

# KISMAYU NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2023



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*Kismayu Newsletter highlights program achievements, stories from communities of concern and staff updates.  
The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)  
Kenya Somalia Program*



## A message from the Team Leader

### Areas of focus

#### Quality services



#### Sustainable livelihoods



#### Social protection and cohesion



Dear friends,

We are happy to share with you our quarterly newsletter for July-October 2023.

LWF Somalia Sub Program first started in Kismayu, Somalia in April 2017 and is well known for timely, compassionate and professional humanitarian work. We have recently extended to Dhobley, Lower Jubba Region of Jubbaland state of Somalia.

We have a history of partnership with local authorities and other stakeholders in Jubbaland state that are guided by internationally recognized codes, principles and guidelines in humanitarian assistance and international development.

We participate in cluster coordination forums at both regional and state levels focused on identifying critical issues that require multi-sectoral responses and planning the relevant synergistic interventions with clusters concerned by implementing and streamlining emergency and humanitarian development services that effectively target communities.

We sincerely thank our donors, relevant line ministries and other humanitarian partners for bringing the necessary support that is making a difference in the lives of vulnerable communities in Somalia.

Farah Omar, Team Leader  
LWF Somalia Sub Program

### 3. Partnership

## Quality services - LWF recognized for humanitarian efforts in Jubbaland State of Somalia

As part of the observance of the World Humanitarian Day, the Jubbaland Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management recognized the contribution made by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Somalia Sub Program for its remarkable and outstanding humanitarian efforts towards vulnerable communities in the Jubbaland State of Somalia.

The LWF Somalia Sub Program was presented with a certificate of Appreciation on the 19th of August 2023, coinciding with the 2023 World Humanitarian Day (WHD) which marks 20 years since the Canal Hotel bombing in Iraq, a tragedy that profoundly changed the way in which humanitarians operate – from being respected to being targeted.

This year's commemoration of the WHD was themed #NoMatterWhat. The theme reinforces the commitment of aid workers to deliver and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the communities we serve, no matter who, no matter where, and No Matter What.

The LWF Somalia Sub Program has been feted for its focused support to Somalia specifically in education sector, protection & social cohesion, Sustainable livelihood and for its quick intervention during the 2022 Somalia drought response in Luglow IDP camps in Kismayu.

#### **#NoMatterWhat:**

***The theme for 2023 World Humanitarian Day. Reinforces the commitment of aid workers to deliver and stand with communities we serve.***



# Renovating community support facilities Kismayu resource centre gets a facelift

The Lutheran World Federation's Education Assessment and Resource Centre (EARC) in Kismayu, Somalia has recently undergone a major facelift with fine artworks and drawings on the facility walls to help children improve their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The renovation of the EARC facility which supports in identification, assessment and placement of school to children living with disabilities was done in a bid to provide better services to clients.

The developmentally appropriate Play and Art Therapy at the facility helps children work through emotional, social and behavioral difficulties. It uses the mediums of play and art to help the child learn to express themselves, explore and make sense of the world in which they live and resolve any difficult or painful experiences. The facility helps identify the nature and severity of the disability that a child might be having and recommend placement in an appropriate educational institution depending on the child's special educational needs.

Clients are guided on how to perform basic physiotherapy for home-care programs such as exercises, gentle massage, play therapy, enhancing child growth, improving on exercise tolerance, feeding program, sleep cycle management and attaining functional activities.

EARC Technical Officer, Yurub Mohamed Dakane says, "Early detection of health-related anomalies and prompt remedial action can have massive benefits in a child's normal growth and development,".

With support from donors, LWF Somalia Sub Program reaches out to people of concern in Somalia and provides humanitarian assistance within its mission to address the causes and effects of human suffering and poverty.



Children at the Kismayu resource centre benefit from facilities.



## “Adult Education Gave Me a Second Chance”

### The inspiring story of Shamsa Dahir

39-year-old Shamsa Ahmed Dahir’s experience is a bitter-sweet tale full of absolute fervor. Despite her will and devotion to study, Shamsa never got a chance to go to school at a tender age. Her heart is engulfed in deep regrets as she remembers how she missed the chance to go to school years ago.

“I did not get the opportunity to attend school at my tender age. I used to help my grandmother with fetching water and caring for her all the time which largely affected my school attendance. I regret missing out on school,” She laments.

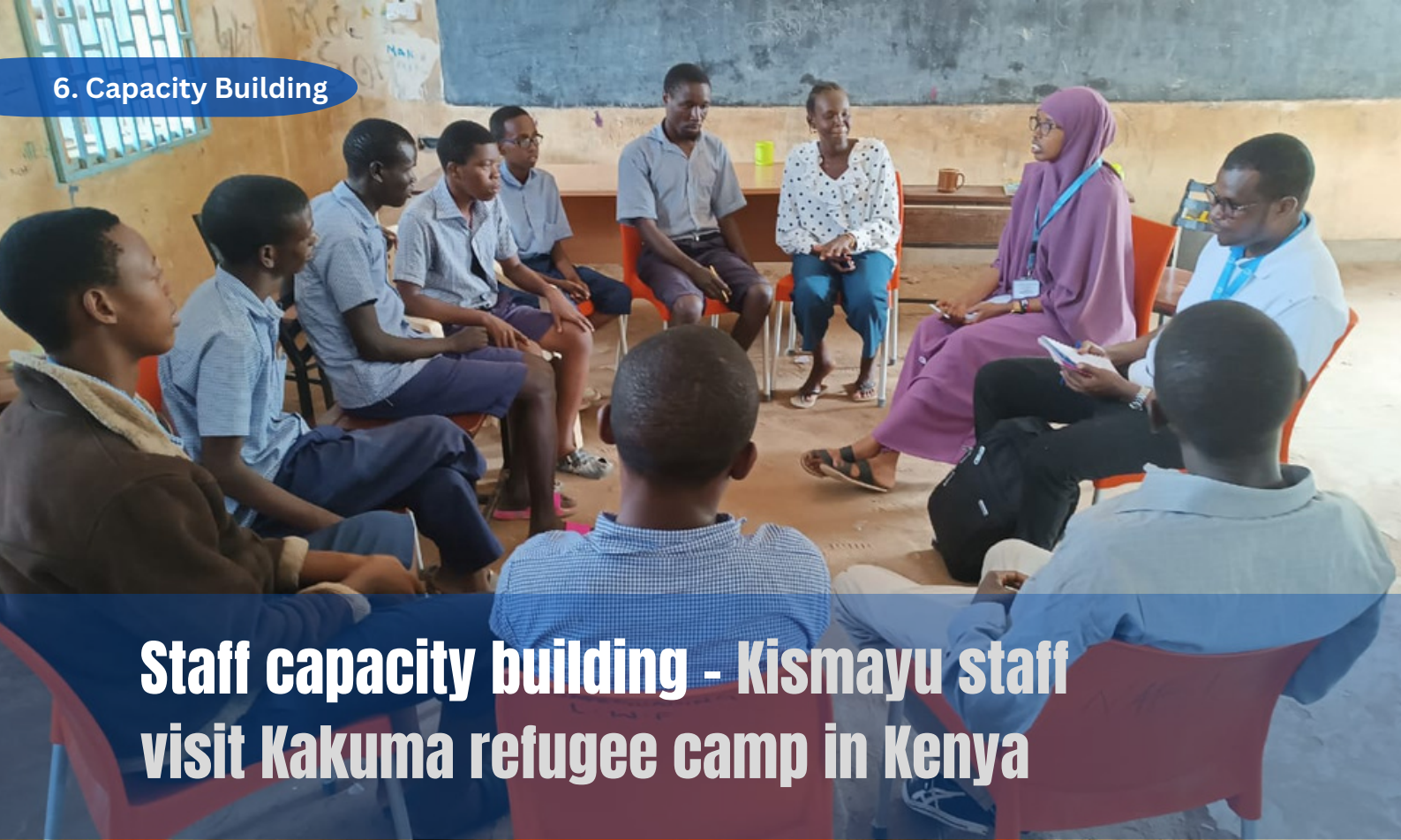
Shamsa, now a mother could not be able to continue with her school and so she dropped out to care for her grandmother oblivious of the importance of education. So then, I dropped out of school,” Shamsa Ahmed reminisces.

Shamsa Ahmed Dahir, who has disability in her right limbs grew up in the rural parts of Kismayu in the Jubbaland State of Somalia. Despite her disability, she strives to show zeal for education now. She didn’t have this passion during her tender years. “I did not understand the value of getting formal education during those years,” she claims.

Shamsa first came to the Education Assessment and Resource Centre (EARC) in Kismayu, Somalia run by LWF for physiotherapy in 2021. While at the facility, she developed an interest in learning and felt the need to satisfy her quest and passion for education even as an adult and a mother of 7 children. She is now a role model worth of emulation for her 7 children. She got motivated and ultimately joined the adult literacy program being offered at the resource centre.

“I have been so poor in counting and writing skills, I thought it wise to acquire basic skills. So while I was receiving physiotherapy at the resource center, I felt a strong desire and the need to enroll for classes in the adult literacy program at the center,” she says.

She is one of the adult learners drawn from various parts of Kismayu town who are enrolled at the EARC adult literacy program. The program is being spearheaded by the LWF with support from Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS).



# Staff capacity building - Kismayu staff visit Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya

**Two LWF Somalia Sub Program staff have recently visited the LWF Kakuma Area Program in Kenya for a cross-learning on child rights at schools in Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee settlement.**

The LWF staff, Yurub Dakane (EARC technical officer/ PSEA & Accountability Focal) and Abdikadir Hassan, Special Needs Education Officer, exhaustively engaged with the safeguarding department on child safe guarding matters.

During their cross-learning tour, the duo met with various school child rights club including the debate club, inclusive club, environmental club and the child rights club and had an interactive discussion on inclusive education, complaints mechanisms among other areas of concern. The child help desk which helps learners to feel more confident in raising issues to a safeguarding officers was one unique thing the Kismayu Area Program team learnt.

The school clubs serve to promote community engagement and promote peaceful co-existence at both the school and community level by carrying out peace building activities, street cleaning, tree planting, fighting early marriages and Female Genital Mutilations (FGM), Child labour among other activities. The school clubs give the learners an active participation opportunity so that they don't feel left out in decision making processes.

"LWF works with refugee children and communities to defend these rights by giving children access to information and decision-making opportunities, easing access to resources and helping adults understand the laws in place to protect children. This is a fundamental right which is essential in restoring hope," Says Yurub Dakane.

# Climate change and adaptation - training young people on disaster risk reduction

## 7. Climate Justice

The Lutheran World Federation has conducted a child friendly training on climate change and disaster risk reduction for schools in Kismayu, Jubbaland State of Somalia. The training provided learners with information and shaped attitudes, behaviors and abilities necessary to address the threats that climate change poses to the Jubbaland community.

The primary goal of the training was to re-energize initiatives for education for sustainable development, with a particular emphasis on disaster risk reduction and climate change as part of Act Somalia Forum (ASF) response to fostering sustainability, peace and resilience in Somalia's Jubbaland state. The projects target to increase school students' understanding of climate change and disaster risk reduction and offer shared learning opportunities and practical experiences in various schools.

The training involved representatives of targeted school teachers, school committee members and students. A total of 273 participants have been trained from 3 different locations of Qamqam, Yontoy and Bula Gadud. The module covered diverse topics including the earth and its climate, past and present climate, global warming, climate change risk-smart preparedness and resilience among others.



### Climate justice

**We recognize that the impact of climate change is often felt first and most acutely by those who suffer from extreme poverty.**

**Therefore, we are committed to ensuring that our programs minimize the immediate and long-term risks of climate change to those communities we serve. - LWF Principles on Climate change and climate adaptation**

# Lutheran World Federation Somalia Sub Program

## Our main donors



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## Online Resources

**Annual Report 2022:** <http://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/LWF%20-%20World%20Service%20-%20Annual%20Report%202022.pdf>

**Kenya-Somalia fact sheet:** <https://kenyasomalia.lutheranworld.org/content/country-fact-sheet-31>

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Cover Photo-Physically disabled project beneficiaries receiving assistive devices.



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