



ELCA Disaster Response
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Situation Report: 8.25.2011

Horn of Africa Drought

I. SUMMARY

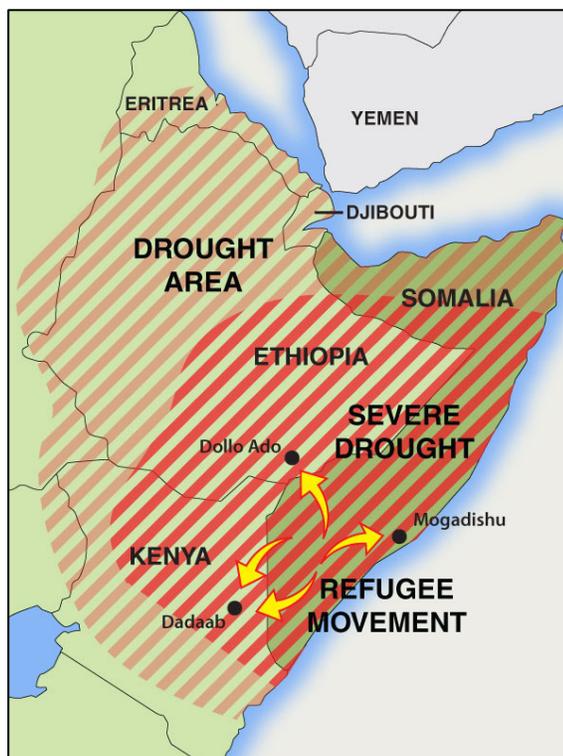
- Crucial funding still needed; UN appeal only 57% funded; ACT appeals only 31-59% funded
- UN declares famine in three new areas of Somalia; bringing total to five
- Refugee camp populations continue to grow: Dadaab at 419,916; Dollo Ado at 120,084
- Amidst overcrowding cases of violence against women, measles and cholera spike
- ELCA commits additional \$600,000, bringing total to \$1.25 million
- Designated appeal open for Horn of Africa Drought, 100% of gifts used for this disaster.
- Visit www.elca.org/disaster for more information.

II. SITUATION

Amidst new UN reports declaring famine in three new areas of Somalia and pessimistic projections for future rainfall, the situation in the Horn of Africa worsens. With over 12.4 million people affected, the need for increased international response grows.

Yet, most appeals sit only half funded. The UN appeal is 57% funded, leaving a \$1 billion shortfall. The ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), a consortium of 111 church and faith-based actors, has three separate appeals for Kenya (35% funded), Ethiopia (31% funded) and Somalia (59% funded)¹. These funds provide the ability to supply much needed aid, like food, water, shelter and medical attention, to the region.

Somalia. With the UN now declaring famine in five areas of southern Somalia, the need for aid has grown. Unfortunately, continued conflict and civil insecurity have made it difficult to get much needed aid into the country. This has led one-quarter (1.88 million) of the country's population to seek aid away from home. Many have moved into the neighboring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti as well as Yemen and Eritrea in search of food and water. The LWF-managed camps of Dadaab in eastern Kenya and Dollo Ado in southeastern Ethiopia continue to meet the expanded needs as new arrivals flow in



¹ ACT Alliance Update, 24 August 2011

daily. Both camps have surpassed capacity, with Dadaab now home to 419,916 refugees and Dollo Ado to 120,084².

Nearly 470,000 Somalis seeking aid have chosen to stay in the country, making their way to the capital city of Mogadishu. Aid is difficult to bring to the camps for displaced persons around the capital because of the insecurity caused by fighting between al-Shabaab militants and African Union (AU) forces. However, the violence has decreased since al-Shabaab announced its withdrawal from Mogadishu on August 6, so that aid could reach those in need. The ACT Alliance has gained access to the camps around the city and is bringing much needed aid to residents. One of the major concerns is raised rates of measles and cholera brought on by the severe overcrowding of these camps.

Kenya. Water continues to be scarce, and many face difficulties accessing food distribution points and other services. The worst affected areas of the country are Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, northern Isiolo, Moyale, eastern Samburu, and southern Kajiado districts. The drought situation in these areas has led to the displacement of families and the loss of resources and livelihoods for nearly 3.5 million pastoralists and subsistence farmers. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates are above 20% in most arid districts, with northeast Turkana having the highest GAM rate (37.4%). Almost 500,000 children under age 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women are most affected by acute malnutrition. These levels will continue to rise if current trends are not immediately addressed³.

Dadaab refugee camp is now housing nearly 420,000 refugees, of which over 95% are Somali. To help meet the rapidly increasing need, the camp has expanded into three new camps (Ifo II, Ifo III and Kambioos) that will be able to hold an additional 240,000 residents. 140,000 of this number are already in Dadaab, and capacity of these new facilities is expected to be reached in the next two months. Also of concern is that refugees setting up tents outside of the camp boundaries are doing so in a seasonal river bed. If the October-November rains come as expected, this area will flood and may lead to higher rates of illness. Security is also an issue, especially for women and children. With staff stretched as they work to expand capacity, reports of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are up both for arriving refugees and those in the camps.⁴

Ethiopia. The worst affected drought areas in Ethiopia continue to be Somali Region in the east of the country, Oromiya Region in the south-western corner and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) in the south. These regions continue to be affected by heightened levels of malnutrition, with scarce food and water leading to high food prices. A new concern, particularly in the SNNPR, is an increase in measles outbreaks. Currently there are enough drugs to meet the need; the situation is being closely watched should the number of cases spike. The medical community also is prepared to respond to reports of cholera outbreaks amongst Somali refugees.⁵

² UNHCR Camp Statistics, 25 August 2011 (Dadaab), 23 August 2011 (Dollo Ado)

³ UN OCHA, Kenya Humanitarian Update, 12 August 2011

⁴ ACT Alliance Update, 24 August 2011

⁵ UN OCHA, Ethiopian Humanitarian Bulletin, 22 August 2011

The Dollo Ado refugee camp has tripled in size since the beginning of the year, going from 40,479 residents in Dec 2010 to 120,084 in Aug 2011. To help meet the need a fourth camp, Hilaweyn, has been opened and is currently receiving 1,000 new refugees a day, though 100,000 refugees are still in need of housing. Increased medical services are also needed. The UN reports that child death rates in the camp are at “alarming” levels, compounded by malnutrition and a measles outbreak. 85% of children 6 months to 15 years have been vaccinated for measles, but over half of the cases (55%) are people over 15. The camp is also preparing for the potential for a cholera outbreak^{6,7}.

III. COORDINATED RESPONSE

The ELCA is responding in partnership with Lutheran and ecumenical actors in the region. This effort is coordinated by the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), a consortium of 111 church and faith-based actors responding to disasters. The ELCA, a member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), has supported the humanitarian and long-term sustainable development work of the LWF Department for World Service (LWF-DWS). For many years in this region, LWS-DWS has responded to post-conflict refugee needs and has invested in sustainable development, promoting opportunities for individuals to build their capacity to live in justice and dignity. Additionally, the ELCA has close church-to-church relationships with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), through dialogue, service and witness.

The ELCA had pre-positioned with LWF \$250,000 for emergency response in the region. These funds were quickly deployed in July to provide the “first water” to many arriving refugees in Dadaab, as well as emergency enriched porridge for children and elderly refugees who were too weak to eat dry food. As the drought worsened, the ELCA, through undesignated gifts to ELCA Disaster Response, was able to quickly compliment the emergency fund with an initial contribution of \$400,000, transferred on July 25 of 2011 for immediate response efforts in Ethiopia and Kenya. An additional \$600,000 was committed in early August to meet the needs of the region, as assessed by our companions.

Ethiopia. Two ELCA companions are responding in Ethiopia: EECMY and LWF-DWS. In August, EECMY began a three-month response, providing food aid for 29,900 individuals in Saba Boru and Gasara districts, both located in the Oromiya Region. Low and erratic rainfall has diminished crop performance which has resulted in a decreased food reserve, loss of household purchasing power, water shortages and a gap in grazing land for animals.

The LWF helps manage the camp at Dollo Ado, working especially to provide water and sanitation services. The camp’s Transit Center, where refugees wait before being relocated into the camp, was severely overcrowded in mid-July, causing an acute shortage of water. The LWF, working with the UN’s Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), trucked in seven water trucks daily to help meet the heightened demand and are working to drill seven new wells in the area. With the risk of cholera on the rise, the LWF also conducted a two-day Sanitation/Hygiene awareness-raising campaign and distributed 2,500 bars of soap to refugees.

⁶ UNHCR Camp Statistics, 23 August 2011

⁷ ACT Alliance Update, 24 August 2011

Kenya. In consultation with LWF-DWS, ELCA funds were given prioritized to meet the emerging response of both Somali refugees at Kenya's Dadaab camps and to drought-affected Kenyans in the Turkana region. LWF priorities for the Turkana region are on water distribution and securing emergency livestock intervention for pastoralists. The response will target 200 high-need households (average 8 persons per household) with access to veterinary services, vaccinations and de-worming. This will promote the health of approximately 10,000 animals and the income security for the families that own them. Additionally, the ELCA is providing, through the LWF, water access to 1,000 households for a period of six months. Water access activities involve repairing water harvesting structures in the region and installing water tanks at schools for reliable access to water.

At the LWF-managed Dadaab camps, the ELCA is helping fill vital gap in services and supplies for Somali refugee families and the caseworkers dedicated to ensuring their safety and security. Use of initial funds include providing clothes and shoes to girls, who are most vulnerable to gender-based violence; securing plastic sheets and tents to be used for shelter; providing staff time for the surveying and demarcation of the camp outskirts. Training for camp outreach workers on emergency response and accountability will be provided to promote quality care for refugees.

Ongoing Planning. Other ELCA companions are augmenting response strategies for the communities that they serve. The ELCA is committed to walking with other companions in the region as they assess the needs of their communities. Given its commitment to both meet immediate needs and help people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, the ELCA will also support the long-term rehabilitation efforts of our companions.

IV. FUNDRAISING

The ELCA has opened a designated account to receive gifts for response efforts to this disaster. One hundred percent (100%) of all gifts contributed to the Horn of Africa Drought fund will be used entirely to respond to this disaster both for immediate needs and long-term rehabilitation of communities and livelihoods.

Contributions to this appeal can be made in the following ways:

- Give by phone at 800-638-3522
- Donate online at: www.elca.org/disaster
- Send checks to:
 - ELCA Disaster Response
 - 39330 Treasury Center
 - Chicago, IL 60694
 - Memo: Horn of Africa Drought

V. COMMUNICATION

To help you share the severity of this situation and how to respond the ELCA has produced a number of resources, free to reproduce, found at www.elca.org/disaster and elsewhere. These include:

- Worship resources for this disaster
- Featured content from our companions in East Africa on the ELCA Disaster Response blog found at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/category/horn-of-africa>.
 - Horn of Africa: UN Refugee Agency Posts New Portal for Situation Overview
 - Horn of Africa: Dadaab – A Refugee’s Story
 - Where is the Horn of Africa? What is Going on There? Why Should I Care?
 - Horn of Africa: Startling Statistics in UN Briefing
 - Horn of Africa Drought: Hearing Echoes in UN OCHA Press Release
 - Horn of Africa Drought: LWF Underlines Importance of New Dadaab Camps
 - Horn of Africa Drought: LWF Assessment of New Arrivals
 - Horn of Africa Drought: 3rd LWF Update on Dadaab Camps
 - Horn of Africa Drought: Galemo’s Story
 - Horn of Africa Drought: Luley’s Story
- News releases found at www.elca.org/news

VI. CONTACT

Desk	Role	Name	Contact Information
ELCA International Disaster Response	Director	Megan Bradfield	megan.bradfield@elca.org x2291
	Information Specialist	Matthew Ley	matthew.ley@elca.org X2574
ELCA Domestic Disaster Response	Director	Kevin Massey	kevin.massey@elca.org X2822
	Associate Director	Michael Nevergall	michael.nevergall@elca.org X2863
	Administrative Assistant	Maria Maldonado	maria.maldonado@elca.org X2748
ELCA Global Mission, Companion Synod/Relationships	Manager for Companion Relationships, Africa	Barbara Berry-Bailey	barbara.berry-bailey@elca.org x2621
ELCA Marketing and Communications	Marketing Manager	Rachel Clamen	rachel.claman@elca.org X2955
ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal	Director	Dan Rift	daniel.rift@elca.org X2757
	Associate Director	Audrey Riley	audrey.riley@elca.org X2715

(Front Page Photo: Paul Jeffrey, ACT Alliance)