



Save the Children

ONE YEAR AFTER CATASTROPHE:

**STILL SAVING LIVES
IN EAST AFRICA**

Photo: Andrew Wander / Save the Children

CRISIS IN EAST AFRICA: SAVE THE CHILDREN'S LARGEST EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN 90 YEARS

Chronic poverty and malnutrition, conflict, weak health systems, high food prices, poor vaccination coverage, a lack of access to clean water and a changing climate all culminated in a deadly food crisis in 2011. Despite early warnings, livestock perished and thousands of families were pushed closer and closer to the brink of disaster.

It was to become the worst drought in East Africa in 60 years, affecting over **13 million people** and killing tens of thousands. In response, Save the Children launched the largest emergency response in our 90-year history. We were already on the ground when the first warning signs were seen. We rapidly scaled up our life-saving programs, delivering health, nutrition, water, crucial life-saving support, protection and education to children and their families.

Thanks to our donors

We are very grateful to all our donors and supporters for their contribution to our work.

Thanks to you we have reached over **3.4 million** people to date with life-saving and life-sustaining aid.

You're helping us feed thousands of families, providing many more with clean water and health care across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. You are also giving children a future by helping us to provide them with a quality education – many for the first time in their lives. Families are being supported to find sustainable solutions to drought in their communities. But they are not out of danger yet, and many remain on the brink of crisis.

“Where I am from, there are no clinics, no school. Our children have no future there. They grow up without hope. They just exist. Then they begin to fight. I knew we had to leave. Then my son, my beautiful boy, got sick. We were desperate. So we came here. But every day is still a struggle.”

“If Save the Children were not here I do not know what we would do. We know of Save the Children's work, even in places they do not work in. I am grateful for the food they have given my son, and the family ration they have given us. If you tell me that Save the Children will leave Mogadishu I would say to you that many would die as a result. I think that many would have died if they were not here.”

“You are from Save the Children, yes? Then I say thank you. And please - do not leave.”

Asman, father of one, Somalia, June 2012

Thanks to you, Save the Children can continue to help families. We will continue to feed, protect and educate children, and provide life-saving healthcare and clean water. We will work with families, communities and governments to build a resilient future.

ONE YEAR LATER: SAVE THE CHILDREN'S IMPACT IN EAST AFRICA

Save the Children surpassed our initial target of helping two million people, reaching over 3.4 million people across the three countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) with food, water, healthcare, and nutritional support, as well as education and child protection.

At the same time, progress and recovery is now under threat from another poor rainy season, internal conflicts and continued funding shortages. The expected rains in mid-2012, which families hoped would alleviate the worst effects of the drought, began late and did not fall where they were most needed.

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S TOTAL REACH IN EAST AFRICA

	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	Total
Population affected* Source OCHA report March 2012	3,540,000	2,800,000	2,510,000	8,850,000
Save the Children target population	1,636,356	304,500	487,229	2,428,085
BENEFICIARY NUMBERS PER SECTOR*				
Health	126,001	269,501	126,001	521,603
Nutrition	169,593	115,349	183,482	468,424
Food Security & Livelihoods	1,299,794	407,638	175,675	1,883,107
WASH	654,098	302,307	193,876	1,150,281
Child Protection	75,248	40,227	2,376	111,851
Education	68,089	20,015	11,151	99,255
Shelter		47,418	98,700	146,118
Cumulative reach April 2011 to May 2012 (Adjusted for double counting)	2,099,732	859,494	455,883	3,415,109
* Our beneficiaries frequently receive different types of aid simultaneously – e.g. one family may receive healthcare and also access to clean, safe water. The totals are adjusted for this at the end of the table to reflect an accurate number of beneficiaries overall.				

ETHIOPIA

We exceeded our initial targets in Ethiopia and have reached **2,092,104 people (including 1,082,789 children)** to date.

- We provided emergency food and water, rehabilitated community water systems, installed water pipes in schools and health centers, and provided water purification tablets to make water safe and reduce waterborne diseases. We provided education materials and promoted community-based child protection services.
- Our nutrition programs improved the nutritional status of children and reduced acute malnutrition.
- We also provided basic preventative health services, such as immunizations and the distribution of mosquito nets.
- Our Disaster Risk Reduction projects continue to reduce the impact of floods and droughts and help local communities to cope.

KENYA

With a target of 700,000 people we have helped **859,494 people (including 489,054 children)** cope with the crisis and ultimately build a better future for themselves.

- We are managing large-scale nutrition, health, food security, child protection and education programs in Kenya, working in Wajir East, Wajir South, Mandera West, Mandera Central and in the Dadaab refugee camps.
- In Dadaab, we launched a program that provides food vouchers to parents with babies so that they can get fresh fruit and vegetables from nearby markets. To receive vouchers, parents must show proof that their children have been immunized and have had their growth monitored at a clinic. This simple strategy has meant that more than 50,000 children have been vaccinated and their health continues to be monitored.

SOMALIA

In 2011, we set a goal of reaching 304,600 people, which was adjusted to 488,000 people in 2012. By June 2012, we had reached **455,883 people**.

- We provide safe drinking water and rehabilitating water points to keep families and their livestock healthy.
- Our staff works with children and teachers in schools and their communities to reduce children's vulnerability.
- Our health experts administer life-saving health care to severely malnourished children and their mothers, as well as provide food rations to ensure that families are able to eat.
- We support families rebuilding their lives by providing temporary shelter and essential household items.

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

NUTRITION AND FEEDING PROGRAMS

In the summer of 2011, the number of children becoming severely malnourished sky-rocketed. Save the Children rapidly established screening facilities to check children for malnutrition and provided medical treatment and food for acutely malnourished children and families. We trained parents to help their children remain well-nourished in the future and worked with local health facilities to establish and strengthen systems to treat acute malnutrition. To date, **468,424** people have benefitted from our life-saving nutrition work.

SAVING LIVES WITH CLEAN WATER

Save the Children worked across East Africa in refugee camps, schools, health centers and villages supplying clean water, constructing and rehabilitating water sources and distributing hygiene kits with jerry cans, buckets and water purification tablets to make water safer. We also helped families stop the spread of disease by promoting hygiene and safe sanitation.

To date, we have reached **1,150,281** people across East Africa by providing access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities.



Ifrah, 9, tests out the new clean drinking water facility that Save the Children has provided for her primary school in Kenya. Photo: Colin Crowley/Save the Children

DELIVERING LIFE-SAVING HEALTH CARE

Existing health systems in the affected areas of East Africa were either very weak or nonexistent when the crisis hit. The shortage of medicines, water and the increased caseload due to drought further crippled health systems. As a result, the acute malnutrition and mortality rates among children under age 5 reached a record high.

Save the Children responded and, to date, has reached **521,503** people by providing vital primary health care, such as life-saving medical care, immunizations, post-natal care, opening health centers, procuring medical supplies and delivering health education to both parents and health workers to allow them to respond to outbreaks.

PROVIDING SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

People displaced by ongoing conflict and drought often flee with nothing – no shelter and no basic household items to support themselves. To keep vulnerable children and families safe from the elements and help them to recover, Save the Children provided temporary shelter and essential household items including cooking equipment, hygiene kits, soap, and jerry cans to store water, supporting **146,118 people** to rebuild their homes and lives.

EDUCATING CHILDREN IN CRISIS

Save the Children believes that education is critical in an emergency response – it restores normalcy to children, provides a safe space for them to play and learn, and is central to building a better future.

In partnership with UNICEF, Save the Children jointly led the education cluster coordinating the efforts of other agencies across the region to ensure children were able to attend school during the drought. Focusing on the most vulnerable and neglected communities, we refurbished schools, provided learning materials (including books, tables, chairs) and constructed temporary learning spaces to ensure children continued to have access to quality education. We have helped **99,255** children begin school, or return to the classroom.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM HARM



Six year-old Bisharo looks up at her teacher at a Child-friendly Space in Puntland, Somalia. Photo: Cat Carter/Save the Children

The crisis made children more vulnerable than ever. Families were desperate to survive, and urgently needed cash. Many fled their homes to try and start a new life in crowded refugee camps, leading to increased separation of families and exploitation of children.

Our highly-trained staff worked around the clock at refugee camps to identify cases of abuse and trauma. We established Child-friendly Spaces, where children benefit from psychosocial activities that help them regain a sense of normalcy and to allow them to cope with their experiences, while in safe environments supervised by trained facilitators. We also set up family tracing and reunification programs to reunite children with their immediate or extended families.

To date, we have reached **111,851** children with our vital child protection work.

RESTORING LIVELIHOODS

Families were left unable to afford basic food, crops were devastated and livestock perished. Livelihoods were destroyed. Save the Children distributed vouchers to poor families on the brink of starvation so that they would not be forced to sell

livestock to buy food. This enabled them to keep and breed their animals to help secure their families' future.

We also worked to keep livestock healthy – providing vaccinations and fodder. We also delivered fresh food vouchers, which ensured families could get fresh fruit and vegetables from the local market – helping keep families healthy while also supporting the local economy.

With your generosity **1,883,107** people now have a more secure future and are moving towards self reliance.

WORKING TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Save the Children's crisis response strategy for East Africa is also about looking specifically to future crises, and focusing on resilience-building, risk reduction and adaptation. We continue to work with governments, partners and donors to advocate for a fundamental change in the way the humanitarian systems work, and for heightened and committed investment by all relevant stakeholders in building the resilience of communities as a means to combat chronic hunger and recurring food crises in the region.

This understanding will make sure that our programming effectively targets the most vulnerable people in the right way and at the right time.

This includes building the capacity of our own staff to include risk reduction and climate adaptation in their work across all of our sectors: child protection, food security and livelihoods, education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation. We are empowering children to take action in their communities by designing risk and vulnerability maps and continuing to encourage activities that will help them adapt to the changes that the future holds.

Save the Children and other agencies also developed the Charter to End Extreme Hunger, which highlights the need to help people in East Africa realize a more resilient, sustainable future by:

- building their ability to face future shocks;
- strengthening the social, economic and environmental foundations for their livelihoods; and
- informing them and supporting their ability to make choices for their future.

LOOKING AHEAD

While millions of people have been reached through Save the Children's life-saving interventions and programs, the crisis is far from over in East Africa. Over one million children are still facing severe hunger in Somalia alone, and 10 million are vulnerable across the entire region. Millions more children still do not have secure access to food, health care and education.

Save the Children remains committed to supporting children and families in East Africa for as long as it takes to help them recover and build resilience to future crises. Because the needs are still great, Save the Children is seeking \$54 million to continue these vital life-saving and recovery programs.

Thank you for helping Save the Children reach approximately 3.4 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia and for making a tremendous difference in their lives. With your continued support, we can continue to provide more hope and opportunities for children and families who desperately need our help.

Thank you.

