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CAPACITY STATEMENT

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

About World Vision

World Vision is a relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and communities. We work with community members, supporting them to overcome poverty and injustice.

Since 1993, World Vision Somalia's country programme has partnered with communities, the government and donors to implement emergency, recovery and resilience building projects supporting the most vulnerable children survive through political instability, conflict, droughts, famines and others shocks, rebuild, as well as transition them into development through long-term sustainable projects. We have a strong geographical footprint spanning nearly 80 districts, working with a network of local and international NGOs.

Context Background

Somalia has endured years of political instability and conflict, resulting in a prolonged humanitarian crisis and one of the region's largest internal displacement crises. At least 4 million people are displaced internally and living in makeshift settlements and depending on assistance from government and humanitarian organisations. This situation is further exacerbated by increasingly frequent extreme weather events driven by climate change, leading to unprecedented droughts and floods in recent years. These events have caused land and environmental degradation, further compromising livelihoods and heightening vulnerability.

The Somali population is now extremely vulnerable to more frequent and intensified droughts, devastating cyclones, and frequent flooding. These challenges further compromise livelihoods and deepen poverty levels.

Food security and Livelihoods (FSL) including food and cash assistance, is World Vision Somalia's largest sector, accounting for more than a third of the Country Office's portfolio. Our FSL programs are dedicated to ensuring access to sufficient and nutritious food for children and their families, particularly during and after disaster shocks.

We focus on building sustainable livelihoods and improving household food security in agropastoral areas by utilizing existing resources, such as accessing rivers for irrigation and providing agricultural training and materials to improve their irrigation and farming practices. We also implement programs aimed at increasing income and assets, strengthening food systems, and improving access to finance, credit, and markets.

Additionally, we collaborate with like-minded partners to support and advocate for policies that address hunger and malnutrition. We also seek adequate and sustained funding for critical food security, livelihoods, and nutrition actions to prevent hunger, mortality, and malnutrition, advocate for increased investments in strengthening food systems, and urge government to address the root causes and key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Strategic Objectives

- To improve food security by supporting own production at the household level.
- To improve economic opportunities at the household level by empowering them with in-demand skills.
- To support communities, prepare for, mitigate and absorb the effects of natural and manmade shocks, stresses and vulnerabilities.
- To support households, have access to, and manage natural resources sustainably for adaptation to livelihood risks and opportunities.

Project Models

1. Food & Cash Assistance: Disasters, whether natural or manmade, often lead to food insecurity. Furthermore, when these crises occur, they often disrupt people's ability to earn livelihoods and get it to markets. Through our food and cash assistance programs, we deliver emergency food and cash assistance, helping the extremely vulnerable survive crises.

Food and cash assistance saves lives by addressing the most dire and immediate forms of food insecurity, while enhancing livelihoods, improving health and education, and empowering communities to become self-reliant. Provision of food and cash transfers to people in periods of shocks and crises help them to meet their basic food and nutrition needs when times are tough.

In 2023, with partners including the World Food Programme (WFP) and USAID's BHA, World Vision provided life-saving food vouchers and cash assistance to over 1 million people or children.

2. Savings for Transformation (S4T): The model promotes regular savings.... involves facilitation on savings and credit in a small-scale and community led way. This project model instils hope and contributes to child well-being by enabling community members to plan ahead, cope with household emergencies, develop their livelihoods and invest in the health and education of their children.

Savings groups are owned, managed and operated by the members, using a simple, transparent method whereby groups accumulate and convert small amounts of cash into savings. The platform provides an opportunity for group members to access loans from group savings to finance existing and new income generating activities. Most of our participants in Somalia are very vulnerable and not considered worthy to access bank loans by formal financial institutions and S4T therefore plays a key role in closing this gap. As the groups mature and get more organized, linkages to markets and financial institutions happens smoothly, giving more opportunities for vulnerable households to break the poverty cycle.

3. Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG): Through the Ultra Poor Graduation (UPG) model we empower poor households, mostly focusing youth and women with in-demand technical and vocational skills such as tailoring, beauty and makeup, electrical and tie-and-dye, plus providing them with productive assets with the aim of graduating them out of extreme poverty and food insecurity and into economic self-reliance and financial stability and security. The different vocational skills offered give youth and women access to skills which can also improve their access to employment or help them establish their own businesses.

4. Local Value Chain Development (LVCD): World Vision's Local Value Chain Development (LVCD) project model helps producers increase their incomes by working together in groups to better understand and connect to markets, thereby increasing their profitability. Key components of the model include participatory market analysis, organizing producers to work collectively, empowering producers with knowledge and skills, and facilitating producer group linkages to finance, extension, and business services.

5. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR): Somalia suffers from pervasive land degradation. This phenomenon is further exacerbated by the impact of climate-induced extreme weather events. More frequent and larger-magnitude droughts and flood events are accelerating erosion and reducing vegetative coverage. Climate change has further exacerbated this fragile situation. Water scarcity and over-farming have ruined the topsoil and pushed agrarian communities onto the same areas, leading to fewer resources and sometimes conflict.

FMNR is a low-cost land restoration technique used to combat poverty and hunger amongst subsistence farmers. It can reverse desertification, restore degraded landscapes, increase food, water and commodity production, and build resilience to climate extremes.

Faced with its existing intractable challenges, World Vision Somalia began to look around East Africa and the World Vision Partnership for models to strengthen the capacity of communities to better manage their soil, rangeland, and water resources. We drew inspiration from conservationists in northern Kenya and World Vision's own experiences in Ethiopia, adopting a comprehensive package of land-management practices, including Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), re-evaluated grazing methods, and natural resource governance systems.

6. Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM): Our work to support Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) model aims to equip communities to prepare for, mitigate, and withstand the effects of natural and manmade shocks, stresses, and vulnerabilities. This involves a suite of community-led assessments and supports communities with contingency planning, emergency preparedness, and anticipatory action.

One such mechanism is the 'Crisis Modifier,' a flexible funding tool that helps to undertake anticipatory actions, quickly respond to shocks, mitigate impacts on crisis-affected communities, and support recovery and rebuilding efforts. With this approach, we aim to enhance communities' capacity to implement disaster risk management and coping strategies to mitigate the impact of shocks.



Quick highlights of what we were able to achieve in 2023



185,172 households received cash assistance



1,642 youth and from Technical Vocational and Education Centres (TVETs)



280 active Savings for Transformation groups



80% of participants under Ultra Poor Graduation met the Acceptable Graduation Progress rating



5,687 active members of Savings for Transformation groups



7,872 farmers received farm inputs and training to boost crop production



US\$ 270,313 in total savings



5,305 households benefitted from livestock distribution to replace lost stock



459 supported through the FMNR project



A huge thank you to our Donors and Partners



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