



# Emergency Relief Fund

For a world without hunger

REPORT 2017/2018



## Dear friends of Welthungerhilfe,



Regarding disasters all over the world, 2017 was no exception: Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc in the USA and the Caribbean, Portugal had to fight the heaviest forest fires it had experienced in years, Mexico City was shaken by an earthquake. People were faced with sudden hardships, there were many deaths, whole stretches of land were devastated. That is terrible!

What worries me the most, however, are all the forgotten crises that do not make it into our headlines, or only briefly. Millions of families all over the world suffer, because extreme rains have washed away their entire existence. In other regions, farmers are losing their harvests because of a lack of rain. Other people, such as the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar, go hungry, because they have to flee their homeland in order to avoid brutal violence and persecution. Since August 2017, at least 655,500 people have escaped across the border to Bangladesh, completely overwhelming the local authorities and municipalities.

During my official travels in January 2018, I was able to witness the immensity of the needs myself. There is a lack of toilets, food, drinking water, shelters – just about everything is missing. In addition, the monsoon is now approaching, which will aggravate the situation even further.

Through its Emergency Relief Fund, Welthungerhilfe quickly provided 2,500 families with food parcels and 1,500 families received hygiene sets. Meanwhile, other programmes are taking effect, and the fund can save lives elsewhere. Logistics tend to be the biggest challenge. It is our goal to always organise procurement as locally, nationally or regionally as possible – in this order. This does not always work. Sometimes, it even makes sense to distribute vouchers or money, for example in Zimbabwe, which has functioning markets.

Please read for yourselves how much your support has achieved during the past year. I thank you for your commitment, and I hope that you will remain loyal to us.

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Amling  
Welthungerhilfe Emergency Team Coordinator

### Publication details

**Responsible for content:** Maike Schopf,  
Tel. +49 (0)228 2288-421, maike.schopf@welthungerhilfe.de

**Design:** MediaCompany – Agentur für Kommunikation GmbH

**Photos:** Roland Brockmann (p. 1), Thees Jagels (p. 3, 8), Daniel Pilar (p. 3, 6), Sajana Shrestha/People in Need (p. 3, 4, 5), Welthungerhilfe (p. 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11)

**Cover photo:** Refugees receive food rations in South Sudan.



### Sierra Leone/Freetown

After heavy rains, entire neighbourhoods are destroyed in landslides in Freetown, the nation's capital. 750 suddenly homeless people receive mattresses and blankets. In Bo City, the third-largest town in Sierra Leone, another 100 people receive food and crockery.



### Congo/South Kivu

The living conditions of the people in the province of South Kivu are deteriorating at an alarming rate. A team of Welthungerhilfe experts assessed the situation and analysed the most urgent needs.



Whether they make the headlines or not – catastrophes drive millions of people into despair. With its Emergency Relief Fund, Welthungerhilfe was immediately on the spot to save lives in eight countries in 2017.



### Nepal/Saptari

The heaviest rainfalls in 60 years destroyed the livelihoods of the local peasant farmers in the South. Welthungerhilfe distributed food and hygiene articles such as soap, mosquito nets and water canisters to 11,600 families.



### Bangladesh/Cox's Bazar

More than 655,000 Rohingya fled from the violence in Myanmar to neighbouring Bangladesh. They suffer from hunger and malnutrition. The emergency fund provided food and hygiene sets for the most vulnerable families.

### India/Bihar

Massive rains flooded large parts of northern India. About 33,000 people in 25 remote villages received clean drinking water and 2,000 families received sets for emergency shelters and hygiene.



### Uganda/Elegu

Eleven hours of continuous rain drove 500 families into sudden homelessness. With the help of tarpaulins, tools and wooden poles, mattresses, sheets and mosquito nets, cooking pots and soap, they were able to manage their most dire needs.



### Malawi/Karonga

The plight of civil war refugees from Congo and Burundi in remote Malawi is another forgotten disaster. We build wells and secure the drinking water supply in the camps.



### Zimbabwe/Harare

In January, heavy rainfall destroyed 31 houses in Budirio West. Welthungerhilfe quickly provided the inhabitants with hygiene articles, health care protection and cash for a new start.

# Nepal: Support for people in remote villages



In the hard-to-reach village of Pairobeshi, 95 families lost their homes after a landslide. They are grateful for every kind of support.

**Two years after the catastrophic earthquake, Nepal experienced another disaster in August 2017. Days of never-ending rain led to the most severe floods for decades in the Himalayan regions. Around 63,000 families lost their homes, one third of the entire country was inundated, many fields, bridges and roads were completely destroyed. Together with its partners, Welthungerhilfe supported almost 11,600 families that had lost their livelihoods because of the monsoon rains.**

“These were the most extreme rains in 60 years” reports Asja Hanano, Welthungerhilfe Country Director, from the capital Kathmandu. “Once again, the poor were hit the worst. Even before the floods, there were problems with hunger and malnourished children in that region. Clean drinking water and toilets were a luxury. Now even those few wells that existed are flooded and polluted, and the dirty water carries the risk of disease. The families are all subsistence farmers – they lost their entire harvests and whatever supplies they had kept.” The districts of Rautahat, Saptari and Mahottari were affected the most. As with the 2015 earthquake, again most victims live in hard-to-reach and remote villages. Together with its European Alliance 2015 partners Concern Worldwide and People in Need, Welthungerhilfe managed to organise the emergency aid quickly and effi-

ciently. After coordinating with the responsible authorities, the employees, volunteers and colleagues from local partner organisations distributed food- and hygiene products packages to 11,600 families.

## **Food and hygiene kits to last for one month**

For a family of averagely five to six members, each set included: 30 kilograms of rice, 5 kilograms of dhal, 2 kilograms of sugar, 1 kilogram of salt, 2 litres of oil. The hygiene sets included a 20-litre bucket, 120 water purifying tablets, 1 jug, 2 pieces of soap, 2 pieces of laundry soap, sanitary napkins and a mosquito net. All relief goods had been calculated to last for one month. In the end, staff was able to distribute even more packages than originally planned.

Among those who received aid, there were also 7,400 members of particularly poor and disadvantaged groups, such as the Dalits. “The parcels saved our lives” says a young mother from the village of Mushar in the district of Saptari. “I thought our days were numbered. Right before my eyes, I saw all the labour and efforts I had put into my rice paddy disappear in the floods. I can’t remember how we managed to get out of our hut and into the street. All I do remember is that our neighbour started screaming around midnight. I grabbed my

three-month-old baby, and my husband and I ran outside into the night.” Until aid finally reached them, they stayed in a makeshift shelter made from a tarpaulin they had fixed to some wooden poles at the roadside. They had nothing to eat – the distributed food saved them.

### Mosquito nets can prevent diseases

A later survey of the people affected by the flood confirmed the success of the relief effort. Respondents indicated that the nature and quality of the relief goods exactly fitted their needs, and that they arrived in sufficient quantity. The distribution points were also centralised enough so that they could reach them without too much difficulty. Almost all families had been using their mosquito nets, that way minimising the risk of diseases transmitted by insects. The water purification tablets also helped to prevent more people from becoming ill.

“It was one of the fastest relief efforts in this country,” says Asja Hanano. Welthungerhilfe and its Alliance2015 partners are now working together on concepts for reconstruction measures. “Our programme focuses on the long-term development of the three districts,” says the Welthungerhilfe Country Director.



The village of Tikuliya in the district of Rautahat almost disappears in the one-metre-high floods.



In Pairobeshi, families use corrugated iron, stones and wooden poles to construct latrines.

Aid supplies reached the affected villages in record time.



# Bangladesh: Escaping the horror



In the Leda refugee camp, the persecuted Rohingya can obtain water for cooking and washing.

**Myanmar's ruthless violence towards the Rohingya shocked the world in August 2017. Within a very brief period, more than 655,500 people fled across the border to Bangladesh. The situation in the makeshift refugee camps was devastating. Welthungerhilfe managed to quickly provide especially needy families with the most basic necessities.**

The refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar district look like a sea made up of thousands of tents. Starting at the end of August 2017, over 650,000 Rohingya fled from Myanmar across the border to Bangladesh, all within a few weeks. Every single one of them was in need of humanitarian aid. New, spontaneously built camps sprang up all over the place, sometimes put up within hours. Newly arriving refugees settled in rice fields, among the hills or at the side of the road, wherever they could find an empty spot of land. Then came the Monsoon rains and turned the ground between the tarpaulin and bamboo pole shelters into a quagmire.

Inside the camps, the fugitives are now safe, but the humanitarian situation remains catastrophic. There is too little food, almost no drinking water, a lack of medical supplies and sanitary facilities. Hundreds of people have to share a single toilet. The risk of catching an infectious disease such as cholera, measles or polio is extremely high.

Welthungerhilfe quickly provided the most vital aid. Together with its national partner ANANDO, the organisation distributed food packages via its Emergency Relief Fund. The pack-

ages, containing lentils, rice, oil and sugar, were given to 2,500 families. Additionally, the World Food Programme provided rice rations. That way, around 12,500 people were able to eat nutritious meals. 1,800 families received hygiene sets, including soap, water purifying tablets and canisters.

## **No longer going hungry**

Thanks to the emergency aid provided, Sher Mohammad and his family survived in the refugee camp Jamtoli. For eight long days, the 32-year-old rice farmer, his wife, three young children and elderly parents fled on foot. A kilo of rice was all he could take with him. "I had to leave my country in order to save my family's lives" he says. "My house was burned to the ground. The soldiers opened fire and yelled at us that we should leave and never come back; otherwise they would kill us. We ran for our lives. They shot my cousin and my neighbour to death. After we escaped, we had nothing to eat for days. What was the worst for me was to watch my parents and my children starve."

In the refugee camp, Sher Mohammad and his family no longer suffer from hunger, but it is completely unclear how their situation will continue. The fate of the Rohingya is one of the fastest growing catastrophes in the world. They urgently need additional support. Welthungerhilfe will not leave these traumatized people alone. Further projects are under way.

# India: Clean drinking water after the floods

**For days, Hurricane Harvey dominated the news last August, while another catastrophe in Southeast Asia went almost unnoticed: In Bihar alone, 17 million people were affected. In this northern Indian state, Welthungerhilfe provided roughly 33,000 people in 25 remote villages with clean drinking water. Women and children received supplementary food and medical advice, 2,000 families received emergency shelter sets and hygiene packages.**



In the district of Darbhanga, the floods swept away rice paddies, houses and gardens.

Volunteers from the communities helped to determine and select the neediest among the flood victims. Many of them belong to the minorities of the Dalits and Mahadalits. 2,000 families received tarpaulins, poles and tools to build emergency shelters. They also received hygiene sets containing water treatment tablets, detergents, mosquito nets and care articles. During the distribution, the village administration provided free meals. That way, the atmosphere remained peaceful.



Emergency aid distributors organise the relief supplies that the women later pick up and take to their villages (photo below).

Like most people in the hard-to-reach village of Karbola Tola, Jannati Khatoon was not prepared for the sudden floods. Together with her children and many others, the pregnant mother found shelter in a school building situated on higher grounds. But this is where the real disaster began: "There is no clean drinking water in the entire area. All we have is rice and lentils for a few days," is what Jannati Khatoon told the Welthungerhilfe team at the beginning of September. Together with the local organisation GPSVS, Welthungerhilfe arrived immediately to provide the flood victims with the basic necessities.

## **Children receive supplementary food**

"87 percent of the water pumps are flooded, eight out of ten rice paddies are gone, and the vegetable gardens are completely destroyed. There is a lack of food, especially for pregnant women and children," lists Ramesh Kumar, head of GPSVS, summarising the situation. Despite logistical challenges, Welthungerhilfe managed to quickly distribute supplementary food to 1,150 families. Jannati Khatoon was among those who received Nutrimix, a nutritious mixture of lentils, chickpeas, whole cane sugar, oil and salt, for herself and her children.

GPSVS and Welthungerhilfe also quickly solved the drinking water supply problem and defused the threat of epidemics such as typhoid and cholera. "We repaired 445 hand pumps, all of which are chlorinated and can provide safe drinking water that way," says Ramesh Kumar. "That's a lot more than we originally planned." His co-workers showed the villagers how to check the iron content with a simple method of using guava leaves and how to maintain the pumps. Doctors and nurses treated over 1,300 patients. Training courses taught families how to pay attention to hygiene during cooking or how to store drinking water safely – thus enabling them to prevent diseases.



# Malawi: Tracking a difficult escape



In the city of Karonga's transit camp, a secure water supply does not exist.

**Completely ignored by the international community, the South-East African state of Malawi is moving towards a humanitarian catastrophe. Every month, about 500 people cross the border from Tanzania in the North. They are fleeing the violence and ethnic persecution in the Democratic Republic of Congo or Burundi. Malawi is not prepared for them. Welthungerhilfe is now supplying clean drinking water.**

When they reach the northern border of Malawi, the refugees from Burundi have travelled at least 1,000 kilometres. Those coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo will have been on the road even longer. They all left their homelands to seek refuge in Malawi. They walk through Tanzania for weeks, travel by bus or other means. When they arrive in Malawi, the families are hungry and thirsty, they need medical treatment and a place to sleep. The population in the north of the country, however, is also poor, there is almost no water, and the authorities are overwhelmed. This causes conflicts between refugees and residents.

In the beginning of November, a Welthungerhilfe team investigated the situation on the Tanzanian border. Approximately 10,000 people crossed this border in 2017, and the numbers are rising. There are no permanent structures at the border posts. The UN Refugee Council has temporarily erected a tent at the Mbilima crossing point. There is a lack of shelters, sanitation and drinking water. Around 45 men, women and children enter the country every day at Mbilima. They wait around under a tree for days, until the border guards finally finish checking their papers. "We're hungry and thirsty," laments Ngendo Raphael in November. He is from Congo and left his home country with his wife and son due to ethnic persecution. They are looking for asylum in Malawi. The family waited for 24 hours at the border post for their papers and had not eaten or drunk anything during that time.

## **Quickly making drinking water available**

Together with the United Nations Refugee Council and the International Jesuit Refugee Service, Welthungerhilfe created an emergency aid plan in which it concentrates on the supply of drinking water. Once the rainy season is over, a well will be dug at the border crossing in Mbilima. The local population will be in charge of the maintenance work with the support of the water authority. In the next bigger city of Karonga, Welthungerhilfe is installing a water tower in the transit camp, with a water tap and seepage shaft. In the planned Katili refugee camp, not far from the district capital, Welthungerhilfe will supply the drinking water as well, in order to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

Together with his son Jean Raphael and his wife Laliya Sylvie, Ngendo Raphael fled the violence they faced in Congo.



# Uganda: Well-equipped for a new beginning

**After enduring eleven hours of non-stop extreme rain, 2,668 families in Elegu, in northern Uganda, became homeless due to the ensuing floods. Welthungerhilfe provided the families with building materials and household goods, which made it possible for people to start rebuilding only two weeks after the disaster.**

The rain started in the middle of the night. Eleven hours later, the entire village was flooded. The river Onyama was not able to contain the water masses, so the people of Elegu were forced to leave their huts and fields. When they returned, everything was destroyed. The mud huts had collapsed, thatched roofs, mattresses, crockery and food had been washed away. The entire seed was under a thick layer of mud.



In order to transport them, women pack sleeping mats and other supplies into large plastic bags.

## Temporary accommodations offer protection

Elegu in northern Uganda, only two kilometres from the South Sudanese border, serves as the first point of contact for civil war refugees from the neighbouring country. Here, they can find a space for living, food and water. After their exhausting escape, they finally find some peace and quiet. The Ugandan government runs a generous refugee policy and grants the refugees plots of land for a new beginning. In order to support both the host families and the refugees to live in a safe and secure environment, Welthungerhilfe has opened an office in Adjumani. This office is an hour's drive from Elegu, so the Welthungerhilfe team was able to assess the situation there after the heavy rains only two days after the flooding took place. "This is the first time we've been completely flooded," said village representative Oneka Julius.

In coordination with the government and other relief organisations, Welthungerhilfe provided 500 families with household goods and hygiene articles. The emergency aid packages included a tarpaulin and ten eucalyptus poles to build a temporary shelter, sleeping mats, blankets, a 20-litre water canister, a mosquito net, knives, cooking pots and a machete. "These are exactly the items that the families now need to protect themselves from rain, wind and the sun and to protect their health, privacy and dignity," explained Oneka Julius. The Ugandan government supplied maize meal, rice and beans, and national police officers provided security. Thanks to the Welthungerhilfe Emergency Relief Fund, some 2,800 people at least have a temporary roof over their heads now. The next step is helping the farmers build a new future for themselves with seed and agricultural training.



At Elegu Elementary School, 500 families wait patiently to receive household goods and hygiene items.

# Sierra Leone: Taking care of the essentials



The landslides injured many people. Blankets and food relieve the most urgent needs.

**The inhabitants of Sierra Leone's capital Freetown will never forget the morning of August 14, 2017. Extremely heavy non-stop rains caused rivers and canals to overflow. Masses of water poured down the hills and swept entire neighbourhoods away. At least 500 people died, 5,000 lost their homes. The employees of our country office reacted immediately to help those in need.**

On the very day of the disaster, the country office in Sierra Leone contacted the Bonn emergency aid team. With the situation being so serious, the Emergency Relief Fund made funds available immediately: The staff in Freetown was able to organise mattresses and blankets for 750 people who had lost all their belongings. They were staying with relatives or friends, some slept without a roof above their heads and on the bare earth. In order for the aid to reach the truly needy families, there is usually a registration process, but the responsible ministry initially lacked the capacities to register all the families. As soon as the list was available, the Welthungerhilfe team immediately started its distribution.

In addition to mattresses and blankets, 150 particularly affected families received food, charcoal and water for 90 days. The rations included dried fish, beans, salt and oil, eggs, dried milk and rice. All the important nutrients to prevent poor diets and malnutrition were included. The food packages were based on local eating habits and had already been distributed by Welthungerhilfe during the Ebola crisis. Welthungerhilfe staff also trained the families in balanced nutrition, health and hygiene. As a result of the floods, the risk of infectious diseases such as cholera had increased dramatically.

Shortly after the disaster in Freetown, Bo City, the third largest city, located in the country's interior, was also confronted with an emergency. Here too, rivers flooded streets, residential areas and gardens. Welthungerhilfe was able to take immediate action here as well as it happened to be implementing a waste management project in the city. In consultation with the authorities, eight employees and four volunteers took on the task of registering the needy families. This saved valuable time. The Welthungerhilfe office received volunteer support from the affected residents who lived in the flooded areas. They were the ones who knew the local situation best and were able to ensure that the



Entire neighbourhoods are buried under the enormous masses of earth.

emergency aid was delivered to the right people. 100 families received mattresses, pillows and blankets, food, water canisters, dishes and soap. The necessary funding was initially provided by the Welthungerhilfe Relief Fund, later the Hamburg Friends of Welthungerhilfe and the Friends of Sierra Leone Association took over.

# Zimbabwe: Reducing the risk of epidemics

After extremely heavy rains, typhoid fever broke out in Zimbabwe's capital Harare around Christmas 2016. In January 2017, Welthungerhilfe then supported 6,000 families with emergency aid packages and health education. Then, while these project activities were going on, a flash flood tore 31 houses in the Budiriro West district apart. Within 48 hours, families received hygiene kits, cash and information on how to prevent hygiene-related diseases.

"The immediate help was a gift from heaven," said a father of three from Budiriro. "I thank Welthungerhilfe for returning hope and dignity to us. Without the organisation's help, we wouldn't have known how to continue."

## Starting over with cash and relief supplies

This man was one of the 144 flood victims who had lost everything. Everyone received hygiene kits containing water canisters, soap and water treatment tablets plus 200 USD in cash for food, clothing, blankets and other essentials. "This enables us to start over" says the father. "My family and I will follow the hygiene instructions in order to avoid getting diarrhoea." Four weeks later, a Welthungerhilfe follow-up visit showed that none of the flood



Flood victims receive hygiene kits, cash and information on hygiene-related diseases.

victims had fallen ill with typhoid fever or other serious gastrointestinal infections.

# Congo: A looming catastrophe

Violence and political turmoil have prevailed in the Democratic Republic of Congo for more than 20 years. Thousands of people are internally displaced, especially in the east of the country. In the province of North Kivu, Welthungerhilfe has already been providing emergency aid for quite some time. Now, also the situation of the refugees in South Kivu is becoming critical.

Following several alarming reports, Welthungerhilfe sent two members of its emergency aid team to South Kivu in December. The aim was to assess the situation and collect information for a possible deployment. More than 600,000 men, women and children are seeking refuge in the region, fleeing from violent fighting and ethnic cleansing in their hometowns. Additionally, there are refugees from Burundi. Their situation is just as unbearable as that of the host families.

## Three scenarios for potential projects

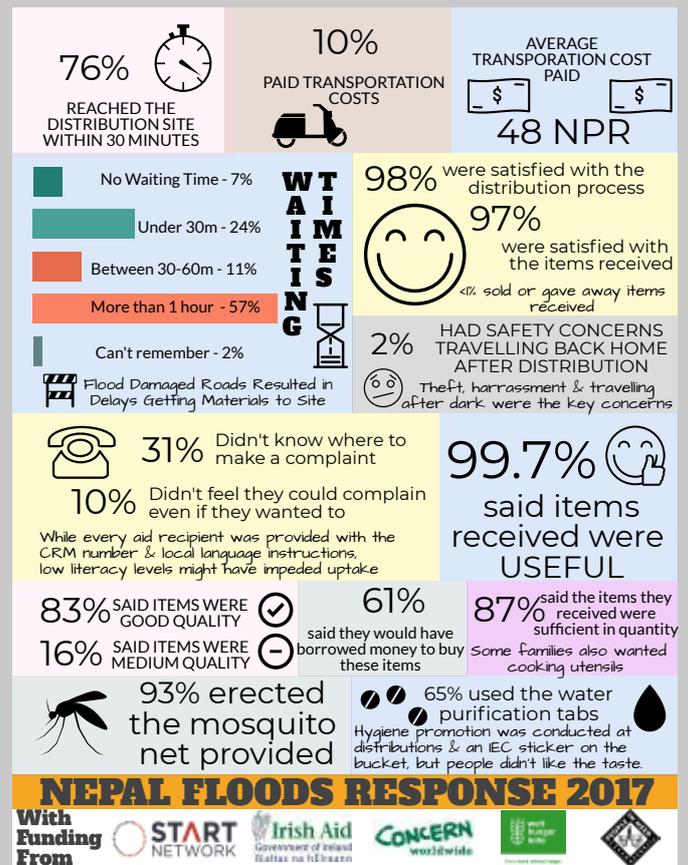
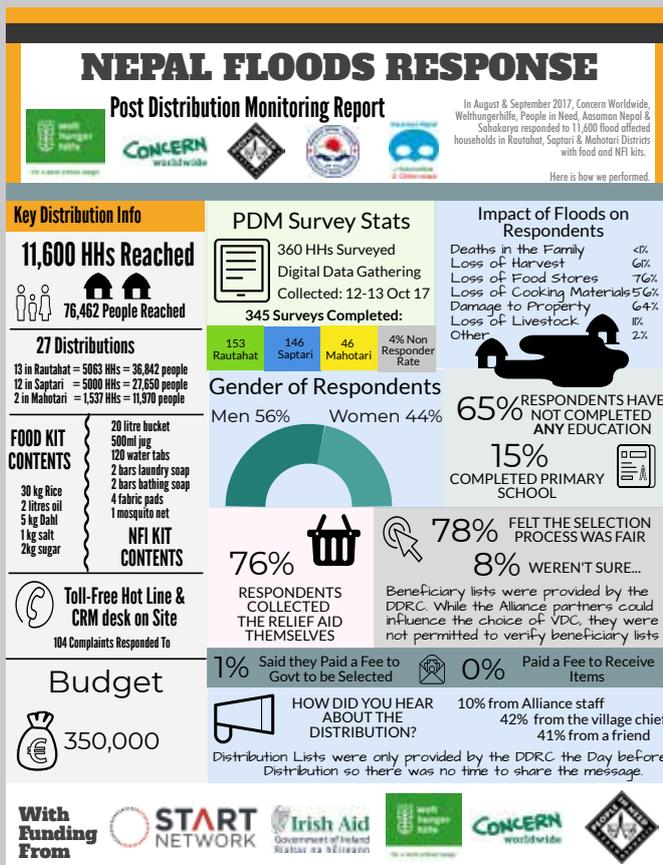
After thorough discussions with UN organisations, Alliance2015 partners and other local experts, Welthungerhilfe's team has drawn up three scenarios for possible projects. The most important criteria are urgency, accessibility and the security situation. These have to be evaluated and will



Accessibility and security are the deciding factors when it comes to a possible Welthungerhilfe deployment.

help with the decision-making. For example, logistics in a swampy area tend to be complex and expensive. This can mean that, with the same amount of funding, a lot more people can be helped in another, less difficult region. The collected background information will serve Welthungerhilfe as a basis for the most sensible options of an engagement in South Kivu.

# Accountability, respect and partnership



The flood victims in Nepal were very satisfied with the emergency relief activities.

**Welthungerhilfe has committed itself to an accountability that works in partnership with the local people. One of its instruments offers the possibility to file complaints, and emergency aid is no exception. In Nepal, for example, flood victims were surveyed after they had received assistance.**

During the distribution of the relief supplies, Welthungerhilfe staff explained to the village communities what kind of commitment they were making to them. Welthungerhilfe adheres to the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS), the rules and regulations for aid organisations. These include general accountability, a high level of participation for the recipients, and the possibility for them to file complaints. For the latter there are different channels: Follow-up interviews with the individual households on the progress of the project, a telephone hotline, consultation hours during project visits, letterboxes or personal visits to the office. In Nepal, for example, 11,600 families received their food packages together with the number of a telephone

hotline and explanations in their native language. 360 families participated in the surveys about the project implementation process, 56 percent of whom were men and 44 percent women. Any kind of feedback from the population helps to improve the activities. Accountability measures involve people more deeply, create ownership and motivate them to take on more responsibility. In several countries, accountability processes have also improved cooperation with other organisations and governments.



## Your Welthungerhilfe contact:

Maike Schopf  
Philanthropy  
& Partnerships Team  
Phone +49 (0)228 2288-421  
maike.schopf@welthungerhilfe.de