

# **2024 PARTNERSHIP REPORT** PREPARED FOR FOOD FOR FAMINE SOCIETY

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## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### Dear Maria,

Witnessing quick or even dramatic results is rare in the kind of work we do around the world. Meaningful change is more often a long, steady journey, and that's what we anticipate.

However, there are beautiful exceptions, and the work you're supporting with Ready to Use Therapeutic Food is one of those joyful moments.

Thanks to your generosity, children like Abdirahman in Somalia and Eugénio in Angola—whom you'll read about in this report—have experienced remarkable transformations.

In as little as four to six weeks, these young ones transform from ill and listless to smiling and energetic, ready to embrace life again. Seeing an undernourished child thrive so quickly is a source of joy for their families, for us, and I know for you as well.

Thank you for your continued investment in the health and well-being of the most vulnerable children through this powerful treatment for childhood malnutrition. The children and parents you help feel the impact of your compassion and care every day.

Thank you for standing with us in this vital work. God Bless you.

Peace,

Moherno

Michael Messenger President and CEO

# A POWERFUL RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST TRAGIC CRISES

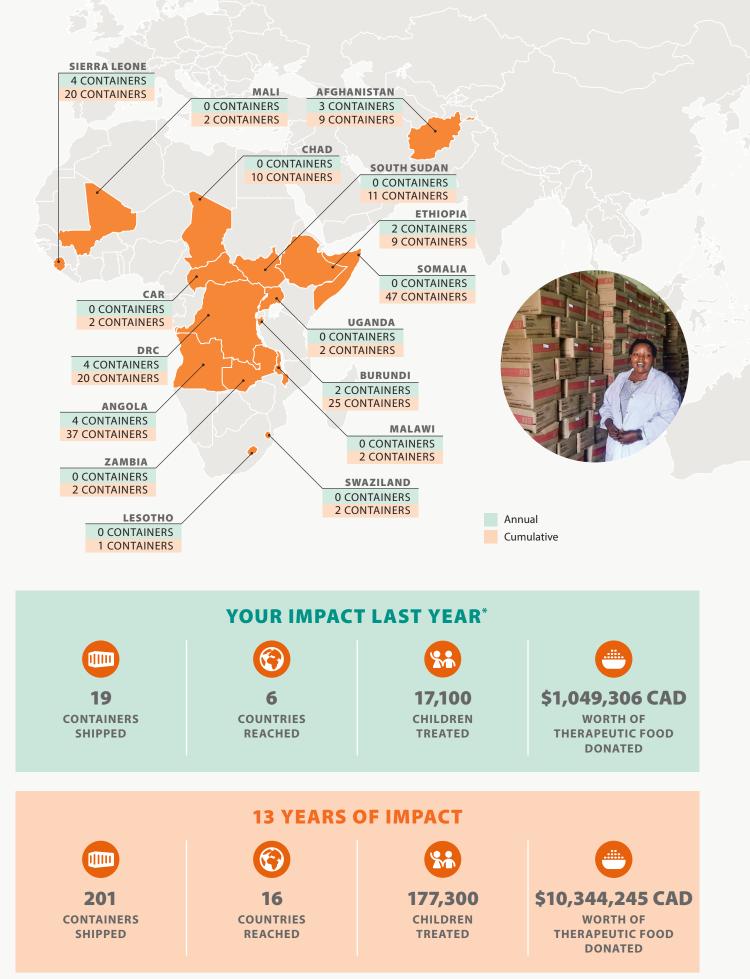
#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2023, nearly **282 million people** women, men, girls, and boys across **59 countries**—faced the devastating reality of acute food insecurity, as reported by the Global Report on Food Crises 2024. These individuals aren't just numbers; they are families struggling to survive, and they need urgent help. The world has promised, through the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to end hunger by 2030, but the path is far from easy.

A complex web of factors, including conflict, climate change, drought, famine, rising food costs and deep-seated poverty drives this relentless hunger crisis. In some regions, the situation has only worsened. But amidst these challenges, there is hope—and together, we are part of the solution.

Thanks to the transformative power of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), we know that ending global malnutrition is not only possible, it's happening. We are deeply grateful for the partnership with the Food for Famine Society, which has enabled us to launch our largest and most strategic global response to date.

> On the cover: Because of your generous donation, RUTF is giving thousands of children in Africa the chance to recover and thrive after battling acute malnutrition.



\*As of September 30, 2024

# **OUR SHARED COMMITMENT**

Food for Famine Society understands the gravity of this crisis and the profound difference that RUTF can make in the lives of young children. Your unwavering support this year has reached children in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. Because of you, thousands of children received the life-saving treatment they needed to survive and thrive.

Your partnership isn't just important to us— it's vital to the survival of these children. Together, we are changing lives and bringing hope where it's needed most.

Thank you for standing with us in this urgent and essential work.



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## **ANGOLA**

### THE AMAZING RECOVERY OF EUGÉNIO

When one-year-old Eugénio arrived with his mother at the Inpatient Nutrition Centre at Humpata in 2023, he was quickly diagnosed with severe malnutrition. Eugénio's weight was lower than it should have been for his age and size, his movements were sluggish and his arms and legs were swollen. The baby didn't want to eat anything. He had diarrhea and a stomach ache. His mother, Dina, 23, worried for her only son's life.

As Dina shared her story, staff at the Centre learned that she and her husband are farmers, who share their plot with other family members. The small number of vegetables they harvested needed to be shared among the extended family, with the rest sold at the market. The busy and demanding work schedule of the parents meant that Eugénio was often left in the care of his older siblings during the day. The kids, who range in age from 5 to 12, were responsible for feeding Eugénio when their mother was gone.

Most days, Eugénio received one meal prepared by Dina, which was a paste made from flour and water, supplemented by breastfeeding. At 11 months, Eugénio rejected his mother's milk and his already precarious health worsened. When he arrived at the clinic in his mother's arms he was hospitalized for six days in intensive care. There, he received therapeutic milk, vitamin A and medication to help stop his diarrhea and other illnesses.

Meanwhile, Dina was equipped with the information she needed to ensure Eugénio's recovery would continue.

"I learned that I need to boil the water to prepare food and that I can also give Eugénio eggs, cabbage, tomatoes and carrots to eat," says Dina. "I didn't know he was old enough for that."

It only took one week of treatment to see a visible difference in Eugénio. He gained weight, his diarrhea cleared up, his stomach ache was gone and his energy began to return.

Margarida dos Santos oversees the Nutrition Centre and was one of Eugénio's nurses: "Thanks to the introduction of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food into his dietary routine, he is moving toward a healthy state of health," she says.

"Now the fear is gone," says Dina. "Every week we come back here to check on Eugénio's health, but I already feel that he's much better. He's even playing."

RUTF distribution in Angola and Burundi is reaching thousands of girls and boys, while giving parents the tools and hope they need to fight malnutrition and restore their children's health and vitality.

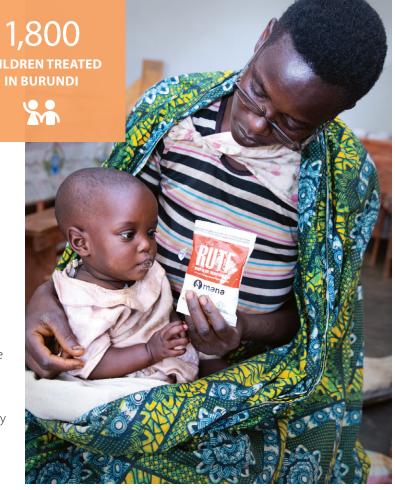




BURUNDI

In Burundi, Community Health Workers conducted mass screenings for children between the ages of six and 59 months, looking for signs of malnutrition. Our staff went out into communities, alert to the tell-tale signs of wasting and stunting that result from severe malnutrition. Each child was carefully weighed, their arm circumference measured, and additional tests performed to identify those in urgent need of care.

Children who were identified as severely malnourished received the MANA supplement. After 12 days, the measurements are repeated again, beginning the tracking process of each child's weight gain and growth. Parents share their joy and relief with the Community Health Workers, who also train parents on how to create a safe and healthy environment at home. This program's success is amplified by the strong partnership between World Vision and the Ministry of Health in Burundi, working hand-in-hand to combat malnutrition and ensure every child has the opportunity to grow and thrive.





## **ETHIOPIA**

The last 30 years in Ethiopia have seen a marked decrease in the number of undernourished children. However, severe acute malnutrition is still a significant challenge and a harsh reality for many Ethiopian families. Conflict, drought and food shortages are common. Currently, 7.5 million people in Ethiopia need emergency nutrition, with the majority being children under five, and pregnant or nursing mothers.

This year, thanks to your support, 1,800 children in Ethiopia received life-saving Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) treatment. The transformative impact of RUTF is remarkable, with children guickly regaining their strength and vitality after receiving this vital treatment. What makes RUTF especially powerful is its simplicity—once health care workers provide initial treatment and train parents, this treatment can be continued at home by parents or caregivers, allowing children to recover within the safety and comfort of their own communities.

We are thrilled to share the inspiring stories of real people whose lives have been changed by your generous support. In 2023, one of those stories comes from Abdirahman in Somalia. His heartfelt journey touches us all, and his mother, Najah, shares it with you here.

## SOMALIA

### **GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST**

When 29-year-old Najah Saleban brought her only son Abdirahman to the Wadajir Community Health Centre, she knew he needed emergency help. "The day he was admitted, he was feeling tired and fatigued with poor appetite," she says.

Five consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, combined with extremely high food prices, worsened the ongoing conflict in Somalia and have made conditions extremely precarious for families like Najah's.

The day they arrived at the Centre, it was clear to the staff that they were treating another child with severe acute malnutrition. Too many mothers in Somalia are becoming all too familiar with the signs and definitions of malnutrition. Malnutrition—the state of being poorly nourished leaves children weak, wasting and vulnerable to developmental delays, disease and too often, death. If not treated early enough, malnutrition can lead to lifelong health challenges that make life even more difficult for children as they become adults.

Abdiraman was guickly admitted to the outpatient therapeutic program offered by the Centre and began taking in MANA supplements.

"My child has improved dramatically," says Najah. "Now he is active and getting stronger."

Najah also learned and grew during their stay in the area. She attended health education sessions that taught her the basics of nutrition, hygiene, sanitation and other proper care practices for the home that will continue to help Abdiraman in his recovery—and help prevent a recurrence of malnutrition in the future.

In just one month, Abdirahman's condition improved from severe acute malnutrition to moderate acute malnutrition, marking a significant step forward on his journey to health. His mother, Najah, was deeply moved and inspired by her son's recovery. Motivated by this transformation, she encouraged other mothers in her neighbourhood to visit the Community Health Centre to have their children screened for malnutrition—and they listened. Thanks to her courage and advocacy, more children are now receiving the care they need.





# THANKYOU

Thank you for being a vital part of this life-changing journey. Because of your generous support, we're able to share these heartwarming stories of transformation and hope.
With your support, children around the world are not just surviving—they're thriving.
Together, we are turning the tide on malnutrition and creating a brighter future for families who once had little to hold onto.
Your compassion is the force behind this incredible change, and we are very grateful for your unwavering commitment.

#### **CONTACT PERSON**

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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gende In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, World Vision Canada anticipates raising \$405.5 million in total revenue for its community development, emergency relief and advocacy work, of which approximately 13.2% will be used for necessary fundraising. In cases where donations exceed what is needed or where local conditions prevent program implementation, World Vision Canada awill redirect funds to similar activities to help people in need. For more information, or for a copy of our latest audited financial statements, please visit our website at www.worldvision.ca.

You may also send an email to info@worldvision.ca or contact the Director, Operational Excellence at 1-800-268-4888.