

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and braided hair, wearing an orange t-shirt, holding a young child. The child is wearing a blue and white patterned garment. The background shows a rural setting with traditional thatched-roof huts and trees.

# Helping Children Survive Crises



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# #1

## Facts and Figures

- » Signatory to both the 1951 Refugees Convention and to the 1969 Organization of African Unity (African Union) Refugee Convention
- » Has continued to be refugees' safe destination from many neighboring countries particularly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, the Sudan since the 1960's
- » Hosted the maximum number of Sudanese and Somali refugees (close to a million) in the 1980's and in the 1990's.
- » Enacted a National Refugee Proclamation in 2004
- » Currently hosts more than half a million refugees at more than 28 camps and temporary shelters in Somali, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Oromia regional states and Addis Ababa City Administration
- » Currently majority of refugees are Somalis, accounting for 47.94% of the total refugees population, while South Sudanese and Eritreans account for the second and third largest refugee populations, at 27.18% and 17.53% respectively.
- » The influx from South Sudan is likely to increase while the region remains highly volatile – especially if famine conditions prevail due to conflict and an inability to sow agricultural crops
- » The influx from Eritrea has been found to be lower and steadier with many unaccompanied minors
- » While the number of Somali refugees has been stable, the rate of influx is expected to increase due to drought conditions in Southern Somalia, continued conflict, and potential displacement from refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya.
- » Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and UNHCR are the overall coordinators of Implementing Partner activities in refugee camps throughout Ethiopia working closely with WV Ethiopia



# #2

## Adapting to Life in a New Country

Refugees in Ethiopia face challenges, like in any other country. Trauma, lack of basic services, remaining idle etc. makes their life difficult in particular for the most vulnerable: children and women. In addition to the geographic locations of the entry points and camps, recent global financial constraint makes it difficult for the government and humanitarian agencies to immediately establish necessary facilities, even to provide minimum basic services for refugees.

World Vision Ethiopia (WVE), one of the UNHCR/ARRA implementing partners, has been on the scene since late 2011 in the Ethiopian refugee program and it's currently engaged in three refugee camps - Buramino, Tongo, and Tierkidi responding to the Somali, Sudanese, and South Sudanese refugees fleeing violence and drought in their countries.

WVE uses different approaches to enhance refugees' adaptation to the new environment such as WASH interventions, providing skills training, agricultural livelihoods, environment as well as Basic and Alternative Basic Education programs, and other activities. These activities not only help refugees to adapt their environment, but also enable the host community to embrace refugees and make them feel at home rather than perceiving them as foreigners to the area.



# #3

## Providing an Essential Lifeline

Water is the number one priority for refugee children and their families affected by violence and drought. The temporary solution to this survival need is trucking water to the camps. However, this is an inadequate, expensive, and non-sustainable response. In addition, lack of proper sanitation and good hygiene practices causes water contamination and gastrointestinal diseases among the refugees and host communities.

World Vision Ethiopia, with its proven success in the WASH sector in the country, works on a permanent water supply in Dolo Ado, Tongo and recently in Tierkidi refugee camps to enhance access to safe drinking water for refugees and host communities. In addition WVE is working with its partners to construct communal and household latrines to ensure refugee camps are free from open defecation.

Moreover, in collaboration with the local governments, WVE established and trained WASH Committee members and scheme attendants for all the completed WASH facilities in order to ensure their sustainable use. In this regard, WVE provided training on personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, and on water supply usage and management in all intervention areas.

“ In Dolo Ado, Genale and Dawa Rivers were the only water source for the population before WVE intervention ”

## Borehole / Shallow well drilling

Madina Mohamed, a 65 year old widow, was attacked by crocodile while she was fetching water from Dawa River. She is a single mother of two boys and two girls, all of whom are married, and she is grandmother of many.

“ When I was only 20, after my first three children, I had an incident at the river when I was fetching water. The crocodile took me into the river. I was very thin and I was able to pull my hand from the crocodile’s mouth, but as I was trying to swim out it caught my hair. I was struggling and it threw me out of the water, I was unconscious for a while and when I woke up I saw my hand bleeding from the crocodile bite. I was taken to Dolo town to get treatment. After that incident I still had to go back to that river, as it was the only source of water. We’ve also lost many cattle’. And here I am, I am so grateful that now my granddaughters don’t have to go through the same experiences I went through. ”

Madina is lucky to have survived a crocodile attack, but many others, young girls and mothers have lost their lives while fetching water from the river. Nur Isa, 17, lives with his step mother and father. He lost his mother while he was very young.

“ I lost my mother to a crocodile, when she took her goats to the river. I was little then. But I could never forget that day in my life. My heart is broken and I always feel depressed. Nevertheless, I am grateful that girls and mothers do not have to go to the river anymore. ”



## Hulise Ali, 27, with six children is living in Kilimesenge Kebele

“ Before the provision of this clean water in our kebele, our children usually became sick. When they were sick, we used to carry our children and walk for more than seven kilometers to get treatment for them. This was not the only problem; we used to pay more than 700 Birr (35USD) for a single treatment at the clinic. Now, the children are not going long distances to fetch water in the crocodile infested river and they are not only safe from crocodile attacks, they also have enough time to study. ”



## Hygiene and Sanitation

Hygiene and Sanitation are the other components of the WASH projects in the refugee camps. WVE has built 1,000 family latrines in 2013, which has resulted in family latrine coverage at the household level reaching almost 100% of total refugee households in Tongo refugee camp. In Tongo, the refugee community has been able to access waste pits with the volume of 10m<sup>3</sup> excavated in the selected area, taking into account the overall camp health management and sanitation. In addition, in all camps various kinds of hygiene and sanitation related training, such as proper handling of water, food and personal hygiene and sanitation has been given to refugee mothers.

Moreover, capacity building training was given to 150 hygiene promoter and volunteers with the aim of enhancing their understanding of basic hygiene and sanitation issues by relating to practical life. Equally, hygiene promotion related activities, like day to day supervisions and inspections, have been conducted through the existing community structures in all camps.



## In Dollo and Tongo alone

- » 4 shallow wells and 1 deep well drilled
- » 2 springs developed
- » 41 water points constructed
- » more than 55 km of pipe line installed
- » 5 surface pumps installed
- » 9 solar submersible pumps installed
- » 18,100 Aqua tabs distributed
- » 13,000 water containers distributed to refugees and host communities
- » Three elevated 20m<sup>3</sup> fiber glass reservoirs with concrete stand and 50m<sup>3</sup> elevated concrete reservoir installed
- » More than 900 communal and household latrines constructed
- » Three washing basins constructed
- » Rehabilitated seven non-functional water schemes
- » Seven generators installed
- » CLTSH training provided to 200 community members both refugee and host
- » Water management and awareness creation training provided to 300 community members (both refugee and host)

## As a result

Provided access to safe drinking water for more than 32,000 refugees and their host communities.

Provided more than 52,000 refugees and their host communities with communal and household latrines.



“ In Buramino camp alone WV is working on alternative basic education, adult education, and vocational skills training with **40,000** refugees. ”

# #4

## Making the Right a Reality

Children in particular are highly affected during crises, facing serious challenges associated with malnutrition, disease, physical injuries, grief, and loss. In the refugee camps, dreams of becoming a doctor, a teacher, or an engineer now seem impossible. Lack of sufficient child friendly spaces and education has left children wandering the camps with little to do. In emergency situations, education can provide physical and psycho-social protection, which can be both life-saving and sustaining.

The Ethiopian government through ARRA, UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations coordinate efforts to provide education services to refugees in the country. World Vision's Emergency Education Program is committed to child protection, alternative basic education, elementary education and adult education in Dolo Ado, Tongo, and recently Gambella.

Following the recent global launch of the Education in Emergencies interest group, WVE, given its experience and capacity, was requested by the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) to test the education materials on behalf of INEE. To this end, WVE has played a vital role in ensuring conflict sensitive education materials are available within emergency setups.



## Improved educational structures in a refugee setting

Children in emergency and conflict-affected situations have a wide range of educational needs depending on their context. Children may have missed part or all of their education and be seeking to re-enter education either formally or informally. Alternative Basic Education in such cases plays a significant role. For most children it helps them to get up to speed quickly so they can transition into formal education and complete further levels of education. For some it helps them to move towards vocational education that will enable them to earn an income, particularly for older children and youth, through alternative means.

Currently WVE is running Alternative Basic Education in the form of Accelerated Learning and Adult Education to ensure that children have a safe place to learn, play and socialize. As a result of project activities, the participation of children in education within the refugee camps has improved significantly. The quality of teaching learning processes has shown improvement and the number of safe and enabling learning environments has increased.

“50% of targeted children have got education access”

## Enhancing quality

It is unquestionable that an attractive and child friendly setup can motivate and increase the involvement and engagement of children in the day to day learning and teaching process. Hence, to enhance or transform learning setup in the emergency setup, WVE gives due attention to ensuring children have what it takes to be successful in their education. Improving the quality of the camp education system has been the focus of WVE education projects, providing in-service workshops for teachers, principals and supervisors on active learning and instructional approaches, improving the infrastructure, and providing different school materials.

In order to ensure that teachers are capable of providing psychosocial support, WVE has developed training manuals both in English and Somali on psychosocial support service provision to teachers and training was organized on how to provide psychosocial support service for students. As a result of this, teachers easily understand what is expected from them and support students with special needs.



## Increasing access

Construction of additional blocks for permanent schools as well as semi-permanent structures has benefited not only the refugees but also the host community.

Abdialen Ahmed, 49 was born and grew up in Buramino, Dollo Ado. He lives with his wife and eight children (four boys). “The host communities consider refugees as people who brought opportunities, before this school was established our children used to walk for two hours to get to the nearest school. But, now we have a school in the vicinity of our village and our children are learning well” Ahmed said. The school provides regular basic education from grade 1-5. When the regular students leave class, the rooms are used to provide adult education for people in the area. “Had it not been for the refugees coming near our village, we could not have got this school here,” he further noted.



Abdialen Ahmed, with one of his sons



School clubs support young people to develop essential life skills and support them by providing the opportunity for them to participate in a club environment that they set up and run for themselves. The clubs are intended to create a special environment which develops a sense of ownership and belonging for all children. In particular for children in refugee setup, the clubs are not only after-school fun, but they also help boost children's self-esteem and self-confidence. WVE, beyond the formal education, works with the school teachers and supervisors to establish different clubs so as to increase social emotional intelligence of the children and attract children to be enrolled.

## Girls club

In Buramino Camp, the Girls Clubs provide a powerful setting for mobilizing the community to send their children to school and promote education. The selection of the girls is from different blocks so as to make sure the representation is fair. More importantly, the club provides support and advice on different issues and challenges that may be necessary to promote positive outcomes. The members get together once a week for "tea-talk". The school provides them with the setting, such as meeting room, and refreshments, such as tea and biscuits. During these sessions they discuss different issues brought up by their friends. Moreover, their supervisors train them on how to promote education among their

communities not only for girls, but for adult education and other issues like disadvantage of early marriage.

Asha Abdi is 15 years old and she is the girls club leader. She passionately speaks about her role: "I am happy that I am able to contribute something for my community. For instance there was one girl, aged 16 yrs, and her parents were about to give her as a wife for a man whom they owed a goat, the girl came to me and I took the issue to the our supervisor". The supervisor in collaboration with the education facilitator took the issue to ARRA zonal office. As a result, the girl was set free and was able to continue her education.



## Sports club

Most children in the refugee camps have a story of suffering and loss. Many could describe how they lost a family member or a friend; how they were separated from their parents. This has resulted in depression and hopelessness, which was a major obstacle for children trying to concentrate on their education. The sport club in Buramino camp has enabled the children to improve their concentration and commitment to higher attendance and better behavior. It has helped them to become hopeful.

Mohamed Ali, 15, is in level three in Alternative Basic Education (ABE). He is the football captain of Buramino camp. "The football is very important to us. It is an exercise, it is healthy. We do have competition with children from different ABE centers. It is something that we all look forward to and work hard to win! I want to be like the players in Arsenal team when I grow up." The club has helped the children to show a desire to improve and achieve their aspiration.



## Environment club

The environment club supervisor, Ibrahim Haji teaches children how to use the limited resources they have in their surroundings. Accordingly the children who live near to the water point were able to grow maize, onions, sugar cane and the like.

Mesla Ahmed, 14 years old, is a member of the environment club. He was able to grow maize in his small garden.





# #5

## Rebuilding Lives

In most cases the homes, families and entire communities of a refugee had known and love are completely destroyed. For such people, hope is tenuous and it takes a long time to rebuild their lives. Even if they receive support from different humanitarian actors, the feeling of being 'a burden' and the question of what will become of me now that I have lost everything? remains to be answered. "Losing your house, your land, farm, above all your family members is devastating, now we have to face an uncertain future" said Esmail Bare one of the Somali refugees in Dolo Ado "All I know is farming, and after we came here farming was not an option, rebuilding my life felt like an insurmountable task" he further added.

In different refugee camps WVE in collaboration with its partners have been equipping refugees with various skills so that they can work and lead an independent life. It has introduced improved farming practices that have supported marginalized, disabled and excluded community groups; enhanced the knowledge and skills of host and refugees communities in the areas of improved agricultural practices, business management and vegetable garden production, etc

75% of beneficiaries are drawn from the refugee and 25% from the host community. These beneficiaries have started their own business within the camp or have temporary employment in the host community around the camp. This strategy has enhanced host communities and refugees relations.



### Innovative solutions

With the limited agricultural lands, and the need for income generating activities, the livelihoods programme in Tongo camp implemented by World Vision Ethiopia has provided recovery support which has increased resilience and peace among refugees and host communities in Tongo.

The program has enabled the refugees to use vertical gardening farming techniques and has produced several varieties of vegetables and fruits in a limited area within the camp. This has enabled the refugees to supplement their assistance income, supply fresh food to refugees, and maintain the feeling of being productive individuals. As a result the dependence rate on emergency response in the area has significantly decreased.

“ Planted over  
**One million**  
tree seedlings in Tongo  
to reduce the stress on  
indigenous trees and  
forest ”

Abdu Ibrahim, a 37-years old Sudanese refugee, came to Ethiopia in 2011 as a result of the conflict between South Sudan and North Sudan claiming Blue Nile state. He has five children, three of them are with him in Ethiopia and two remained in Blue Nile state with his wife.

“I was a farmer back in Sudan but after I came here I was sitting idle because I did not have the resources to work. All I could do was wait for 16kg ration per person for a month. This ration was staggering to feed my family for the whole month, the last 10 days of every month used to be stressful, I used to resort to the local community either to borrow or to sell available items that I brought with me.”

“After I received technical training and start up inputs such as hens, vegetable seeds, Jerry cans, poultry shelter and farm tools necessary for the vegetable farm in my small garden, I was able to provide my family throughout the month without any hassle and life become much easier,” he explained happily and added, “I was not only able to put enough food on the table every day but also provide nutritious food that keeps my children healthy and happy, previously I couldn't send my children to school. How could I send them with an empty stomach? Now they are also going to school regularly”.

As a startup input I received 6 hens, now I have 19 hens. Every month I get more than 100 eggs with a total value of more than 440 Birr (22 USD). In addition I also sell extra vegetables for more than 1000 Birr (50USD) every five month. I also earn a monthly salary of 600 Birr (30 USD) working as a livelihood animator for WVE.”

There are 271 refugees in Tongo camp with an average family size of eight and a total population of more than 2,160 who benefited from establishing vertical gardens like Abdu Ibrahim. The livelihood practice is being scaled up to the host community.



## Skills for Life

In addition to identifying those refugees with different skills and employing them in different capacities within the camps, WVE and its partners established skill training centers and have been equipping refugees as well as host communities with various skills such as masonry, tailoring, and restaurant operation skills so that they can work and lead an independent life. A number of trainees have become small business owners.

**Fatuma Abdi is 19.**

“ I have been at the camp for the last two years. I have four sisters and four brothers. We lost our mother just before we came to Ethiopia. I am taking the training to support my family. My younger sisters are going to school. I hope once I have these skills and start up materials I can earn some money to support my family and go back to school in shifts. ”

**Esmail Bare, 40**

“ I get more than 700 Ethiopian Birr (40USD) per month. This is very promising as a beginning, and I am confident that as I get more customers I will be able to increase my income as well. Besides the income, knowing that I have work to do every morning gives me confidence and a reason to look forward for a brighter future. ”



**Asayehegn Timotios, 30,**

“ I came here three years ago, and I've been working as a daily laborer. I used to struggle to get income for my daily subsistence. However, when I finish this training, I will earn more than 380birr (19 USD) per day. This has a significant impact on my life. I strongly believe that the training will change my life. ”

**Ibrahim Haji**

“ The school have staff both from the host communities and the refugees called incentive workers, such as cleaners, teachers, and facilitators. I am one of the refugees employed as the Environment Club leader. I teach children how to use the limited recourse they have in hand. I earn 800 birr (40USD) per month. ”

**Beshir Abdi, 40**

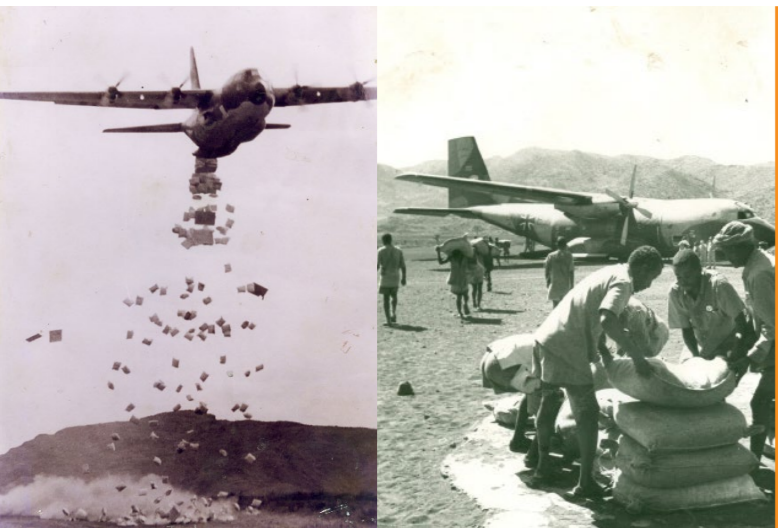
“ I am the vice president of the carpentry workers association. I came with my family three years back. I have eight children, two of them are married and six are living with me and my wife. I came here with nothing, so at first we were only getting food rations. After we took training on carpentry we have started to earn and our income is growing gradually as individuals. We were also provided with basic skills to run a business which has helped us a lot in establishing and running the association successfully. At first we were building houses, beds, and the like for individuals. We also built one for the Danish Refugee Camp (DRC). But we've become more organized, we make market assessments and offer a better price than the Dolo town price so that we can attract many customers. We have also started communicating with different organizations, such as UN agencies, NGOs and ARRA to promote ourselves and increase our market share. ”

# #6

## World Vision Ethiopia

World Vision is an international Christian relief and development organization founded in 1950 and presently operating in more than 100 countries. WV began its first intervention in Ethiopia in 1971 with relief and opened the Ethiopia office in 1975. In addition to its development intervention in Ethiopia, World Vision in Ethiopia regained its partnership with UNHCR during the 2011 Horn of Africa drought response and now responds to Somali and Sudanese Refugees, including to the recent South Sudanese influx to Gambella Regional state in the country. WVE is working to contribute to the well-being of more than 3.5 million vulnerable children in its three-year national strategy from 2013 to 2015.

Emergency relief 1984



Integrated development programs



### Message from the National Director

“ I believe we have come a long way in solidifying our work in refugee operations over the past few years. Currently, WV is developing a strategy for our National Office that would help give direction for our future refugee work. This strategy will inform decisions by the leadership as to whether we venture into new refugee settings, such as Tigray or Afar – wherever there is need for support to vulnerable populations, particularly children.

Because we are a child focused organization, our overall goal is to improve the wellbeing of children and everywhere we work. With this objective, we are particularly concerned about unaccompanied and separated children in refugee settings. We want to engage in interventions that help youth and child refugees prosper and succeed.

WV helps people fleeing war and instability and I find my job to be one of the most-fulfilling occupations. Aligning with the government’s strategy of providing protection, we help people who are in desperate need and it is a rewarding intervention for WV to engage itself in. WV also helps the hosting communities in long term sustainable interventions. Because the populations in refugee settings, particularly youth and children, are highly vulnerable, supporting these young people is particularly satisfying and at times life-saving.

”

*Margaret Schuler*

Margaret Schuler

Contact address

World Vision Ethiopia

AMCE- Bole Road, Bole Sub-City; Kebele 11, H # 518, P.O. Box 3330

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tel. 251 629 33 50 Fax. 251 629 33 46

E-mail: [info\\_et@wvi.org](mailto:info_et@wvi.org); [www.wvi.org/ethiopia](http://www.wvi.org/ethiopia)