



Emergency Response & Disaster Risk Reduction

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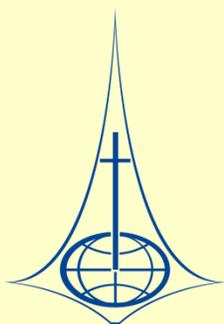
The Lutheran World Federation, Department for World Service

Getting Started

By Rudelmar de Faria

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In January 2012 World Service started the implementation of its global emergency response strategy, putting emphasis on better preparedness, better coordinated and decisive action, strategic partnerships and better equipped staff.

Since then World Service has redesigned its emergency response system, created the Humanitarian Emergency team (HET) in Geneva, redesigned its emergency roster and developed new emergency tools.

One of the major elements of the new strategy was the creation of three Regional Emergency Hubs, located in San Salvador, Nairobi and Kathmandu. The team leaders and key staff positions in the hubs have already been identified. The Hub Team Leader in Nairobi started on March 1st, and the team leaders for the Hubs in San Salvador and Kathmandu are expected to be hired in April 2012.

The next major step for ensuring a proper implementation of the strategy is the implementation of a global Emergency Training Workshop for members of the Regional Emergency Hubs, members of the Emergency Roster and selected LWF and ACT related agencies. See page 4 for further information.

An informal advisory group to the Humanitarian Emergency Team has been formed to discuss issues related to the implementation of the strategy. The group consists of representatives from DanChurchAid, Church of Sweden, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the ACT Secretariat.

“The ability to respond quickly, with a minimum of bureaucracy, has saved many lives of displaced persons as well as host communities.”

Regional Emergency Fund in Eastern Africa

By Michael Hyden

During the first year the LWF/DWS Eastern Africa Coordination Network (EACON) fund has been used five times in order for the LWF to be able to respond to emergencies immediately when the need has been identified. The ability to respond quickly, with a minimum of bureaucracy, has saved many lives of displaced persons as well as host communities.



Kenyan mother and child

It has also meant that the LWF/DWS country programs are among the few actors with an ability to respond quickly, while at the same time making assessments for a possible large scale intervention. The fund has typically been used as a “guarantee” - while the actual cash has been pre-financed by the respective LWF country programs to further increase the speed of the response.

Four times out of the five the money spent has been recovered from other emergency funding approved later. Thus, the EACON fund is truly a mechanism for very rapid response. The fund has been tremendously important for the LWF East Africa Country Programs, increasing the potential for rapid response, and it has saved lives and improved the well being of several thousand persons. By the end of the first year of the fund (end of February 2012) the remaining money in the fund is about USD 200,000, as an amount of about USD 50,000 was used for support to the Nuba refugees in Juba and could not be recovered from other funding sources.

The EACON Country Programs wish to sincerely thank ELCA for this great and unique support!

Hub in Asia

By Roland Schlott

The Regional Emergency Hub for South and South-East Asia is based in Kathmandu and administered by the LWF/DWS Nepal program. We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Tulasi Sharma to his new position of Hub Coordinator as of 1 April, 2012. Tulasi has previously worked for the LWF Nepal program in refugee assistance, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response as well as community development. More recently, he has taken on assignments in the LWF Kenya program in relation to refugee work and in Sudan and in Indonesia, where he worked as an advisor and interim executive director for the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies (CDRM&CDS) of the Lutheran University in Medan/Northern Sumatera/Indonesia.

We are currently recruiting for the additional Hub staff members, the Operations Manager and the Logistics/Security Officer. All three Hub staff members will be part of the central LWF/DWS Emergency Training Workshop planned in Nairobi.

Within the Asia region, the current and former LWF country programs (Associate Programs) formed the Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network (AZEECON) in 1997. The AZEECON members are RDRS Bangladesh, LWSIT India, LWD Cambodia, CDRM&CDS Indonesia, and the LWF country programs in Myanmar, Nepal and Laos.

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“The AZEECON network will be one of the platforms for the training and capacity building work of the Hub in Asia.”

Hub in Latin America & the Caribbean

By Rudelmar de Faria

The Regional Emergency Hub in **El Salvador** will include a sub-hub in Léogane, Haiti. The LWF/DWS Program in Haiti has a good infrastructure to support the emergency response in the Caribbean region.

One of the regional hub staff will be based in Haiti to support the World Service emergency operations and DRR activities from Haiti. This approach to make use of existing capacities within the region will most likely also be established in the Regional Hub in Asia.

LWF/DWS is currently in the process of obtaining status of international mission in El Salvador, which will facilitate the movement of materials and personnel in the region.

The LWF/DWS Program in Kenya has a similar agreement with the Kenyan Government under the same conditions.



Rubb Halls in the LWF/DWS Léogane base in Haiti

Hub in Asia from page 2

Through exposure, exchange and training visits focusing on specific topics and an Annual Summit, the staff members work together on new developments and learn from each other as they exchange their long standing experiences in DRR and the reduction of vulnerability and improvement of response capacities of the communities living in disaster-prone areas.

The AZEECON network and the staff members involved will be one of the platforms for the training and capacity building work of the Hub personnel during times when they do not respond to acute emergencies. Following the same logic, the CDRM&CDS Indonesia, currently in the process of becoming an Associate Program of LWF/DWS as well as developing into a regional center of excellence in the field of appropriate approaches to DRR, will host regional training events and develop training curricula.

As we elaborate the work plan for the Asia Hub for 2012 (starting with the second quarter), we gladly receive requests and recommendations from all AZEECON members.

“Regional Hubs as centers of excellence for disaster risk reduction”



Emergency Training Workshop

Representatives from the LWF/DWS Regional Emergency Hubs, roster and LWF related agencies will gather in Nairobi from 7 to 11 of May 2012 for an Emergency Training Workshop.

The premise of this workshop is that the participants have extensive experience related to emergency response, LWF/DWS and the ACT Alliance. The workshop will be conducted in an interactive manner, basing the learning on discussions and exchange of lessons learned. Around 50% of each module shall therefore be in the form of open discussion/exchange.

The training will enhance the participants' ability to undertake support functions in LWF/DWS emergency response operations, either as members of Regional Emergency Hubs or as members of the DWS Emergency Roster, and thereby contribute to improved overall emergency response.

The training will also serve to be a "train the trainers" event, so that trained persons can in turn provide training to others in their regions and countries. It is not intended to be an exhaustive training on specific functions, but rather an introductory training to be able to understand the whole emergency cycle. Further specific training will be arranged in the context of the Regional Emergency Hubs.



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