONTH.

GENDER:  GIRL  BOY  
 LIVING IN:  AFRICA  LATIN AMERICA  
 ASIA  MIDDLE EAST/EASTERN EUROPE

I WANT MY ONE-TIME DONATION TO GO WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST.  
AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to World Vision  Charge my gift to my debit card/credit card

VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER  
 USE MY CARD NUMBER ON FILE

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EMAIL

TO RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT.

SOURCE 2051390

# T

The first televised images of famine in 1984, showing thousands of starving children in Ethiopia, sent shockwaves throughout the world. Among those who reacted were rock stars. Bob Geldof organized fellow British performers to record the hit fundraising single "Do They Know It's Christmas?" that inspired USA for Africa musicians to release the best-selling song "We Are the World."

Bob Geldof was in the news again last September as a new famine deepened in the Horn of Africa, threatening some 13 million lives. Sir Bob pressed delegates attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York to sign a charter drafted by a coalition of aid agencies, including World Vision, asking for key commitments from world leaders to prevent future hunger disasters.

The resurfacing of Bob Geldof in this context prompts inevitable questions:

Why is this progress has been 25 years to prevent catastrophic events?

All the roads of the world could be paved with drought that grows. But today there are international efforts to mitigate such a point of progress.

In drought, World Vision proved themselves the nearly 250,000 who succumbed to starvation.

## ARMING A

One outcome of Ethiopia is the Systems Network by the United States national Development U.S. government.

FEW NEARLY climate to prevent drought and agricultural production regions. At the monitoring loops in local markets as soon as food says David Schaefer, Vision's Africa.

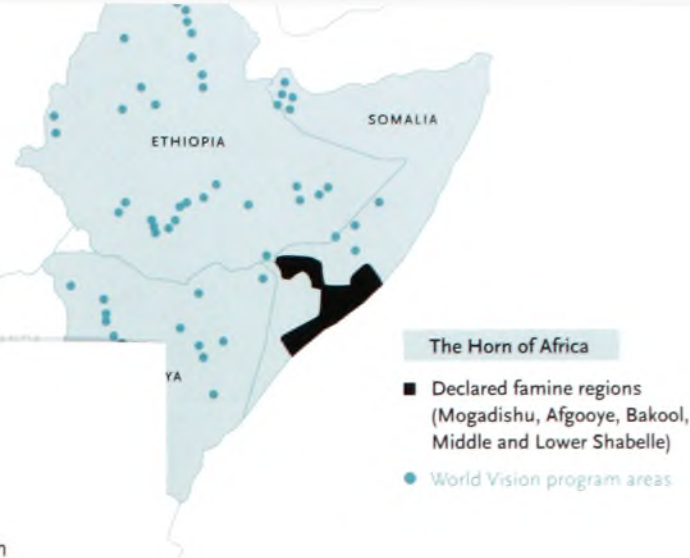
The collective facilitated by cellphone coverage.



PLEASE TEAR ALONG PERFORATED LINES AND PLACE UNFOLDED COUPON INSIDE ENVELOPE.

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"We knew things were going to get bad," Chris says. "We just did not know the extent of how bad it was going to be."

The answer turned out to be very bad indeed. Dr. Raj Shah says the militants' actions helped contribute to this famine that has taken the lives of tens of thousands of children. Lack of food, water, and humanitarian assistance forced dozen hundreds of thousands of Somalis, mainly women and children, to flee to overcrowded refugee camps in neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya, often facing robbery and sexual assault on the way.

—continued on page 20

UGHT-FUELED HUNGER  
OW-ONSET EMERGENCY,  
/HIGH DOESN'T ALWAYS  
PROMPT QUICK ACTION.





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UNITED STATES





## WHY FAMINE HAPPENED

Even with better tools, no one could stop the drought emergency from escalating in Somalia into full-blown famine—the first in the 21st century. Why? David Scheiman and others note that this was the worst drought in 60 years, even more severe and widespread than the one that struck Ethiopia in the 1980s. Experts also point to climactic factors. Meteorologists have shown that mean temperatures in East Africa have risen by more than two degrees Fahrenheit in recent years. At the same time, rainfall has decreased. The combination makes growing crops more difficult and therefore tends to diminish available food supplies.

Drought-fueled hunger is a slow-onset emergency, which doesn't always prompt quick action—even, some criticize, from the United Nations and Horn of Africa governments themselves. Aid organizations like World Vision often have difficulty focusing supporters' attention on hunger, especially compared to more sudden, headline-grabbing crises such as tsunamis, floods, or earthquakes (see "Hunger Isn't News," page 20).

For example, following Japan's major earthquake in March 2011, World Vision donors gave more than \$59 million in just three months to support relief efforts there. By contrast, it took five months to raise \$50 million for the Horn—only half the amount needed for ongoing relief in the region.

It's important to note that even

in the driest regions of Kenya and Ethiopia, drought did not develop into famine, which is declared when at least 20 percent of the population lacks basic food, global acute malnutrition exceeds 30 percent, and more than two people per 10,000 die daily. Improvements in those countries over the past decades, as well as stable governments, helped prevent the worst from happening.

The same cannot be said for hard-hit Somalia, where drought was exacerbated by political turmoil.

In August 2010, militants expelled World Vision and more than a dozen other aid organizations from the south-central regions of the country. According to Chris Smoot, World Vision's director of programs for Somalia, this invited

further tragedy. At the time of World Vision's expulsion, FEWS NET maps showed yellow (stressed) in places where World Vision operated. These areas were surrounded by a sea of red (emergency).

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—continued on page 20

**DROUGHT-FUELED HUNGER  
IS A SLOW-ONSET EMERGENCY,  
WHICH DOESN'T ALWAYS  
PROMPT QUICK ACTION.**





> Layla, a young mother of five children—and pregnant with her sixth—fled from Mogadishu to a camp in Garowe, Somalia, some 600 miles away. Her youngest, 18-month-old Zam Zam, arrived severely malnourished, a condition immediately recognizable to health workers. Happily, just weeks later, World Vision staff observed great improvement in Zam Zam as a result of therapeutic feeding.







## THE FIRST RESPONSE

The crisis prompted World Vision to declare a top-priority emergency in February 2011 and mount a massive relief effort in four countries—Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia. (Although excluded from south-central Somalia, the organization remained in Puntland and Somaliland in the north.)

Ongoing programs across the region include supplying tents and medical care to refugees, trucking water into dry areas, providing seeds and animal feed, and initiating emergency feeding for starving children and hungry adults, especially new mothers.

World Vision also runs school feeding programs, which encourage children to stay in school and ensure they get at least one good meal every day. By July 2011, more than 1 million people were benefiting from World Vision's relief operations in the Horn.

Thinking outside the box has helped. Conventional wisdom calls for importing food into famine-hit countries. But in Kenya, World Vision tested the idea that there was sufficient supply and infrastructure available to procure food from areas of surplus within the country. This enabled the prompt feeding of more than 3,000 vulnerable families in Moyale, northern Kenya. Food arrived within weeks, not the four months that is typical for such emergency relief. Acute malnutrition rates in Moyale were kept down to less than

14 percent, whereas in surrounding areas they exceeded 20 percent.

World Vision's emphasis on child and maternal health in sponsorship-supported communities means malnutrition problems can be spotted early or prevented entirely. In recent years, the organization has refined an approach known as the "7-11 strategy"—seven basic steps to ensure the health and nutrition of pregnant moms and 11 steps to protect the health and nutrition of newborns. By paying attention to simple things like hand washing, breastfeeding, and vaccination, thousands of lives are being saved.

Such programs have been difficult in Somalia, says Chris Smoot, in part because nearly all of World Vision's work there is funded by Western-government grants. These grants are critical for saving lives but relatively inflexible without matching private donations. They operate for a limited time, and money cannot be easily redirected to cope with changing priorities.

Contrast this with child-sponsorship funding in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. (Due to Somalia's instability, sponsorship is not possible there.) Sponsorship provides an investment in communities for 15 years or more, allowing World Vision to design long-term programs that address the needs of families in holistic ways. And if the need arises, funds can be spent to address urgent problems in those communities.

A good example is in Wajir South, eastern Kenya, where rains failed completely in 2010, and all water points dried up. As

is customary in World Vision's sponsorship model, community leaders approached Jacob Alemu, who leads the project in Wajir, saying, "You are our only hope as to whether we die or whether we live."

In response, Jacob activated his emergency budget in December 2010, and World Vision started bringing in water by truck, first using government vehicles, then taking over the whole operation to serve 7,000 households. "Nobody died because of lack of water," he says. Water trucking continued until October 2011, when the rains came.

## WHAT WORKS

Many of World Vision's development programs in Kenya are located in arid or semi-arid regions. Lawrence Kiguro, associate director of livelihoods and resiliency for World Vision in Kenya, says work to combat the effects of drought started in earnest in 2005 following several consecutive seasons of crop failure.

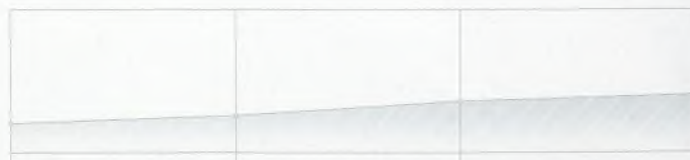
These efforts are legion. They include introducing communities to rainwater-harvesting technologies, drought-resistant crops, hardier goat breeds, and more. These methods are being replicated in more than 60 sponsorship-funded development programs in Ethiopia, serving almost 200,000 sponsored children.

Granted, these are mammoth tasks—not just to establish the programs, but also to educate local people on how to implement the new ideas and convince them of

## HUNGER ISN'T NEWS

Looming disaster in the Horn of Africa was apparent by late 2010, and World Vision declared it a major emergency in February 2011, escalating relief operations and global fundraising. But the slow-onset crisis could get little traction in the busy U.S. media landscape until late summer. In the meantime, the number of people in dire need more than doubled.

Sources: ReliefWeb, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism



FEB. 2011

» MEDIA SPOTLIGHT » earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand; protests in the Middle East.

» IN THE HORN » 6 million lives at risk.

MARCH 2011

» MEDIA SPOTLIGHT » Japan's earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear emergency; intensifying civil conflict in Libya.

» IN THE HORN » 7 million lives at risk.

APRIL 2011

» MEDIA SPOTLIGHT » Britain's royal wedding; deadly tornadoes in Alabama.

» IN THE HORN » 8 million lives at risk.



the benefits. But based on experiences so far, Lawrence remains confident that the effects of drought can be beaten. "I am sure we can protect communities if we continue to expand successful initiatives in new areas," he says.

Lawrence points to World Vision's standout project, the Morulem Irrigation Scheme in Turkana, Kenya, constructed with a combination of USAID grants and child sponsorship funding. The project uses a network of canals to direct water from the Kerio River to irrigate 1,500 acres of land, supporting more than 3,000 families. At a time when the food situation in other parts of Turkana has reached crisis levels, farms in Morulem are flourishing with maize, sorghum, and a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Morulem's children are healthy and active. "We eat every day, and we never go hungry," says Loice Akaran, 11. "I am able to concentrate in school."

Tree planting is another method showing extraordinary promise in arid regions. Trees retain moisture and nutrients in the soil, inhibit soil erosion, and improve the climate. In fact, experts at the Center for International Forestry Research claim that forest destruction has done more than drought to turn vast areas of once grazeable and farmable land into "lunar-like" landscapes.

But this process can be reversed. An example is a joint World Vision/World Bank program in Ethiopia's Humbo district, which suffered massive forest

clearing in the mid-1970s. Through the rehabilitation of 2,700 hectares of forest, the program has drastically reduced soil erosion, improved pasture, reduced temperatures, and increased rainfall—not to mention provided income for the local community through the use of tree products.

Transformational programs like those in Humbo and Morulem prove that when sponsorship funding is leveraged by grants from strong partners, hunger emergencies can be prevented, despite environmental factors beyond our control. "Droughts will always be with us," says Charles Owubah, World Vision's regional director in Africa. "But, truly, children do not have to die."

And those who have been provided the safety net of child sponsorship in the Horn of Africa are *not* dying. Sponsors'

# "DROUGHTS WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US. BUT, TRULY, CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE TO DIE."

CHARLES OWUBAH

WORLD VISION AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

support not only improves the lives of individual children but also helps make their communities better able to withstand the worst in times of disaster.

Famine-fighting is not in World Vision's purview alone; the organization works alongside a vast array of humanitarian, government, and nongovernmental groups to provide long-term development assistance in the Horn of Africa. Collectively, these efforts raise hope that famine's tragedy will not recur.

"We know how to do this," declares Dr. Raj Shah. "It's just a matter of getting the world together to get it done." ●

*With reporting by Lucy Murunga of World Vision Kenya and Kari Costanza of World Vision International.*

## MAY 2011

📍 **MEDIA SPOTLIGHT** » deadly tornadoes in Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas.

📍 **IN THE HORN** » 8.8 million lives at risk.

## JUNE 2011

📍 **MEDIA SPOTLIGHT** » congressional scandal; Middle East unrest; fires in Arizona.

📍 **IN THE HORN** » 10 million lives at risk.

## JULY 2011

📍 **MEDIA SPOTLIGHT** » U.S. government debt-ceiling crisis; UK's news of the phone-hacking scandal.

📍 **IN THE HORN** » 12 million lives at risk; UN declares famine in Somalia.

## AUG. 2011 \*

📍 **MEDIA SPOTLIGHT** » unrest in Libya; Hurricane Irene.

📍 **IN THE HORN** » 13 million lives at risk.

## SEPT. 2011

📍 **MEDIA SPOTLIGHT** » tenth anniversary of 9/11; 2012 presidential race; conflict in Libya.

📍 **IN THE HORN** » 13.3 million lives at risk.

\* To date, Horn of Africa drought and famine received just 0.2 percent of U.S. mainstream news coverage.

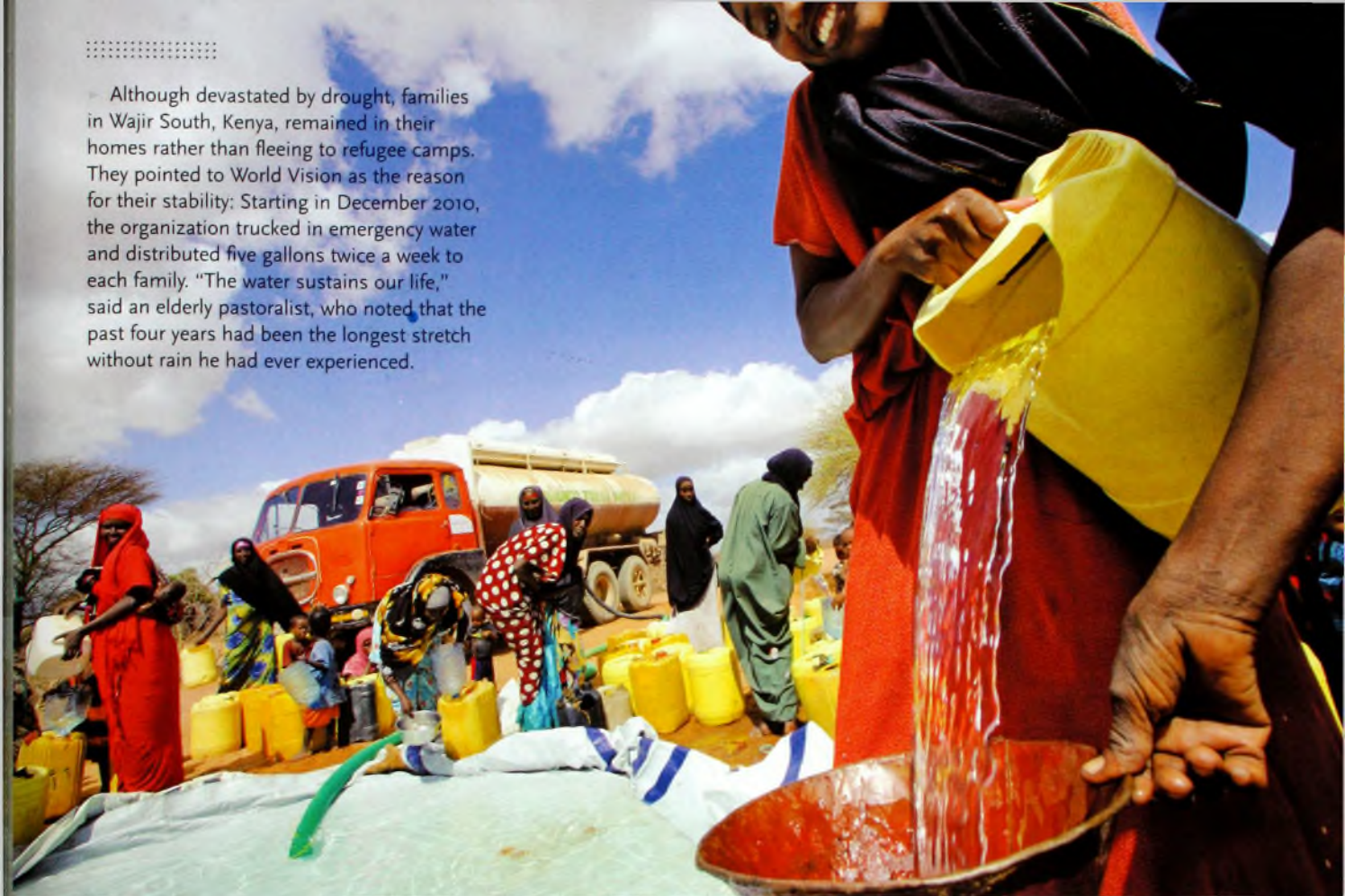




> Widow Awliya left Somalia with her three sons because “there was no food in sight. The drought didn’t stop.” She joined a group riding in a truck that was robbed by bandits; then it broke down six miles from the Kenyan border. She and her children walked from there to the Dadaab refugee camp. Her youngest son, 3-year-old Siidnoor, was weak with malaria. “I want to find food for these children,” Awliya said. “I want my children to feel well and play again.”



Although devastated by drought, families in Wajir South, Kenya, remained in their homes rather than fleeing to refugee camps. They pointed to World Vision as the reason for their stability: Starting in December 2010, the organization trucked in emergency water and distributed five gallons twice a week to each family. "The water sustains our life," said an elderly pastoralist, who noted that the past four years had been the longest stretch without rain he had ever experienced.



In Puntland, a region of Somalia less affected by conflict and drought, World Vision provided medical care and children's health monitoring in remote villages. Here in Magacley, Anas Abdullaj Fahar brought her feverish 2-year-old grandson, Mohamed, to Dr. Said Owar Husen, who measured the boy's arm circumference and diagnosed him as malnourished. Such care has made a difference—malnutrition rates here are less than 20 percent, well below the national average.





# HOW CAN I PRAY

about the famine in the Horn of Africa?

» **PRAY FOR AFFECTED FAMILIES.** Millions of parents in the developing world struggle every day to feed their households. Drought and rising food prices increase the strain. Pray for the families on pages 13, 14, and 15.

*Lord, pour out your grace on hungry families and provide lasting relief.*

» **PRAY FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN.** Malnutrition makes children vulnerable to diseases. And severe malnutrition in early childhood can impair brain development and lead to stunted growth. Pray for the children on pages 13, 14, 19, and 22.

*Dear Father, protect and sustain your precious children, and equip us to help them.*

» **PRAY FOR RESPONDERS.** World Vision staff and workers from other organizations serve on hunger's front lines, seeing great need every day. Pray for the emotional, physical, and spiritual health of workers, such as those on page 23.

*Dear Lord, bless and protect those you have called to be your hands and feet to the hungry and thirsty.*

» **KEEP PRAYING FOR CHILDREN**  
Sign up to receive World Vision's monthly prayer email at [www.worldvision.org/PrayerTeam](http://www.worldvision.org/PrayerTeam).







# HUNGER 101

Who's hungry? Around the world, **925 MILLION PEOPLE**—more than the populations of North America and South America combined—go hungry on a daily basis. Here are a few fast facts to help you grasp the severity of the problem.

## WHAT IS CHILD MALNUTRITION?

**Malnutrition is not** the sensation of hunger pangs—it's a medical condition in which the body can not maintain normal physical functions due to lack of nutrients from food. There are two types, each leaving a child dangerously vulnerable to infection and disease.

**ACUTE MALNUTRITION** is caused by a sudden lack of food—often due to a drought or other natural disaster. The telltale sign is **WASTING**, measured by low weight in relation to height. Without sufficient food, a child's body uses energy stored in fat—eventually causing the body to break down.

**CHRONIC MALNUTRITION** occurs when a child lacks sufficient nutrition over a long period of time. The telltale sign is **STUNTING**, measured by low height in relation to age. A stunted child's body and brain develop at a slower rate than normal, especially during the first 1,000 days of life. The effects are irreversible.

Sources: World Food Program, UNICEF



In sub-Saharan Africa, 30 percent of the population is undernourished.

Source: FAO State of Food Insecurity 2010



**WORLDWIDE, THE POOR SPEND UP TO 75 PERCENT OF THEIR INCOME ON FOOD, COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE AMERICAN, WHO SPENDS LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF DISPOSABLE INCOME ON FOOD.**

Sources: The World Bank, World Development Indicators 2011; USDA, Economic Research Service



One out of every four children in developing countries is underweight.

Source: World Food Program, 2011



INDIA\*  
224.6M

CHINA\*  
129.6M

## WHERE PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY



TEN COUNTRIES\* WITH THE MOST CHILDREN AND ADULTS GOING TO BED ON EMPTY STOMACHS.

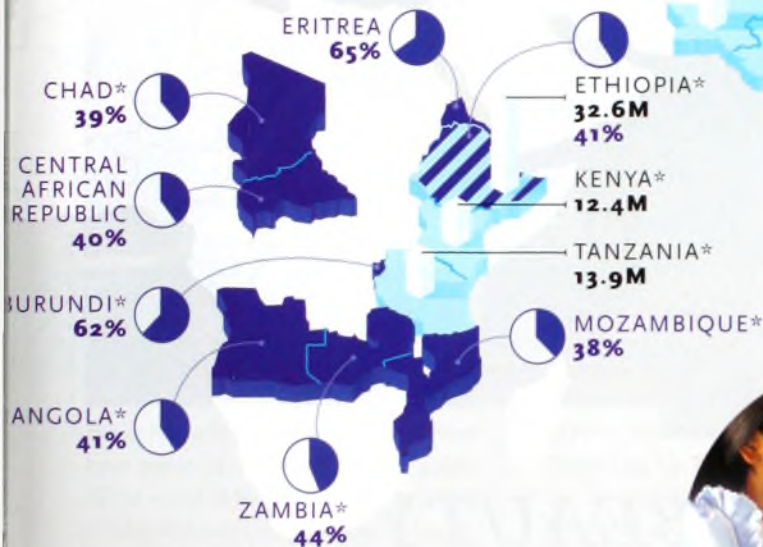


TEN COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST PROPORTION OF HUNGRY PEOPLE (BY PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION).

\* World Vision works to prevent hunger in these countries.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011*

You can help fight hunger by donating, using the envelope between pages 16 and 17 or by visiting [www.worldvision.org/readandrespond](http://www.worldvision.org/readandrespond).



## GUATEMALA PROFILE

This country has the highest percentage of chronically malnourished children in Latin America (the fourth highest in the world). In some areas, chronic malnutrition causes 90 percent of children to suffer. Many factors are to blame, including poverty, tradition, culture, and lack of access to the right foods with nutrients and vitamins.

## HUNGRY TO HEALTHY

Three-year-old María Sucely Díaz was not well. When she was admitted to the regional hospital in Chiquimula, Guatemala, doctors diagnosed her with pneumonia and severe, acute malnutrition. Her extreme condition demanded that she be hospitalized for six weeks.

When her mother, Angélica, participated in World Vision's community-wide food-education

program, she learned valuable lessons. She was equipped to better care for her family and herself through cooking nutritious foods with locally grown vegetables, fruits, and herbs. She learned the importance of personal and house hygiene when preparing food. Angélica is now an example for other mothers. And María's happy smile reflects her health. ●





MAY ONDENG/WORLD VISION

Dishani overcame poverty and now operates her own salon in Kenya.

# NATURAL BEAUTY

A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD RUNS A TOP HAIR SALON THAT GIVES VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO ORPHANS.

BY MAY ONDENG AND JAMES ADDIS

**W**ith her beautifully coiffed hair, perfect makeup, and cheerful smile, Dishani Paul is perhaps the best possible advertisement for the Dishani Hair and Beauty Salon, which she owns and operates in Mombasa, Kenya.

Good presentation has always meant a lot to Dishani. One of her most painful memories of growing up poor was being forced to scavenge for discarded toothpaste tubes so she could clean her teeth. But today she expresses no resentment for those times. "Gold has to go through fire for it to shine and become valuable," she says.

Dishani, now 32, grew up in Ngao, a tiny village in an arid region where inhabitants mostly survive by subsistence farming. Dishani lived with her mother and seven siblings in a two-room mud hut.

Her father died before she was born, and Dishani's mother

earned about \$17 a month as a schoolhouse mother. Beyond that, the family relied on the maize and bananas they grew on their small plot of land.

Most families in Dishani's community had no money to put their daughters through school and so sought early marriages for them—a prospect that horrified Dishani. "I remember telling my mom never to accept a dowry from anyone in my village," she says, "until I had finished secondary school."

She got her wish when Dishani's mother signed her up to become a World Vision sponsored child. Dishani's school fees were paid for and she got all the supplies she needed to attend high school. "My favorite thing about being a sponsored child was getting a school uniform," Dishani says. "Before, I used to go to school in a tattered, untidy uniform full of patches of various colors."

Dishani was further encouraged by letters from her U.S. sponsors,



the Gerskovich family—particularly those from Christina Gerskovich, the daughter who was about Dishani's age. "When I received the letters, I would read them over and over again," Dishani says. "Christina would send me letters that had colorful stickers. I had never seen such decorations, let alone received a letter from anyone."

The support persuaded Dishani to make good use of her schooling. She observed that many of her peers who were unable to go to school often lapsed into idleness and drunkenness. Dishani was always among the top three students in her class and held leadership roles in her final years of high school.

Afterward, Dishani worked for two years as a domestic helper to save enough money to take a nurse-aid course. She worked as a nurse aid for six years until she met the man who would become her husband, an accountant, whom she describes as a "wonderful, God-fearing man." They have two girls: Scholastica, 15, and Thandie, 5.

Later, Dishani trained as a hair stylist and opened her own salon in 2005. Today she enjoys a lifestyle that she could never have previously imagined. "I have a wonderful home in Mombasa," she says. "It's a three-bedroom stone house, and each

Christina Johnson's family sponsored Dishani.



COURTESY CHRISTINA JOHNSON

**"I AM HAPPY TO BLESS, BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS NOT TO BE PRIVILEGED IN LIFE."**

bedroom has its own bathroom."

But Dishani has never forgotten the humble circumstances in which she grew up. "I am happy to bless," she says, "because I know what it means not to be privileged in life."

She supports several orphans and uses her business to train disadvantaged youngsters to become hair stylists.

#### JOYOUS HEARTS REUNITE

Dishani remains forever grateful to her sponsors, the Gerskovich family. After making inquiries with World Vision, she was able to reconnect via email with Christina Johnson (nee Gerskovich), who lives in Blacksburg, Va. The Gerskovich family was overjoyed to hear from Dishani, and Christina hopes to one day visit Dishani in Kenya. "My family and I cannot express our happiness for all the effort that Dishani made to become the beautiful woman she is today," she says. "It's amazing to see what God has done."

Christina's father, Philip, says reconnecting with Dishani has transformed his view of sponsorship. "I always thought sponsorship was primarily for the donors' benefit—giving them a tangible example of the benefits of their support," he says. "What I did not realize was how the knowledge that a family was supporting them helped sponsored [children] get through hard times and feel wanted." ●

## ABOUT WORLD VISION

**WHO WE ARE |** World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children, families, and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

**WHOM WE SERVE |** Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

**WHY WE SERVE |** Our passion is for the world's poorest children whose suffering breaks the heart of God. To help secure a better future for each child, we focus on lasting, community-based transformation. We partner with individuals and communities, empowering them to develop sustainable access to clean water, food supplies, health care, education, and economic opportunities.

**HOW WE SERVE |** Since 1950, World Vision has helped millions of children and families by providing emergency assistance to those affected by natural disasters and civil conflict, developing long-term solutions within communities to alleviate poverty, and advocating for justice on behalf of the poor.

**YOU CAN HELP |** Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help, visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org). ●

**TO SPONSOR A CHILD** see the envelope between pages 16 and 17. Or go to [www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond](http://www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond).



# See With New Eyes

BY STEVE REYNOLDS

**F**rench novelist Marcel Proust once wrote, "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." I think there is a great deal of truth in this statement. I have experienced it in my own life and have witnessed it in others'.

In 1985 I was working as a communications officer for the World Vision Ethiopia relief office in Addis Ababa. Much world attention was focused on the famine ravaging the country.

We received word that the lead singer of an Irish rock group called U2 was coming to Ethiopia "on the quiet." We were to take great pains to keep his visit a secret. I didn't know what all the fuss was about, since several celebrities (and wannabes) had passed through our office already that year, most of them wanting just to be seen in the context of the famine.

What was different about this visit, however, was that Bono and his wife, Ali Hewson, actually wanted to work at one of our relief camps—large feeding and health centers that catered to thousands of people each day. I knew what the conditions were like in these camps, the local food that was served, the sleeping quarters, and the rest. I remember thinking, *Well, they are certainly in for a shock.*

We picked up Bono and Ali at the airport and brought them back to the hotel. He seemed uncomfortable. I detected a hint of fear in his eyes. A few days later, they were at a feeding center in Adjibar, in southern Wollo Province. I was certain they wouldn't last a week.

But they did. In fact, they spent almost a month in Adjibar working with our staff, helping develop music and drama programs for the children at the center. The staff delighted in telling stories about "the girl with the beard," a reference to the mop-top mullet hairdo that Bono was sporting at the time, coupled



*"They might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."*

— MATTHEW 13:15

with the beard he had grown.

The staff praised his energy, spirit, and creativity in helping write songs about eating healthy vegetables and washing your hands before you eat. Bono and Ali truly endeared themselves to everyone at the center.

Upon the couple's return to Addis Ababa, I had the privilege of touring with Bono around Ethiopia to the various camps and compounds run by different agencies. Something in him had changed. As we walked through row after row of makeshift huts and shelters where people waited for the next food handout, Bono showed tireless compassion. It seemed he wanted to hold every child and comfort every mother.

The night before Bono and Ali flew back to Ireland, we had a party. We sang songs and traded stories. Bono mimicked himself as we listened to "Do They Know It's Christmas?"—the song that launched the Band Aid relief effort in 1984 and the Live Aid benefit concert in 1985. It was a time of celebration after much sadness and heartbreak. For those of us working in Ethiopia, it was a healing and uplifting moment—one we would all treasure.

Today Bono meets with presidents, prime ministers, and even the pope, advocating for the poor and marginalized. "It's not about charity, it's about justice," he says. His vision is still strong more than 25 years later.

When God does eye surgery, you never see things the same way again. I saw this happen with Bono, and I smile when I think about how his sharpened vision is changing the world. ●



**Steve Reynolds** is a marketing director focusing on child health and protection issues for World Vision. A 28-year veteran with World Vision, he has served overseas in Africa and Asia.



# RETROSPECT

ELOY PEREZ/WORLD VISION



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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