



Until we are all equal



RIGHT: This family in South Sudan lost their crops due to drought. **BELOW:** Baby Million in Ethiopia received food supplements to address his malnutrition.

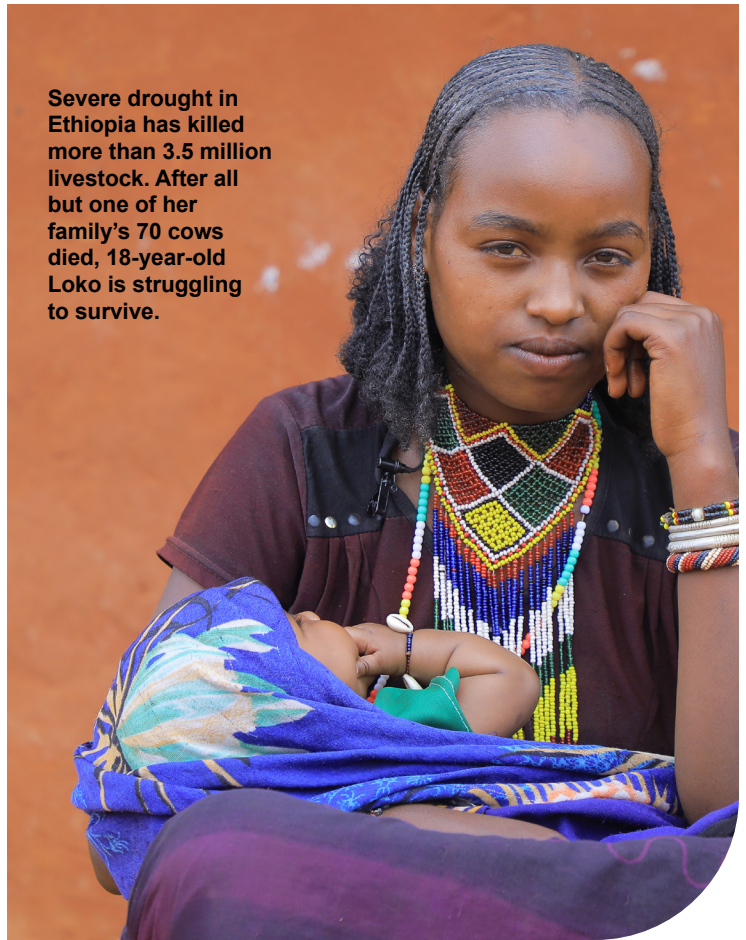
Hunger Crisis

The world is facing an unprecedented emergency.

An estimated 783 million people will go to bed hungry tonight. At the centre of it are children, especially girls, who are always impacted the most during a crisis.



Severe drought in Ethiopia has killed more than 3.5 million livestock. After all but one of her family's 70 cows died, 18-year-old Loko is struggling to survive.



Project Summary

The hunger crisis is a forgotten tragedy. It's critical that we act now.

Unlike past hunger crises, which were centred in one region of the world, the hunger hotspots today are spread across Africa, Central America, the Middle East and Asia.

Many factors, ranging from conflict, climate change and political instability to rising food and fertilizer costs, have compounded the hunger crisis, and the situation is dire.

Of the estimated 783 million people who are hungry, 333 million do not know where their next meal will come from, and 45 million are children under five who are at risk of starvation.

"We are in an unprecedented time, with so many crises unfolding all at the same time," says Dr. Unni Krishnan, global humanitarian director at Plan International. "But hunger is a solvable problem. The world is just not doing enough about it."

THE FACTS

WHO: An estimated 783 million people around the world are facing chronic hunger, and 45 million children under five are dangerously malnourished.

WHERE: The countries most impacted by the hunger crisis include Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

WHY: Contributing factors include:

1. A long drought that has wreaked havoc on crops and livestock across Africa.
2. Extreme weather events like floods, hurricanes and tornadoes that have destroyed homes and displaced millions of people.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic, which plunged people further into poverty.
4. The soaring cost of fertilizer and its lack of availability due to the Ukraine war, disrupting agriculture production and supply chains.
5. Rising inflation, which has made it too expensive for many to purchase food.
6. Conflict and political instability that have forced people to leave their homes and livelihoods.

BY THE NUMBERS

Appeal Highlights



“If the world does not pay attention, the millions of people in need of food aid will become a forgotten statistic. And the vast majority of them are girls and young women who are suffering the worst consequences.”

– Jessica Capasso, director of emergency and humanitarian assistance, Plan International Canada

\$2.09 M

was funded by Plan International Canada supporters to address the hunger crisis. The majority of funds were directed to Ethiopia, one of the countries hardest hit by the crisis. The remaining funds went to Somalia, Haiti, Kenya and Mali.

1,731

people affected by drought were able to access quality education, child-protection services and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services through schools and camps for internally displaced people in Somalia.

Plan International set up nutrition centres in Niger where children have their weight checked and are screened for malnutrition. Parents are taught how to make *doungouri da mo*, one of the country’s most popular dishes, made from rice and cowpeas.

50,588

people in Ethiopia were reached with nutrition screening and mental health and psychosocial support.

750

students affected by drought in Somalia were provided with safe drinking water at school.

1,000

households in Ethiopia received dairy goats.



A STORY OF CHANGE

Lives Are On the Line

You're helping children in Ethiopia who are caught in the worst hunger crisis our world has seen.

People in Ethiopia have endured multiple crises in recent years, such as epidemics, locust infestations, civil unrest and conflict. The drought situation has resulted in an unprecedented displacement of people and livestock in search of grasslands as well as an increase in livestock deaths due to diminishing health conditions, fatigue, lack of water and long trekking distances.

As part of Plan International's emergency response, cash transfers were distributed to more than 2,500 households. Families received a payment of 4,500 Ethiopian birr (C\$110), which they could use however they wished, although most spent it on food.

"[The people who received support] were very excited because there was not that much assistance or much

intervention from the government or other non-governmental organizations," explains Maseresha Mitiku, a cash and voucher specialist with Plan International.

The cash transfers were disbursed to those most in need, including female-headed households, widows, elders, people with disabilities and families with malnourished children under five.

For 45-year-old Bonaya, the cash voucher was a literal lifesaver for her and her eight children, who live in the Oromia region. "We have lost all our livestock. Ninety of our cows died as a result of the drought, making it difficult to feed my family," Bonaya says. "I am extremely grateful for this cash assistance during this trying time. I'll use the money to feed my family by buying maize and cooking oil."



I am extremely grateful for this cash assistance during this trying time."

– Bonaya, a recipient of a cash voucher to support her family



In the Oromia region of Ethiopia, we worked with local health bureaus to conduct house-to-house nutrition screening to identify children under the age of five who are malnourished.

SPOTLIGHT

Empty Plates, Empty Stomachs

The hunger crisis isn't over, even if it's not showing up in your daily news feed. The need is still there.

"While hunger affects everyone, children and women continue to bear the brunt of this crisis," says Jessica Capasso, director of emergency and humanitarian assistance at Plan International Canada.

Malnutrition is particularly dangerous for children under the age of five and for adolescent girls and young women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Adolescent girls and young women are at increased risks of miscarriage, maternal mortality and giving birth to low-birthweight babies, thus passing on the intergenerational effects of malnutrition.

The harsh reality is that during a crisis, girls eat last and least. And they face heightened risks of gender-based violence in their homes and in their efforts outside the home to earn an income and secure food, water and essential supplies.

"If the world does not pay attention, the millions of people in need of food aid will become a forgotten statistic," says Capasso, "and the vast majority of them are girls and young women suffering the worst consequences."

The world is currently at a "tipping point" for hunger. "If life-saving humanitarian assistance isn't urgently stepped up, 300,000 people could starve to

death every single day," cautions Plan International CEO Stephen Omollo.



Loko lives in Ethiopia's Oromia region. She received food supplements for her family.



After Bukra lost all of her cattle, she was forced to move her family to a roadside in the Oromia region to access food and water distributed by aid agencies.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The majority of those receiving assistance from Plan were children under five, parents and caregivers, and pregnant and lactating women.
- We prioritized cash transfers to pregnant and lactating women and children affected by severe acute malnutrition.
- Around 12 million pastoralists (nomadic farmers) live in Ethiopia, generally in the most remote parts of the country. Many are now under threat from climate change and drought, which has forced them to give up their way of life. While farming families can recover from drought in one or two seasons, pastoralists need four to five years to regenerate their livestock.

Thank you for your support.

Last year we sent out a call to our supporters to help us address this worldwide crisis. Thank you for taking action in support of our emergency response efforts.



Click or scan the QR code to learn how you can support girls until we are all equal.

WHAT'S NEW AT PLAN

Our Shared Dream

We see the world as it is and the world as it could be. No matter how complex the challenges, a better future is possible.

It takes **determination**.

It takes **optimism**.

It takes **vision**.

Our “moon shot” vision is equality for girls everywhere. Improving the lives of girls improves the lives of everyone in the family and the community. That understanding, which we know you share, is at the heart of our fundraising campaign, Until We Are All Equal. When you support this campaign, you’re trusting us to identify the greatest threats to equality, especially for girls, and respond to them as they arise.

Just going to school every day is impossible for many girls, with one in six living in a conflict zone. That’s why, right now, about 120 million girls are missing out on an education. What’s more, many girls – 12 million every year – are forced into early marriage, placing them at a heightened risk of dying from complications of early pregnancy or childbirth.

There are 500 million girls alive on our planet today, each filled with promise and potential and with their whole futures ahead of them. How do you transform the world? Start by investing in girls.



About Plan International Canada

Plan International Canada is a member of a global organization dedicated to advancing children’s rights and equality for girls. Plan International has been building powerful partnerships with and for children for over 85 years and is now active in more than 80 countries. We stand with children, especially girls, wherever they are oppressed, exploited, left behind or not equally valued. We’re determined optimists, and we will continue to persevere until we are all equal.

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