



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

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LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

Department for World Service / Kenya-Sudan Programme

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS October 2007

GENERAL CURRENT SITUATION in the country:

Kenya

Election fever is seriously continuing, with the parliament dissolved and elections due to take place some time just before Christmas.

Regarding the economy and opportunities for business, the country is doing well. For a first observant, there seems to be a wide and real gap between the rich and the poor. Crime is still rampant; the security companies are almost the major employers in Nairobi, with about 100,000 people engaged.

Despite the ongoing showers, it is mentioned that the short rainy season is about to start.

South Sudan

The situation is very worrisome; the SPLM has stepped out of the national government. Some fighting is reported between SPLA and the SAF, in which 9 SAF and 1 SPLA soldier died.

Much tension preceded the move, including clashes between SAF and SPLA forces in Kordofan, a raided by security forces on the SPLM offices in Khartoum were and a rumour, believed by southerners to have been spread by the NCP of the death of southern leader Salva Kiir

The list of problems that cause southerners to believe that the CPA will fail is long. Key problems include the impasse over Abyei and the 1956 north-south border. The failure of the SAF to withdraw its troops and security organs from the oil fields, and the delays in the census which will probably lead to a delay in elections, are also major concerns. Other concerns, perhaps less visible and urgent, include the Civil Service Commission (the Government of National Unity will continue to be an unchallenged NCP fiefdom until some SPLM appointees get into it) and the issue of oil revenues, as nobody believes the south is getting its fair share as laid out in the CPA. There are also unconfirmed reports of mobilisation by both sides along the north-south border.

Though leaders on both sides continue to promise to live up to the CPA, there clearly remains a great deal to be accomplished and a great deal of mistrust to be had. Vice-President of the Government of South Sudan. Mr. Riak Machar said the north had until 9 January 2008, the third anniversary of the signing of the CPA, to resolve these issues.

To date there has been no impact of these political activities on our projects in Sudan.

OVERVIEW OF LWF KENYA/SUDAN:

1. The new Rep for LWF Sudan has arrived: Mr. Messeret Lejebo.
2. Many job interviews have taken place and seemingly very good staff have been engaged for Dadaab especially. Activities in Dadaab have seriously started, see report below.
3. The DCA/DANIDA Near Region phase II for Kakuma and Turkana is in preparation, as is the DCA/ECHO drought proposal for Turkana.
4. The 2008 UNHCR phases for Kakuma and Dadaab are in preparation, LWF has been asked to include management of the Protection Area 9 (for vulnerable people) to its mandate in Dadaab: Reception, Camp layout, Community Structures and Security.
5. The ACT Forum Kenya needs revitalisation, LWF will engage.
6. The Canadian Global Encounter took place by arrival and opening meetings in Nairobi, visits to Mozambique, Uganda and Ruanda, and concluded in Mombasa. The encounter was great.
7. Pius George was in Mozambique, where he is on transfer to; Chele has left LWF Kenya/Sudan; Tulasi is on leave; William Morrison is the new Finance Officer at CEAS; William the LWF head driver resigned on his own accord.
8. We met with IRC and Oxfam to make sure we do not overlap in the Turkana area.
9. Management Structures are slightly amended, the bilateral departmental meetings have taken place, as did the 1st Management Team Meeting; every Monday there is a staff meeting with devotion.
10. We met with BPRM and ICCO separately in Nairobi.
11. Philip is leaving for the Week of Meetings in Geneva and the Field Directors meeting in Montreux.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Kakuma Refugee Camp

1. SUMMARY.

The focus for the Kakuma project during the period under review was finalization and submission of the UNHCR 2008 proposal for UNHCR funded activities. The camp population during the month of October stood at 60,068 (34,966 male, 25,102 female). A 172 (113 male, 59 female) new asylum seekers joined the camp while 64 (36 male, 28 female) Sudanese refugees were repatriated back to Sudan through the UNHCR- led volrep process.

2. MAJOR ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED.

- LWF distributed 1032.915 Metric Tonnes (MTs) of food stuffs received from WFP to 60,068 beneficiaries. UNHCR supplemented WFP rations by providing an additional 31.099 MTs of groundnuts and 33.828 MTs of green grams. These provisions enabled the refugee population at Kakuma receive food that had a calorific value of 2,261.45 Kilocalories/person/day, which was above the recommended SPHERE standards value of 2100 Kilcal/p/d. This maintained the nutrition standards of the refugees at optimal levels.
- 24,225 enrolled learners attained an attendance rate of 66% in the camp institutions of learning. During the month of October, arrangements were finalized for the secondary school registered candidates to start their final examinations, which began on 22nd October 2007.
- LWF supplied an average of 24.00l/h/d of water in the reporting period. This was a drop from the previous supply of 24.19l/p/d in the month of September. The slight

reduction occurred because of a pump breakdown experienced in one of the boreholes.

- 1099 (816 Boys, 283 Girls), unaccompanied minors continued to be fostered by 546 families. LWF staff visited the children in their foster environments to monitor their general welfare. 119 homes, hospitals/clinics, schools, field posts, playing groups, and community administration centres were visited in the course of the month. During the visits 389 children; 231 boys and 158 girls seen by the child development workers.
- LWF staff establishment in Kakuma during September 2007 stood at 151 (98male and 52 female), 1,411 (940 male and 471 female) incentive workers and 165 (113 Males and 55 Females) casual workers, which is a total labour force of 1,727

3. MAJOR CHALLENGES.

- Frequent Breakdowns of the main power generator in the LWF compound disrupted smooth flow of the regular office work. Attempts are under way to have a second genset transported from Nairobi where it was taken for repairs.
- The refugees reacted with hostility when UNHCR officials accompanied by LWF education staff attempted to convey to them the newly recommended policy on education in Kakuma by the tripartite working committee on repatriation. Sitting in September the committee proposed a 50% reduction in education services in Kakuma camp come 2008. The matter has been left pending to give candidates a peaceful environment to sit their examinations.

4. HUMAN INTEREST STORY: LWF KAKUMA REPATRIATION UNIT EMERGES AS A UNIQUE CENTER OF KNOWLEDGE IN KENYA.

Voluntary repatriation for Sudanese refugees' process from Kakuma refugee camp to Sudan is the 1st such project in Kenya. Very few Kenyan professionals have had working experience in the repatriation process. Naturally, such an activity is bound to attract many scholars and researchers to learn from the best practices and challenges met during the process, as has been the case in Kakuma. In a recent workshop organized by UNHCR and one of the local universities, distinguished scholars comprising of university dons visited the camp and were overwhelmed by the working knowledge LWF staff had gained within such a short time of working in the unit.

Many southerners continue to show interest and willingness to return. LWF staffs have in the recent past stepped up door-to-door mobilization of refugees to encourage many Sudanese to register for the process. This has proved to be fruitful since 7,399 Sudanese refugees have registered to repatriate before the end of the year. From 2005 to date 18,000 Sudanese refugees have repatriated both voluntarily and spontaneously.

Turkana Host Community

1. SUMMARY.

Replacement of Turkana project staff is yet to be finalized following the resignation of former post holder. Currently, the water officer for the refugee project is standing to oversee activities in this sector.

2. MAJOR ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED.

- Drilling of a borehole at Lonyoduk, a site 60 from Kakuma was completed. The water was identified between 50 and 76 meters column. The water from this source will benefit about 2,000 residents of this location, and their cattle.
- Repairs of 5 hand pumps was completed. The water from these resources will be used for domestic purposes and drinking by cattle.
- The project facilitated a mission to the border points to sensitize the local residents from the host community of possible incursions from the communities

- from Uganda, who may possibly escape from their country in fear of the on going disarmament exercise being conducted by the Ugandan Government.
- Proposal for submission to Dan Church Aid (DCA), is still in going and is likely to be submitted to DCA at the end of the month of October. LWF is seeking to extend similar activities implemented during the near region I project.

Dadaab Refugee Camp

Administration and management

- The Project Coordinator of the newly started LWF Dadaab project was recruited, inducted and posted to Dadaab mid October to initiate implementation of LWF activities. Most of the first week in Dadaab was used for familiarization with project activities, meeting UNHCR and NGO partner staff and refugees.
- Interviews were conducted for short-listed applicants for Dadaab senior management jobs. As a result, offers of employment were given to successful candidates for the positions of Camp Management Officer, Camp Planning Officer, Community Safety Officer and Assistant Camp Planning Officer.
- Two LWF Kakuma staffs were offered new jobs in Dadaab as Finance Officer and Assistant Community Safety Officer. The aim is to integrate already experienced LWF staff in the new Dadaab staff team for the smooth start of operations. These newly appointed staff are reporting at LWF Nairobi office for orientation on 30 October and departing for Dadaab on 1 November, 2007.
- A temporary office with internet connection has been established in the CARE compound in Dadaab to support LWF operations while construction of LWF offices continues. Also ongoing are the plans for constructing staff housing units.

Programmes

- LWF in collaboration with GTZ held a stakeholders' workshop to generate consensus on and to formulate a relevant community security management (community policing) framework for Dadaab (10-12 October). The core structures and mechanisms for the new framework have been agreed on and actual rollout is expected as soon as LWF staffs are on ground.
- Discussions were done with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) at Nairobi and Dadaab on a partnership in establishing and facilitating camp management operations on Dadaab. NRC will offer technical training and capacity building to LWF field staff and community committees and leaders as requested by LWF.
- Negotiations with UNHCR regarding the 2008 funding for camp management operations were done. A budget proposal of USD 400,000 was finally agreed on. LWF has to fundraise to complement this UNHCR contribution in order to be able to run the planned activities successfully.

LWF Sudan (Panyagor, Yiol, Ikotos, Torit)

Political Update:

On October 11, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – the key southern rebel movement and signatory of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), abruptly announced its withdrawal from Sudan's Government of National Unity. Though it raised concerns internationally as "the gravest blow yet to the peace accord", it was seen by many as a tactic by the to re-assert itself. Seen by some as the first real push-back on the National Congress Party (the other signatory to the CPA). After some discussion, the immediate demands of the SPLM were met with the reshuffling of the cabinet, most notably the removal of Lam Akol as Foreign Minister.

Staffing Changes

Mr. Messeret Lejebo, the new LWF Sudan Program Representative, reported for duty the first week of October. Since then, he has been meeting with the various staff in Kampala, Nairobi and the field.

This is the last month for Hugh Ivory, LWF Sudan Program Coordinator. In November he reports to the LWF Uganda Program to take up the position of Program Coordinator there. His replacement, Mr. Krishna Rawal, reports the first week of November. Two handover meetings have been organized between Mr. Ivory and Mr. Rawal. Mr. Ivory will continue to be associated with the Sudan Program until the end of the year through the activities of the Uganda/Sudan Program.

Yirol

Reporting Period October 2007

In the reporting period two major trainings were conducted in the project location. Staff Capacity Building training was conducted from 3rd to 7th October by consultants hired from Nairobi for five Community Development Assistants (CDAs). The topics covered included:

- Community Development,
- Community Mobilization
- Resource Mobilization
- Gender Mainstreaming
- HIV/AIDS
- Feedback from the staff was that the training was well conducted, participatory in nature and relevant to enhance their capacity to conduct community development activities
- The second training conducted during the same reporting period was for the local authorities in management and administration. The topics for the workshop included
 - Economics of intergovernmental grants
 - Gender and Development
 - Time Management
 - Local government administration
 - Human resources Management
 - Market Management and Revenue Collection
 - Budgeting

Over 30 local payam administrators attended the 3 day workshop which was officially opened and closed by the Yirol West Commissioner. The participants were very impressed including the commissioner who commended LWF for its work in the area.

Challenges

- No access to the two of the project areas of Ngop and Aluak luak payams due to the heavy floods hence not able to conduct the monthly peace meetings and dialogue meetings in the cattle camps.
- Limited transport-only one vehicle to facilitate transport in the field with the break down of the pick up in Rumbek.
- Access to Yirol proves to be a major challenge-reliance on fortnightly LWF charters to go in and out of Yirol.
- Communication difficulty due to E-mail facility breakdown.

End