

STARVED FROM LIFE



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE EFFECTS OF HUNGER CRISES

The acute food insecurity situation in East Africa continues to deteriorate significantly especially in Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia where hundreds of thousands of people are facing 'catastrophic' levels of food insecurity (IPC 5).

The hunger crisis is a child protection crisis particularly for girls and has to be dealt with as such.

As part of the European Humanitarian Forum, the Joining Forces alliance organised Humanitarian Talk on effects of hunger on children in East Africa region. This humanitarian talk allowed inclusive meaningful safe and active participation of children and young people as key players actively contributing to the shaping of humanitarian and resilience-based responses and solutions.

The full recording of the talk can be found [here](#).

EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM 2023

WONDIYE, ETHIOPIA

"The ordeals of the war hugely affected the most vulnerable in our community, particularly children. Children felt fear which caused them physical and mental harm. They were also not able to go to school. Thus, we appeal for strengthened protection systems to support our children and young people during the crisis and its aftermath."



OMEGA, SOUTH SUDAN

"There's still a lot to be done in regards to education. Being a refugee child since 2016 due to the conflict in my country, I have gone through a lot of challenges in regard to accessing quality education. Even amidst great challenges, children still pursue education because they know it is the gateway to achieving their dreams."



MARIA VARGAS SIMOJOKI - ECHO REGIONAL THEMATIC EXPERT ON PROTECTION AND GENDER IN NAIROBI

"The acute food insecurity in East Africa continues to deteriorate. We have reached catastrophic levels of food insecurity across the region and children are disproportionately affected by hunger and nutrition crises. Due to the exacerbated hunger crisis we have a level of protection issues that is extremely high."

JOSEPH KAMARA, REGIONAL DIRECTOR HUMANITARIAN & EMERGENCY AFFAIRS, WORLD VISION EAST AFRICA

"I call on all humanitarian actors and governments to act now to prevent famine, protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access in conflict affected situations, while ensuring children are central to plans addressing hunger now and in the future."

JESSE, UGANDA

"In my district, hunger crisis is very common and this became more serious during and after the COVID-19 crisis because the livelihood sources of most parents were affected. In my school, children spend the whole day without eating and most homes may have only one meal a day."





FARIDA, KENYA

"We are in the middle of a "pandemic of its own" —the hunger crisis. In my country, Wajir County, like most parts of northern Kenya, is facing a severe and prolonged drought, which has affected an estimated 429,300 people. The international donor community must increase funding for relief efforts and ensure that the rights of children are protected."

HENRIETTE SACHSE, DEPUTY HEAD OF DIVISION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, BMZ

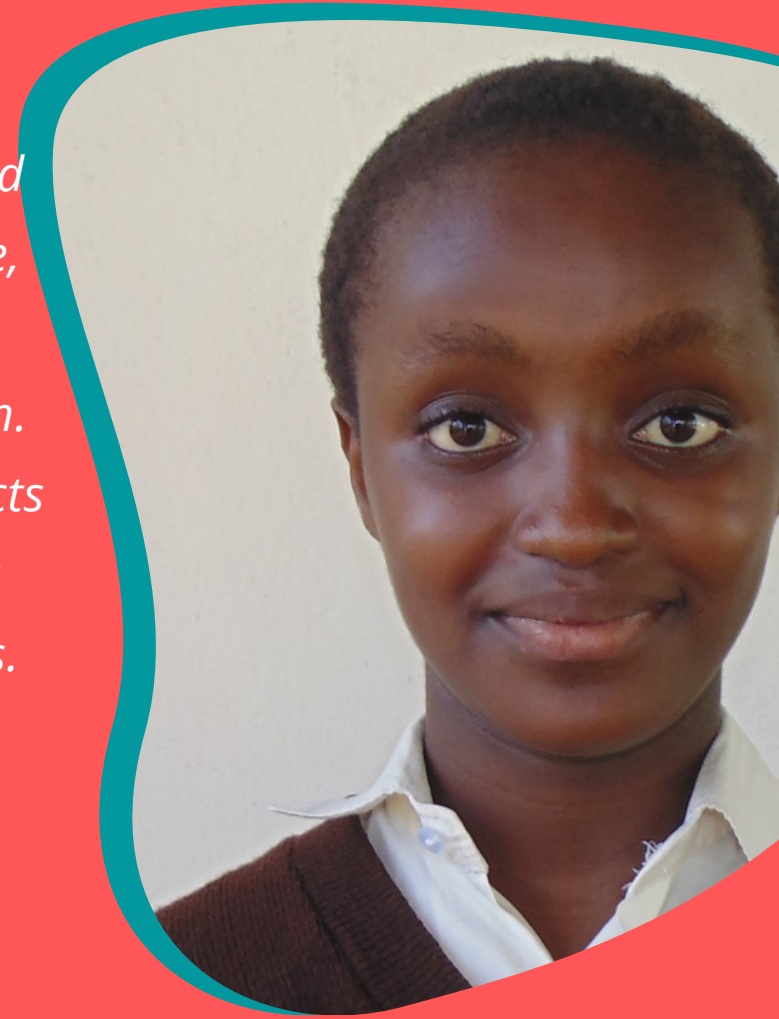
"We strengthen resilience in different ways – using a multi sectoral approach: education, healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene, social protection services and to tackle food insecurity. We are trying to connect dots between humanitarian assistance and development assistance. Hunger is a global issue, we need to tackle it in the global agenda."

ANDREAS JACOBS, DEVELOPMENT POLICY COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE EU

"Let's speak a language that we all understand. We have heard many buzzwords but the children and young people today brought life to those buzzwords. We want to be partners with peaceful societies where children can thrive. These experiences really matter because it helps get more funding and give more flexibility because you know more what you need."

LUCIA, KENYA

"Hunger crises have resulted in other child abuses like child labour, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, drug and substance abuse, neglect and exploitation. Governments should come up with projects to harvest flood waters to be used during drought season by farmers to plant crops. Children should be helped holistically, especially the ones in hard hit areas: on health, education, good and friendly environments."



BUZYE, ETHIOPIA

"In our community, we came together through our IDIR – a social institution used for mutual aid in Ethiopia- to support one another during the turmoil, and we asked ourselves how we might help individuals who were in dire situations. It is, thus, important to strengthen local capacities, as local actors are the first responders to any crisis."

ZAHRA DAHIR, HEAD OF CHILD PROTECTION AND CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE, SAVE THE CHILDREN

"The following negative coping mechanisms are used in Somalia: child family separation, forced displacement, school dropout, child labour, recruitment into armed groups, early marriage as well as sexual and gender based violence and also mental and psychosocial distress. Many of the communities affected by displacement are moving to IDP camps and are exposed to protection risks. Displacement camps are a breeding ground for protection risks."



BECKY, KENYA

"Food crisis means crisis for us children. In my country, we have seen many children drop out of school due to lack of food. We can't go to school hungry. Donors like EU should protect children from the impact of food crisis, inflation and conflicts, they should support Child Protection programmes and allocate more resources for social protection."

