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For a world without hunger

# Your Topic: Emergency Aid

REPORT FOR 2019



## Dear friends of Welthungerhilfe,

The effects of climate change cannot be denied: Forests are burning, fields and pastures are drying out, rivers are flooding their banks, and storms are devastating entire regions. People are suffering from the destructive power of increasing weather extremes, especially in developing countries.

Families were already struggling to survive, making their living from fishing, livestock keeping, or small-scale farming, but cyclones, flooding, or extended droughts are now often robbing them of these livelihoods as well.

Crises or armed conflicts, which our colleagues on the ground report on an almost daily basis, often have similarly drastic consequences, with thousands of families forced to leave behind their homes and income opportunities.

This includes crises that do not receive media attention, for example in Niger, Burkina Faso, or the Democratic Republic of the Congo (pages ten and eleven).

Thanks to your support, we were able to help some 90,000 people out of acute emergency situations in 2019. For example, turn to pages four and five to learn how families in India, Sudan, and Sierra Leone received survival support after hurricanes and flooding. The following pages describe our emergency aid projects in the drought-ridden regions of Ethiopia, Haiti, and North Korea.

In the long term, we can fight hunger only if the foundations for development are in the hands of the actors themselves and if they are properly prepared and trained. This requires disaster protection programmes, preventative measures, and the systematic development of local capacities. Our expert Anna Castelli explains the concept of localisation in her interview on page eight. By ceaselessly seeking such new approaches and strategies, we continue to direct our efforts towards current needs—thanks to your support.

Sincerely,



Bärbel Mosebach  
Director for Humanitarian Assistance

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**Cover photo:** In drought-stricken Ethiopia, supplying people with drinking water saves lives.



### Haiti

After earthquakes and hurricanes, the island state was at risk of drought. Comprehensive workshops were organised to better prepare the local team for crisis situations.



### Sierra Leone

Four hundred families fleeing armed conflict received food in Malen. After heavy rains in the country's east, Welthungerhilfe distributed 215 mattresses.

Thanks to the emergency assistance fund, nearly 90,000 people received urgently needed help in 2019. Eleven projects in nine countries helped alleviate people's suffering and reduce future risks.



### Niger

Following attacks by terrorist group Boko Haram, 750 refugee families in the region of Diffa received cash to help them through the critical first month.



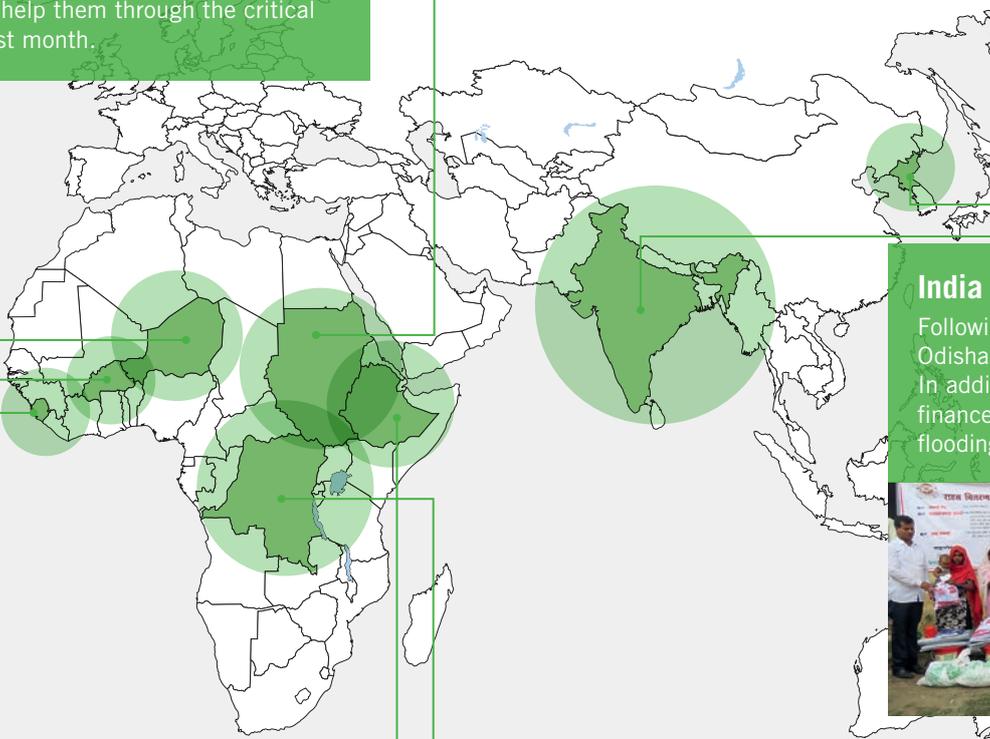
### Sudan

Incessant rainfall had caused a massive flash flood in Kassala, where clean drinking water, hand-washing facilities, and mosquito nets were then provided to 12,275 people.



### North Korea

A drought had led to the brink of famine in Anju-si before Welthungerhilfe distributed maize to 8,364 people.



### India

Following cyclone Fani, 5,000 people in Odisha received food and drinking water. In addition, the emergency assistance fund financed aid for 6,250 people in Bihar after flooding.



### Burkina Faso

For three months, Welthungerhilfe supported 350 families that had fled terrorist violence in the region of Bam with cash payments.



### DR Congo

Drinking water, hygiene campaigns, and sanitation facilities for 27,000 refugees succeeded in preventing an Ebola crisis in the city of Nibili.



### Ethiopia

A sustained drought dried up the water sources. More than 20,000 people were supplied with drinking water via tanker trucks and water treatment tablets.

# Preventing Disease After Floods and Storms

Globally, floods are the most common natural disasters, followed by severe storms. This is because of global warming, which exacerbates geographically determined extreme weather conditions. Some 9,000 people lost their lives to floods and hurricanes in 2019, mostly in Africa and Asia. Cyclone Idai, hurricane Dorian, and typhoon Hagibis caused enormous damage, but lesser-known weather extremes also threaten lives. The emergency assistance fund provided a total of EUR 242,157 for the victims of various natural disasters.



Water canisters, mosquito nets, and blankets are being delivered.

As a rule, the rainy months of August and September bring hope and blessings to the pastoral families living in the Sudanese state of Kassala, near the foothills of the mountains bordering Eritrea. However, the night of 6 August turned into a torturous nightmare. A massive flash flood from the easterly mountain range submerged huge swathes of land. At least 60 people and several thousand animals lost their lives in the deluge. Here, too, the existing cooperation with a partner organisation proved an important factor for rapid response. Clean drinking water was provided to 12,275 people by building wells, repairing hand pumps and solar-powered drinking-water systems, and distributing water canisters for transport. With hygiene training, radio programmes, and new hand-washing stations in public facilities, diarrhoea was successfully prevented.

## Sudan: States of Kassala and Red Sea

**Initial situation** Flooding due to torrential rain in August and September

**Target group** 12,275 people without clean drinking water

**Measures** Rehabilitating and rebuilding nine water pumps and sources to provide safe drinking water; constructing 18 hand-washing facilities in public places; distributing blankets, mosquito nets, and water canisters; conducting training sessions and a radio campaign to prevent water-borne infectious diseases

**Funding** EUR 132,157

In mid July, Priti Devi, from the Indian state of Bihar, had to leave her hut in a hurry. The Kamala mountain stream burst its banks around 1,000 kilometres farther north. The deluge destroyed houses, fields, and pastures in 20 villages in the district of Madhubani. However, the rural communities' disaster plan worked: Because the partner committees set up in a preceding cross-border project by Welthungerhilfe in Nepal warned the people on the Indian side of the border, the latter were able to leave their houses in time. And because Welthungerhilfe was already there, it was able to promptly provide 6,250 people with essential supplies while repairing wells and organising health campaigns to prevent diarrhoea.

Solar-powered lamps help out when power poles are destroyed.



## India: 20 Villages in Bihar

**Initial situation** Heavy rainfall caused rivers to flood in July

**Target group** 6,250 people

**Measures** Distributing blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene sets, and food, including special food for pregnant and nursing women; organising health workshops; repairing wells and water sources

**Funding** EUR 50,000



In addition to the hygiene supplies themselves, it is important to know how to properly use them.

**For Kabuli Khoji and his family, the world ended on 3 May 2019. On that Friday, cyclone Fani swept across his village and the coastal city of Puri in India.** The tropical hurricane uprooted trees, felled power poles, tore roofs off houses, and flooded fields, roads, houses, schools, and healthcare centres. “We had no power, our house and coco palms were destroyed, the schools were closed, and the water was no longer drinkable”, says the father of a ten-year-old daughter. Throughout the state of Odisha, 16 million people suffered from the cyclone’s destructive force. The region around the coastal city of Puri was hit the hardest. Through the emergency assistance fund, Welthungerhilfe first provided blankets, tarpaulins, and food packages to 5,000 people, later adding drinking water, mosquito nets, hygiene sets, and solar lamps. The third step saw 2,000 men and women removing debris, clearing roads, and rebuilding schools, nursery schools, and healthcare centres. For their hard work, they received wages as well as seeds for their fields and kitchen gardens.

**Heavy rainfall also destroyed the rice fields and vegetable gardens of small-scale farming families in Sierra Leone’s eastern districts of Kailahun, Kenema, and Bo in August, contaminating their water sources and causing their mud huts to collapse.** In close collaboration with other actors, Welthungerhilfe supplied 215 households with blankets and mattresses. The World Food Programme distributed food, and other organisations covered the rest. This is another example of effective cooperation.

The people despair, with their houses and furniture in shambles.



### India: Eleven Villages in Odisha

**Initial situation** Cyclone Fani destroyed huge swaths of land in early May, affecting 16 million people

**Target group** 5,000 people in hard-hit areas

**Measures** Distributing food, drinking water, tarpaulins and mattresses, candles matches, solar-powered lamps, mosquito nets, and seeds; cash for clean-up work; hygiene campaigns

**Funding** EUR 60,000

### Sierra Leone: Districts of Kailahun, Kenema, and Bo

**Initial situation** Torrential rain destroyed houses and fields in August, forcing people to flee

**Target group** 215 homeless men, women, and children

**Measures** Distributing blankets and mattresses

**Funding** EUR 10,000

# Alleviating the Effects of the Drought

With sea levels rising and storms increasing, dry spells are becoming longer. Droughts leave wide swaths of land desolate, causing goats, sheep, and even camels to die. Rainy areas, like Haiti, are now also suffering from water shortages. Arable land was already scarce, and the people can no longer produce enough to feed themselves. In 2019, Welthungerhilfe intensively prepared the country team to prepare for emergencies and be able to respond appropriately. In North Korea and Ethiopia, more than 28,000 people received support to survive the drought.

**Extreme poverty is pervasive in the Caribbean island country of Haiti.** The effects of climate change are met by extremely weak infrastructure, and social unrest is growing. The 2019 climate phenomenon El Niño made the situation worse by causing a sustained drought. In response, the emergency assistance fund financed a workshop to enable the Welthungerhilfe country team to respond to imminent crises as well as possible. Together with Welthungerhilfe's emergency aid coordinator, the team addressed topics including food security, needs-analysis methods, and the distribution of cash and vouchers. Networking with other national and international actors in humanitarian assistance was especially helpful. When the next natural disaster appears on the horizon, the experts will now be able to act with greater speed and efficiency.

**The nomadic families of Ethiopia's north-eastern Afar region are used to the heat and the lack of water.** However, in early 2019, even they had exhausted their resources in the face of the sustained drought. Two rainy seasons passed without precipitation. The wells dried up, the animals suffered agonising deaths, and the people had to walk in the scorching heat for hours to reach the nearest water source. The danger of dying from severe diarrhoea, dysentery, or cholera rose with each passing day. "We just had no way to get enough to drink", reports Kadiga Yusuf from the community of Doobi in the district of Eli Daar. The six-time mother forbade her first-grade son from going to school because it would have been nigh impossible to make the journey—and then still learn something—without water. For her part, she spent eight hours a day collecting water for the family. "I did what I could, but it was simply not enough", says Kadiga Yusuf.

Sustained droughts are making life hard for families in the Afar region.

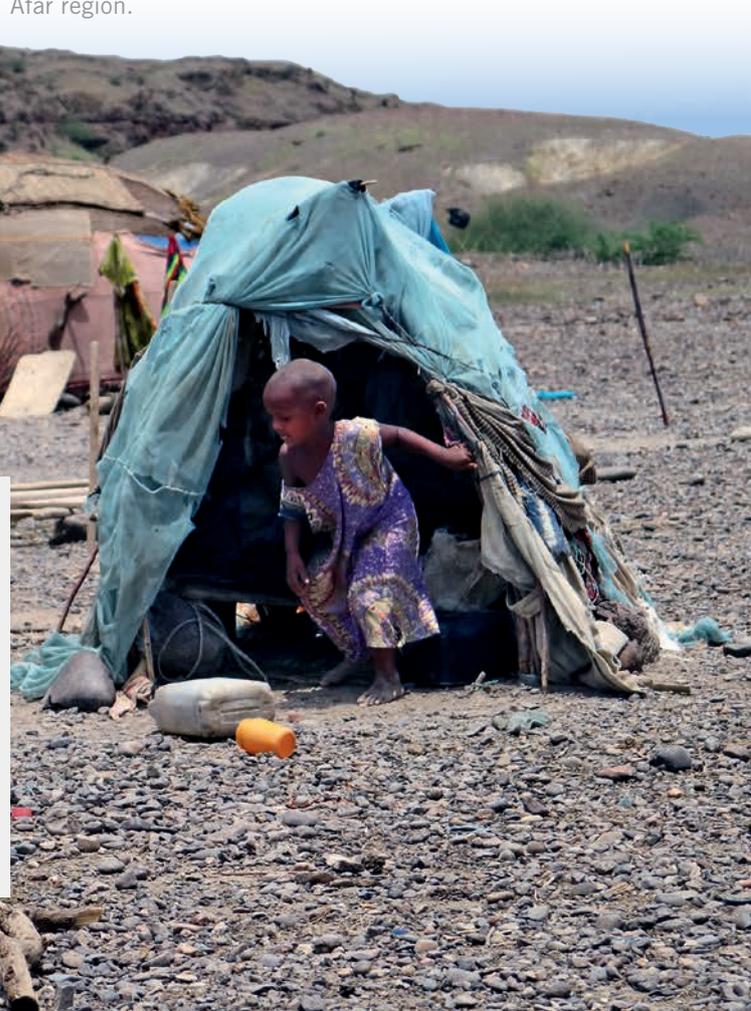
## Ethiopia

**Initial situation** Water shortages due to the absence of rain during two successive rainy periods

**Target group** 20,227 people without drinking water

**Measures** Water tanks supplied clean drinking water for 60 days; hygiene campaigns protected people from gastrointestinal diseases; people in remote villages received water treatment tablets and soap

**Funding** EUR 91,368



To their great relief, Welthungerhilfe began bringing fresh drinking water into the village. Every day for two months, ten tanker trucks supplied 13,987 people in ten villages with at least five litres of water per person. The communities established committees to organise the distribution of the precious cargo. Wherever the trucks could not go, families received water treatment tablets and soap. This approach protected 6,240 women, men, and children from water shortages and serious gastrointestinal diseases. The comprehensive hygiene campaigns in the districts of Eli Daar and Dubte were victorious: Nobody got diarrhoea or cholera, thanks to the conscientious implementation of hygiene precautions. Kadiga Yusuf: “We have learnt what to do to stay healthy, for example burying our children’s bowel movements in a hole far away from our huts.”

The team in Haiti is well prepared for future natural disasters.



Maize deliveries protect some 3,500 children from hunger.

**The lack of rain also brought the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the brink of famine in 2019 during the “lean season” between April and June.** In the preceding year, 43 percent of the North Korean population was already undernourished—approximately eleven million people. After two successive years with hardly any rain and with poor harvests, food stores were exhausted almost entirely at the start of 2019, leading the government to ask all international cooperation partners for immediate assistance. Welthungerhilfe took action in the urban region of Anju-si in the province of South Pyongan. Eight out of every ten people here are dependent on the public food distribution system. However, due to the emergency situation, the administration recently reduced rations to half of the daily requirement. In response, Welthungerhilfe imported 250 tonnes of high-quality maize for the most vulnerable people. This met the caloric needs of 8,364 people for nearly three months, including many children in daycare centres and nursery schools.

## Haiti

**Initial situation** Preparing for food shortages caused by climate phenomenon El Niño

**Target group** The Welthungerhilfe country team in Haiti

**Measures** Local visit by emergency aid coordinator; various workshops for emergency aid measures; networking with other actors

**Funding** EUR 12,000

## North Korea

**Initial situation** Threat of famine due to the drought destroying harvests

**Target group** 8,364 people in two municipal districts of Anju-si and two neighbouring villages

**Measures** Food aid for working men and women, farming families, the elderly, people with disabilities, and twelve daycare centres and nursery schools

**Funding** EUR 94,539

# Finding the Right Approach to Strengthen Partners

The number of people throughout the world who are dependent on humanitarian assistance is rising while the funding available to help them falls. How can emergency aid become both cheaper and more effective? For one, by continuing to build and expand the skills and capacities of local actors. With their localisation programme, Welthungerhilfe and its partners are contributing to international efforts to strengthen the role of local and national humanitarian organisations.



Interview with Anna Castelli, member of Welthungerhilfe's humanitarian directorate

**What is localisation all about?** This term became established with the first humanitarian global summit in 2016. Localisation aims for a system in which the various actors at the local, regional, and international levels collaborate more effectively in order to provide efficient and long-lasting emergency aid. It also prioritises the strengthening of local actors, whose skills and presence on the ground are just as decisive for disaster risk reduction as for disaster relief.

**Why does this matter?** The devastating effects of wars, natural disasters, and the climate crisis are leaving more and more people in need of humanitarian assistance. In 2015, these people numbered nearly 78 million women, men, and children; by 2019, the figure had risen to 142 million. At the same time, there is progressively less money available, both for disaster risk reduction and emergency aid. New approaches and partnerships are therefore needed for us to use existing resources efficiently and effectively for the long term.



In the Syrian province of Idlib, the partner organisation is preparing the winter aid programme for 3,000 families.



**Is that really a new insight?** To the extent permitted by local circumstances, Welthungerhilfe has always collaborated with local partner organisations, strengthening their capacities and cooperating with local and national administrative authorities as well as, during crises, with the government. However, a 2016 agreement between the largest humanitarian donors, the United Nations, and aid organisations gave the concept of localisation a major boost. The signatories committed to placing at least 25 percent of globally available humanitarian funds at the direct disposal of local and national actors. This is improving the speed, effectiveness, and sustainability of humanitarian assistance.

**What are the advantages for local actors?** Well trained, prepared, and funded, local actors can respond more quickly than international organisations. They are already on site, are familiar with existing structures, speak the language, and possess a deep understanding of the cultural and social circumstances. Through their long-running engagement in the affected country, they enjoy the trust of the population. In operationally difficult areas, such as Syria, local partners are often the only ones who can work directly in the crisis region. However, they frequently lack technical equipment and access to funding.

**How does localisation look in practice?** We intensively prepare our partners for potential natural disasters, for example by training them on implementing aid measures for food aid, water supply, and sanitation, since these needs are often the most urgent in an emergency. This also ensures appropriate emergency aid when disaster strikes. At the same time, we support our partners to organise themselves, so that they can represent their interests to authorities and decision makers in addition to building networks, trading with other regions, conducting their own projects, and becoming independent that way. Beginning in March 2020, Welthungerhilfe is joining Caritas International, Malteser Hilfsdienst, and Diakonie in starting a comprehensive pilot project with 40 local partners in eight countries. One of the objectives is for local partners to independently acquire funds from the United Nations, the European Union, or national governments and to prepare themselves to provide emergency aid as quickly as possible.

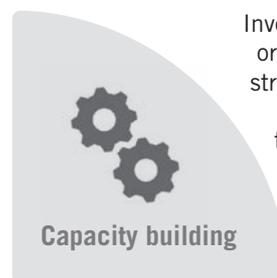
## Localising Humanitarian Assistance

Removing barriers to efficient partnerships



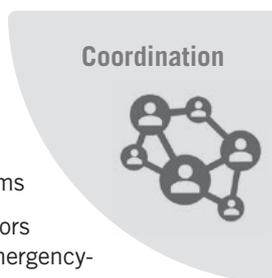
Partnerships

Investing in local organisations to strengthen them and to build their response capacity



Capacity building

Support and complementation of local mechanisms



Coordination

Involving local actors in international emergency-aid mechanisms



Financing

Distributing funds as directly as possible for greater efficiency

**Are there other examples?** In Afghanistan, we started a programme with 21 local organisations and ten international actors to mentor local partners through comprehensive training on the job. In Bangladesh, we established a platform to better coordinate the various actors in the event of a disaster and to have important information readily available. Concrete plans for capacity building for our partner organisations are also in place, including for regions that are in a permanent state of crisis Turkey/Syria and Iraq.

**What are the greatest obstacles?** The overall focus of the cooperation efforts is supposed to shift from project-based emergency aid to long-term partnerships. Although we have a lot of experience in this regard already, we frequently find ourselves hitting a wall; in some places, changing the way people think will still take some time. However, the fact is that the better a country is prepared for potential disasters, the easier it is to prevent or reduce damages, thereby reducing the need for emergency aid. On the other hand, it is often more difficult to convince donors to provide funding before a disaster strikes, even though this would significantly decrease the resources needed to manage the crisis itself.

# Quick Aid in a Volatile Situation

Wars, violence, and armed conflicts threatened the lives of millions of people in 2019. Many were forced to leave their homes. For displaced families, the traumatic violence is usually followed by a fear for their lives as they struggle to survive widespread shortages. In four African project countries, Welthungerhilfe responded with its emergency assistance fund immediately after the escalation of violence.

## Terrorist group Boko Haram attacked numerous villages in the Nigerien region of Diffa during the last two weeks of March.

According to an analysis by Welthungerhilfe and other local actors, 3,458 families fled their homes. A one-time cash payment equivalent to EUR 50 was disbursed to 750 especially vulnerable families. This is enough to feed a family for a month. During distribution, Welthungerhilfe provided drinking water, sanitation facilities, and staff to help people with special needs. The wait is the hardest for pregnant and nursing women, elderly women and men, and people with disabilities.

Older and pregnant women receive special attention during distribution.



### Niger

<b>Initial situation</b>	Terrorist group Boko Haram attacked villages in the region of Diffa
<b>Target group</b>	750 families
<b>Measures</b>	Cash transfers for one month at EUR 50 per family
<b>Funding</b>	EUR 41,000



The families can live on this food for a month.

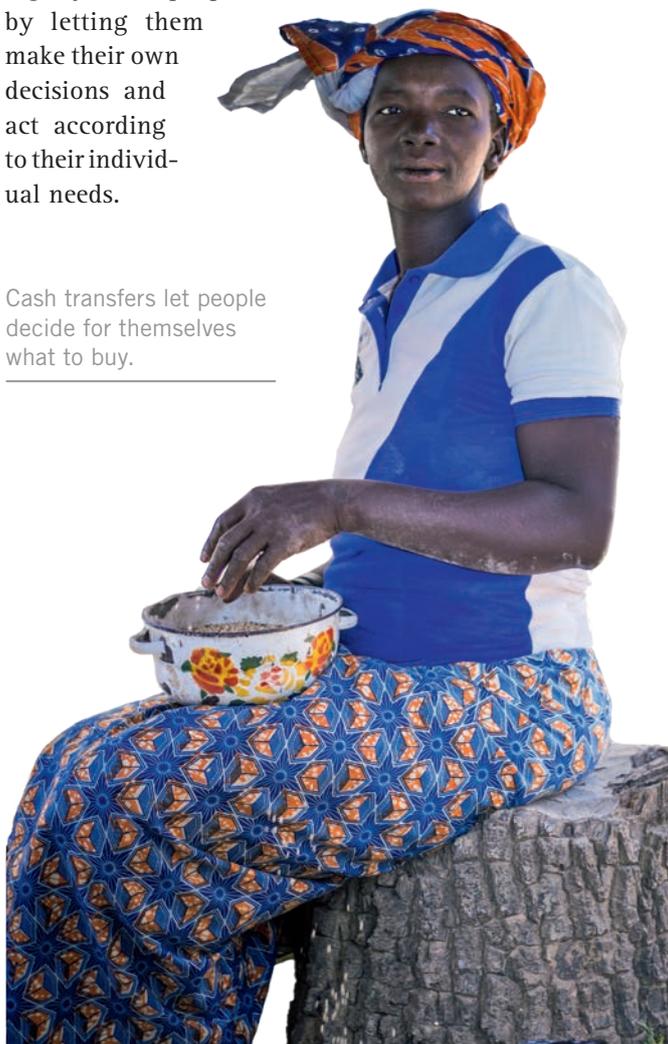
**An entirely different type of conflict forced people from the community of Malen in Sierra Leone to flee in January.** For years, a land conflict had been seething between the local population and agro-industrial group SOCFIN, which cultivates and processes palm oil on two thirds of the community's land. This land was allocated in contravention of international guidelines, and working conditions are poor, with repeated human rights violations occurring. The residents protested this state of affairs. On 18 January, the situation escalated when the government deployed police and military personnel to break up the demonstration. Two people died from gunshot wounds, and 2,500 women, men, and children fled to nearby forests. Welthungerhilfe supplied them with food such as beans, rice, salt, oil, and tea. "Help arrived in the nick of time", says Fatmata Kamara from the community of Sengema. "This gives us food security for now."

### Sierra Leone: Districts of Kailahun, Kenema, and Bo

<b>Initial situation</b>	The land conflict between small-scale farming families and palm oil company SOCFIN escalated after numerous human rights violations
<b>Target group</b>	400 refugee families: around 2,500 people in total
<b>Measures</b>	Distributing food supplies such as rice, salt, beans, sugar, oil, and tea
<b>Funding</b>	EUR 21,000

**Burkina Faso is trapped in the grip of terror.** For four years, the West African country has been wracked by one attack after the other. The flood of violence has now reached the province of Bam in the Centre-Nord region, where Welthungerhilfe is active. Some 70,000 people fled the marauding gangs and headed to the cities. The emergency assistance fund provided EUR 46,000 to analyse the situation and help quickly. For three months, 350 families from four of the hardest-hit communities received EUR 77 cash each for food and other essential supplies. Experience shows that the people by and large use the money very responsibly. When the markets are operating properly, this approach works better than donating supplies. It also protects the dignity of the people by letting them make their own decisions and act according to their individual needs.

Cash transfers let people decide for themselves what to buy.



## Burkina Faso

<b>Initial situation</b>	Terrorist attacks in Welthungerhilfe project area in the province of Bam
<b>Target group</b>	350 internally displaced families
<b>Measures</b>	Cash transfers for three months at EUR 77 per family
<b>Funding</b>	EUR 46,000



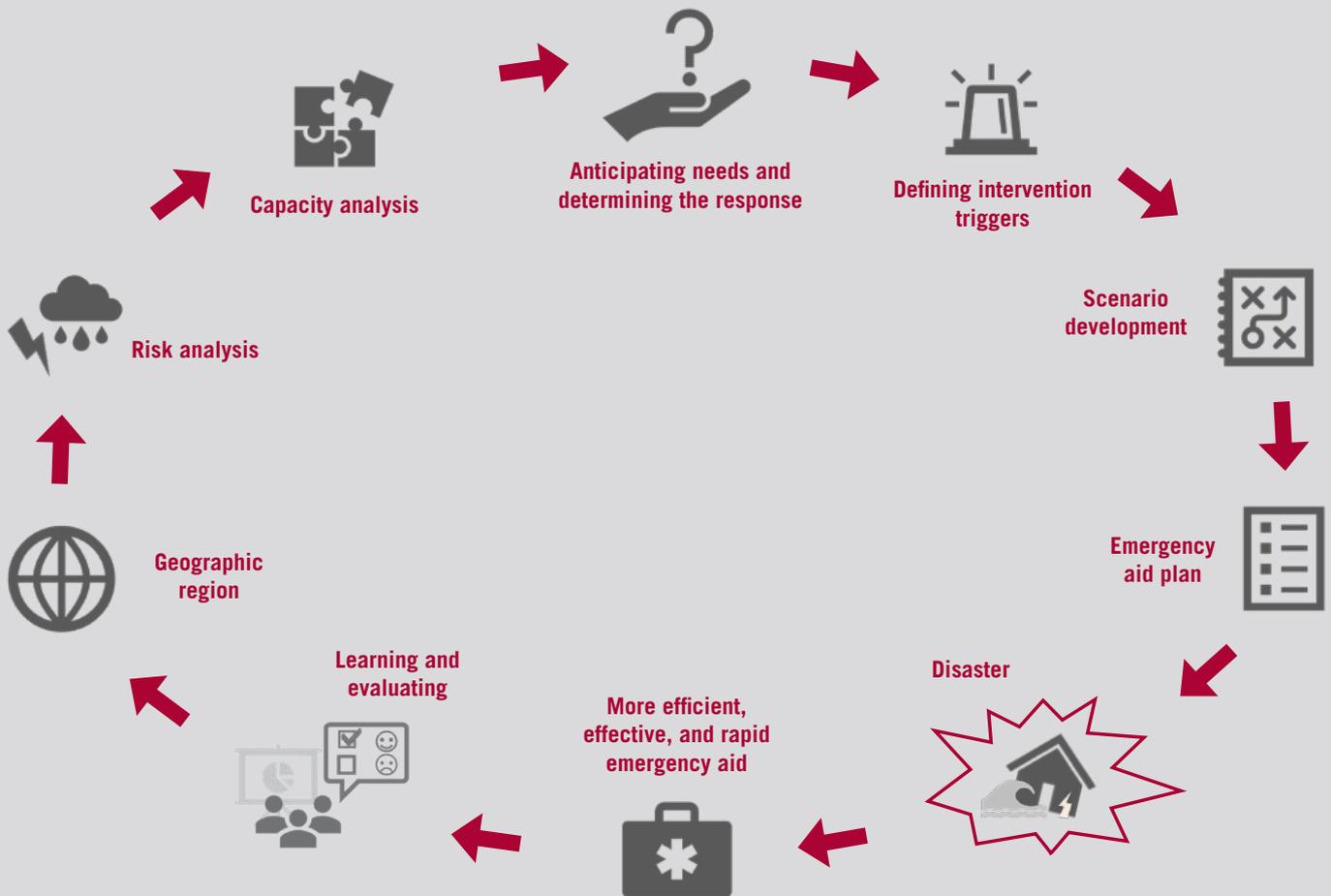
Within a few hours, this water treatment facility for nearly 3,000 people is completed.

**In the Congolese province of North Kivu, the rebel group Allied Democratic Forces has been terrorising the population for some time.** When the violence escalated in April 2019, more than 90,000 men, women, and children fled their villages. Only in the city of Nabili did they feel safe. Schools, churches, and private homes opened their doors to the internally displaced people, while other families settled in construction sites or public squares. The Welthungerhilfe employees on the ground soon realised that the drinking-water and hygiene situation had to be addressed immediately to prevent the city from falling prey to Ebola. Nearly 27,000 people received drinking water and hygiene support for five months. A mobile water treatment facility supplied 90,000 litres of freshwater per day, seven smaller treatment stations were installed, and plumbing and public taps were repaired. Under expert supervision, 100 families dug trenches for latrines and erected wood-frame huts with sheet-metal roofs to serve as toilet, washing, and shower facilities. A comprehensive hygiene campaign educated people on the danger posed by Ebola and serious gastrointestinal diseases. These rapid measures successfully prevented a major disaster.

## DR Congo

<b>Initial situation</b>	A rebel invasion in North Kivu forced families to flee to the city of Nabili
<b>Target group</b>	Nearly 27,000 internally displaced people
<b>Measures</b>	Installing a mobile water treatment facility and seven water purification centres; repairing the local water supply system; building latrines and washing/shower facilities for 100 families; conducting a comprehensive hygiene campaign
<b>Funding</b>	EUR 230,000

# Anticipating Risks and Coordinating Action



**A natural disaster often brings life to a standstill throughout an entire region. Supply and communication routes are disrupted, and the population is crippled by sorrow and destruction. The deciding factor is therefore how well the people affected and especially the emergency aid actors are prepared for such a situation. A mechanism established in advance can make all the difference for survival.**

The more practical and comprehensive the risk scenarios developed in advance are, the more precise emergency aid planning can be. This includes, for example, evaluating experiences made during past crises, identifying potential suppliers of aid supplies, stockpiling supplies, and coordinating the location and type of aid measures for all actors in an emergency. This facilitates more rapid and efficient responses when disaster actually strikes.

As a “learning organisation”, Welthungerhilfe is always developing its approach to its work. Increasingly, funds are being used to create detailed forecasts and risk analyses (forecast-based financing) and to build local capacities (localisation, see p. 8).

Would you like to support our emergency assistance fund?



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