

Horn of Africa Emergency

Situation update: July 14, 2011

World Vision

The Horn of Africa is experiencing the worst food crisis in the world today. With water in short supply, failed harvests have caused food shortages. Livestock are dying from a lack of grazing land and water. Price inflation of more than 20 percent across much of east Africa has put food out of reach for poor families.

- More than **10 million people are severely affected** in drought-stricken areas of Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda.
- In Somalia alone, **one in every three people** is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.
- An estimated **500,000 children** are at risk of separation from their families and part of the exodus from Somalia to Kenya.

World Vision field workers are reporting:

- Children observing people in their communities becoming thin and weak, creating feelings of powerlessness, fear and eroding hope, as the situation grows worse.
- Children dropping out of school due to issues related to food and money shortages.
- Children going to live with relatives or other families as a way to ensure survival.
- In the hardest hit areas of the Central Rift Valley, there have been reports of child marriage and domestic labour as a way to ensure children continue to receive food.
- An increase in stealing as a way to cope with food and money shortages has been reported.
- Extreme shortages of water, food and fuel for cooking, resulting in illness and weakness. There is loss of hope and the expectation of death.
- Livestock are dying from lack of food and water.



How World Vision is responding

World Vision is working with governments and aid agencies to help provide access to clean water, nutritious food and sanitation facilities. We're also providing feed and veterinary care to livestock, as these animals are the livelihood for many families. And we're working to fight the effects of drought by improving water reservoirs.

How Canadians can help

Canadians can go to worldvision.ca to donate specifically to the Horn of Africa relief effort. They may also choose to sponsor a child in one of the affected countries, which will help ensure sustainable development in the child's community.