

CAMPAIGNING ON THE EAST AFRICA HUNGER CRISIS

An action guide



CONTENTS

East Africa: an action guide 2

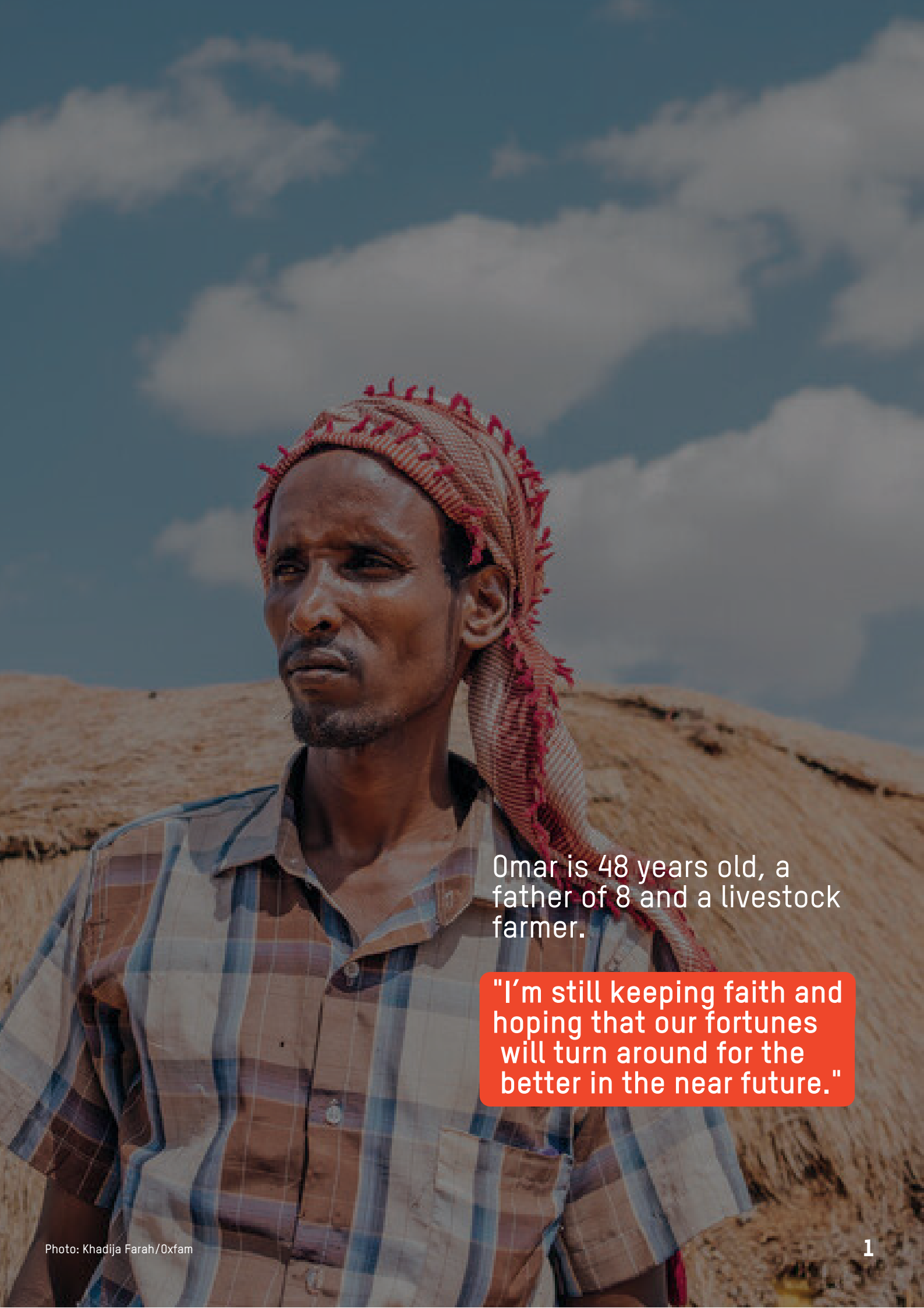
Why is there a hunger crisis 3

Timeline 4

The humanitarian impact 7


Our campaign 8

What you can do 9



Omar is 48 years old, a father of 8 and a livestock farmer.

"I'm still keeping faith and hoping that our fortunes will turn around for the better in the near future."



Hunger is an injustice. Millions of people in East Africa are facing extreme hunger – many on the brink of famine. But famine is not inevitable, and this tragedy can be averted if we act now. Droughts and flooding are being fuelled by climate change; food supplies are low and difficult to access due to conflict; and the global cost of living is causing food and energy prices to rocket. We have launched a campaign to raise awareness of what's happening in East Africa to build support and push world leaders to take action. We want you to join us!

This action guide is designed to support you as an activist to join our campaign to raise awareness of what's happening in East Africa. We are also here to support you, so if you would like to chat through any of your ideas, please do get in touch with Sophie at smorbey@oxfam.org.uk. Thank you so much for joining us and taking action!

WHY IS THERE A HUNGER CRISIS IN EAST AFRICA?

Years of severe flooding in some areas and drought in others, ongoing conflicts and a global cost of living crisis is causing a devastating catastrophe in East Africa. The result is that people are losing their lives, children are not going to school and women and girls are experiencing more violence.

Climate change is causing more extreme weather.

The failure of rainy seasons in some areas has caused crops to fail and livestock to perish. There is major flooding in other areas with damage to crops, infrastructure and homes.

The global cost of living crisis is increasing the price of food & energy.

This is compounding the problems people already face, as food and energy prices soar. The latest data from the Kenya Bureau of Statistics showed prices were 12.4% higher in May 2022 than they were in May 2021.

Conflict & insecurity is making it more difficult to access food and deliver aid.

Several conflicts in the region, and the Ukraine-Russia conflict is making it extremely difficult for food to be imported and accessed. This also makes it harder for aid to be delivered. People have been forced to flee their homes in search of the basic necessities they need to survive.

TIMELINE

August 2020

The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) alert projected that the coming two rainy seasons would be poor.

April 2021

The Somali Federal Government and Humanitarian Community declared a drought.

May 2021

FEWS NET issued an alert that a multi-season drought could last until late 2021.

June 2021

UNICEF, The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), & the World Food Programme (WFP) reported that the conflict in Ethiopia had led to over 350,000 people facing catastrophic conditions.

September 2021

Kenya declared drought in parts of the country a national disaster.

October 2021

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Groups (FSNWG) issued an alert about the risk of severe outcomes in Kenya and Somalia.

November 2021

The Somali Federal Government declared a state emergency due to the drought.

February 2022

The World Food Programme (WFP) warned that 40% of people in Tigray were suffering 'an extreme lack of food'.

April 2022

An IPC Acute Food Insecurity Projection Update for Somalia warned of the risk of famine in some parts of the country.

This timeline was taken from the "[Dangerous delay 2: the cost of inaction](#)" report.



"The very real prospect that the rains will fail for a fourth consecutive season, placing Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia into a drought of a length not experienced in the last 40 years."

The World Meteorological Organization, April 2022





“My name is Diyaara. I live in Abdiwako. I have 10 children. Together with my grandchildren, we are a family of 20. There are problems everywhere and life is becoming harder by the day. But if the situation changes, the youth get sufficient means to earn a living and the young ones will have access to education. Then we will be happy and smile again.”

THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

When campaigning it's important to know some facts and figures to help tell the campaigning story and show why we're campaigning on the issue. You can use these facts when talking to people about the campaign, on social media or even in campaigning videos to inspire and encourage others to get involved! You don't need to know everything but it's useful to be familiar with a few as this will help support your campaigning.

The hunger crisis in East Africa is of a scale not seen in the region since 2017. Four countries in particular are at risk.

Somalia

Floods, crop-devouring locusts and Covid-19 have hit hard a population already living under the strain of poverty and decades of armed conflict and insecurity. 7.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2022.

Ethiopia

The northern regions of Ethiopia are severely affected by conflict. 2.5 million livestock have died between late 2021 and mid-May 2022 from lack of food and water, and millions of people have seen their livelihoods suffer across four southern drought-affected areas.

All these facts are taken from the "[Dangerous delay 2: the cost of inaction](#)" report.

Kenya

Four back-to-back below average rainy seasons have caused severe drought in some areas, whilst in others floods and disease outbreaks are becoming more frequent and intense. This leaves little opportunity for affected communities to recover. 3.5 million people are suffering from extreme hunger.

South Sudan

Over the last five years, early seasonal rain has caused rivers to overflow and the country has experienced widespread flooding. Since May 2021, over 835,000 people have been affected in areas along the White Nile. Approximately 366,000 people are currently displaced by the floods. Women, children, elderly people, and people with disabilities are most affected.

OUR CAMPAIGN

We believe in a world without poverty. Extreme hunger anywhere is an injustice which isn't inevitable.

We are urgently campaigning to address the root causes of the crisis and to secure funding to alleviate the impact on people in the short term. The world doesn't know what's happening in East Africa. Media coverage is woefully low, so we need to increase public awareness of this campaign and stand together in solidarity with the people of East Africa against this injustice. We are influencing our MPs and the new Prime Minister to raise this up the political agenda, and your support will contribute to the success of this campaign!

WHAT ARE WE CALLING FOR?

The UK must urgently step up to stop the injustice experienced by the people of East Africa and prevent it from getting worse. This isn't about choosing between helping people at home, or those in other countries. We can, and must, do both.

We are campaigning for the UK Government to fulfil their commitments to tackle global hunger and provide funding and support to East Africa now. We are calling on the UK government to:

- Commit £900 million of funding to the UN humanitarian appeals for Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan
- Ensure aid gets to those who need it, especially women and girls who are bearing the brunt of the crisis
- Address the root causes of the crisis by increasing funding and support to countries in the region facing escalating climate impacts and conflict, protecting civilians from harm, investing in addressing gender inequality and supporting inclusive peace processes

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1

Raise awareness

One of the most important things you can do as a campaigner is to raise awareness of an issue. Often, people are simply unaware of what's going on and don't know how to help. Starting those conversations is therefore a great way to begin your campaigning! You could also host a film night, panel discussion, speaker event – there are so many ways to raise awareness!

2

Host a spoken word event

Spoken word is a very powerful form of activism and is a great way to raise awareness and bring together voices that are often ignored. Can you collaborate with other groups to deliver an amazing event that brings voices together? Please get in touch with us if you'd like us to share it with the wider network too!

3

Lobby decision makers

An important aspect of campaigning is to influence decision makers. One of our key asks is (X & Y) so our MPs need to be made aware of what's happening in East Africa! Arrange a meeting with your MP, write a letter, run a petition campaigns stall or give them a call!

4

Stand in solidarity

There are so many ways to stand in solidarity and show you care about what's happening in East Africa. This could include a film screening, speaker events, candlelight vigils, stunts, campaign stalls... can you meet with your group members and have an ideas session about what is possible?

5

Get online

Get in touch with your local student newspaper/media. You could hold a mass social media hour where your group members directly tweet, call, and email their MP about East Africa. Make sure you tag @oxfamgbcampaigns so we can share too!

**THANK YOU
FOR STANDING
IN SOLIDARITY
WITH THE
PEOPLE OF
EAST AFRICA.**



OXFAM