

World Vision



# Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs Bulletin

Edition 5

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# Welcome from the Emergency team



**“The number of forcibly displaced people has reached an estimated 68.5 million – a figure that has never been higher. It’s a confronting reminder that **our work isn’t finished.**”**

**World Vision Australia’s Head of Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs, Daryl Crowden, reflects on the past year and the ongoing crises that persist.**

For most people, the beginning of the new year is an opportunity to celebrate personal achievements and highlights that defined 2018. In the humanitarian community, we also find ourselves looking back at the tragedies – many of which will continue well into 2019 and beyond.

The United Nations estimates 132 million people across the world will require humanitarian assistance this year.

The number of forcibly displaced people has reached an estimated 68.5 million – a figure that has never been higher. It’s a confronting reminder that our work isn’t finished.

In this edition of the Humanitarian Emergency Affairs Bulletin, we introduce you to some of the longest-running and most severe humanitarian emergencies (pages 10-11).

We reflect on the three devastating natural disasters that struck Indonesia in recent months (pages 4-5). We also highlight what I believe is an increasingly important concept – that humanitarian agencies are well-placed to embrace environmentally-friendly initiatives (page 9).

Every year, World Vision International reaches more than 60 million people, thanks to the support of generous individuals and partners. The long-reaching implications of our work in emergency distributions, child protection, health, nutrition, education, gender equality and livelihoods can’t be underestimated. But the long road to recovery for survivors of conflict and natural disasters continues, and so will our work.

Regards,

**Daryl Crowden**  
*Humanitarian and Emergency  
Affairs Director  
World Vision Australia*

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# In focus:

## Rebuilding Sulawesi



**After returning from the scene of Indonesia's earthquake and tsunami, two World Vision Australia managers reflect on the devastation and the recovery progress.**

More than 2,000 people died and 4,000 were injured after a magnitude 7.4 earthquake hit Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The 28 September disaster triggered a tsunami and landslides across Donggala, Palu and Sigi areas.

It was devastating to see homes and infrastructure destroyed. There's a long connection between Australians and Sulawesi. World Vision has worked in Sulawesi since 1990 largely through our local partner Wahana Visi Indonesia. Australians sponsor more than 1,800 children in the area.

The disaster displaced more than 200,000 people. Months later many are still sleeping in camps because liquefaction has rendered their land unliveable or unsuitable for farming.

It came just weeks after a series of major earthquakes struck Lombok, about 1,600 km southwest of Palu killing hundreds and displacing more than 417,000. Almost three months after Sulawesi, another tsunami hit Sunda Strait killing more than 400 people.

**“In Indonesia it's not a question of if another disaster will strike, but when and how bad.”**

It's a reminder that programs designed to help communities prepare for natural disasters are just as valuable as relief programs that target the needs of survivors in the aftermath.

In Central Sulawesi, one of the response highlights is the implementation of cash-based programming. People are receiving vouchers and cash transfers in

exchange for work like clearing debris and installing community toilets.

This helps meet critical needs, particularly for people living in temporary shelters.

This signals an important shift in emergency response. More than two years ago, at the World Humanitarian Summit, World Vision promised to deliver half of humanitarian aid through a cash-first approach by 2020. The benefits include:

- **It addresses a variety of needs.** One household may need to cover urgent medical expenses, while another may need tools to rebuild a home. Households are best placed to decide how to spend money.
- **The local economy recovers faster.** Beneficiaries have more money to spend locally, supporting the recovery of the entire population.
- **It empowers people and promotes dignity.** Cash empowers the community and fosters a relationship of trust.

We have reached more than 95,000 people through distribution of emergency items like food, water, shelter kits and providing psychosocial support through Child Friendly Spaces and programs supporting women with young children. But the reality is they'll require ongoing support and funding for at least another two years for a full recovery.

*Vanessa Forrest is World Vision Australia's Portfolio Manager for Indonesia.*

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### Did you know?

According to the US Geological Survey, Indonesia sits in one of the world's most disaster-prone areas – the “Ring of Fire”, where about 90 percent of the world's earthquakes occur because of heightened volcanic and tectonic activity.

Between July and September, Indonesia and its neighbouring countries experienced more than 440 earthquakes reaching 4.5 or higher on the Richter scale.



Earthquake epicentre  
(4.5 magnitude or higher)





# Negotiating humanitarian access during emergencies



**Everyone affected by conflict or natural disasters has the right to access humanitarian assistance. Unfortunately, in many situations around the world this right is not guaranteed. How do international NGOs find ways to reach people in need?**

Humanitarian access refers to two inter-related concepts: the ability of humanitarian actors to reach people affected by conflict or natural disaster to provide humanitarian assistance, and the right of affected people to access humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian access is often one of the most challenging aspects of emergency response.



Civilians may be deprived of necessities like food and water. Humanitarian organisations may face diplomatic impediments or even become targets of attacks thus curtailing the ability of organisations to deliver support.

In the aftermath of natural disasters, our long-term relationship with communities means we can scale up response operations quickly and we're trusted by both local and national governments to deliver assistance to

**“Humanitarian access is often one of the most challenging aspects of emergency response.”**

affected populations. Organisations that have a pre-existing presence on the ground are often far less affected by access restrictions than those who must newly gain permission from authorities to work in an area during the onset of a crisis.

World Vision Australia works alongside in-country partners to implement humanitarian and development programs. In Indonesia, our partner Wahana Visi has operated in Central Sulawesi since 1990. This longstanding presence enabled Wahana Visi staff to quickly respond to the Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami after the disaster struck. They were led by Indonesian staff who had built relationships with communities and were trained in international humanitarian response standards. Our global reach meant experienced professionals from around the world were deployed to support national staff and offer on-the-job training.

Challenges of access differ in each context World Vision works, but our commitment to providing people in need with relevant and timely assistance remains a constant.

**Megan Williams** is World Vision Australia's Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor.

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Find out more about our Humanitarian Access Policy by visiting World Vision Australia's website.

# Making communities Disaster **READY** for the future



**Pacific Island communities are preparing themselves for natural disasters and long-term climate changes. Non-profit organisations play an essential role in reducing disaster risk and mitigating the effects of climate change.**

The Pacific Islands are highly prone to natural disasters including cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, tidal surges, volcanic eruptions and drought. Read the **World Risk Report 2018** for more information.

For more than a decade World Vision has been collaborating with Pacific Islander communities to improve disaster preparedness and response. Effective disaster risk reduction can help minimise the scale of damage, save lives and enable communities to recover quicker in the aftermath.

For the next four years, World Vision Australia is leading a consortium

to implement the Disaster READY Program, which is supported by the Australian Government-funded **Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP)**. The program targets five countries – Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji – and draws on technical expertise from NGOs and government departments such as Australia's Bureau of Meteorology.

This collaboration has resulted in Early Warning and Response System workshops being held in Australia and the Solomon Islands. The discussions highlighted the important role of NGOs in strengthening early warning and response systems. Although disaster management is coordinated by local authorities NGOs are well-positioned to help distribute urgent information to communities and leverage the traditional knowledge of indigenous people. We also discussed challenges such as natural disasters becoming more severe and unpredictable due to climate change.

Makira Island, in the Solomon Islands is one of the places where World Vision works closely with the Bureau of Meteorology and local groups to build community capacity. Local authorities are closely coordinating for a more inclusive disaster plan, which takes into account issues like how to reach people with disabilities or those without access to timely digital warning updates.

As Australia begins preparations to host the next Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2020, it's important we continue to learn from and reflect on the challenges and opportunities presented by community members who are the first responders to natural disasters.

**Cedric Hoebreck** is World Vision Australia's Portfolio Manager for the Pacific, which includes Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.

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# From the field:

## Responding to changing contexts

by **Daryl Crowden**

*Humanitarian and Emergency  
Affairs Director  
World Vision Australia*

### What does World Vision do when beneficiaries suddenly find themselves in the middle of a humanitarian emergency?

I recently visited southern Ethiopia, where inter-communal violence displaced nearly a million people in Gedeo and West Guji zones last year.

I was sitting in the dirt and smoke of the canvas tent talking to Etenesh Beyene, a 42-year-old mother with eight children. She and her family are among 40,000 people living in the Dilla Town camp for people displaced by the Gedeo – West Guji tribal conflict.

Etenesh and her family left their home in April. Their neighbour's house was set on fire and their livelihood destroyed along with years of harvest – 800 kilograms of coffee and 800 kilograms of peas. They walked for four days, hiding at times in the jungle and aqueducts to avoid raiding parties.

Some of their friends were killed along the way and their money was stolen.

I met Etenesh and her children, a baby only eight months and the oldest 15 years. Like many of the displaced, they are living in a small, crowded tent with a large group and they share everything, including their rations. Others are housed in schools, churches, local government properties and sports grounds, placing added pressure on communities that already face tough living conditions.



More than half of the displaced are children, some were sponsored by Australians. It was almost 15 years ago when World Vision Ethiopia commenced child sponsorship activities in Kochore. Displaced families have started to return home but the situation remains precarious. Living conditions are still dire with hygiene and protection risks and inadequate food.

Many have returned to houses and farms that have been badly damaged or destroyed.

**“Many have returned to houses and farms that have been badly damaged or destroyed.”**

World Vision is helping repair homes, schools and health centres while assisting farmers by providing livestock and tools. In such contexts, World Vision also endeavours to track beneficiaries to confirm their safety. For as long as needed, we continue to support families who Australians supported for so many years regardless of the instability and the challenges. We stay because of our commitment to communities and donors – not to mention, it goes to the heart of our work as humanitarians.



To donate, visit [World Vision's East Africa Emergency fundraising appeal](#).



# Innovation:

## Cutting plastic pollution in refugee camps



**An estimated 300 million tonnes of plastic are dumped in the world's oceans every year. Humanitarian agencies are in a unique position to help address such environmental issues, while responding to humanitarian needs.**

More than 36,000 refugees who fled Syria's brutal war over the past eight years now live in Azraq refugee camp in Jordan. Like many refugee camps, the build-up of rubbish is an ongoing issue that needs managing because of health, safety and environmental concerns.

World Vision saw the need to do something to address this issue. The European Union provided funding to set up a Green Centre, which World Vision has been operating since October 2017. The centre collects and recycles rubbish in the refugee camp.

The plastics are collected, sorted and sold to processing plants that turn the plastic into vegetable containers which are sold to recover costs. Before the centre was established, all the solid waste generated in the Azraq refugee camp was collected and sent directly to the municipal landfill.

Now our centre is recovering a daily average of 19 tonnes of waste, of which one quarter is plastic.

The environmentally-friendly initiative is also a unique way to support refugees by providing the opportunity to earn an income. Refugees have been trained as community mobilisers.

**“Now our centre is recovering a daily average of 19 tonnes of waste, of which one quarter is plastic.”**



They conduct community meetings to raise awareness about plastic pollution and the importance of recycling.

They also educate their neighbours on re-using plastic containers and separating plastics from organic waste in colour-coded bins.

We have started to think differently about waste in the humanitarian context, where even garbage is a source of opportunity to provide income.

What World Vision's Green Centre in Azraq camp in Jordan demonstrates, is that when humanitarian agencies think outside the square with an environmentally-sustainable approach to programming, the opportunities are endless.

*Brianna Piazza is World Vision Australia's Emergencies Communications Officer.*

🐦 @BriannaPiazza

# Snapshot: Ongoing crises in 2019

## The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Conflict and displacement have made the region one of the worst places to be a child. Further it is one of the world's worst child protection crises. In Kasai, one quarter of children surveyed by World Vision had lost at least one family member since violence broke out in 2016. Exposure to violence has far-reaching effects on children's social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual wellbeing and development. The country has an estimated 12 percent of worldwide child malnutrition cases. Food insecurity has jumped 750 percent since pre-crisis levels in the three Kasai provinces (UNOCHA, April 2018).

World Vision has reached more than 535,000 people with life-saving humanitarian assistance since August 2017.



**13 million people** needed humanitarian assistance last year



**Up to 60 percent** of militia fighters are children



**Funding status:** \$1.68 billion needed, less than 45 percent of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) funded

## Syria crisis

Civilians continued to bear the brunt of conflict and violence in 2018. Within Syria, 1.5 million people remain in hard-to-reach areas, leaving them exposed to food insecurity (WFP) and making it difficult to meet basic needs. UNICEF estimates half of Syria's children have grown up knowing nothing but conflict. With March marking the eighth year of conflict in Syria, it's expected humanitarian assistance will be required for years to come, as communities attempt to rebuild.

World Vision is working with partners to respond to the Syria crisis across four countries, including refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon. Programs include education, health, hygiene and shelter.



**More than 13 million people** are in need of humanitarian assistance



**5.6 million Syrians** have fled the country since 2011



**Funding status:** \$1.2 million in unmet funding requirements in the 2018 HRP



**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimates nearly 132 million people in 42 countries will need humanitarian assistance in 2019. Most of the urgent need exists in countries that have experienced long-lasting conflict and a lack of progress in addressing root causes. Here are some of the most underfunded longest-running emergencies where World Vision works.**

### Rohingya refugee crisis

Many Australians first heard of the Rohingya refugee crisis after a fresh wave of violence in August 2017 saw more than 700,000 refugees flee Myanmar. However, many refugees have been living in Bangladesh because of violence since the 1990s. Refugee families in Cox's Bazar now face risks from monsoons, cyclones, landslides, collapsing shelters and other hazards. Many continue to live in unsanitary, cramped conditions in the world's densest refugee camp. Aid agencies are increasingly worried about the spread of diseases and child protection risks.

World Vision has reached 265,000 refugees in Cox's Bazar through various programs, including water and sanitation, shelter distribution and Child Friendly Spaces.



**Nearly 1 million refugees have fled violence in Myanmar since the 1990s**



**An estimated 98 percent of refugee children aren't accessing formal education**



**Funding status: 72 percent of the 2018 HRP has been funded**

### Central African Republic

The country is facing a large-scale humanitarian crisis due to increased fighting between armed groups in areas that were relatively stable in the past. In one year, the number of displaced people increased by more than 50 percent to 621,000. Ongoing conflict has halted early recovery in many areas, which already experience extreme poverty and limited social services.

World Vision's footprint in Central African Republic includes health, education, livelihoods and child protection for former child soldiers.

Since 2014, World Vision has improved the lives of **over 1.6 million people, 500,000 of which are children.**



**2.5 million people affected by conflict**



**Nearly half of the population is facing severe or moderate food insecurity**



**Funding status: Received less than half of \$515.6 million needed under the 2018 HRP**

**Note:** funding targets are based in US dollars on the Joint HRP, as reported by UNOCHA's financial tracking service.

**World Vision is a global leader  
in emergency relief with decades  
of experience and an established resource  
network that is ready to respond to any  
disaster or humanitarian emergency,  
anywhere in the world.**



**Be a change maker. Support our work in emergencies.**

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