



SITUATION REPORT EAST AFRICA DROUGHT



Photography by Jonathan Ernst for LWR

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of people affected: **13.3 million**

LWR's fundraising target: **\$3 million**

Number of people facing severe risk: **4 million**

Average daily arrivals at Dadaab Refugee Camps: **1,000**

Somali refugee population: **>933,000**

Expected peak number of refugees in Dadaab camps: nearly **600,000**

Estimated aid needed: **\$2.4 billion**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- East Africa is now receiving "short rains," a period of rain between October to December. While the rains are a welcome relief, they will not be nearly enough to reverse the damaging effects of the drought, and needs are expected to continue to increase in the coming months.
- Food prices in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya continue to rise. Households are increasingly unable to afford even basic food to feed their families, making the crisis even more severe.
- The security situation is rapidly deteriorating. There are reports of violence in Mogadishu, along the Kenya/Somalia border, and even in the Dadaab camps themselves. LWR's partners are taking steps to ensure safety among staff and the refugees, including increasing security measures.
- Rate of refugees arriving at the Dadaab camps is decreasing from 1,600 per day during the peak of the emergency to 1,000 per day on average in September. The sheer volume of refugees is forcing a reorganization of the Dadaab camps, and partners report needs will be increasing for the next several months.

SUMMARY OF SITUATION

East Africa, including Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, is facing the worst drought to affect the region in 60 years. The drought has led to widespread food shortages for millions of people. Famine has been declared in six districts in Somalia, spurring refugees to seek food, water and other support in neighboring Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya. More than 13.3 million people are affected by the drought, with nearly 4 million people severely affected.

The drought, which began in late 2010, has led to several failed crop cycles, the death of livestock and the loss of agricultural livelihoods. Left with few resources to provide food for themselves and their families, and displaced by ongoing conflict and fighting, people are fleeing their homelands in Somalia for camps in Ethiopia and Kenya.



In Kenya alone, camps built to hold 90,000 refugees are currently hosting over 400,000 people and receiving more than 1,000 new arrivals each day. Many of the new arrivals have walked long distances and arrive malnourished and in poor physical condition. Children are particularly affected; reports indicate that 30 to 40 percent of the children arriving to the Dadaab camps are acutely malnourished.

In Ethiopia, more than 130,000 people have arrived in the Dollo Ado camps, with more than 90,000 Somalis arriving this year. The camps were designed to host 85,000 people, and capacity is becoming a serious concern. In other parts of Ethiopia, food is becoming scarce, with both crop failures and loss of livestock causing concern about rising food prices.

LWR RESPONDS

LWR has begun long-term drought relief activities in Northern Kenya. LWR has provided funding to two community-based organizations to begin rehabilitation of systems to provide safe access to water for drinking and agricultural use. Further, LWR has provided seeds and training to allow farmers to begin growing crops during the short rains. LWR is continuing to expand its long-term programs in Kenya to address the effects of drought on communities in a sustainable way, and to help these communities become less vulnerable when future droughts occur.

LWR has provided \$500,000 to immediate response efforts to support the work of its partner, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Kenya and Ethiopia. In Kenya, LWR is working with LWF to expand its work in the Dadaab camps to ensure the reception of new arrivals as well as the provision of water and other critically needed supplies to families in and around the Dadaab camps.

In Ethiopia, LWF is distributing food in drought-affected communities, providing supplementary nutrition for young children and new mothers, training farmers to improve natural resource management and crop yields, and providing farm tools to begin recovery efforts. LWR is also providing Personal Care Kits to help affirm the dignity of those affected by the drought and prevent the spread of illness.

YOU CAN HELP

To carry out a long-term response to this crisis, aimed at helping farmers recover their crops and agricultural livelihoods and reducing people's vulnerability to future crises, LWR must **raise \$3 million** by the end of 2011. Help increase LWR's response to this crisis with a gift to the **East Africa Drought** fund.

LWR accepts gifts by phone at **800.597.5972**, online at **lwr.org/donate** or by sending a check or money order to:

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
P.O. Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21298-9832 USA

Your gifts will be used to respond to the East Africa Drought until needs there are met. Gifts received after that time will be used where needs are greatest. Thank you for your compassion. Please give generously.

FROM THE FIELD



Fatumah Muhammed Abdi cares for five small children in her tent at the Dadaab refugee complex — but none of them are her own. Four are nieces and nephews, one is an orphan she rescued from her village. When the drought and food crisis became unbearable in her native Somalia, Fatumah fled and brought the children with her to Dadaab.

Since arriving in Dadaab, Fatumah and the children have received food rations, shelter items and the children are now attending school. LWR and LWF work together in Dadaab to identify vulnerable families like Fatumah's and connect them to the services they need.

Fatumah is happy with the services she's received in the camps and says although she initially worried for the children, "I'm not so worried now that I'm here."

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