



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

Situation Report: 8.3.2011

Horn of Africa Drought

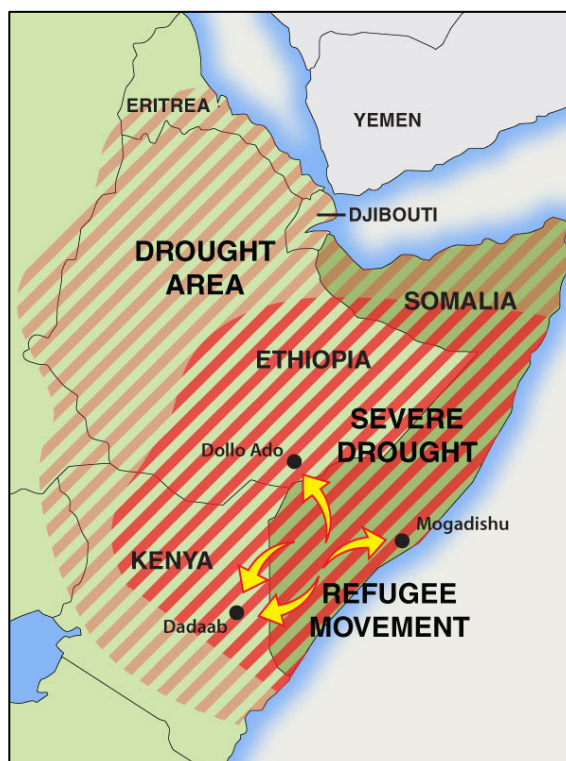
I. SUMMARY

- Worst drought in 60 years affecting 12 million people in East Africa.
- Conflict in Somalia further exacerbates the existing humanitarian crisis.
- ELCA pre-positioned funds leverage the first relief on the ground.
- ELCA companions requesting more than \$27 million for immediate relief activities.
- 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

The drought situation in the Horn of Africa has reached crisis levels as a result of two consecutive failed rainy seasons. The current drought conditions are impacting 12,391,394 throughout the Horn of Africa, up from 11.6 million recorded on 26 July¹. Rain, the lifeblood to this part of Africa, is at the root of food security, water security, income security and basic survival. Due to the low levels of rainfall, crops have failed, substantial livestock mortality has occurred and local food prices have soared.

Somalia. Heavy fighting erupted on July 28, in Mogadishu as African Union (AU) forces launched an offensive against al-Shabaab militants. At least six people died and 39 people were wounded, including 19 AU peacekeepers. The continued conflict and civil insecurity within Somalia further complicates the humanitarian crisis related to drought and famine within the country. Unprecedented numbers of Somalis are



¹ UN OCHA Factsheet, Horn of Africa Drought Crisis, 29 July 2011

fleeing the country's borders to seek refuge in neighboring countries. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), one quarter of the country's population of 7.5 million has been displaced; 800,000 have fled the country into Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Yemen.

UNHCR camp population statistics for the Dollo Ado camps in Ethiopia and Dadaab camps in Kenya show high numbers of women and children arriving from Somalia with alarming malnutrition rates. In the agricultural-dependent Southern Somalia, malnutrition is expected to be above 20% in rural areas resulting in as high as a 33% malnutrition rate for refugees arriving at across-boarder camps.

Kenya. According to a recent United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) report on the current drought situation in the Horn of Africa, 2011 has been the driest year since 1995. The 2011 rains were extremely poor exacerbating an already dire situation from the previous year's droughts. Famine is affecting a projected 3.7 million² people in northern, southeastern, and coastal marginal agricultural areas of Kenya which are now facing the second or third successive poor or failed season. Areas most affected include the north eastern pastoral districts including Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo, northern Garissa, Tana River, Marsabit, Moyale, Mbeere, and Mandera; and the south-eastern marginal districts of Kitui, Makueni, Mwingi, and Tharaka.



According to a recent report by the Regional Learning and Advocacy Program (REGLAP), a group of NGOs led by Oxfam Great Britain, the current drought is severely affecting pastoralists and the health of their families beyond their coping capacity. The situation has reached a point where communities can no longer survive without external support.

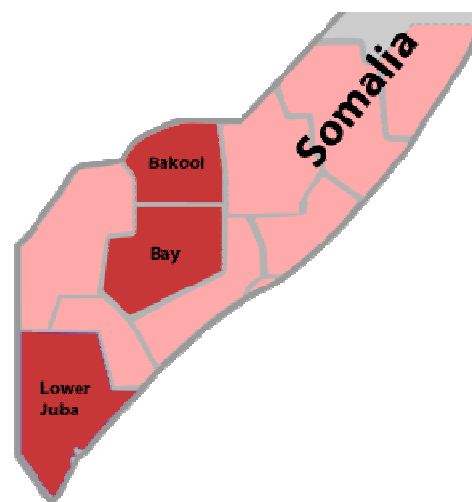
The value of livestock, the main household asset for pastoralists living in the most severely affected regions, has plummeted and livestock markets have collapsed. This has led to a massive cross border movement of livestock, over 70% in the case of livestock in Mandera north, leaving behind the weak and sickly animals for the many women and children left behind to depend upon. Collapsed livestock markets coupled with the rapidly degrading health of the animals due to lack of pasture and water has seriously eroded the purchasing power of the affected communities and diminished their livelihoods. This opens a real and present danger for starvation and probable large-scale loss of human life.

Food security for the poor and very poor households in northern and eastern pastoral areas has deteriorated to crisis and emergency levels and requires urgent interventions to avert further loss of life. For poor and very poor farm households in the southeastern marginal agricultural areas, food security has already deteriorated to crisis levels. This situation has been further complicated by rising

² UN OCHA Snapshot, East Africa Drought, 29 July 2011

malnutrition among people as families resort to skipping meals, selling their capital assets to buy food while at the same withdrawing children from school to migrate with the remaining livestock in order to find water.

In Northern Kenya, the Dadaab camp complex is responding to the influx of Somali refugees. The camp, established in 1991 to accommodate a total of 90,000 refugees, is now hosting almost 400,000 refugees, growing by 85% in just three years. This rapid population increase at the camps has put a great deal of pressure on the humanitarian actors in addition to the surrounding environment and host communities. The majority of newly arriving refugees are women and children, farmers and animal herders from the regions of Lower Juba, Bay and Bakool. The poor conditions the refugees are fleeing have contributed to increasing mortality rates for children under 5 by three times (.6-.8;1,000) and malnutrition rates, currently at 15%.



Ethiopia. The prolonged La Niña conditions in Ethiopia have affected a second consecutive rain season resulting in drought. Drought has resulted in general unavailability of water, failed crops, and livestock loss eroding purchasing power and financial stability to access necessary food and water supplies that are available to purchase. The worst affected drought areas in Ethiopia are Somali Region in the east of the country bordering Somalia, Oromiya Region in the south-western corner of Ethiopia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) in the south.

On July 11, 2011, the Government of Ethiopia and the UN agreed that more than 4.5 million people are in need of assistance in Ethiopia; this figure is increasing with the influx of refugees bringing the current total to just less than 4.8 million³. From the total, 41% of the population in need are from Oromia region while 31% from Somali and 31% from Amhara.

Somali refugees continue to arrive in increasing numbers into neighboring countries, including Ethiopia, with an average of 1,400-2,000 per day reported arriving at refugee camps in Dollo Ado in south-eastern Ethiopia bordering Somalia, in Ethiopia's Somali Region. The current camp figures in the Dollo Ado area is estimated at 112,000⁴. From the border and transit centers, refugees then travel some 60 km westwards to a new refugee camp at Kobe. Kobe, the third camp in the area, has just recently opened and has already nearly reached its capacity of 25,000 refugees. UNHCR has begun construction of a fourth refugee camp, Halowein.

³ UN OCHA Horn of Africa Drought Crisis Factsheet, 22 July 2011

⁴ UN OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, Weekly Humanitarian Highlights in Ethiopia, 24, July 2011

Reports on the condition of arriving refugees paint an alarming situation, many arriving weak with up to 45% of children suffering malnutrition. Oxfam reports malnutrition rates in the Dollo Ado camps for Somali refugees at more than four times the level considered an emergency and in some areas between 60-90 percent of livestock have already died.

III. COORDINATED RESPONSE

The ELCA is participating in response with historical Lutheran and ecumenical actors in the region 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 Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service (LWF-DWS). For many years in this region, LWS-DWS has focused on continued response to post-conflict refugee needs and has invested in 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.

Pre-positioned resources in the amount of \$250,000 were quickly deployed to provide the “first water” to arriving refugees in Dadaab, as well as emergency enriched porridge for children and elderly refugees who are too weak to eat dry food. These funds were positioned with the LWF for response to cyclical emergency needs in the East Africa region.

Through undesignated gifts to ELCA Disaster Response, the ELCA 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 (\$100,000) and Kenya (\$100,000 for Turkana, \$200,000 for Dadaab camps).

Ethiopia. Two ELCA companions have begun response efforts in Ethiopia: EECMY and LWF-DWS. EECMY is focusing intervention in Saba Boru and Gasara districts, both located in the Oromiya Region. In both districts, the 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 EECMY has a more localized system of project management managed from the offices of the church unit Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC). Two synods of the EECMY are overseeing the planned projects in the districts. As an implementing agency, the EECMY-DASSC has had a presence in each project area on a long-term basis expediting ability to build trust and be seen as a vital resource within the community. Top priorities are to address emergency needs just one step in the process of enabling communities to once again become self-sufficient.

The EECMY intervention targets 20,800 individuals in food distribution and an additional 9,100 individuals for the receipt of Famix, a corn-based supplementary food aid for small children and the

elderly. Beneficiaries in each project area are targeted according to the National Food Aid Targeting Guidelines which focus on geographic targeting and data on the performance of crops, asset depletion, income sources and malnutrition. Food distribution is initially planned for a three-month period to commence in August.

Kenya. In consultation with LWF-DWS, recommendations for the use of ELCA funds were given in order to fill gap in funding provided by other actors. Priority needs emerged both for response to Somali refugees seeking refuge at Kenya's Dadaab camps and to drought-affected Kenyans in the Turkana region. The ELCA, through World Hunger funds, has provided significant support to LWF's work at Kakuma camp located in the Turkana District of Kenya. The Turkana District, largely inhabited by pastoralists, has one of the highest Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates in the country currently at 37.4% (July 2011) of the population.

LWF priorities for this region are concentrated on water distribution and securing emergency livestock intervention to pastoralists. The location of this region, along international borders, increases the risk of livestock to disease. With the pasture land decreasing due to drought, high migration is putting livestock at risk of disease which can be fatal when coupled with poor nutrition. A planned 200 high-need households (average 8 persons per household) will have 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 will be providing, through the LWF, water access to 1,000 households for a period of six months. Water access activities will also involve repairing water harvesting structures in the region and installing water tanks at schools for reliable access to water.

Southeast, at the LWF managed Dadaab camps, the ELCA will help fill vital gap in services and supplies for Somali refugee families and the caseworkers dedicated to ensuring their safety and security. With a population nearing 400,000, the camp needs are quite extensive. Initial ELCA funds will be used to provide clothes and shoes to girls, who are most vulnerable to gender-based violence. Funds will also be used to secure plastic sheets and tents to be used for shelter in addition to 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 such as the KELC who is finalizing a relief strategy for 10,000 drought-affected families through the provision of food for seven months. The ELCA has also expressed commitment to support the growing needs of Ethiopia's Dollo Ado camp through LWF. The ELCA is also reserving resources so that funding can be provided to the long-term rehabilitation needs 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

During the month of July, 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>.
 - 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

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(Front Page Photo: Paul Jeffrey, ACT Alliance)