

January 2023

Dear friend of World Vision,

When you look at the world today, what do you see?

One perspective might be “things are worse than ever.” A world continuing to grapple with the ongoing impacts of the pandemic is also contending with rising costs, entrenched conflict, and increasingly extreme weather events. And together, these challenges are causing global hunger to soar.

I see this pain. In my travels last year, I witnessed firsthand the pain of Ukrainian refugees, leaving the people they love and the place they know for an uncertain future. In Kenya, I gazed into the faces of children who had nothing but tough wild fruit to fill their bellies, and sat with malnourished mothers who couldn’t produce milk for their babies.

Yet I also saw beauty—yes, beauty amid the pain. It was revealed when ordinary people stepped into the suffering of others. At the Ukraine border, I watched as an old man staggered off a bus filled with refugees, sobbing as he relived the moment when a bomb struck his house. Suddenly a volunteer rushed over and pulled the man into a tight embrace. After a few minutes, the old man, comforted, was able to continue on his journey. It was a beautiful moment I’ll never forget.

In drought-ravaged Kenya, I met a mother of six who received a food ration from a World Vision distribution that would feed her family for only a few weeks. And yet, when she arrived home to find hungry neighbors waiting, she didn’t hesitate to share with them from what little she had. Her generosity left me speechless.

Faced with the realities in the world today, it can be tempting to turn away—to draw inward. But I believe that when we choose to step into the pain of others instead of backing away, we draw closer to God and glimpse the striking beauty of His presence.

In 2022, our supporters and partners boldly moved toward the world’s suffering. Thanks to their generosity and the Lord’s faithfulness, this was our third consecutive year of record donations. In total, we raised \$1.4 billion, 7% more than in 2021. And that enabled us—together with World Vision’s donors and staff around the world—to reach more of the children and families in greatest need.

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The impact of these donations is beautiful to behold:

- Nearly 1 million children in 47 countries know that World Vision sponsors in the U.S. believe in them, empowering them to pursue their God-given potential.
- Across 42 countries, over 3 million people got lasting access to clean water—opening doors to better health and a more promising future.
- Close to 1 million hardworking people in 28 countries were empowered with microloans, creating or sustaining 1.3 million jobs and helping to improve the lives of 4.7 million kids.
- And 3.5 million children around the globe are learning about God’s love for them through spiritual nurture activities.

Thanks to our donors and partners, World Vision continues to draw close to the world’s pain. Our dedicated staff are serving those reeling from the escalating global hunger crisis in 26 of the hardest-hit countries. They’re assisting refugees from Ukraine as well as those fleeing protracted emergencies in Syria, Myanmar, Venezuela, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. And they’re working to increase resilience in communities vulnerable to increasingly destructive natural disasters.

It’s true that the world’s trouble and turbulence are on full display. But for Christ followers, that’s not all we see. We trust in Jesus’ promise in John 16:33 (NIV): “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” This is the hope we have—and the hope we can share with those who need it most.

In 2023, we’ll continue to follow God’s call to step into the world’s pain and look for the beauty of His presence there. As we do, we reflect the hope that lives within us . . . the hope that overcomes all . . . and the hope that has a beautiful name: Jesus Christ!

God bless you!



Edgar Sandoval Sr.
President and CEO, World Vision U.S.