

PRESS RELEASE: Humanitarian Aid: EU supports over 115,698 school children in Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee Camps in Kenya



Learners in class during a class session in Kakuma Refugee Camp. 770 new desks were procured and supplied to schools. Photo: LWF/P.Omagwa

NAIROBI, 13th May, 2021: - The European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) allocated KES 57 million to support the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) through United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) towards, "Ensuring access to quality child protection and education for the most at-risk children and adolescents in Dadaab and Kakuma Refugee settlement."

The provision of education to refugee children suffers many setbacks, some associated with the protracted refugee context in Kenya and the continued influx of asylum seekers from neighbouring countries exerting additional pressure on the already over-stretched facilities and resources. Kakuma and Dadaab refugee's camps host 430,920 refugees and asylum seekers. Children in the two refugee camps continue to face many challenges in accessing education, such as overcrowded classrooms, inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, limited teaching and learning materials and inadequately qualified teachers. The question of overage children, at more than 41%, continues to hinder children in the refugee camps from enrolling in school at the correct age.

EU's funded education and child protection activities supported 117,099 direct beneficiaries in Kakuma and Dadaab. The project ensured that there was an improvement in learner enrolment and retention by conducting community-based campaigns and awareness—the project rehabilitated 41 classrooms to increase learning spaces in schools for enhanced access to education. 9,808 copies of textbooks, including Competency-Based Curriculum textbooks for Grade 4 were supplied to schools and 410 teachers trained to support the uptake of CBC in schools in the refugee camps. 770 new desks were procured and provided to schools.

In addition, the project supported the establishment of a functional school management structure by training Boards of Management in 43 primary schools in both locations. This ensured community involvement and contribution to the education of their children.

“School going children in Kenya refugee camps comprise of 56 per cent the population meaning more efforts and resources need to be directed towards education,” said Joseph Mutamba, Technical Advisor for Child Protection and Education for LWF Kenya-Somalia-Djibouti, “With the EU’s support Over 100,000 children benefited from the project that was implemented in 20 months at Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee Camps.”

LWF is UNHCR's lead implementing partner in pre-primary and primary education in Kakuma and Dadaab Refugees Camps. With the continuous humanitarian aid support from UNHCR, UNICEF and EU and other partners, LWF continues to uphold the right of education through the direct provision of essential education services in situations of displacement where governments are unable to provide an adequate education.

About EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

The European Union and its Member States is the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid. Relief assistance is an expression of European solidarity with people in need all around the world. It aims to save lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard populations' integrity and human dignity affected by natural disasters and man-made crises.

Through the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian aid Operations department, the European Union helps millions of victims of conflict and disasters every year. With headquarters in Brussels and a global network of field offices, the EU assists the most vulnerable people based on humanitarian needs.

About Lutheran World Federation

LWF World Service is the humanitarian and development arm of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a global communion that unites 148 Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition in 99 countries worldwide. These churches have mandated World Service to assist those in need without discrimination. As an international faith-based humanitarian organization, LWF World Service works in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, serving more than 2.25 million people in need. Visit: <https://kenyadjibouti.lutheranworld.org/>

The LWF Kenya Djibouti Somalia Program works primarily with displacement affected communities (refugees, IDPs and host communities) in the three countries. The program's work is motivated by the hope and resilience of the people it serves when seeing them improve their quality of life, individually and collectively. This is done by supporting people to meet their basic needs and achieve their full potential in an environment that supports justice, peace, dignity, diversity, and respect for everyone, refugees and host communities alike, and enables them to claim their universal human rights. Visit: <https://kenyadjibouti.lutheranworld.org/>

About UNICEF

UNICEF works in 190 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. For more information about UNICEF and its work, visit: www.unicef.org

For more information please contact:

The Lutheran World Federation

Kakuma Area Program

Pauline Omagwa

Communication Officer

Pauline.omagwa @lutheranworld.org

+254 705493902

The Lutheran World Federation

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Moses Mukhwana

moses.mukhwana@lutheranworld.org

+254 725 251 919