

Overall proposal: Mozambique and Malawi

## **Africa in Crisis:**

### **Immediate Help and Long-Term Development Through Churches**

#### Introduction

Southern Africa is currently in the grip of a significant food crisis that threatens the lives of 40 million people – a famine that experts say is the worst in 25 years. In a region where most people make a living on small family farms, the current weather-related crisis is leaving families with few options and little hope. Food is already in short supply, and key population groups – children, pregnant women, and HIV-positive adults – are particularly vulnerable.

In two of the hardest-hit nations (Mozambique and Malawi), World Relief is responding to the crisis through strategic ministries of food aid and long-term development. The goal is to meet the most immediate needs for already-vulnerable people while ensuring a sustainable response that meets future needs. In both nations, the local church is a key partner, able to identify the most needy, and respond quickly with transformative help.

#### **Problem: Severe Weather, Crop Loss, and Hunger**

In early 2015, a powerful El Niño smothered Southern Africa with hot, dry air, resulting in the driest start to a growing season in 35 years – and the least annual rainfall in a century. In some places, planting was delayed by up to 50 days. The late planting had a significant impact; any disruption of the agricultural cycle can be devastating for rural subsistence farmers.

Later in 2015, problems continued to snowball, as drought struck in South Africa, the region's largest producer. The nation's cereal harvest was far below normal, contributing to further region-wide food insecurity, shortages, and high prices. The South African Development Community (an organization comprising 15 countries) says 23 million people require urgent humanitarian assistance and an additional 13 million are "food insecure."

Experts say the worst is yet to come – in the early months of 2017, to be exact. Those are the days just before harvest, when food stocks are most depleted.

#### **World Relief: Hope for Malawi and Mozambique**

Regional famine has hit the nations of Mozambique and Malawi particularly hard. Most of this year's harvest in southern Mozambique has been lost, while the central and southern regions are under a "red alert." Currently, a half million people are receiving food aid.

Malawi's situation is even worse. The country has suffered from the twin impacts of severe drought and disastrous flooding for two straight years. Currently, up to 6.5 million people – half the country – will need food aid.

World Relief’s work in the region focuses primarily on Mozambique and Malawi, two nations that have an established church presence. In Mozambique, World Relief will build on its successful agricultural assistance program through a significant expansion that will benefit 1,000 new farmers and their families. These rural families will receive assistance to grow more crops through new tools and technology, and will also benefit from local savings groups that provide financial sustainability for the poorest of the poor.

In Malawi, World Relief and local churches are developing a tandem relief-and-rehabilitation initiative that meets short-term and long-term needs. Churches will assist 320 households through a six-month food distribution, and also training the same 320 farming families in conservation agricultural technologies. The knowledge, skills and abilities from this training will then be applied in the forthcoming cropping seasons.

### **Methodology: Farming God’s Way**

World Relief has been internationally recognized for the quality of its agriculture assistance programs. The rural poor represent a significant portion of the overall global poor. Small, subsistence farmers are particularly vulnerable to changes in weather, commodity prices and the challenges of distance to markets. World Relief has worked to turn the disadvantages of rural life upside down, helping farmers boost the productivity of their small plots of land while also helping them develop financial security through small-scale Savings for Life groups.

World Relief has developed a program for farmers, known as *Farming God’s Way*, that teaches the basics of conservation techniques. The lessons in *Farming God’s Way* seek to empower beneficiaries to achieve high agricultural yields through earth-friendly cultivation practices.

In both Mozambique and Malawi, churches are at the core of this program. Churches are trusted in the community and seen as effective in bringing about positive change, thanks to past partnership in World Relief projects.

### **Budget**

Malawi: Food Relief and Community Development in Malawi is budgeted at \$181,800 for FY2017. These include the costs of food supplies, rehabilitation activities, disaster preparedness meetings, staff costs and administration.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Relief (maize, pulse, corn-soy mix for children, salt, oil) 320 households for 6 mos	\$135,396
Rehabilitation (recovery activities and materials)	\$16,634
Administration, staff costs, supplies, equipment	\$29,770
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$181,800</b>

Mozambique: World Relief Mozambique programs are budgeted at \$390,043 for FY2017. These include operating costs for Church Mobilization, Agricultural Development and Savings for Life:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Salaries	\$165,564
Benefits	\$7,103
Travel	\$16,843
Other Direct Costs	\$125,690
Contractual	\$4,800
Other Administrative Costs	\$70,043
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$390,043</b>

### **Your Partnership: Helping the Poor Build Resilience**

*Resilience.* It is that quality above all that the poor and vulnerable demonstrate during crisis. And that's what World Relief and churches are helping the poor develop through these timely interventions.

We desire your partnership at this critical hour in southern Africa's history. The church has a lifesaving, hope-giving role to play in this region facing significant hardship. As churches seek to be agents of transformation, will you stand alongside them?

**Each \$1,000 you provide offers urgent food aid to a family for 6 months in Malawi.**

**A leadership gift of \$60,000 represents your investment in the future of Mozambique, supplying the funds needed to expand one agricultural association.**

**A gift of \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000 is your vital vote of confidence in Mozambique churches, allowing them to respond to the current food crisis with innovative help.**