



Jonathan Ernst/ACT Alliance

# Horn of Africa Drought Update One Year Later

**It was a little more than a year ago that ELCA Disaster Response took action in the Horn of Africa as a long drought threatened to deepen into famine, particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.**

You answered our call quickly and generously, giving more than \$1,085,000 to ELCA Disaster Response, designated for the Horn of Africa Drought Relief. You have brought help and hope to families and communities affected by the drought. Thank you.

The long, severe drought forced hundreds of thousands of people to leave their homes in search of water or food. Millions of people lost livestock or livelihoods. Tens of thousands even lost their lives. However, many more of the 13 million people affected, especially in Kenya and Ethiopia, received life-saving aid, thanks to your generosity and the dedicated work of our local partners and companion churches.

One family who received life-saving help arrived at the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya not long ago. A Somali woman named Ambiah arrived after traveling for weeks with her mother, her toddler and her newborn, Hamsa. Ambiah said that they hadn't eaten for 18 days, and that she often feared that her baby would die on the way. Upon arrival, the family received life-saving food and water, health care and household necessities. It is your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response that make this work possible.

Now, however, drought has spread to the Sahel region of West Africa as well. Our companions and partners in that region have asked for our help as this crisis unfolds. Please visit [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster) to learn more and to give generously.



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



## Horn of Africa: Kenya

**Situation:** 2011 was the driest year on record in Kenya, greatly affecting the herders who move their cattle from place to place for grazing. As the drought wore on, they had to travel farther for poorer pastures. This led to a widespread food crisis for both the people and their animals.

Scarcity caused by drought was made worse by instability in neighboring Somalia. The ongoing conflict in Somalia has driven most humanitarian aid workers from the country. Without effective assistance, some drought-stricken regions have seen full-blown famine set in. As conditions deteriorated, Somali families began leaving their homes to seek water and food elsewhere. Hundreds of thousands of refugees streamed over the border into Kenya, competing for scarce resources such as food, water, shelter and protection.

Many of the displaced Somalis risked their lives to make their way to the refugee camp at Dadaab. As Dadaab's population swelled to five times its original capacity (from 90,000 to 455,000 in August 2012), the Kenyan government began directing people to the Kakuma camp, hundreds of miles away in the Turkana region of Kenya. Kakuma camp has also received 7,000 South Sudanese refugees, driven from their homes by renewed fighting in South Sudan.

**Response:** Your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response are at work in Kenya, caring for refugees as they arrive at camps, and often providing the first cups of water and food to those who make the long journey. These gifts support The Lutheran World Federation as they manage the refugee camp in Dadaab, and also help equip and train 300 refugees to form a community peace and protection teams thereby creating a stable and safe environment within the camp. These teams also work to protect women and children from gender-based violence. As Ibrahim, a member of a peace team says, "Nothing is possible without peace." This is a major success of our work in Dadaab.

In the Turkana region of Kenya, your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response are helping communities with disaster preparedness and response. This involves planning for drought preparedness, training village land use committees, developing early warning systems and building drought-mitigating sand dams and rain water collection systems.

ELCA Disaster Response is also working with our companion church, the Kenyan Evangelical Lutheran Church, to supply food for families identified as most in need by the church and local community leaders.





# Horn of Africa: Ethiopia



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**Situation:** Like Kenya, Ethiopia also faced periods of long, extreme drought. Uneven rains led to flooding, contributing to the spread of measles and meningitis throughout the country. Thousands of refugees from neighboring Somalia and Sudan, living in refugee camps in eastern and western Ethiopia, are among some of the most affected.

**Response:** Response: ELCA Disaster Response is working with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in supplying food for nearly 30,000 people in the western districts of the country, as well as supplying water and sanitation in refugee camps through The Lutheran World Federation.

In the eastern districts of the country, your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response are helping drill new water wells, build latrines, and plant vegetable gardens in three different refugee camps managed by The Lutheran World Federation.



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# Horn of Africa: Looking Forward

The need is still great. The many people who have left their homes for refugee camps and those who still live in drought-stricken villages and towns still need your help. One of the biggest challenges moving forward will be continuing to provide and increase protection and services to the families living at the Dadaab camp, now considered the third largest city in Kenya.

Funding is becoming scarce as some humanitarian organizations turn their attention to other priorities, but ELCA Disaster Response will continue to bring hope and help to our neighbors in the Horn of Africa, working through our trusted partners and alongside our companion churches, for as long as we're needed.

# Our Next Response: Sahel

**Situation:** According to the United Nations, eight million people in the Sahel region of West Africa will need food assistance this year, and 11 million more are at risk. The countries of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal have all declared a state of drought. What's worse, swarms of locusts threaten this year's harvest.

**Response:** ELCA Disaster Response has already begun working with our companions in Senegal, distributing food and animal feed. As our companions and partners throughout the region set out their plans, we stand ready to respond according to their needs.

Please prayerfully consider giving to ELCA Disaster Response: Sahel Drought Relief. One hundred percent of your gift will be used for this response. Thank you.



Anna Palmén/LWF Chad

## Give now.

Mail your checks to ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300. If you'd like to designate your gift for the drought in the Sahel region, please write "West Africa Sahel Drought" in the memo line of your check.

## Learn more.

Visit [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster) for more information on how your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response are at work in the world.



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