



*After incessant and extreme rains flooded everything, a South Sudanese family was able to save nothing more than one single basket of essentials*

© Welthungerhilfe

# EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND 2021

Report on Welthungerhilfe's Emergency Relief Fund



# The Welthungerhilfe Emergency Relief Fund

## A Strong Response in Disaster Situations

Weather extremes increasingly affect the lives of many millions of people around the world. In 2021, the devastating consequences of the climate crisis were also felt in Germany: forest fires, storms and floods are on the rise. In the countries of the global South, heat waves, plagues of locusts and hailstorms are pushing countless people into despair. Additionally, there are wars and epidemics such as Ebola and COVID-19, which the media report on – while other crises remain unnoticed.





In these cases, Welthungerhilfe’s Emergency Relief Fund provides funds that can be accessed for specific purposes and for the various emergencies. The money often serves as an unbureaucratic start-up funding before other donors such as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) or the European Union (EU) respond.



40-year-old Muzamil Ayubu is delighted to receive a goat through the Emergency Relief Fund after a devastating hailstorm in northern Uganda ©Welthungerhilfe

## When Every Day Counts

### Advantages of the Emergency Relief Fund

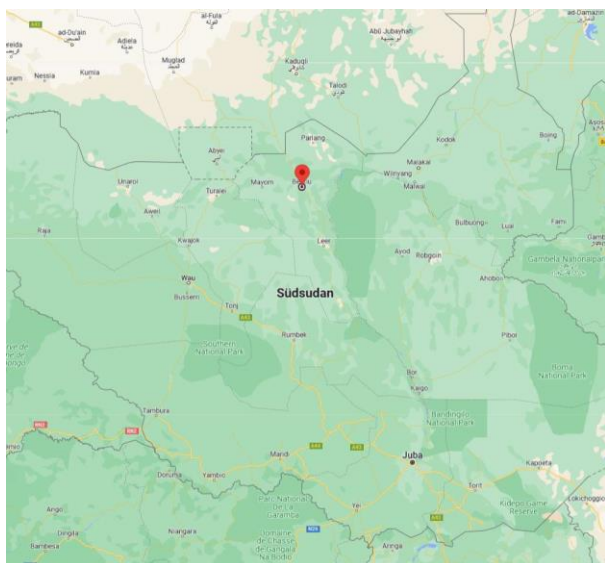
 <p><b>Rapid</b> Financial resources require only short decision-making and approval processes.</p>	 <p><b>Targeted</b> Experts on the ground assess the situation and can initiate immediate relief measures within an hour.</p>
 <p><b>Effective</b> Pooling of financial resources in order to be able to act appropriately in the medium and long term.</p>	 <p><b>Demand-driven</b> Emergency aid also reaches countries that are not covered by the media.</p>

The basic idea of the Emergency Relief Fund is simple: The fund collects resources before - and not after - the emergency occurs. In the event of a disaster, Welthungerhilfe can access these funds immediately and initiate rapid emergency measures within hours. At the same time, experts focus on long-term reconstruction by working with the population to (re)build houses, repair bridges, restore fields and install early warning systems.

In this 2021 Emergency Relief Report, you will read about which Welthungerhilfe emergency aid missions were financed through the fund last year. The presented projects are structured according to the causes of the respective disaster: Climate change, COVID-19 and conflict.

## CAUSE OF THE CRISIS: CLIMATE CHANGE

### South Sudan: Surviving after Floods and Displacement



*In the northern state of Unity, more than 200,000 people fled the severe flooding. Source: Google Maps*

South Sudan experienced severe flooding for the third consecutive year in 2021. This time, they were the worst since 1962. After weeks of heavy rains, the White Nile and other rivers burst their banks. The massive amount of water washed away houses and flooded farmland. More than **835,000 people** had to flee their homes to save their lives. Unity State in the north of the country was particularly hard hit. **Here, thousands of families waded for days through waist-deep water** to seek shelter in higher grounds. **They left behind drowned animals and destroyed crops.** "We were successful farmers," said Nyapuo Kuol Bachuy, who fled to an emergency shelter in the town of Bentiu. "The flood destroyed everything. We lost all our crops. For eight days, I walked with my family to this refugee camp. Every day it rained. We slept lying down in the water."

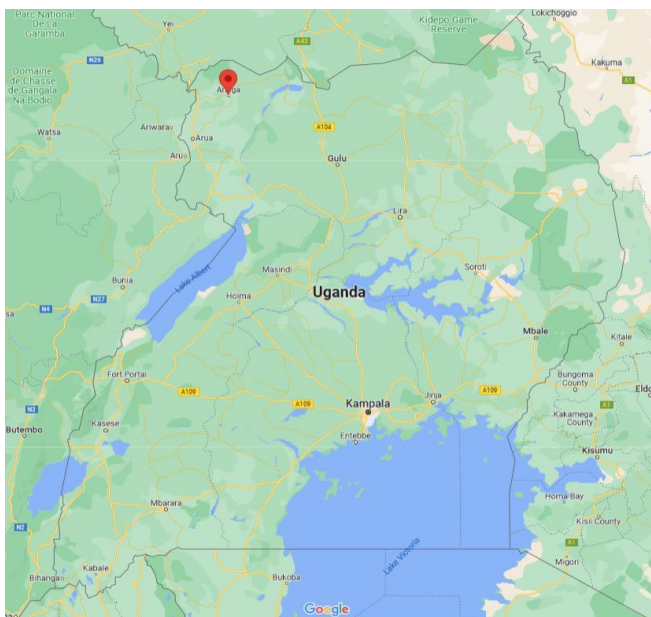
### Food, Hygiene Kits and Rapid Cash Assistance

Welthungerhilfe immediately provided **380,000 euros** from its Emergency Relief Fund to support displaced families in three temporary camps as well as host families in the town of Bentiu. Some relatives took in more than 20 flood victims, even though they themselves barely had enough to live on because of the consequences of the civil war, drought and locust infestations. **1,000 families received hygiene kits**, each containing two water canisters, a bucket with a tap to wash their hands and 12 bars of soap. Combined with **awareness campaigns**, the hygiene items also protect against the spread of **COVID-19**. **Menstrual kits for 1,000 women and girls** included panties, washable sanitary napkins, laundry- and body soap, and a rechargeable solar flashlight. This kept school-age girls from missing classes during their menstruation. **500 households were enabled to build emergency shelters for themselves with tarpaulins, mats, ropes and poles.** For 200 chronically ill and elderly people who could not do this themselves, others built the shelters and received 60 euros for the materials and their labor. To ensure food security for **1,600 particularly vulnerable families**, Welthungerhilfe provided them each with around **58 euros in cash** for three months. In addition, dikes around the refugee camps were improved and sealed. To achieve this, Welthungerhilfe organized 5,000 bags to be filled and 1,500 tools such as spades and hoes.



*Often, two families have to share an emergency shelter in the camp for internally displaced persons in the city of Bentiu. ©Welthungerhilfe*

## Uganda: Reconstruction after the Hailstorm



Severe hailstorms swept across northeastern Uganda in September 2021. Source: Google Maps

The Yumbe district in the far northeastern corner of Uganda has so far taken in around 232,000 people who had fled across the border from the violence in their homeland of South Sudan. The local smallholder farmers are working hard to ensure food security for all resident and migrant families. Then, **on September 8, a severe hailstorm swept through the region.** The local civil protection agency calculated an economic damage of 14 million euros: **6,881 hectares of cereal crops were destroyed**, 410 animals died, countless buildings were wrecked, **including the homes of more than 5,360 families.** "I lost all the plants in my garden, 23 ducks, over 30 chickens and four goats," one smallholder farmer told the Welthungerhilfe team shortly after the disaster. People urgently needed food, seeds for vegetables, beans and sorghum, goats and tools.

### Goats, Seeds and Cash for Basic Necessities

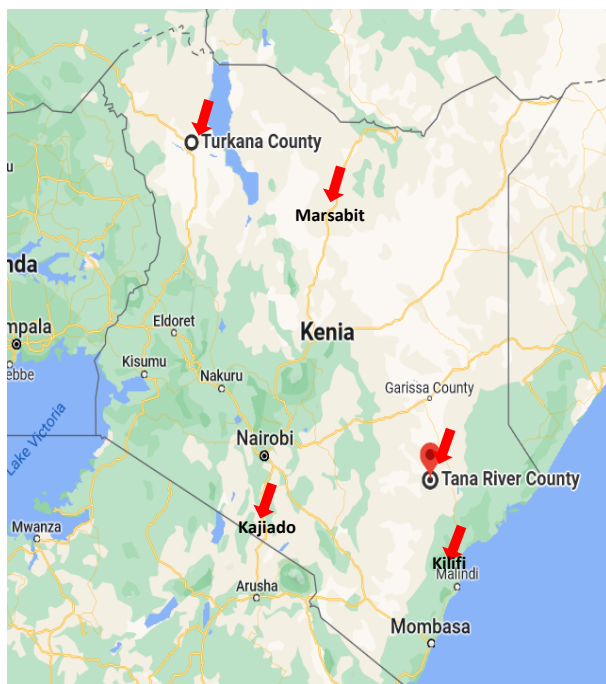
In close consultation with local authorities and other organizations, Welthungerhilfe supported **250 particularly hard-hit households** in Yumbe with **cash for food**. **1,500 families received female goats** that are able to reproduce and can provide an income base for the future. **2,210 families** were able to create a new livelihood with agricultural inputs such as corn, beans, cowpeas and hand hoes. **The Emergency Relief Fund provided a total of 113,711 euros for the life-saving emergency aid measures.**

*"Before the disaster, I supported my family with farming and poultry breeding, but the hailstorm took away everything. I am grateful to Welthungerhilfe for the seeds and the goat. I can now sow in time for my harvest to mature."  
Bako Kadija, a 50-year-old widow from the village of Mazanga*



Internally displaced farmer Bako Kadija is happy with her little goat. ©Welthungerhilfe

## Kenya: Preventing Hunger during Severe Droughts



The emergency aid now covers the project regions of Tana River, Turkana and Marsabit. Kajiado and Kilifi will join.  
Source: Google Maps

The situation in the Horn of Africa is becoming increasingly dramatic. In October 2021, locations along the coast and in the southeast of Kenya reported the **lowest rainfall since 1981**. The now third drought in a row is threatening to cause hunger and poverty for nearly three million people. **600,000 children are already acutely malnourished**, and the government has declared a state of emergency. Water sources have dried up, animals are dying and the distances to reach any water at all are becoming longer and longer. This in turn leads to tensions and conflicts. Especially pastoralist families in the regions of Kajiado, Tana River and Marsabit are facing existential threats. Children cannot go to school, because they do not have enough to eat and have to walk long distances to fetch water for the family. The soil is parched and harvests fail. In addition, prices for basic foodstuffs are rising. As a result of the devastating locust plague and the corona crisis, many families no longer have any savings to now cope with this new crisis.

### Water, Food, Animal Feed and Healthy Livestock

Welthungerhilfe works in the five most affected regions. With **40,000 euros from the Emergency Relief Fund**, the organisation was able to initiate large-scale measures for **56,789 families** in Tana River, Turkana, Marsabit, Kilifi and Kajiado, before money was made available from the German Foreign Office and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation. In Marsabit, **mothers receive support for their malnourished children**. Vaccination campaigns protect surviving animal herds. **Nutritional screenings at schools** identify children at risk. **Warehouses are stockpiled, wells and boreholes are rehabilitated, and livestock feed is provided**. Families receive seeds and agricultural inputs. In addition, training in beekeeping provides alternative sources of income for families.



The drought is causing clean water sources to dry up. Even for contaminated water, women have to walk long distances ©Welthungerhilfe

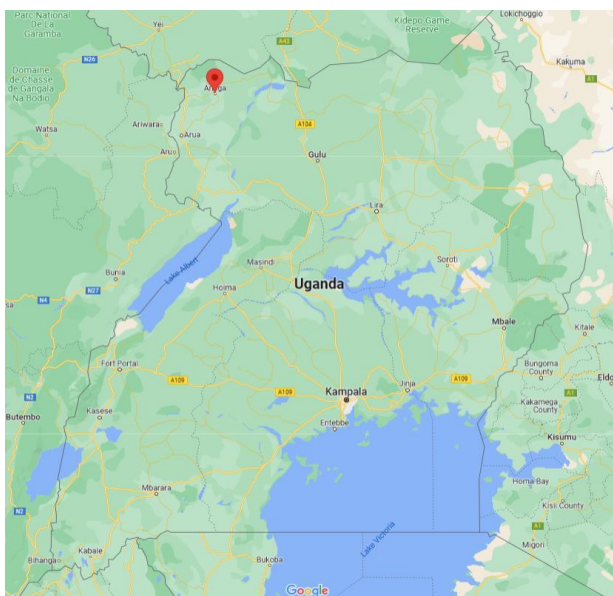


*“The situation was really dramatic. There was a huge threat that people would starve. With our Emergency Relief Fund, we were able to act quickly and prevent the worst.”*

**Kelvin Shingles, Welthungerhilfe Country Director in Kenya**

## CAUSE OF THE CRISIS: COVID-19

### Uganda: Reducing Fear of the Virus



The second Corona wave spread rapidly throughout the West Nile region of northeastern Uganda. Source: Google

For many African countries, the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus posed huge challenges. The Ugandan government was among those who took massive measures to contain the spread of the virus. Together with international non-government organizations, it raised awareness of prevention measures and promoted vaccination campaigns. In June 2021, it issued another lockdown. The West Nile region, where Welthungerhilfe is implementing four food security projects, was one of the infection hot spots. **Here, health care facilities lacked almost all essential supplies** such as soap, disinfectants, mattresses or medical gloves to control the pandemic. **Caregivers had to be afraid of infecting themselves.** Hospital wards were not able to provide enough food for their patients. This meant that COVID-19 patients went home where they were likely to infect relatives.

### Protective Gear, hand washing equipment, eggs, rice and radio programs

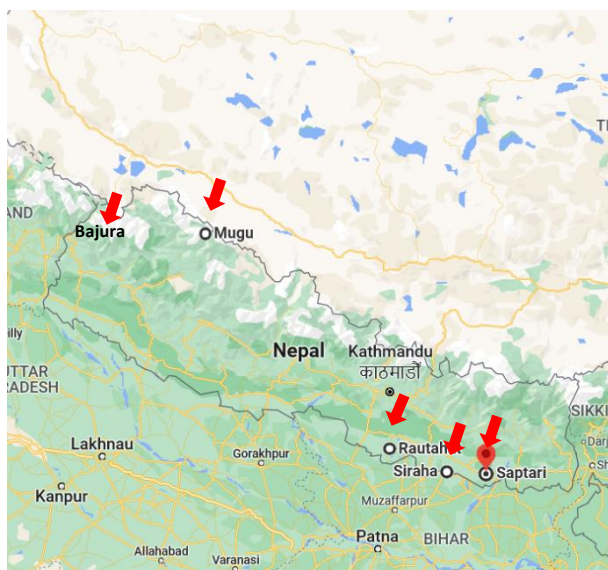
*“Welthungerhilfe was the first organization that provided us with aprons, masks, disinfectant, gloves and food supplies. This gave us the energy and confidence to go back to caring for our patients without fear.”*  
**Health care worker Joel from the Kuluva hospital**

In close cooperation with the district administration, Welthungerhilfe introduced COVID-19 measures to its project work in the West Nile region. Until funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) became available, the **Emergency Relief Fund** stepped in with **75,156 euros**. In the four districts of Arua, Terego, Madi Okollo and Yumbe, **16,145 people** received **food rations containing eggs, milk, sugar, rice and dried fish**. 130 families received water canisters, soap, face masks, sanitary napkins and panties. **12,000 masks were distributed** and 20 healthcare centers received food and hygiene items for their patients and staff. Welthungerhilfe set up **290 hand washing facilities** in churches, mosques, schools and hospitals. 3,636 students and teachers were able to continue their lessons thanks to hygiene kits. 16 radio programs with 120 public service announcements successfully educated the population about distancing rules and hygiene measures during the pandemic.



Joel, director of the COVID-19 unit at Kuluva Hospital, is grateful for food supplies and protective equipment for his team. ©Welthungerhilfe

## Nepal: Medical Supplies for Hospitals



Welthungerhilfe distributed food and medical supplies in five project regions. Source: Google Maps

At the beginning of the second wave of corona infections, only a few people in Nepal caught the virus. However, from mid-April 2021 onwards, the number of new daily infections rose sharply. Within a month, it had reached 8,000, making Nepal one of the countries with the absolute **highest number of cases per day** – despite its small population of 29.5 million people. The Nepalese government responded with strict lockdowns and border closures. For the disadvantaged and vulnerable families in Welthungerhilfe's projects, this meant a **severe loss of income and a threat of hunger and malnutrition for their children**. A year earlier, food insecurity in the country had already risen by 23.2 percent and the population had not yet recovered from this. It quickly became clear that **without immediate help, they would not have enough to eat**. There was also a shortage of life-

saving vaccines, oxygen, testing materials, qualified personnel, medication and other medical supplies.

## Oxygen, Protective Equipment and Food Supplies

When the Nepalese government called for help, Welthungerhilfe immediately coordinated the distribution of essential goods together with other national and international organizations. Already at the end of May, all preparations had been completed. Welthungerhilfe ended up equipping **three COVID-19 treatment centers and nine isolation centers in five districts** (Saptari, Siraha and Rautahat in the southeast of the country and Bajura and Mugu in the northwest) with medical supplies such as oxygen concentrators and cylinders, measuring equipment and protective clothing. In the project regions of Saptari and Rautahat, **1,272 families received food rations** containing rice, lentils, cooking oil, sugar and salt. **1,311 malnourished children also received the nourishing food supplement Nutrimix**, eggs, ghee (clarified butter) and potatoes. The food package fed the families for one month. **The budget of 66,573 euros** also included education campaigns on hygiene and nutrition. *Change agents* and other volunteers support the project team with home visits and the distribution of leaflets. This has significantly raised the awareness of better nutrition among families.



Before the food rations are handed over, all documents are carefully checked. ©Welthungerhilfe

## India: Awareness Protects against SARS-CoV-2



In the states of Odisha and Rajasthan, Welthungerhilfe introduced measures to contain the corona virus. Source: Google Maps

With a peak of four million new COVID-19 infections each day, the Corona virus spread very quickly during the second and third waves of infections in India. Thousands of people died every day. In January 2021, the government responded in with a large-scale vaccination program and a strict lockdown. Both measures successfully contained the virus, but **many disadvantaged families in rural areas suffered from the curfews**. They were unable to cultivate their fields, care for their animals or carry out their work as day laborers. Especially in rural areas, there was a lack of food, medical masks and disinfectants. **More and more children were affected by malnutrition**. The Welthungerhilfe team worked quickly to identify three project regions where people were suffering particularly badly from the pandemic.

### Education in 150 villages, Food Supplies and Hygiene Materials

With a budget of almost **100,000 euro**, Welthungerhilfe improved the situation of more than **15,000 people, including many elderly people, malnourished children and other particularly vulnerable groups**. In Khorda and Baleswar in the state of Odisha, people had not yet recovered from the destructive cyclone Yaas. In Alwar district in the state of Rajasthan, smallholder farming families had been living in extremely precarious conditions even before COVID-19. In consultation with the responsible health authorities, Welthungerhilfe, together with its local partner organizations, distributed **food packages, disinfectants and masks** to particularly needy families and COVID-19 patients. **1,400 malnourished children received the supplementary food Nutrimix**. 16 healthcare centers received urgently needed protective equipment for their staff. **5,500 students and their teachers in 45 schools** were able to protect themselves from infection with masks and disinfectant and thus **did not miss any classes**. An education campaign on prevention and hygiene measures reached all families in the 150 villages in the three selected districts. "When I developed a fever, I didn't leave the house for 15 days," says 15-year-old Ramkrishna from Sakat village in Alwar district proudly. "I didn't know about that before." Thanks to a thermometer and oxygen meter that they had received, the older brother was able to monitor Ramkrishna's health.



Oxygen- and temperature checks help to monitor the health status of particularly vulnerable patients. ©Welthungerhilfe



## CAUSE OF THE CRISIS: CONFLICT

### Ethiopia: Start-up aid for Internally Displaced Persons



The project areas in Abala, Erebti and Chifra are located in the Afar Region in northern Ethiopia. Source: Google Maps

The violent conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region, which has continued since late 2020, has driven thousands of people to flee their homes. Most of them have taken refuge in the neighboring northern regions of Afar and Amhara. The need for humanitarian aid is enormous: families lack food, clean water, shelter and basic household items such as mattresses, blankets, mats and kitchen utensils. The lack of access to clean water and sanitation in particular has increased the risk of contracting COVID-19 or other communicable diseases. Together with its partners, Welthungerhilfe went ahead and prepared comprehensive emergency measures.

*“ I will be traumatized by this conflict for the rest of my life. I lost all my livestock and suffered a lot. Fortunately, I qualified for the cash program at the emergency shelter in Erebti. For this I thank the generous people and pray for them.”*

**Humud Hussein, 78, internally displaced person in Erebti**

### Water Tanks, Cooking Pots, Bed Sheets and Cash

In the emergency shelters of the **Abala, Erebti and Chifra districts**, Welthungerhilfe reached **4,273 families with education campaigns** to control the pandemic. **Four 10,000-liter water tanks** were built as a foundation for a safe drinking water supply for internally displaced persons. **1,700 families received multipurpose soaps, water canisters and water purification tablets**. More than 1,000 households were able to make their emergency shelters a little more dignified with mats, bed sheets, cooking pots, solar lights, cups, plates, pans and ladles. Welthungerhilfe distributed **cash in the amount of 56.60 euros** each to **215 particularly needy families** for two months. In total, the **Emergency Relief Fund provided 150,000 euros**.



The new household items returned some dignity to the lives of internally displaced persons. ©Welthungerhilfe

## Making a Difference – Together

The Emergency Relief Fund enables Welthungerhilfe to place donations right where they are most urgently needed. In 2021, this was the case in Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda. With around 925,500 euros, the Emergency Relief Fund supported families who had lost their livelihoods because of prolonged droughts, flooding, hailstorms, violence or COVID-19.

Often, money from the fund serves as unbureaucratic start-up funding before other donors such as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) or the European Union (EU) respond.

You too can help: With your support, we can respond quickly and efficiently after disasters - and can even prevent further emergency situations through disaster preparedness.



*In India, many people suffered from the consequences of and measures against the Corona pandemic. In addition to hygiene kits, families with malnourished children received baby food through the Emergency Relief Fund.*

*©Welthungerhilfe*

Thank you very much for your support!



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