

SUMMARY

Today, one out of every five children is living in or fleeing from conflict, forced to give up—or never know—the safe and peaceful childhood all children deserve. Globally, 71.1 million people are displaced in their home country, and another 36.4 million have been forced to seek refuge in other countries (OCHA, 2024). Far from home, millions of families are struggling to care for their children, find food, and survive.

We see the deep suffering in the world—we feel it in our hearts. In this report, we'll share how, even in the midst of suffering, your support is reaching millions with tangible hope.

For over 70 years, motivated by our faith and empowered by our donors, World Vision has rushed in to save lives, reduce suffering, and restore hope. By reaching people in crisis, we can demonstrate the life-changing love of Jesus through life-saving actions.

In FY23, World Vision responded to 78 disasters in 59 countries. In the pages below, we'll feature six of those, including:

- **Afghanistan**, where a 6.5 magnitude earthquake destroyed the homes and livelihoods of people already facing crisis-level poverty and instability.
- **Venezuela**, where political strife and economic collapse forced 7.7 million people to flee, searching for a new life away from home.
- **Sudan**, where violence is driving the largest child displacement crisis in the world, with 3 million children in search of safety, food, and healthcare (UNICEF).

Thank you for the prayers and support that allow us to bring food, water, healthcare, and safety to families facing disasters and crises. Thank you for sharing hope.



Maryan Miris, World Vision health and nutrition project officer, cares for a baby at the Darusalam Mother and Child Health Center in Baidoa, Somalia.

GLOBAL UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

35,876,816 PEOPLE impacted by disasters and humanitarian crises were provided with urgent relief, assistance, and hope from October 2022 through September 2023.



1,031,249

people in Syria and Türkiye gained access to clean water, showers, and latrines, and/or received hygiene and dignity kits (for women and girls).



226,638

people in Ukraine and in communities hosting Ukrainian refugees have been reached with food assistance, and we've distributed more than 5.8 million pounds of food.

MULTIPLYING YOUR IMPACT

Your gifts are used strategically to mobilize funding streams that increase our impact. Think of seed money or venture capital, which is leveraged to apply for and secure additional funding—usually from government and international organization grants—to maximize the yield for each dollar donated and, more importantly, expand our support for people in need.

Without the generosity of donor partners like you, World Vision would not be able to implement these grants. In FY23, we leveraged \$36,218,962 in private gifts from U.S. donors to directly mobilize \$616,443,209 in grants. In FY23, leveraged grants from World Food Programme; USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance; U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration; UNICEF; and others enabled us to reach 8,650,279 people. Thank you for making this possible.



FY23 GLOBAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Our emergency services include (but are not limited to):

- Nutrition
- Shelter
- Cash-equivalent cards (used where goods are locally available and markets are functioning and accessible)
- Healthcare
- Family reunification
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
- Education
- Child protection
- Emergency food

As we work with people to rebuild communities and meet their long-term needs, some of the areas we address are: disaster risk reduction, social cohesion/peacebuilding, vocational training, livelihoods, and income generation.

During FY23, World Vision responded to 78 disasters and humanitarian emergencies in 59 countries, shown in the orange portions of the map. These include [the global hunger crisis](#), [conflict in Ukraine](#), [the earthquake in Syria and Türkiye](#), and the hunger crisis in Somalia—all of which are covered in separate reports.



AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SUMMARY

We have been working in Afghanistan since 2001, walking with families as they face unemployment, violence, and extreme weather events.

When the government suddenly changed hands in 2021, we saw a dramatic rise in chaos, violence, and economic strife.

In 2023, an estimated 28.3 million people were in dire need of assistance, and 15.3 million are now facing acute food insecurity (World Food Programme). In October, a heartbreaking series of earthquakes hit western Afghanistan, destroying vital infrastructure and affecting the lives of 275,000 people—60% of them children—in 382 villages. More than 21,000 homes were destroyed.

We are responding to the earthquake and to the crisis in general, but the current regime's heavy restrictions on female aid workers is a heavy burden. We were forced to suspend operations briefly in FY23, refusing to abandon our female staff. We continued to advocate for our female colleagues, especially in order to effectively serve Afghan women. The de facto authorities eventually created an exception for female workers in health and education that allowed us to resume operations and, in some cases, transition female staff to new roles. We remain committed both to serving those in need and upholding the indispensable contributions of our female staff.

Through our earthquake response, as of December 2023:

- 59,420 individuals were reached with vital aid and relief.
- 26,829 people were reached with healthcare, nutrition, and psychosocial support. Five mobile health teams were deployed in rural areas to serve those living in tents or open spaces. Four of the teams are in earthquake-affected areas, offering round-the-clock healthcare services.
- 7,015 people were reached with food baskets.
- Assessments were conducted to build/rehabilitate 10 water networks to provide clean drinking water in affected communities.

Since 2021, our overall emergency response in Afghanistan has reached 2,870,770 people. Highlights of our overall FY23 response included:

- 778,181 people, including 292,969 children, received medical treatment.
- 1,008,462 people were reached with food, cash, and livelihood assistance.
- 141,858 people, including 127,773 children, were reached with education services.
- 137,126 people were reached with access to clean water and hygiene services.



Above: A World Vision staff member working in a mobile health unit treats a little girl's injured leg in an earthquake-affected area of Herat City.

Below: A father holds his malnourished child as they wait to receive ready-to-use therapeutic food from a World Vision doctor. The father's younger child has already made a full recovery from malnutrition with the help of the mobile health clinic.



VENEZUELA CRISIS

SUMMARY

In the last decade, political unrest, economic decline, and acute resource shortages have destroyed what was once one of Latin America's most prosperous nations. Driven by need, millions have made the desperate decision to leave home; more than 7.7 million Venezuelans have left their country since 2018, and an estimated 2,000 leave the country every day (UNHCR, 2024).

For those still in the country, hunger is knocking at the door. Recent estimates found that a family needs 135 times the monthly minimum wage to pay for just one month of food.

For children, the mass emigration of teachers means shrinking education opportunities, and an estimated 900,000 children are not in school (UNICEF, 2024). Through our Hope without Borders program, we are reaching Venezuelans in-country with food, necessities, and education. The education element of the project has allowed us to build relationships with other nongovernmental organizations to work together to improve education in the country.

Since our response began in 2019, we've reached 208,247 people in Venezuela and another 1.3 million in Colombia. Across all Hope without Borders countries, we've supported 1.9 million people as of June 2023. Highlights include:

- 875,100 people were reached with food security and nutrition.

In Venezuela, World Vision is recognized as a leader in food security projects.

- 283,400 people were reached with child protection programming.
- \$338,600 worth of cash and multipurpose transfers were distributed.

Our goal is to reach 460,000 vulnerable Venezuelan and Colombian children by the end of 2024.

In Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia, Hope without Borders is providing protection services and practical resources for migrants and host communities. FY23 actions to support migrants include:

- We expanded the project to Socopó, along the walking route many migrants take to Colombia.
- For those who've made the tough decision to return to Venezuela, we supported six migrant savings groups and 50 entrepreneurs in their efforts to save and invest money and build small businesses.
- In Brazil, we worked with 24 churches to offer Channels of Hope, which equips faith and community leaders to tackle issues that put children in danger.
- In Ecuador, we partnered with the government and local organizations to establish two new strategic points of assistance for migrants.



A Venezuelan migrant family poses for a photo at the Berlin Migrant Attention Center in Berlin, Colombia. They were making their way, on foot, to find a new life in Popayán in southern Colombia. At the center, which World Vision runs with the support of partners, they were able to rest, enjoy a hot meal, and receive much-needed supplies. The center is at one of the highest points along the mountainous trek, which is one of the primary walking routes out of Venezuela.

CYCLONE FREDDY

SUMMARY

Cyclone Freddy was one of the longest and strongest cyclones ever experienced in the southern hemisphere, landing in Mozambique first in February of 2023 with 100 mph winds, and then, mercilessly, again in March. Almost 1.2 million people were affected: Flooding destroyed schools, crops, and sanitation systems, allowing cholera to spread.

Cyclone Freddy hit Malawi from March 11 to 13 with sudden, violent rain that caused widespread floods and landslides, affecting nearly 2.3 million people and displacing more than 650,000. The country declared a state of emergency in affected districts and appealed for national and international support. The declaration helped mobilize resources and encourage collaboration between government bodies and organizations like World Vision.

In Malawi, our goal is to reach 72,000 people. We are meeting weekly with humanitarian partners to coordinate our efforts to maximize impact and avoid duplication. As of May 2023, we had reached 59,836 people. Achievements include:

- 15,360 people were reached with water treatment tablets to help protect them from cholera and other waterborne illnesses.
- 6,124 children under 5 benefited from ready-to-use therapeutic food, a peanut butter-based

nutritional paste for malnourished children.

- 58,109 people (27,261 children) were reached with food such as maize flour, soya pieces, and salt.
- 12,263 water buckets were distributed for water collection, safe storage, and handwashing.
- To help people needing temporary shelter, we distributed 418 tents, 2,238 rolls of plastic sheeting, 12,733 blankets, and 7,287 mosquito nets.

In Mozambique, our goal is to reach 45,000 people. As of June 2023:

- We launched two projects focused specifically on WASH, food, shelter, and child protection that aim to reach a combined 10,000 people.
- World Vision collaborated with the government and other partners to create the Cholera, Cyclone, and Floods Response plan to support 815,000 people.
- We trained WASH promoters to help communities protect themselves against waterborne illness (a serious risk in flood-affected areas).

Our established presence in both countries allowed us to respond quickly to new needs caused by the cyclone. Our cyclone response is set to run through March 2024, but our work supporting livelihoods, education, and health in both countries is ongoing.



“This will help me to prevent my children and family from getting water-related diseases,” said Xadinha after receiving water containers and water purifiers from World Vision. Xadinha is a mother of four who saw her home and livelihood destroyed by Cyclone Freddy. “Instead of trying to find ways to prevent cholera, for example, I can now concentrate on rebuilding our life ...,” she said.

SYRIA

SUMMARY

Children under 12 in Syria have never known a time without war. Violence broke out when the government cracked down on peaceful student protests in March 2011; now, Syria represents the largest refugee crisis in the world. More than 14 million Syrians have been forced to leave their homes, and 6.8 million of those are still in Syria, fighting to survive in the midst of widespread unemployment, destroyed infrastructure, and the ongoing loss of life among fighting factions and civilians. Since our response began, we have reached more than 6.2 million people.

In February, a devastating earthquake hit Syria and Türkiye. In Syria, more than 4,500 people were killed and thousands more injured, and at least 1,000 schools were destroyed.

“People already living in extreme poverty have lost what little they had,” said Johan Mooij, director of our Syria crisis response. “Prior to the quakes, six or seven people were sharing tents due to the scale of displacement from the conflict. Now it’s 16 or 17 people in each tent.” (Read our latest report on our earthquake response [here](#).)

The population is now fighting a cholera outbreak, exacerbated by damaged sewage networks, overcrowding, and limited access to healthcare and clean water. In response, we have been working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners on chlorination

projects to limit the spread of cholera and other waterborne diseases. FY23 response achievements included:

- 46 chlorine dosing pumps, as well as chlorine and testing kits, were provided in Northwest Syria to stop the spread of cholera. We also worked with WHO to treat 1,300 cholera cases. We provided another 10 dosing pumps and chlorine in North Central Syria, connecting more than 30,000 people with clean water.
- More than 46,000 people received awareness messages on how to protect themselves and their families from disease.
- We provided 25,349 healthcare consultations in Northeast Syria together with other providers.

Overall themes of our response include:

Working with faith leaders to protect children. Our Channels of Hope for Child Protection program trains faith leaders to address the types of violence that affect children in their communities. This is especially relevant as the fragility in Syria puts children at risk for child marriage, abuse, child labor, and recruitment by armed groups.

Improving sanitation. Poor sanitation creates ongoing risk for waterborne illness. We teach effective hygiene measures to communities via door-to-door education.



Above: A girl is comforted after the earthquake's destruction.

Below: Children keep warm at a fire amid the rubble.



SUDAN

SUMMARY

On April 15, 2023, armed clashes broke out in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan, following days of increased tension regarding a proposed transition to a democratic government. The security situation has deteriorated, resulting in hundreds of deaths, including 18 humanitarian aid workers.

People were already facing hunger as a result of extreme weather events, rising prices, and political tensions. Now, hunger is at a crisis level: 19 million people are expected to face food insecurity and hunger in the coming months (World Food Programme, 2023). Without immediate aid, that number will only grow.

Healthcare for children is a grave concern. In the first 11 days of fighting alone, 190 children were killed, and another 1,700 injured. The World Health Organization reported 25 deadly attacks on healthcare facilities, and other facilities are stretched beyond capacity and desperate for supplies.

“Every day we are under fire,” said Gamal, a World Vision communicator in Sudan. “Planes bomb the area where I live with my family. We are seeing people moving from other areas of Khartoum into the houses of relatives. ... We don’t know where the shooting will come from, and all types of weapons are being used.”

More than 1.4 million Sudanese people have sought refuge in neighboring countries. We are responding inside Sudan as well as Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan to serve Sudanese refugees and their host communities. Since April 2023, we have reached more than 1.5 million people with life-saving aid. As of September 2023:

- 246,539 people were reached with increased access to food and other basic needs.
- 83,490 people were reached with access to WASH services.
- 56,913 were reached with access to preventive emergency health and nutrition services.

Country-specific interventions include:

- In Sudan, 205,366 people were reached with 3.1 million pounds of food.
- In Sudan, 7,406 people were reached with WASH services, including clean water delivered via truck, and hygiene supplies.
- In Chad, 51,576 children were reached with health and nutrition services in partnership with UNICEF.
- In South Sudan, 40,478 people were reached with food and cash assistance.



Above: A family of Sudanese refugees take shelter from the sun in a makeshift tent. Below: Eight-month-old baby girl Unab smiles with her mother, Haja. Unab recovered from malnutrition after she was given nutritional supplements at a World Vision-supported nutrition center, and Haja was given a cash transfer to help improve her family’s food security.



NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS

SUMMARY

Though the government signed a peace agreement with regional forces more than a year ago (in November 2022), the needs in Ethiopia remain high, exacerbated by drought, disease outbreaks, and ongoing violence. In Ethiopia, 11.8 million people are facing severe hunger (World Food Programme, 2023).

Heartbreakingly, food aid from nongovernmental organizations was paused in all of Ethiopia in June, following reports of massive food diversion and corruption that meant food wasn't reaching those in need. After the government agreed to increased measures and controls, food aid resumed for displaced people in December. Please join us in prayer that the food will reach those most in need.

In addition to hunger, children's inability to access education is a growing concern. In the Afar region, only 52% of children are expected to enroll in school. Lack of interest (due to other challenges in the region) and lack of adequate school supplies are major factors. In response, we are training teachers in Tigray how to teach children safely and effectively during emergencies, distributing school supplies, and helping renovate schools so they are ready to welcome children. We are also offering accelerated learning programs to help children catch up to age-appropriate learning levels.

World Vision was one of the first nongovernmental organizations to respond to the crisis, coordinating with other organizations to provide emergency shelter, food, and clean water. As of October 2023, we had reached over 7.2 million people through our emergency response, and we are currently responding in all three regions affected by the conflict.

Together with our partners, as of September 2023:

- 3,551,633 people were reached with emergency food assistance.
- 1,202,246 internally displaced people and host community members were reached with a safe water supply.
- 215,246 children and pregnant/lactating mothers were reached with treatment or referrals for malnutrition.
- 127,891 people accessed child protection, mental health, and/or gender-based violence response services.
- 72,765 people were reached through multipurpose cash and voucher assistance.

"Thank you very much for providing us with this cash support," said Leteberhan, a 45-year-old mother. "I will buy some foodstuff from the market to feed my children."



Above: Women bring home a bag of peas from a World Vision food distribution. Below: Shemsi fills up her water container. Before World Vision began trucking water to her community, she had to walk for over an hour to get water. "I am very grateful for World Vision Ethiopia for this amazing gift. I no longer have to worry about water and I can now focus on raising my children properly," she said.



NEPAL INNOVATION LAB

SUMMARY

During our response to the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, we saw an opportunity: Local World Vision staff and other relief workers had ideas about how to better protect communities based on their real life experiences—they just needed a way to turn their ideas into reality.

The Nepal Innovation Lab (NLab) was created to connect those who understand Nepal’s most pressing problems with resources to make viable ideas come to life. Now, the solutions coming out of the lab are helping protect communities around the world. Some of the most exciting projects in FY23 include:

Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA)

The PDRA is a digital platform to develop household disaster preparedness and response plans. The tool assesses existing hazards, vulnerability, and available resources in a community, and then uses that data to create a household plan to mitigate or prevent disasters. This means communities can take disaster preparedness into their own hands, which allows them to respond more quickly if a disaster does strike.

The PDRA tool is a contender for the European Prize for Humanitarian Innovation, and NLab is now working with the World Vision office in Sri Lanka to adapt the tool to use there.

Plastic Insulating Polyfloss for Economic Roofing (PIPER)

This project reduces plastic waste by turning it into valuable insulation. Children are rewarded for recycling plastic which is then turned into polyfloss ([watch how it works](#)). In FY23, polyfloss insulation was installed in 12 classrooms, helping children stay warm and comfortable as they learn. The World Vision office in Singapore awarded NLab a grant to expand the project to other areas beginning in FY24.

Ramailo Yatra (Happy Journey) game

The NLab team completed the final version of the Ramailo Yatra board game (at right), designed to teach children about their rights and what to do if their safety is threatened. Nearly 2,000 games were distributed in Nepalese schools. Of children surveyed, 91% said they’d recommend the game to others.

As part of the 2023 World Vision Global Innovation Challenge, NLab partnered with World Vision staff in Somalia to scale the board game there. The idea won the “Substantial Innovation” award, and now a version of the game is being piloted in Somalia and Sri Lanka.

The idea for NLab was born after a disaster. Now, NLab is proactively turning the best ideas into practical tools to protect and equip vulnerable people around the world.



The Ramailo Yatra board game teaches children about their rights and how to protect themselves. An evaluation found that 94% of children who played the game reported putting their new knowledge into practice.



CHALLENGES OF DISASTER RESPONSE WORK

Because we are already present in nearly 100 countries, we are able to respond quickly, often within 24 to 72 hours, when disaster strikes. We think ahead, developing disaster preparedness plans that map out local threats and prepositioning supplies in strategic locations. But no amount of planning can account for every challenge.

Further, political tensions and corruption can prevent aid from getting to those who most need it, like we've seen in Northern Ethiopia. Persistent violence makes it extremely difficult to reach people in need while protecting our staff, and out-of-control inflation, like we've seen in Haiti and Venezuela, squeezes our resources even as needs increase. We are working constantly to meet government and local requirements, which can change without notice.

Also, because 99% of our staff are from the country they work in, they are often experiencing crisis even as they respond to it. There is no "turning off" at the end of the day. In Afghanistan, for example, staff members lost loved ones in the earthquake, and government restrictions on women meant that women colleagues had to find new roles despite their expertise. In Haiti, the threat of kidnapping by gangs forces staff to work harder to reach communities in need even as they mourn the loss of their own freedom of movement.

Please pray with us for our global staff as they seek to serve the most vulnerable, while caring for their physical safety and mental health. May they feel God close by, working alongside them, as they help others with tireless compassion.

THANK YOU

We are so grateful to you, the donors who make this work possible. We are continually encouraged by those who choose to keep investing in this work, choosing compassion over indifference and hope over despair. When you give, you are taking action on behalf of the people represented in this report and so many others.

"I didn't know where to go that time," said Oksana, when she fled the fighting near her home in Ukraine. She found hope in a World Vision day center. "When we came here, we found not only a safe place but a community of caring and generous people. ... We have been provided with food, clothes, and everything we need," she said.

Thank you for choosing to share hope with Oksana and 35 million others this year. May God bless and encourage you in 2024.



But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

—Psalm 33:18-22 (NIV)

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For more information visit:
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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.