In Uganda, World Help, an NGO partner, found Canned Salmon and Herring to be well accepted and have a positive effect on children’s nutritional status. The ALASKA GLOBAL FOOD AID PROGRAM piloted the use of Canned Salmon and Herring in Uganda to help with their ongoing struggle with HIV/AIDS and severe drought affecting the region. This region is vulnerable to food insecurity as a result of conflict, poverty and HIV/AIDS. The high quality marine protein and omega-3 fatty acids are particularly important for this group where malnutrition and HIV/AIDS are prevalent. A portion of the project targeted refugees returning from the Congo, to show how canned fish can be used in disaster aid, specifically with orphans and vulnerable children receiving primary education.

The school children had little more than maize and cassava porridge, so the Herring greatly improved the nutrient profile of their school meal. Salmon or Herring was served four times a week, complementing the daily ration of pulses, oil, and rice with a few local ingredients provided by the community.

This sample program allowed World Help to integrate the Canned Salmon into local recipes and activities for participants. Canned Herring delivers more than twice the Omega-3 fatty acids as Salmon and the same high quality protein.

At a potentially lower price, Canned Herring is a product with great possibilities for food aid programs worldwide. It also provides an opportunity to support rural Alaska communities by creating and expanding a market for an underutilized resource as well as developing new infrastructure.