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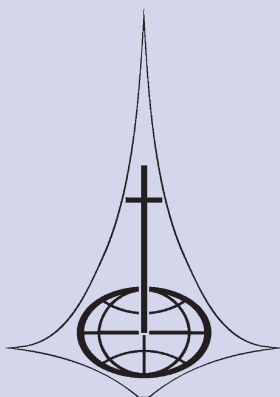
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## LWF to Advocate for Increased Funds for Drought-Stricken Horn of Africa



Women wait for food and other supplies in Hagadera, one of the LWF-managed refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya.  
© Paul Jeffrey

### Lutheran Leaders Seek Long-Term Responses

**NAIROBI, Kenya/GENEVA (LWI)** – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) will advocate scaled up funding for Horn of Africa drought interventions, General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge said at the conclusion of a four-day visit by an LWF delegation to the region.

Increased funds would enable countries in the region more effectively to assist affected populations, including the large number of Somalis fleeing to refugee camps in Kenya and other locations, Junge told members of the media in Nairobi on 3 August.

“We know [that] to respond to both the refugees and the drought situation, a huge level of fund-raising at a global level needs to be done. According to UN sources, we have today a figure of USD 1.3 billion which is required to address the needs,” said Junge.

“It sounds [like] a lot but if you ... see how much was spent and the amounts the governments were able to raise in order to save global financial and bank systems ... it should be an easy thing to raise USD 1.3 [billion] to save human life,” he added.

Junge headed an LWF delegation comprising Tanzanian bishop Alex G. Malasusa, LWF vice president for the Africa region; Ethiopian church president Rev. Dr Wakseyoum Idosa; Kenyan Bishops Zachariah W. Kahuthu and Walter E. Obare Omwanza; and staff from the Geneva offices on a 31 July to 3 August solidarity visit with the Horn of Africa. An estimated 12 million people are affected by the region's most severe drought in 60 years.

“We see people are suffering from the drought. We could see [while travelling in

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### LWF Strategy 2012-2017

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) strategic plan charts a common journey for the communion to 2017 when it will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, says LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan.

The LWF Strategy 2012-2017 names theology, ecumenical dialogue and interfaith collaboration; mutual accompaniment in holistic mission; and diakonia as the most important areas of work for the 145-member church communion. Closely related are the cross-cutting priorities theological reflection and formation; advocacy and public witness; gender justice; and youth participation.

The strategy was adopted by the LWF Council in June following intensive consultation with member churches and partners.

“This global strategy of the LWF lays out a vision and pathway for our common spiritual journey as a communion of Lutheran churches, and for our service to people and the world,” notes LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge.

The LWF Strategy 2012-2017 is available in all four LWF working languages in PDF format on the LWF Web site:

[www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org)

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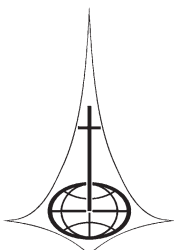
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# Call to End Silence on Violence against Women

## Pastoral Letter from Latin American and Caribbean Lutheran Leaders

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina/GENEVA (LWI)**

– Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean must face up to the problem of violence against women in the family, Lutheran leaders from the region said in a pastoral letter following a meeting of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in the Argentine capital.

“We are convinced that women are being maltreated and this is caused by violence in the family,” said the LWF Latin American and Caribbean Church Leadership Conference at the conclusion of its 30 May to 3 June gathering in Buenos Aires.

“We consider it very important to continue working in our churches, despite the strong resistance, to face up to this issue in our congregations and also in the various sectors of society,” church representatives said in the pastoral letter.

They proposed that programs be launched “in the churches, the schools and community groups to assist in prevention and to protect and support victims suffering from this kind of violence. The result would enable us to break down the barriers of silence and to undertake liberating work in our society.”

Sponsored by the LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD), the meeting was held within the framework of “living and celebrating the communion,” the pastoral letter stated. “We worked hard on the different ecclesiastical situations which bring us together as churches in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

The 50 leaders, who included bishops and presidents of churches, said they were also compelled to speak out on external debt and the international financial crisis.

“We cannot remain silent in view of the suffering of thousands of men, women and children who are living in inhuman conditions.” They pointed out that “the crisis is the result of political and economic ailments” and urged the LWF to support debt auditing for the region’s countries.

The pastoral letter also underscored the importance of ecumenism,



*Fabiola Bernal, Peruvian Lutheran Evangelical Church, reads Scripture during the Latin America and Caribbean Church Leadership Conference 2011. © IELU*

stating that “to share bread is a call addressed to us by the Lord to celebrate together as brothers and sisters around the same table.”

To this end, “it is necessary for us to recognize one another as churches with our gifts and ministries in order then to have an ecumenical dialogue.”

They added, “Ecumenism calls us to unite to work on one and the same cause, setting aside our differences.”

Citing the joint action of different churches in caring for the suffering in response to the earthquake in Chile in 2010, they recommended that churches set up teams to act in emergencies.

### Indigenous People

The leaders urged churches and congregations to work with indigenous people in the region “because they are in a situation of injustice, living in absolute poverty and uprooted from their lands.” Violence and debt issues also affected indigenous people, they noted.

They appealed to the churches to “contribute to the defense of the rights of these indigenous peoples.”

People in prison “must also be the recipients of diaconal support” and the church should speak out for them to the authorities, the church leaders stated.

In order for the church to have greater influence, the pastoral letter urged

churches to form alliances with other like-minded organizations. “To this end, the church’s diaconal work should be valued appropriately; diaconal work should be supported in all necessary ways.”

The church leaders affirmed the participation of young people in the meeting, who represented the youth in their churches. “They participated actively throughout the conference and had their own settings where they were able to work and make it possible to create a Latin American and Caribbean youth network, taking up the proposal recommended at the pre-Assembly in Bogotá, Colombia, one year ago,” the letter pointed out.

The Latin American and Caribbean Lutheran leaders appealed to the Lutheran communion to celebrate and share bread with the marginalized in the region and commit to the transformation of society.

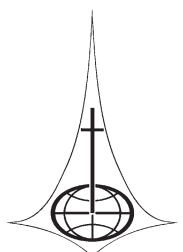
The full text of the pastoral letter is available on the LWF Web site at:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Message-LAC-Leadership-EN.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Message-LAC-Leadership-EN.pdf)

Spanish version:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Message-LAC-Leadership-ES.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Message-LAC-Leadership-ES.pdf)

10 June 2011



## Lutheran-Orthodox Commission Affirms Commitment toward Church Unity

### Dialogue Group Celebrates 30 Years of Continuous Ecumenical Reflection

**GENEVA (LWI)**—The Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission marked the completion of 30 years of work since the group met for the first session in 1981 in Espoo, Finland. Evaluations conducted by the commission members during the 15<sup>th</sup> plenary session held in Wittenberg, Germany, affirmed on both sides the work of this dialogue group and the commitment to work toward church unity.

A publication is planned to bring together the 12 statements produced by the commission over the years.

The Commission brings together The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Orthodox churches from around the world, under the authority of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The current group is co-chaired by Bishop Dr Donald J. McCoid (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), and H. E. Metropolitan Dr Gennadios of Sassima (Ecumenical Patriarchate).

At the Wittenberg meeting hosted by the LWF, the commission members “strongly expressed their desire and commitment for the continuation of the dialogue” and their gratitude “for the growth in understanding which has been achieved on many subjects.” They affirmed again the larger mandate agreed in 1981: “to help to lead the two church traditions ‘to convergence and full communion and mutual recognition,” states the joint communiqué from the 31 May to 7 June meeting.

In addition to observing the anniversary year, the commission completed work on a common statement, “The Mystery of the Church: The Nature, Attributes and Mission of the Church,” which includes the work of two preparatory meetings, in Iceland in 2009 and in Bethlehem in 2010.

Welcoming the group at a festive dinner, LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge thanked the commission for its faithful work over the years, and expressed hope that Orthodox and Lutherans “would continue to come closer to unity.”

During the meeting, a message with blessings and prayers was received from His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who expressed his fervent wishes for “good continuation until we reach the unity in faith for God’s glory.”

when they attend to their neighbors’ needs. We are to care for all the needy equally, regardless of their religion, race or culture,” the document states.

The statement calls for concerted effort to proclaim the gospel to the two-thirds of the world who are not



*At its 2011 meeting in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany, the Lutheran - Orthodox Joint Commission marked 30 years of dialogue. © Caren Pfabl*

As part of their evaluation, the Orthodox asked Lutheran commission members to convey to their churches the Orthodox concern for “the possibly serious implications for the dialogue which arise from the widespread Lutheran practice of ordaining women and, more recently, from decisions taken by some Lutheran churches concerning persons in same-gender relationships.”

The common statement from the Wittenberg meeting focuses on the nature of the Church as “one, holy, catholic and apostolic” and on dimensions of the mission of the Church: mission and the unity of the Church; mission as witness and proclamation; mission and diakonia; and the problems of proselytism and domination.

The statement maintains that proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ implies acts of caring. “Lutherans and Orthodox proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God

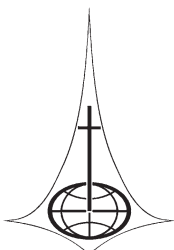
Christian, but cautions that this must be done “for Christ and in Christ” and should therefore not be coercive.

Dr Kathryn Johnson, Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs at the LWF, expressed hope that continuing dialogue with Orthodox Christians will bring common opportunities to make visible God’s love for the world.

“Orthodox and Lutheran Christians find we have much in common – we share the most central affirmations of our Christian faith, and our churches face common challenges in many parts of the world. It is essential for both our traditions that we continue to grow in our relations to one another,” said Johnson, co-secretary of the commission.

The topic for the 2012 commission’s preparatory meeting to be hosted by the Orthodox is: “The Understanding of Ministry/Priesthood in the light of the Holy Scriptures and the early Church.”

*1 July 2011*



## Lutherans and Anglicans Conclude Dialogue with Statement on Diaconal Character of the Church

Essential Link of Church Unity and Service seen at Final Meeting in Jerusalem

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The third Anglican – Lutheran International Commission (ALIC) held its sixth and final meeting in Jerusalem, 18-25 June.

The commission focused on the writing of its final report, “To Love and Serve the Lord,” which looks at the essential connection between *koinonia* (church unity) and *diakonia* (church service and witness). Including stories of diakonia from around the world, the report is written with the hope of reaching not only the international church bodies and church leaders but also institutions of theological education and even congregations seeking to deepen their commitment to discipleship.

The commission has been meeting since 2006. It was established by the Anglican Consultative Council and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to continue the dialogue be-

tween Anglicans and Lutherans on a worldwide level, in progress since 1970. ALIC is co-chaired by Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, and Bishop Dr Thomas Nyiwe, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.

The meeting was hosted by the Anglican Communion with support of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Commission members heard of the struggles of Christians in Jerusalem and Palestine, which have compelled many to leave the region. They also heard about the dedication of the local churches “to advocate for a just peace among all, to seek good relations among all the faith communities, and to offer higher quality education and health care to the whole society,” an ALIC communiqué states.

Members of the commission visited the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children and

the Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives, as well as the Dar al-Kalima College and the International Center Bethlehem.

LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan celebrated the final Eucharist for the commission and hosted them for a festive farewell dinner. Bishop Suheil Dawani, head of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, invited local church leaders for an ecumenical reception, and the commission was addressed by His Beatitude Theophilos III, the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem. Addressing the commission, both Dawani and Younan expressed hope for closer relations between their two churches.

Dr Kathryn Johnson, Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs for the LWF, said this commission had provided an admirable example of how an international commission can speak to the pressing concerns of churches around the world.

The decision of the group to focus on diakonia invites Lutherans and Anglicans everywhere to collaborate more closely in their diaconal work. By stressing the close, reciprocal links of worship and diakonia, the report also underlines the importance of relationships of communion between Anglicans and Lutherans – existing already in a number of regions and now encouraged for other contexts.

The report “To Love and Serve the Lord,” is expected to be finalized by the end of this year.



ALIC members during a drafting session of the commission's final report “To Love and Serve the Lord”  
© Neil Vigers

1 July 2011

## New Hong Kong Bishop Chan Advocates for Gospel-Centered Church

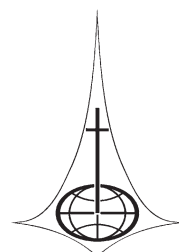
Jenny Chan Installed as Head of Lutheran Church

**HONG KONG, China/GENEVA (LWI)** – The Gospel of Jesus Christ must remain at the center of the church's values, says the new bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK).

Bishop Jenny K. L. Chan, who was elected as the head of the ELCHK in May and is just the second woman to hold the post, added that preaching the gospel is the responsibility of the

whole church, including its schools and social service units.

Speaking following her installation on 26 June at Truth Lutheran Church, Chan said she wants to





Laying on of hands during the installation of Rev. Jenny K. L. Chan as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. © ELCHK



ELCHK Bishop Jenny K. L. Chan © Private

nurture more co-workers who can reach out to youth in a fast-changing environment. She hopes the ELCHK will be a healthy and joyful church with energy to deal with the future.

Chan, who is a member of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council, stressed that the ELCHK must also remember that it belongs to the worldwide church and therefore should confess the triune God and serve those in need throughout the Lutheran family and the world.

The ELCHK has been a member of the LWF since 1957. It is one of the main Protestant denomina-

tions in Hong Kong, with nearly 16,000 members in 50 congregations. It also runs 22 schools and 40 social service units, and has a publishing unit, Taosheng Publishing House.

After serving as vice-bishop for six years, Chan was elected to the post of bishop at the 2 May annual general and representative meeting of the church. She succeeds Bishop Dr Nicholas Tai and will serve for three years. Rev. Ben Chang was installed as vice-bishop.

More than 500 clergy and council members from the ELCHK gath-

ered for her installation, which was presided over by Bishop Tai. With bells ringing, more than 100 clergy and council members processed into the service.

Former bishops Tai, Rev. John Tse, Rev. Koy Ying-Kwei and Rev. Josephine Tso laid on hands, along with Rev. Chang Wai-Cheong, pastor of the Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod, and Rev. Dr Lo Cho-Ching, dean of Tsung Tsin Mission. Tso preached from Matthew 10:40-42, noting that God rewards those who serve faithfully. The service also included the inauguration of the church council.

Chan was ordained in 1990 and served as pastor at True Love Lutheran Church for four years. She received her BA in Religious Education in 1983, and an MDiv in 1997 from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. She is the second woman to serve as bishop in the ELCHK.

She was elected to the LWF Council at the July 2010 Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany.

*(A contribution from the ELCHK)*

22 July 2011

## International Seminar Looks at “Fruits and Challenges of Ecumenical Dialogue”

### Deepened Relationships between Church Bodies Sought

**STRASBOURG, France/GENEVA (LWI)** – “From Dialogue to Communion: Fruits and Challenges of Ecumenical Dialogue,” was the theme of the 45<sup>th</sup> International Ecumenical Seminar hosted by the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France.

Some 60 participants attended the 2011 conference from 30 June to 6 July. They evaluated ecumenical milestones and sought to discern possible new directions. Facilitation came from those involved in the dialogues with Lutherans-Roman Catholics, Pentecostal churches and Mennonites.

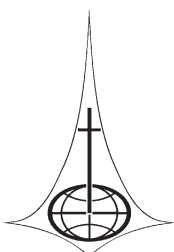
The institute was established in 1965 under the Lutheran Foundation for Inter-confessional Research, after the 1963 LWF Fourth Assembly in Helsinki, Finland. It brings together scholarly theological research, receiving and communicating ecumenical dialogues.

The first presentations came from Walter Cardinal Kasper, recently retired president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, former general secretary of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Both played an important role in the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue

leading to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ).

Kasper emphasized that “relationships are what make ecumenical dialogue possible.” The networks developed between Lutherans and Catholics, which went back to meetings in Malta (1967) and then Lima (1999), had enabled the signing of the JDDJ in Augsburg (1999).

The pattern continued to Seoul, South Korea (2006), when Methodists also adopted the JDDJ. Kasper stressed that while the documents are significant measures of the jour-



ney together, the relations built and restored were more important.

He stressed the need to strengthen this relationship through the sharing of more spiritual gifts. Referring to Catholics and Lutherans executed together at the hands of Germany's Nazis, he said these martyrs helped carry Lutheran-Catholic ecumenism. Although the pluralist context makes a common statement for 2017 difficult, Kasper said common stories bolster the shared commemoration of 500 years of the Reformation.

Noko emphasized the global South's contribution to ecumenical diakonia, explaining that while clarification of the doctrines dividing the Church are important, the possibilities of common diaconal work necessitated by the challenges in the global South requires this aspect of ecumenism to be taken seriously. The diaconal aspect of ecumenism was evident in the emergence of organizations like ACT Alliance, Ecumenical News International (ENI) and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), said Noko.

Diakonia was alluded to by Rev. Dr Wanda Deifelt, with respect to ecumenism in Brazil.

Bishop emeritus Dr Eero Huovinen of Helsinki, Finland, emphasized the visible unity of the church as the goal of ecumenical dialogue, also raised by Rev. Canon John St. H. Gibaut, director of the World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order. Huovinen said Christ unites the Church and what unites churches is stronger than the divisions.

Prof. Theodor Dieter, director of the Strasbourg institute, used a bibliographical approach and focused on Martin Luther and his own ecumenical journey. He noted that Luther's importance was not merely in what he said, but also in

why he said what he said. Luther needs to be engaged contextually.

This engagement is, however, not uniform, because in ecumenical dialogue one sees some of Luther's shortcomings such as his misrepresentation of others. Still, Dieter stressed that both Lutherans and Catholics need to work hard not to forget the questions their forebears argued about. He cited the significance of worship in ecumenical dialogue, saying it faces difficulties if the whole exercise is merely academic.



*Participants of the 45th International Ecumenical Seminar hosted by the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France. © IER/Theodor Dieter*

Prof. Hervé Legrand, a Dominican who has long participated in international Lutheran – Catholic dialogue, concurred. He said Lutherans and Catholics had changed since the Second Vatican Council, but there is still a long way ahead. He stressed differentiated consensus as contributing to the success of the JDDJ agreement.

Rev. Dr Gottfried Locher, president of the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches, as a Reformed representative, said despite learning to pinpoint differences with Catholics, many issues remain unclear. He con-

sidered as “unsurpassable” the gap with Catholics when it comes to the *Sola Scriptura* and its relationship with the teaching authority of the Pope.

Rev. Dr Cecil M. Robeck outlined Lutheran-Pentecostal dialogue efforts, noting the diversity of Pentecostal churches as a challenge. Rev. Dr Sarah Hinlicky Wilson of the Strasbourg institute suggested that the Lutheran – Pentecostal dialogue would be enriched by Lutherans admitting to their lean pneumatology, while the Pentecostals

will need to address the absence of God the Father in their theology.

Dr Larry Miller, outgoing general secretary of the Mennonite World Conference, wrapped up, speaking on dialogue with Mennonites. Prof. Elisabeth Parmentier of the University of Strasbourg demonstrated how several different spiritual communities present challenges to ecumenism.

*(Contributed by Rev. Dr Kenneth Mtata [LWF] with additional input from Rev. Dr Sarah Hinlicky Wilson.)*

*26 July 2011*

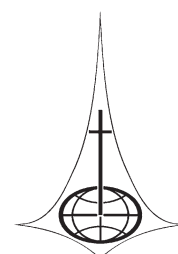
## New Opportunities Offered by 2017 Reformation Anniversary

### Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission Calls for Joint Commemoration

**HELSINKI, Finland/GENEVA (LWI)** – Representatives of an ecumenical dialogue group that first met nearly 45 years ago

have affirmed the need for Lutherans and Roman Catholics to commemorate together the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lu-

theran Reformation in ways that help to renew mutual commitment to the ongoing reform of the Christian community.



“We agree together that the church must continually be reformed and purified. We hope on this occasion neither to glorify the events we commemorate nor to deny the positive consequences of movements of reform,” members of the Lutheran – Roman Catholic Commission on Unity stated, during the fifth round of their meeting, 8-15 July in Helsinki, Finland.

The commission members are appointed by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU), which alternately host the respective meetings.

In a statement titled “From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran – Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017,” the commission declared that the anniversary year “presents Lutherans and Catholics with new theological, spiritual, and ecclesial challenges and possibilities.” Plans are in process for a public release of this statement and its publication.

The year 2017 will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther’s nailing of the 95 theses to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church, widely regarded as the start of the Protestant Reformation. It also coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue process.

“For the churches, the anniversary year is an opportunity to repent and seek forgiveness. It might be compared to a long-standing marriage, where the parties come together following a period of separation to renew their vows,” commented Lutheran co-chair of the Commission, Bishop emeritus Dr Eero Huovinen, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF).

“Much remains to be done, but our focus now is firmly on our shared roots. There is still some way to go before true union between the churches can be achieved,” he said.

In the past decades, Lutherans and the Roman Catholic Church have made significant progress towards mutual understanding and acceptance. The most tangible result of these efforts is the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), signed in 1999. In this agreement, the churches state that the mutual condemnations of the past on the crucial subject of justification no longer apply to their current teachings. In 2006, the World Methodist Council affirmed the JDDJ, becoming the first Christian World Communion besides the original signing partners formally to affirm it.

For the 2017 anniversary, it is hoped that cooperation will be strengthened at all levels, including for local parishes and congregations. Among the concrete proposals of the Commission are public prayer acknowledging the bonds of common faith and lamenting the fracturing of Christian unity. Thanksgiving

for the gift of the ecumenical movement is also shared between the two traditions: this allows, for example, Martin Luther to be honored as a teacher of faith by both Lutherans and Catholics.

“The ecumenical movement will not become complacent. It is a forward-looking and dynamic project committed to accepting each other’s faiths and recognizing our shared background,” stated Bishop Gerhard Müller of Regensburg, Germany, Catholic co-chair of the Commission.

The Helsinki meeting also prepared for the commission’s future work an outline of a study project on “baptism and growth in communion.”

*(With contribution from Riikka Taivassalo and ELCF Information Center)*

The full text of communiqué from the Lutheran Roman Catholic Commission on Unity is available at:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Lutheran-Roman\\_Catholic-Helsinki-Communique-EN.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Lutheran-Roman_Catholic-Helsinki-Communique-EN.pdf)

19 August 2011



*Members of the Lutheran – Roman Catholic Commission on Unity at their July 2011 meeting in Helsinki, Finland © ELCF/Aarne Ormio*

## Shock and Horror at Attacks in Norway

### LWF Prays for Victims and Expresses its Solidarity

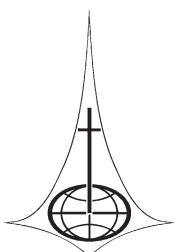
**GENEVA (LWI)** – The President and General Secretary of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) reacted with shock and horror to the attacks in Norway’s capital, Oslo, and on the island of Utøya.

In a letter of condolence addressed to Permanent Presiding

Bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien of the Church of Norway and President Rev. Arnfinn Løyning of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway, LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan and General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge assured

the Norwegian church leaders of the Lutheran communion’s solidarity.

“In this shocking and horrific time for Norway, our hearts go out to you, to all the people of your churches, and to all Norwegians,” they said. “Especially in our prayers are the





families and loved ones of those whose lives were so senselessly taken yesterday.”

In the words of Junge and Younan, the LWF communion was praying that the courage of the Norwegian people would not be broken at this time of mourning for the victims of the tragedy, and of grieving by those near and dear to them.

They noted that for many years Norway had been a “beacon of peace and peacemaking, locally, nationally and internationally.” The LWF leaders spoke of their deep sorrow “that Norway itself now has suffered such violence.”

Speaking on behalf of the whole LWF, they concluded by expressing the hope that “in the aftermath of your shock and grief, Norwegians



Floral tributes outside Oslo Cathedral © Gunnar Grøslund

will soberly recommit themselves to your special calling in our troubled world—to work for peace and justice,

and thereby help to make this world a better place.”

24 July 2011

## Lutheran Diaconal Work Sends Strong Signal of Faith

### Bishop of Hanover Visits the LWF

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The diaconal commitment of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was the focal point of a visit to the organization’s Geneva headquarters by Bishop Ralf Meister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover.

On his first official trip to Geneva, the head of the largest of the regional Lutheran churches in Germany came to the LWF secretariat to find out

more about the communion’s activities and, in particular, about the current situation in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, which is managed by the LWF Department for World Service (DWS).

Bishop Meister praised the LWF’s great competence in the field of social commitment. He expressed the wish that this professionalism could be publicized more in Germany.

It was noteworthy, he added, that the LWF had done refugee work from its very beginnings in 1947, thereby contributing to the high reputation it now enjoyed in this field worldwide.

The fact that the LWF was not narrowly denominational in its diaconal activity was pleasing, Meister remarked. In his view, the assistance it delivers sends a strong signal of faith as such.

The bishop said he was also impressed by the LWF’s “confident strategic positioning.” He had the sense that the changes taking place were “substantive and competent” in view of the major challenges facing the Lutheran communion.

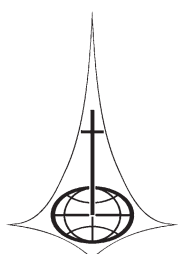
Referring to the anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, Meister underlined the paramount importance of giving a “pronounced international accent” to the celebrations, in Germany as well.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover has been a member of the LWF since 1947 and has approximately 2.9 million members.



Bishop Ralf Meister (left) and LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge © LWF/T. Miller

29 July 2011



LWF DELEGATION VISIT TO KENYA

LWF to Advocate for Increased Funds for Drought-Stricken Horn of Africa

Continued from p. 1

different regions of Kenya] that for some years and currently, because of the drought, there is hunger, despair and the livestock, which is the basis of livelihood, have dramatically reduced,” said Junge.

Solidarity and Generosity

Local sources said that people have died of hunger near the Dadaab refugee complex in northeastern Kenya, where some 1,300 refugees fleeing the drought arrived each day. The LWF is responsible for overall management of Dadaab.

Referring to the delegation’s visit to Dadaab’s camps—Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo—Junge said, “I was very grateful for the role LWF World Service is playing [as] camp manager in Dadaab, and in addition providing education and peace and security teams working there.”

osity shown by Kenyan people does not have comparison in other parts of the world,” he noted.

A powerful witness and signs of hope amidst this situation are also evolving, according to Junge. The refugees are organizing their own leadership in the community. The women were responding to specific needs and being a connecting point, he told the press conference.

Delegation members also spoke of the urgent need for churches, together with other partners, to look beyond this emergency period and offer sustainable solutions to the problem of food insecurity.

The recurring cycle of drought in a continent adversely affected by the effects of climate change and political instability called for active, long-term intervention by the churches, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Presiding Bishop Malasusa underlined.

He added that the visit expressed that the worldwide communion stood

for Kenya’s hospitality to people in need.

“Whenever there is this kind of problem and when there are others who are supporting you, it is easy to continue with services,” said Malasusa, adding that the Lutheran churches urged Kenya to save the lives of the Somali people who were fleeing hunger and insecurity.

“People are fleeing to a place where there is peace, and this is a sign of peace in Kenya,” he stated.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya Bishop Obare Omwanza said the situation was dire, and told how the delegation saw people in the Dadaab camp on the verge of starvation.

“It is a reality in the camp,” said Obare Omwanza, but added that the delegation was grateful the government was able to accept that more space was needed to construct additional housing for the new influx of refugees.



During the visit to the camps in Dadaab, the LWF delegation listened to refugee community women leaders. © LWF/John Davison

Women and Children

The people who were particularly affected were women and children, said Rev. Dr Elieshi Mungure, LWF Department for Mission and Development area secretary for Africa.

“It is very sad to see women who are vulnerable, pregnant and undernourished, together with children under five, accompanying their mothers without food,” Mungure told *LWI*.

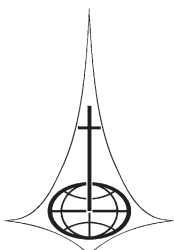
She stressed the importance of supporting the local communities and churches in increasing their capacity to address social and emotional needs in a gender-aware way.

“We need to address the psychosocial needs of the women in famine [areas] and in refugee camps because they are traumatized due to what they have gone through,” remarked Mungure.

He praised Kenya for continuing to admit the refugees even though the country was affected itself by the drought. “This solidarity and gener-

osity shown by Kenyan churches and the people suffering from the drought. The LWF vice president for the Africa region reiterated appreciation

5 August 2011



## LWF General Secretary Brings Message of Hope to Maasai Lutherans

When one part of the global Lutheran communion feels fear or pain, hunger or thirst, the whole body suffers, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge underlined in Kenya, where he led an LWF delegation in solidarity with the drought-stricken Horn of Africa region.

“This is [the] reason we have come here, because we have heard that there is suffering, and there is also fear of what will happen if the rain doesn’t come,” said Junge in a sermon on 31 July at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) Lenkishon congregation in the Maasai community in southern Kenya’s Kajiado district.

Currently, over 12 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda are suffering the effects of the region’s severest drought in 60 years. The resulting crop failure and death of livestock have pushed tens of thousands of Somalis to flee to refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia.

The two LWF member churches in Kenya—ELCK and the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC)—have a strong presence among the pastoralist Maasai in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. The lack of rain in recent years has decimated the communities’ economy and livelihoods.

The general secretary assured the congregation that they, as part of the larger Lutheran communion, were not alone in the face of these challenges.

“You are surrounded by a community of faith which is worldwide,

which is like the nerve in the body,” Junge emphasized. The LWF communion had recognized that it needed to come together in order to support communities in the region.



LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge (right) greets ELCK Bishop Walter E. Obare Omwanza (left) and KELC Bishop Zachariah W. Kahuthu (middle) after worship in Lenkishon, Kajiado district, Kenya.  
© LWF/Fredrick Nzwili

“We want to be your brothers and sisters [as] you face these fears. We are coming with the question of how we can be more your brothers and sisters.”

Junge praised the two Kenyan churches for their “beautiful ministry,” which focused both on preaching and doing community development work.

“Thank you for the witness of wanting to bring the word which is central to what it is to be the church, but also looking at how communities can be supported, how can they go to

a situation where water does not only depend on rain.”

From their experience during drought two years ago, the two LWF member churches understood it was

not the time to withdraw or sit behind closed doors, he noted, but the time to ensure that people had food, shelter, water and other essentials.

“This belongs to what it means for the church to support human life in all its dimensions. You are doing that together and therefore being strong witnesses of the message of peace,” Junge affirmed.

The service was led jointly by KELC Bishop Zachariah W. Kahuthu and ELCK Bishop Walter E. Obare Omwanza.

2 August 2011

## Solidarity Trip Gives Boost to Diaconal Efforts

A Lutheran World Federation (LWF) solidarity visit to Kenya led by General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge has given a boost to church efforts against the drought ravaging the Horn of Africa, Lutheran leaders say.

Bishop Zachariah W. Kahuthu of the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) and Bishop Walter E. Obare Omwanza of the Evan-

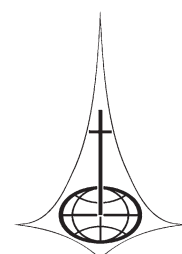
gelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) stated that the trip sent a clear message the Lutheran communion was ready to help those afflicted by the region’s most severe drought in 60 years.

“[Their] coming has really inspired us,” said Omwanza following a worship service with part of the delegation and a sermon by Junge

at Lenkishon Church (ELCK) in Kajiado District, southern Kenya, on 31 July.

Omwanza said the church was deeply concerned about the drought since no mitigation measures had been put in place in spite of earlier warnings.

“We know for certain people are dying of hunger.” That the LWF





LWF Bishop Walter E. Obare Omwanza (ELCK) blesses villagers in Meidanyi in southern Kenya's Kajiado district. © LWF/Fredrick Nzwili

delegation could not keep quiet when hearing of the people's struggles sent a strong signal of solidarity. "They have come to be with us in this situation," the bishop remarked.

The drought is affecting more than 12 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. In Kenya, 2.9 million people are facing serious food shortages.

Lutheran churches were urging long-term solutions such as water irrigation systems and the drilling

of bore holes to prevent the recurrence of food shortages, according to Kahuthu.

"These are the things we want to discuss with the government," he said. "[There is talk] about giving people food, but no long lasting solutions are being offered." His church will supply maize, beans, cooking oil, salt and unimix, an enriched maize and bean flour, to the most vulnerable groups.

While visiting Meidanyi village, the delegation heard from church

leaders and local community members how drought had killed their livestock, their only source of livelihood.

"I had 13 cows. The last drought took away 11 of them. I sold the remaining and bought goats because they can withstand the drought," said Philemon Mollel from Namanga Parish.

Rev. John Lenkishon Ole Kispan of the ELCK underlined how difficult things were because all the dams had dried up early.

"We know the worst is yet to come," he said. "Pastors and evangelists are now moving to offer pastoral care to those farmers who are depressed after losing all their animals."

In this situation, the churches' insistence on lasting solutions could be key.

In 2002, parishioners realized they could grow crops such as maize, beans and peas, Ole Kispan noted, and some farmers reaped such good harvests that they were able to purchase cars.

"The rains have never been favorable since, but we believe if we can access water for irrigation, then hunger will be a thing of the past here," he asserted.

(By LWI correspondent Fredrick Nzwili)

## Human Dignity at Core of LWF Service to People in Need

Under the scorching midday sun, Abdisalan Abdi paces up and down in front of the rows of men squatting, their sandals buried in the thick layers of fine soil. Their slightest foot movement raises clouds of dust.

To the far left, a group of women, some carrying babies or holding slightly older children, keenly follow Abdi's voice booming through the hand-held microphone.

Speaking in a Somali dialect, he explains why newly arrived people in the Dagahaley camp need to be organized according to family size—largest first, down to the smallest—at this reception center run by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

in the world's biggest refugee camps in Dadaab, some 80 km from the Kenya-Somali border.

Abdi, an information assistant, is among the 120 staff of the LWF Department for World Service (DWS) Kenya-Djibouti program providing services to refugees arriving mainly from Somalia, pushed out by severe drought, famine and growing insecurity.

By 31 July 2011, the overall population in Dadaab, comprising three camps—Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo—within a radius of around 20km, was 393,189 persons.

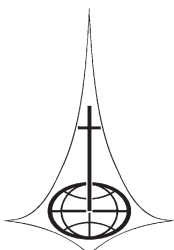
As the lead implementing partner for the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in camp management, or coordination of all actors, at Dadaab, the LWF oversees the reception centers where refugees are received, recognized and screened.

Emergency food assistance for 21 days is provided at such centers, as well as mass information sharing and awareness campaigns targeting the new arrivals, and transportation to Ifo camp, the centralized registration center.

Other services by the LWF include planning and lay out of camp set up, governance, provision of community security, shelter and education.

"It is like running a huge city with nearly 400,000 people. The actual



work is not easy, and it is not always visible,” said LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge, speaking to DWS staff and representatives of key collaborating partners during a one-day visit of the organization’s Dadaab operations on 2 August.

“These statistics are an indication of your diligence, love and compassion,” said the general secretary.

Junge led an LWF delegation comprising Tanzanian bishop Alex G. Malasusa, LWF vice president for the Africa region; Ethiopian church president Rev. Dr Wakseyoum Idosa; Kenyan bishops Zachariah W. Kahuthu and Walter E. Obare Omwanza; and staff from the Geneva offices on a 31 July to 3 August solidarity visit with the Horn of Africa.

## Human Dignity

Malasusa brought greetings from LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan, and commended the staff for their service to people in need. “We [the LWF] serve because we receive grace. This is a good opportunity to work together regardless of faith,” he emphasized.

which consists of two parallel challenges: the long-term, protracted refugee caseload on the one hand, and the current emergency on the other.

He said operations at the camps underlined the LWF’s long-standing support to refugees with great sensitivity to the human dignity of each person, and due respect for cultural and religious diversity.

Junge pointed out that while refugees were often described as people “who arrive with only a few belongings or with nothing,” greater emphasis should be put on recognizing the human dignity of each person.

“They don’t arrive with nothing. Every human being has dignity, and this dignity should be respected as it is what connects us. It is not about how much we have but what is in us.”

## Safe Haven

Junge also thanked representatives of the Kenyan government for the host country’s support.

Recalling meetings with UNHCR representatives in Nairobi, he emphasized that while it would be more practical to respond to people’s

are grateful that we can receive them where they can be supported.”

Limits were being stretched but the attitude of meeting the neighbor was reinforced, he added.

Indeed, many of the newly arrived refugees at the camps gave accounts of a treacherous journey from southern Somalia. Twenty-one year-old Bishara Abdi, a mother of five children ranging in age from nine months to four years, walked for 20 days with her young family, and was expecting her husband to join them soon.

The general secretary also thanked local host community leaders who have been accompanying refugees at the Dadaab camps since the sites were set up some 20 years ago.

He heard from LWF area coordinator Anne Wangari how, through the religious leaders, the host community, also severely affected by drought, recently provided clothes, food and sandals to newly arriving refugees.

LWF Geneva staff taking part in the delegation were DWS Director Rev. Eberhard Hitzler; Office for Communication Services (OCS) Interim Director Pauline Mumia; and Department for Mission and Development (DMD) Area Secretary for Africa Rev. Dr Elieshi Mungure.

Support the LWF response:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/donate-somali-refugee-crisis.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/donate-somali-refugee-crisis.html)

Read more:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/somali-refugee-crisis](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/somali-refugee-crisis)

Further updates available at:

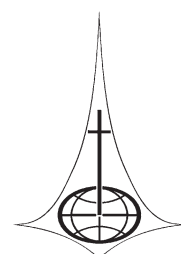
<http://lwfworldservice.wordpress.com/>



*Abdisalan Abdi, LWF information assistant at the Dagabaley camp in Dadaab, addressing newly arrived refugees from Somalia © LWF/John Davison*

The LWF general secretary especially praised staff for their continued dedication in the Dadaab operations,

needs in their respective areas, in an emergency where people had walked 1,000km to reach a safe haven, “we



## LWF Congratulates Southern Sudan ahead of Independence

### Painful Journey Marked by Self-Determination and Desire for Reconciliation

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) reiterated its continued support and prayers for Southern Sudan, as the autonomous region prepared to become an independent country on 9 July.

In a 6 July letter to President Salva Kiir Mayardit, General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge offered on behalf of the LWF, warm congratulations during this historic period for Southern Sudan, and underlined the long-standing relationship between the LWF and the region's people.

“We are honored to share in the joy of the much awaited birth of a new nation on 9 July—the Republic of South Sudan—whose journey for self-determination has been marked

by a long and painful experience of civil war but also a strong desire for reconciliation and peace building,” Junge wrote.

The general secretary pointed out that the LWF Department for World Service had worked alongside southern Sudanese since the 1970s, initially taking part in emergency airlifts of food and other supplies, and refugee assistance programs in neighboring countries.

More recently the LWF has supported so called “lost boys and girls” in LWF-managed refugee camps and collaborated on the resettlement of refugees inside Sudan and in other countries. Current collaboration includes support to communities for

sustainable livelihood activities in South Sudan.

“During this crucial step toward nation building for you and the people of Southern Sudan, we recognize the enormous challenges that still need to be addressed,” Junge wrote. “We affirm our continued humanitarian support through various community-based initiatives in South Sudan, and look forward to stronger cooperation with your government in this area.”

The region's independence would conclude the interim period under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 to end decades of civil war between the North and South. A January referendum of Southern Sudanese received a more than 98.8 percent vote in favor of secession from the North, with outstanding issues to be negotiated in a separate process.

Junge assured Kiir of continued support “as you and the Government of Southern Sudan seek long-lasting political and economic solutions for the prosperity of your country.”

The independence proclamation taking place in the region's capital, Juba, would be followed by Kiir's swearing in as the first president of the Republic of South Sudan.

Read more about LWF work in Southern Sudan:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/southern-sudan](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/southern-sudan)

6 July 2011



*Women collect water from a well drilled by the LWF in Panyagor, Southern Sudan. The LWF works with communities to ensure sustainable livelihoods and access to basic services like water.*

© LWF/Fredrick Nzwili

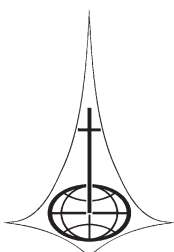
## Gratitude to Kenya for Agreement to Open Ifo II Refugee Camp

### General Secretary Junge: Decision Is Vital Life-Saving Measure

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) expressed gratitude to the Kenyan government for

agreeing to open the Ifo II refugee camp at Dadaab in the northeast part of the country. The LWF welcomed

the decision as “a vital life-saving measure,” especially in view of the current high influx of Somali refu-



gees fleeing drought and insecurity at home.

In a letter addressed on 18 July to President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga, LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge hailed Kenya's leadership and its people "for the generous welcome you have accorded to refugees over so many years." This has distinguished the country "as a haven of hospitality, offering sustenance and refuge to so many people whose lives would otherwise be at risk," and in doing so, "upheld the highest values of humanity."

## Alleviating Suffering

Junge's letter pointed out that the prime minister's recent announcement about opening the Ifo II camp would go a long way toward alleviating the suffering of the refugees in that part of the country, particularly in face of the current drought in the Horn of Africa and the continued violence and instability in Somalia.

The drought is said to be the worst that has affected the region in the last 60 years, leaving an estimated 12 million in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia at risk of starvation and malnutrition. UN agencies describe it as the world's most dire humanitarian emergency.

The general secretary underlined the LWF's ongoing work through its Department for World Service (DWS) with the Kenyan government and with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to prepare the new Ifo II camp and to continue providing humanitarian assistance at Dadaab camp (comprising Dagahaley, Ifo and Hagadera camps). Further collaboration is anticipated in a fifth camp set to be opened at a later date.

## Increasing Arrivals

A 17 July update from the LWF/DWS Kenya-Djibouti program, which manages the camp on behalf of UNHCR, put the number of refugees at Dadaab at an estimated 388,000, with around 1,300 arrivals per day from 6 June to



*Newly arriving refugees erect temporary shelters on the outskirts of the Dadaab camps.*  
© LWF/John Davison

6 July. At its establishment in 1991, Dadaab was meant for 90,000 people. The current numbers are expected to rise as thousands continue to flee the country.

## Host Communities

Junge emphasized the LWF's awareness of the consequences and risks that hosting refugees poses for local communities, the environment and the nation as a whole. That Kenya has "nonetheless decided to keep welcoming refugees, only increases our gratitude and admiration," he added.

The general secretary affirmed the LWF's readiness to enhance assistance to the local Kenyan host communities around Dadaab, who themselves are also badly affected by the drought. He underlined commitment in ensuring that the new wave of refugees would not result in unacceptable environmental and agricultural consequences.

Junge pointed to continuing efforts together with the LWF member churches in Kenya—Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya and the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church—to accompany people facing the challenges of drought and development.

The LWF also manages the Kakuma camp in the northwestern part

of Kenya, currently hosting some 79,000 people, including Sudanese and Somali nationals.

A recent LWF/DWS Kenya-Djibouti update says the official registration of refugees conducted by Kenya's Department for Refugee Affairs (DRA) in Dadaab can manage around 700 people, which increases the daily backlog.

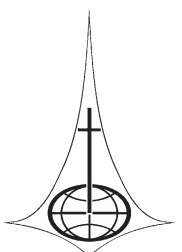
## Preventing Violence

The DWS program update cites protection as a major challenge because of overcrowding inside Dadaab and on the outskirts, with increasing reports of sexual and gender-based violence.

The LWF's intervention includes working with the refugees in the so-called Camp Peace and Security Teams (CPSTs) "community policing" project. The teams of refugees patrol the camps, solve domestic issues and manage most cases, while criminal offences are handled by the Kenyan police.

The LWF is also looking at addressing new arrivals coming in through the Liboi border entry points and providing humanitarian assistance to those negotiating the 90km between Dadaab and the Kenya-Somalia border.

18 July 2011



# Intervention Scaled Up in Camp for Somali Refugees

## Water Accessibility, Child Malnutrition Are Major Challenges

**DADAAB, Northeastern Kenya/GENEVA (LWI)** – Interviews conducted in mid-July by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) staff at the Dadaab refugee camp showed that newly arriving people from neighboring Somalia have walked on the average for 15 days before reaching the site.

“Most of the people arriving are dehydrated and very hungry. Many lack clothing and are barefoot,” said Lennart Hernander, LWF Department for World Service (DWS) representative for the Kenya/Djibouti program.

The LWF manages the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) camp, and is also filling in gaps occasioned by the high influx of arrivals estimated then at 1,300 daily.

haley, Ifo and Hagadera) between January and May 2011 was 46,852 persons. In June alone, another 38,514 were received, the LWF representative says of the 20-year-old camp, currently hosting some 360,000 people.

### Numbers Hamper Registration

The high numbers also slow down the refugee registration process, which was initially planned for three days—from the first contact at the reception centers to the registration center and back to the camps to receive food, non-food items (NFIs) and firewood.

Upon arrival, a 15-day dry food ration per person is provided by the

He pointed to the high levels of malnutrition among children. Out of a total of 6,548 children under five screened at the camp’s reception centers in June, an average of 17 percent were moderately malnourished, 10.5 percent showed severe cases of malnutrition and 2.25 percent were severely malnourished with medical complications.

### Prioritizing Most Vulnerable

The LWF undertakes a “vulnerability assessment” of refugees upon arrival to identify persons with disabilities or social vulnerabilities, female-headed households, unaccompanied minors, separated children and unaccompanied elderly persons. These more vulnerable people are then prioritized for registration and issuance of ration cards.

Discussions are underway with the agencies involved to strengthen the screening, identification and referral system at the registration and documentation points for appropriate interventions and follow up in the three camps, said Hernander.

The LWF put up a temporary structure at the registration points where, together with other agencies, assessment of the most vulnerable groups will be conducted. Upon identification, LWF social workers make home visits and recommend further assistance.

Nine tons of flour mix had been procured for supplementary feeding of children and elderly who had been identified as too weak to eat dry food. Distribution of clothes, slippers and sanitary wear for women was also planned.

### Water Access Challenging

Water remained a major challenge for the camp and host community because taps are few and there is a limit on the volume that can be pumped from existing boreholes. In addition to the other



*Children rest while their families wait with other new arrivals at Dagabaley camp in Dadaab to receive food and supplies. © LWF/John Davison*

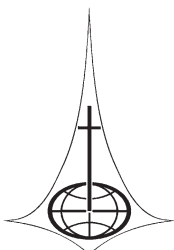
### Drought and Insecurity

The main reason for fleeing is the prolonged drought that led to failed harvests and dying animals, coupled with growing insecurity inside Somalia. The influx of new refugees began to increase early 2011, and has since escalated.

The total number of refugees that were registered in the three refugee camps that make up Dadaab (Daga-

World Food Program at the reception centers along with items such as cooking pots, mats, jerry cans and plastic sheets. The delay in processing means that many refugees who haven’t received services such as tents end up living in small, unsafe makeshift shelters.

The Dagahaley host community has been assisting through their religious leaders with clothing and shoes, but the gap is still big very big, Hernander noted.







Lennart Hernander (second from left), LWF/DWS Kenya/Djibouti representative, with (left to right) UNHCR field officer Ismael Abdelqabbar Mohammed; George Wesonga, LWF/DWS Dadaab camp planning officer; and Anne Wangari, LWF/DWS Dadaab area coordinator. © LWF/P. Wijmans

main partners providing water, the LWF had started bringing in water with a 7,000-liter truck as a short-term measure.

Hernander mentioned plans to increase coordinated information-sharing to reach all newly arrived refugees settled in the outskirts. The aim is to highlight life-saving issues like attention to malnutrition and access to basic services.

The UNHCR had asked the LWF to extend basic services, including layout of family plots, provision of water and sanitation, healthcare, emergency shelter, education and security in a more coordinated manner on the outskirts of the camps in consultation with the host community.

Hernander spoke of reports that the Somali town of Dhobley, near the

Kenyan border, continued to receive several hundreds of new refugees daily.



An LWF team lays out plot boundaries where new arrivals from Somalia will make their home in Dadaab refugee camp. © Paul Jeffrey

“These are people that are likely to continue across the border, trying to find their way to Dadaab,” he added.

### Insecurity in Somalia

He pointed out that the security situation currently did not allow assistance along the Somali border refugee route. The LWF was part of a joint mission by the UNHCR Protection Team to Liboi, Kenya, some 18 kilometers west of the Somali border.

Hernander expressed gratitude for the support received toward assisting those affected by drought and fleeing insecurity, including through the global humanitarian organization ACT Alliance of which the LWF is a member.

(Feature stories by LWI correspondent John Davison in Dadaab, Kenya.)

13 July

## LWF Underlines Importance of New Dadaab Camp Extension

By nightfall on 25 July, hundreds of recently arrived refugees from Somalia were settled into a new tented camp at Ifo in the Dadaab complex in northeastern Kenya, after an intensive weekend of preparations by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The aim is to increase the rate of movement to 1,000 a day by the end of the week.

Lennart Hernander, Kenya-Djibouti country representative for the LWF Department for World Service

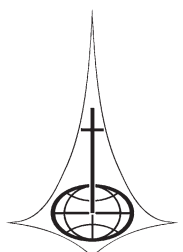
(DWS), underlined the importance of the opening of the Ifo extension, noting that it increased the ability of the LWF and partner agencies “to host people in a more secure environment and provide the services the refugees need and are entitled to.”

### Space at a Premium

Space in Ifo and the other two camps at Dadaab—Dagahaley and Haga-

dera—, all managed by the LWF, has become a source of international concern as the drought crisis in Somalia has led to an average daily influx of 1,300 refugees since the beginning of June. With the complex already full to capacity, the new arrivals have been settling on the outskirts of the camps.

At Ifo, these new settlements have been on a flood plain, raising concerns about a further disaster





LWF Dadaab area coordinator Anne Wangari on "bulldozer" day clearing thick bush from the site of the new Kambioos extension. © LWF/John Davison

when the rains finally come, and about the local environment. Hopes that the previously laid-out Ifo II camp could open have been stalled by disagreements within the Kenyan government.

The approval of the Ifo extension as well as of an extension to the Hagadera camp will mean a more secure environment for up to 50,000 people. This development was very important for the LWF, noted Hernander, as it strived to assure "the dignity of those who have fled."

## Last Minute Push

However, the final go-ahead for the relocations only came on 22 July, giving LWF staff a huge task to get the sites ready on time. The Ifo site had already been surveyed and plots marked out, but not a single tent had by then been erected. At Hagadera, while detailed plans had been prepared, the proposed site was still bush and scrub land.

"We are the planning team and we are the camp managers," said Anne Wangari, LWF's area coordinator in charge of the 120 LWF staff at Dadaab. "So when the decision is taken to move these people, we have to plan the camps, we have to lay out

plots and provide access and set up tents in readiness for the movement."

She led the effort over the weekend, which saw a bulldozer and refugee workers deployed clearing ground at Hagadera and setting up tents at Ifo. More than 100 tents were put up on 24 July alone, and the teams were looking to pitch twice that number by the end of the week. The Hagadera site was expected to be receiving its first refugees by that time as well.

"Even in these difficult circumstances, the staff are pushing on

and doing their best to deliver," said Wangari.

## The Move

LWF information teams went to areas of the outskirts of Ifo camp to tell people the day on which they would move to their new living space. After detailed lists of the families involved were read out, the business of dismantling temporary shelters began.

Women, often with a baby on their backs, took off layers of blankets and sheeting from bent wood frames and painstakingly gathered everything, including twine and strips of material, for later use. Then they bundled everything together for carrying to the new site.

Among them was Fatouma Mohammed (50), her daughter and the eight children they have between them. A month ago, they had fled the drought in Somalia that killed their livestock and made it impossible to farm.

"I am pleased that the agencies will help us to settle somewhere," she said. "I hope at some time they will help me to build a durable structure to live in, but now I am very happy to have a tent."

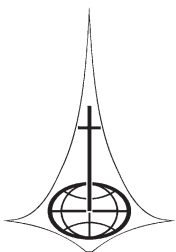
*(Feature stories by LWI correspondent John Davison in Dadaab, Kenya.)*

26 July 2011



A Somali woman cooks over a fire in a hastily-constructed hut on the outskirts of Dadaab.

© Paul Jeffrey



**FEATURE: “It’s What Makes You Get Up at 5 a.m.”**

The day begins early for Soraya Musau at Dagahaley refugee camp.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) emergency officer is out of her tent by 5 a.m., waking her staff for another demanding day. By this time newly arrived refugees from Somalia have already begun to gather outside the gates of the LWF compound, seeking food, water, basic necessities—and hope.

but their children. All are hungry and exhausted after a journey from Somalia that can take more than three weeks on foot.

For Musau and her 11 staff, the task is a daunting one.

In the next few hours, all of these people have to be guided through the newly-constructed reception center. Their names will be recorded by officials from the Government of Kenya,

responsibility of a different agency or non-governmental organization—the “implementing partners” (IPs) in humanitarian aid speak.

Musau and her team are right in the middle.

“I am the focal person for the government, the UNHCR and the IPs,” says Musau, 30, from Nairobi. “If there are issues with water, I call one agency, if there are issues with feeding, I call another. I am the first person to know and then I get in touch with the relevant IP.”

“If they need any information, they come to me. I get information from them, so that we can then give the beneficiaries accurate information,” she adds. She spends many hours each day on her mobile phone.



*LWF emergency officer Soraya Musau ensures that newly-arrived refugees are welcomed to the Dadaab refugee complex. © LWF/John Davison*

The camp is one of three in the Dadaab complex in eastern Kenya, all managed by the LWF through its Department for World Service.

Dagahaley is now receiving the most new refugees—on some days more than the other two camps combined. The highest figure at Dagahaley alone was 1,536 in one day, while the total for the three camps had reached more than 60,000 since the refugee emergency was declared on 6 June.

and all will be given a colored and numbered wristband. This entitles them to foodstuffs for 21 days and a selection of non-food items, such as jerry cans for water, cooking pots, sleeping mats and other essentials to ensure their immediate survival.

Their children also will be inoculated and they will receive milk, shoes and clothing donated by the local Muslim community to fill in gaps in provision by the international community.

**Most Vulnerable**

The first task of the LWF team, however, is to quickly identify the most vulnerable people in the queuing crowd. These are the unaccompanied children, those with an old person or someone who is handicapped. They are brought to the front to begin the process first.

The remaining crowd is then divided by family size, with the largest going first. Men on their own go through last, many impatient to be reunited with their wives and families who traveled before them from Somalia.

It is a long, tiring, dusty process for all involved. And it is a process that is replicated by LWF staff at the other two camps of Ifo and Hagadera.

Tempers do occasionally fray, but most of the refugees seem to lack the energy for any form of confrontation. Soraya has only one security person in her team to help with crowd control, although there is a big security presence in the reception center itself.

**Welcoming New Arrivals**

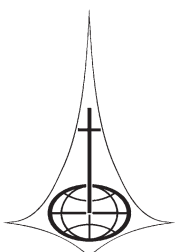
The crowds are mostly patient and quiet as they wait to gain access to the reception center. Some carry bundles of belongings. Many have nothing

**Main Coordinating Role**

The whole operation comes under the heading of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), but every stage is the

**Free Services**

The LWF emergency team follows the refugees through the whole process, with a strong emphasis on



information. Three of her Kenyan staff are information officers whose job is to constantly tell the refugees about what services are available and where they can come if they have problems. Another two are social workers, able to take early notice of particular needs.

She also has five “incentive staff” drawn from existing refugees at the camp who act as translators and give support for the other functions.

One of the biggest messages that all are pushing is that all the things being provided are free of charge. This is in order to counter a small number of unscrupulous local businesspersons who tell the refugees that they must pay—even for the land on which to build a makeshift shelter. LWF staff wear T-shirts with the message: “Land is for free, do not sell or buy it in the refugee camp,” and this is underlined by large banners at the centers.

## Untiring Engagement

After eight weeks of this punishing routine, where the day can go on until 11 p.m., all the effort is taking its toll.

“Both myself and the staff are really worn out,” says Musau, the day before reluctantly leaving for a well-earned week’s break at home. “But I really don’t want to leave my center.”

One incident in particular has made a great impact on her. On 30 June there were riots among the new arrivals outside Dagahaley, which led to two people being shot dead by police and a further 18 injured. All

the staff were evacuated and didn’t re-open the reception center until two days later. They found that there had been some tragic new arrivals during the night.

“A family had travelled for 22 days and arrived at 4 a.m. But one of their children died in the night, a one-and-a-half-year-old girl. When I woke up and found that, it was heartbreaking,” says Soraya.

But she adds that they have to carry on and remain functional, otherwise they are of no use to the refugees.

“A case like that really shakes you. But on that day 1,318 people came, so you didn’t have the time to respond emotionally,” says Musau. “At the end of the day you do recall and recount what you have seen. It’s what makes you get up at 5 a.m.”

*(Feature stories by LWI correspondent John Davison in Dadaab, Kenya.)*

Support the LWF response:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/donate-somali-refugee-crisis.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/donate-somali-refugee-crisis.html)

Read more:

[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/somali-refugee-crisis](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/somali-refugee-crisis)

Read more feature articles on LWF’s work in the Dadaab camps at

[www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org)

Further updates available at:

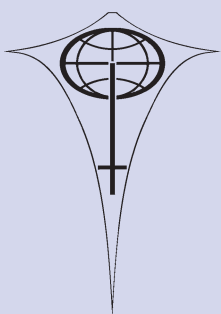
<http://lwfworldservice.wordpress.com/>

28 July 2011



*Left to right: During the visit to Dadaab, LWF World Service Director Rev. Eberhard Hitzler; ELCK Bishop Walter Obare Omwanza; ELCT Presiding Bishop Alex G. Malasusa, LWF vice president for Africa; and EECMY President Rev. Dr. Wakseyoum Idosa Negeri, viewing work at the Ifo extension camp.*  
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