



The world's most pressing humanitarian crises and the children caught in them

Introduction

The State Department's travel advisories warn tourists of potential dangers and areas to avoid. **But these are not just risky places for travelers — they are home to millions of children** who wake up each day surrounded by war, hunger, and instability. At World Vision, we've seen one truth in the hardest places to be a child: danger is constant. ***BUT SO IS HOPE.***

Why humanitarian assistance matters to the U.S. and American Christians

The need for emergency humanitarian assistance is one of the best indicators of instability. If people cannot meet their most basic needs, affected areas become **incubators for mass migration and infectious disease, as well as extremism and violence** against women and children. All of which spread to destabilize regions.

Crises have real impact on children and families. Undergirded by longstanding support from American Christians, **U.S. humanitarian assistance is a powerful tool** to meet urgent needs, keep instability from spreading, and affirm our value for each human life. World Vision partners with thousands of churches in the U.S. and in nearly 100 countries to **reach the children God loves.**

SUDAN



BY THE NUMBERS

- **3.2 million** malnourished children under 5
- **90%** of Sudan's 19 million school-age children are out of school
- **Nearly 25 million** people, including 14 million children, are in humanitarian need
- **Nearly 14 million** people displaced

Children shoulder the heaviest burdens of this devastating crisis, facing violence and hunger that threaten their lives. The multifaceted crisis has heightened child protection concerns, especially for girls who are increasingly at risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, hazardous work, and child marriage.

In Port Sudan, World Vision supports displaced families with clean water, shelter kits, psychosocial support, and more. **But insecurity continues to limit humanitarian access, even as hunger and a deadly cholera outbreak spread.** The disease now affects 17 of Sudan's 18 states, compounding the suffering of families already devastated by conflict, hunger, forced displacement, and a collapsed healthcare system.

With weakened immune systems, **Sudan's 3.2 million malnourished children under 5 are at higher risk dying from cholera and other waterborne diseases.** The rainy season has accelerated the spread in overcrowded sites hosting displaced people and refugees.

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children World Vision treats for malnutrition make a full recovery

OTHER AREAS TO WATCH



SYRIA

More than 14 years of war and widespread displacement have taken a major toll on the country and its people. Recent political transitions leave uncertainties for Syrian refugees returning to homes, schools, and healthcare centers destroyed by both conflict and devastating earthquakes in 2023.



NIGER

Niger is a hub for forced migration in the Sahel, hosting nearly one million refugees. Conflict and extremism in neighboring Nigeria and other bordering countries, coupled with drought and economic desperation risk a surge of new migrants into Niger with few resources available to respond.



UKRAINE

The situation in Ukraine remains dire after four years of ongoing hostilities and repeated attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure. Millions of families are experiencing prolonged power outages, damaged housing, and limited access to basic services. More than 2,400 children have been killed or injured since the escalation, averaging 16 child casualties each week.



Child refugee from Ukraine in a refugee camp

DRC



BY THE NUMBERS

- **14.9 million** people in humanitarian need
- **8.2 million** people displaced, projected to reach 9 million by the end of 2026
- **26.6 million** people are food insecure, including 14.5 million children

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), **control of mineral-rich areas has fueled violence.** Conflict has pushed families from their homes and left children with few options other than to labor in gold, cobalt, and copper mines. **Revenue from poorly regulated mines have repeatedly been linked to the financing of armed groups.** These groups profit from insecurity, while children pay the price.

In recent months, **a landslide at the Rubaya mine killed 200 people, 70 of them children.** Stories like this are all too common as children are treated as expendable resources in pursuit of wealth and funding for continued conflict.

Through a new child labor program, World Vision and the U.S. Department of Labor are working to protect children in the DRC from exploitation. The program focuses on keeping severely at-risk children in school and out of the mines.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **5.7 million** people suffering from food insecurity
- **1.3 million** people internally displaced from their homes
- **6.4 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance

HAITI



In Haiti, childhood has become synonymous with survival. Once spaces of learning and laughter, schools are now targets, sometimes occupied by armed groups or shuttered due to insecurity. Children no longer fetch water or attend church without fear of stray bullets or abduction.

The security crisis driven by gang violence in Haiti has resulted in a profound child protection crisis. Gang violence has gone beyond insecurity and has triggered the collapse of systems vital to ensuring children's wellbeing: education, food supply chains, and healthcare. **With gangs tightening their grip on major transit routes, access to food and basic services has become dangerously restricted,** pushing children into hunger and hopelessness. Some are forced to flee their homes, others to watch their families disintegrate.