Helping children and families in crisis situations

A report on how your giving helped children and families recover throughout the world in 2010

August 2010
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You Make a Difference

When disaster strikes—whether the cause is natural or man made—children often suffer most. To ease the anguish and hardship following disasters, World Vision works diligently to mobilize resources quickly and efficiently. We seek to transform suffering into well-being while protecting the rights, dignity, and livelihoods of all people. Working in partnership with other organizations, we follow diverse avenues to reduce the impact of future disasters by building on the strengths of communities. We could do none of this without our most important partner: you.

While the earthquake responses in Haiti and Chile grabbed the world’s attention—and rightfully so—in the early days of 2010, those marked just two of 20 major disasters that World Vision responded to during the year. Disasters, earthquakes, famines, flooding, hurricanes, and typhoons affected an estimated 80 million people in Kenya, Zimbabwe, India, El Salvador, Vietnam, and Pakistan in addition to Haiti and Chile. In each case, World Vision responded.

What follows is a report of how your gift and the gifts of others enabled World Vision to reach out as the hands of Jesus to the hurting in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters. Without donors who are willing to support our emergency preparedness fund or step up in a time of great need, we would not be able to help families survive in the face of hunger, disease, and other hardships, or help them begin to heal, recover, and rebuild their lives.

Prepared and Ready to Respond

World Vision is recognized within the aid industry as a leader in responding to rapid-onset emergencies and complex humanitarian emergencies—whether cyclones, tsunamis, famines, hurricanes, conflicts, or earthquakes. Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) is an integrated and integral aspect of World Vision’s work around the globe.

Emergency preparedness is a focus at the global, regional, national, and community level. World Vision has HEA regional offices for Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

To respond quickly and efficiently to disasters worldwide, we developed our Global Pre-Position Resource Network, which provides emergency assistance such as relief supplies, equipment, and technical services for disaster responses. These warehouses are located strategically in Denver; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Brindisi, Italy; and Frankfurt, Germany, to ensure rapid deployment. External companies hold relief supplies for World Vision as well.

When needed, these supplies (anything from tarps, blankets, and trucks to kitchen sets and satellite phones) can be flown to where they are needed within...
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48 to 72 hours of a disaster declaration. Another tool World Vision developed to speed effective response to disasters is our Global Rapid Response Team. This 48-member team comprises trained and experienced experts who are ready to mobilize at a moment’s notice and deploy to a disaster anywhere in the world. This team can be on the ground within 72 hours, assessing needs, and moving resources from the Global Pre-Positioning Network to where they are most needed. The Global Rapid Response Team has experts in assessment, water and sanitation, child protection, safety, food security, and other specialties vital during a disaster. World Vision staff members in each national office, as well as at the regional and local level, also are trained to respond to emergencies. Each country has its own supply of emergency response tools and supplies and can respond immediately when necessary.

Earthquake Relief in Haiti

On January 12, 2010, an earthquake struck Haiti, devastating the nation’s capital of Port-au-Prince and creating one of the most complex urban disasters in decades. More than 220,000 people were killed and 350,000 injured. An estimated 3 million men, women, and children—one in three Haitians—were affected. This is a nation that already was tagged as the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. With the world’s attention turned to Haiti, World Vision supporters like you responded, giving generously. As a result, World Vision has implemented programs to meet the needs of hundreds of thousands of survivors.

Relief and recovery needs

• Child protection  Children are among the most vulnerable in the wake of any disaster, especially one in the developing world. It is estimated that 80 percent of schools in Haiti’s capital were damaged or destroyed during the quake. In the midst of chaos and rubble, children need safe places to learn and play. Also, many children were separated from their families during the disaster, creating a need for World Vision and other aid agencies to help trace and reunite family members.

• Shelter  The rainy season was well underway within six months of the quake, and hurricane season peaked in August. Transitional shelters are a priority for those still living in tents or under tarps. Land ownership remains one of the greatest challenges in the rebuilding efforts. Without land or the means to clear the rubble of their collapsed houses, many families cannot begin to rebuild their homes.

• Water and sanitation  Prior to the quake, Haiti lacked proper infrastructure for safe water and adequate sanitation. The existing infrastructure was then severely damaged by the quake, further reducing access to clean water. People living in camps especially need access to clean water, proper toilet and shower facilities, as well as waste removal services.
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- **Healthcare** In the cramped living situations of the camps, inadequate sanitation, lack of clean water, and poor nutrition can lead to increased illness, especially among children, pregnant women, and the elderly. People living in camps need accessible healthcare, as well as awareness of ways to deal with health, hygiene, and psychosocial needs pertaining to natural disasters and relief situations.

- **Economic recovery and livelihoods** The quake destroyed many businesses along with homes, leaving thousands of people unemployed and struggling financially. Work programs—involving repairing emergency shelters, cleaning pit latrines, collecting waste, and more—can help reconstruct neighborhoods while providing income to families. Haitians also can benefit from opportunities to improve livelihoods, income-generation activities, and basic business training.

**Recent accomplishments**

Thanks to donors like you, World Vision has been able to meet immediate needs of quake survivors, and we are beginning to implement more sustainable large-scale programs. Key achievements during the first six months include the following:

- Provided 16.8 million liters of clean water since January 12. We continue to provide 2 million liters of treated water weekly in 23 camps.
- Implemented water and sanitation activities in 28 camps, including constructing hundreds of toilets and showers and promoting hygiene.
- Distributed food to more than 1.86 million people.
- Assisted 7,730 children each week in 22 Child-Friendly Spaces in camps in the greater Port-au-Prince area, the Central Plateau, and the border area with the Dominican Republic. The activities outside of Port-au-Prince are serving people who have been displaced from their homes, and are currently living in camps.
- Opened five mobile and five health clinics, serving 15 camps and more than 11,000 people.
- Registered 766 children separated from their families during the quake through the family tracing and reunification unit; 84 children have been reunited with their families.
- Provided ongoing support to some 120,000 people, distributing tarpaulins, tents, kitchen sets, blankets, mats, foot lockers, and other household items.
- Coordinated work projects so camp residents could earn money and benefit from toilets, showers, and water supply systems.
- Began partnerships with other agencies to build 5,000 transitional shelters for displaced families on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince.
- Offered training on small-scale gardening, composting, and the use of fuel-efficient stoves.
Darfur Emergency and Transition Program

In the past five years, western Sudan’s Darfur region has been rocked by armed conflict brought on by ethnic tensions, drought, desertification, and overpopulation. Today, Darfur’s people continue to suffer in many ways. Millions have been forced to flee their homes to live in camps where their ability to cope has been shattered by a chronic lack of food and clean water, insufficient healthcare, and increasing human rights abuses and atrocities.

In response, World Vision is introducing a comprehensive relief program to alleviate human suffering and to increase the resilience of Darfur’s most vulnerable people. According to the United Nations, more than 200,000 people have died and at least 2 million have been displaced since fighting broke out in 2003 between Sudanese government forces, Janjaweed militia, and other rebel groups.

World Vision staff in Sudan say that more than 4.5 million people have already been affected by the conflict, and 2.5 million have been forced to seek refuge in camps for internally displaced people. People continue to flow into these camps despite the fact these supposedly safe places are becoming increasingly violent and subject to manipulation by all sides in the conflict. Basic humanitarian needs continue to grow.

The harsh reality of life in a camp

Living conditions in Darfur are extraordinarily difficult. A lack of clean water and proper sanitation poses major health concerns for children and their families. Acute malnutrition and respiratory tract infections, diarrhea, and malaria are common—yet public health services are extremely limited and unable to adequately respond to the demand for services.

Food security remains out of reach despite high levels of food aid. A lack of rain has resulted in low crop yields, threatening most people’s livelihoods. As more and more people move into the camps, demand for scarce resources increases and conflict escalates even further. Violent attacks are common, and children, especially girls, are increasingly neglected, abandoned, abused, or exploited for economic gain.

World Vision responds

World Vision has worked alongside Sudan’s impoverished communities since 1974, and has been implementing emergency and livelihood support programs...
in South Darfur since 2004. This initiative, known as the Darfur Emergency and Transition Program, is expected to directly benefit more than 291,000 people in the northern, central, and southern areas of South Darfur, including nearly 189,000 internally displaced people. The project seeks to improve the lives of a grief-stricken population in four basic areas: water, sanitation, and hygiene; health; agriculture and food security; and personal safety.

Project goals
Some of the project’s goals are as follows:

- Improve access to potable water by restoring 40 currently unusable boreholes and hand pumps
- Promote awareness of key hygiene and sanitation practices
- Improve the accessibility of basic health services for more than 146,000 people
- Examine and treat sick children, distribute essential medicine, and provide immunizations and supplements
- Make prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services available
- Help families provide more food for themselves through improved crop and livestock production and seed distribution
- Build small irrigation systems
- Train community animal workers and promote fodder crop improvement
- Advocate for safety through child welfare and safety committees
- Create safe spaces for youth and women, and provide literacy and vocational training

Emergency Mobile Logistics System
At times, it is the right equipment that will make a quantum difference in World Vision’s response effectiveness. Such is the case with the Emergency Mobile Logistics System (EMLS) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) solution. The EMLS and RFID will enable effective management of relief supplies in emergency operations by enabling technicians to track, trace, and monitor commodities whether they are in transit or positioned for distribution in an affected area.

Through the implementation of the system, senior management and those in
other offices around the world will be able to keep track of supplies at all times. It also will assist in addressing risks which can be problematic with manual methods of inventory control and distribution. World Vision is constantly seeking ways to be not only more effective, but to be more accountable in distribution of materials in a disaster response situation.

Thank You

Children, families, and communities around the globe join us in thanking you for your compassion and generosity during their time of great need. Without your assistance, their suffering could have been prolonged and more lives might have been lost. May God richly bless you for reaching out as the hands of Jesus Christ to the hurting.

World Vision distributes food along with hygiene kits containing soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, toilet paper and women’s sanitary products to people living in Corail-Cesselesse, Haiti.