



2016 EARLY WARNING FORECAST



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

INTRODUCTION

If we have learned anything from living in our increasingly globalized world, it is that no community or no nation stands in isolation. For better or worse, we are all connected. This makes our existence on this planet simultaneously more creative, more dynamic, more complex and more dangerous. Inevitably, what goes on “over there” will somehow affect us “here.”

Anyone working in the humanitarian sphere has experienced this complexity first hand. It’s becoming ever more evident that linkages among global poverty, climate change, conflict and migration undermine political and economic security and trigger humanitarian emergencies that are more frequent and of a greater magnitude, and which are outstripping the ability of local and international aid agencies to respond.

Given these linkages and the rising vulnerability of global populations to both conflict and disaster, there is a vital need for an evolution in the way the international community thinks about humanitarian response and sustainable development. We need to move beyond short-term mobilization for the latest disaster or applying the Band-Aid approach to an emergency in a seemingly isolated “fragile” state. In order to better foster global security and avoid the disaster in the first place, we need to approach recovery and resilience with a long-term time frame in mind as well as a more holistic understanding of the importance of sustainable development. Breaking people out of the cycle of poverty will make them more resilient in the face of the future disaster. It will make them less likely to flee their homelands for an uncertain future abroad. And it will strengthen their communities, ensuring they are not the next fertile ground for a terrorist movement to breed.

For the past 70 years, Lutheran World Relief has worked in some of the world’s poorest locales helping communities through some of the most complex emergencies, and our experience on the ground has given us a better idea of the complex relationships among poverty, human dignity and security. To that end, the global staff of LWR has compiled this 2016 Early Warning Forecast that includes the regions we are monitoring, the work we are doing in these areas and the steps we’d like to see the international community take to address some of these challenges.

Above all, we are calling on the international community to redouble its effort at both humanitarian response and building the resilient and inclusive development called for in the Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations. This effort should be aimed at empowering local civil society and communities in need to help them become more resilient to the new crises they will inevitably face, and to reaffirm the long-term commitment to sustainable development made by governments, businesses, as well as the faith-based and charitable community.



Ambassador Daniel Speckhard (rt.)
President and CEO



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The 2016 Early Warning Forecast is an analysis prepared by the staff of Lutheran World Relief that includes the regions we are monitoring to be prepared for potential crises, as well as the work we are doing in these areas and measures we are advocating to address these challenges.

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2016
WATCHLIST

SYRIA, AFGHANISTAN, SOMALIA

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING FOR: MIGRATION

We are witnessing a global level of migration not seen since the end of World War II, with nearly **60 million people displaced by war**, persecution, disaster or extreme poverty. Nearly 20 million of these displaced individuals are refugees who have crossed national borders. More than half of them are children. Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia – the top three countries of origin – account for more than 7 million of the total number of refugees. Conditions driving this wave of migration defy easy resolution and will likely continue throughout the coming year.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ The global rise in people displaced from their homes rose from 51.2 million in 2013 to **59.5 million** in 2014, the biggest leap ever seen in a single year.
- ▶ **One in every 122 people** in the world is now either a refugee, internally displaced or seeking asylum. If this were the population of a single country, it would be the world's 24th biggest state.
- ▶ Nearly **9 out of every 10 refugees** (86%) resettle in the developing world.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- As a global community, we must redouble diplomatic efforts to resolve the global and regional conflicts driving so many away from their homelands. We must foster sustainable and scalable development, as outlined in

the Sustainable Development Goals, to lift those who are likely to migrate out of extreme poverty.

- We must encourage governments to uphold the rule of law and create ample space for a flourishing civil society, so it can help further development and act as a watchdog to hold governments accountable.
- We support the work of our sister agency, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, in its efforts to promote a humane U.S. response to refugee crises whether originating in Syria, Central America or elsewhere, with LWR's understanding of the overseas dimension of these issues.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- Supporting the ACT Alliance, a humanitarian coalition of more than 140 churches and faith-based organizations, in providing humanitarian support. ACT members are providing hygiene items, winter coats and blankets, emergency shelter and psychosocial support to refugees in Hungary, Serbia and Greece.
- Working with the Lutheran World Federation to provide ongoing assistance to Somali refugees living in the Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya.
- Providing emergency support and critical non-food items to be distributed to refugees and migrants. Since October 2012, LWR has provided more than \$7 million in assistance to Syrian refugees, reaching more than **235,000 people** in Serbia, Lebanon and Jordan.



NEPAL

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING FOR:

EARTHQUAKES, POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Scientists believe the April and May 2015 earthquakes “unzipped” the Main Himalayan Thrust fault, which had been locked for a decade, making strong earthquakes in the future a likely possibility. The earthquakes also exposed vulnerabilities in the soundness of existing structures and communities’ disaster preparedness that must be addressed. We have an opportunity to address these issues in a more sustainable way, given the ongoing reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts’ intention to rebuild in a better, safer and more resilient manner. Political instability and unrest in the wake of the passage of Nepal’s new national constitution in September 2015 have presented challenges and contributed to government delays to moving forward with recovery efforts. This instability has created significant political, humanitarian and economic hurdles at a time when the country should be concentrating on recovery and can ill afford this kind of distraction.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ The earthquakes left **8,891 people dead**, destroyed more than **600,000 homes** and damaged another **290,000 houses**. Millions of people remain in need of shelter and help to restore their livelihoods.
- ▶ Approximately **80,000 people** living in remote, high-altitude areas that will be inaccessible once first snow falls are at risk unless sufficient aid reaches them before winter.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- The Government of Nepal to relaunch the National Reconstruction Authority so the recovery can move forward, and to grant its members the autonomy necessary to effectively operate.
- More long-term investment in Nepal’s transition to recovery. Specifically, in the U.S., passage by Congress of the Nepal Recovery Act to promote medium-term recovery. This includes a three-year authorization for support to enable a quicker and lasting recovery by calling for debt relief as well as funding infrastructure to rebuild schools and roads.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- LWR responded to immediate needs on the ground shortly after the first earthquake through the distribution of food rations and temporary shelter materials to more than 20,000 people. We are implementing projects in four sectors — food security, shelter, early recovery and livelihoods, and quality and accountability — informed by an assessment of critical needs, coordination with other humanitarian groups and with input from local partners, local government officials and affected communities.
- In the next two-year phase of our response, LWR will help farmers plant new crops and replenish livestock, help families to repair their homes and help communities organize and plan for future emergencies and reduce their risks.

IRAQ

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING FOR:

CONFLICT, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDP)

Iraq, already suffering from nearly a decade and a half of war, is now menaced by the threat of the Islamic State (ISIS), which expanded its activities from Syria to a significant swath of northern Iraq, including Iraq's second largest city, Mosul. The terrorist group began persecuting any individual practicing a religion other than Sunni Islam, in particular driving out Christians and Yazidis. These two groups took refuge in Kurdistan, living in organized camps and also in abandoned houses and community buildings such as churches and community centers. In addition, there are more than 245,000 Syrian refugees living in Iraq, most of them in Kurdistan.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ Nearly **3.2 million people** have fled their homes and spread to over 3,000 different locations since January 2014.
- ▶ More than **8.6 million** people in Iraq are now in need of humanitarian assistance. Of these, an estimated **2.3 million people** are in areas outside of Government control where access is extremely limited.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- The U.S. and other international partners should monitor and respond to gaps in humanitarian aid and protection, both for Syrians living in Iraq as well as Iraqis who have been displaced, living in camps and other shelter situations.
- There must be greater diplomatic engagement to address the conflicts in Iraq and Syria and formulate a clear, long-term strategy to achieve peace and development.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- Working with the Lutheran World Federation in assisting internally displaced people in the Dohuk region of Northern Iraq (Kurdistan).
- Alleviating suffering for families living in camps by ensuring food security, providing community-based psychosocial support (particularly to women), improving water and sanitation systems and helping people to reestablish their livelihoods. LWR has helped fund a support center for women.
- Evaluating opportunities for future assistance, which may include cash vouchers for food, establishment of a training center and the repair of water systems and latrines.

CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

(EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, HONDURAS AND HAITI)

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING FOR:

IMPACT OF EL NIÑO, CLIMATE CHANGE

Warmer-than-normal ocean temperatures associated with El Niño are causing the worst drought in decades in Central America and Haiti, where about 2.5 million people have experienced food shortages and are in need of urgent assistance. The lack of rainfall has resulted in low yields and heavy losses of staple crops for small-scale farmers, which in turn has caused a sharp rise in food prices. Based on the latest scientific analysis and projections, below-normal rainfall is expected in Central America and Haiti during the coming months, through March 2016. More than 3.5 million people are expected to experience a food crisis during this period, most in Guatemala and Haiti, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ Losses for small-scale farmers are estimated at between **50%** and **80%**, with some having no harvest at all.
- ▶ FEWS NET estimates that by March 2016 up to **1.5 million people** in Haiti and **2 million people** in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua will be experiencing a severe food crisis.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- Development plans in Central America and the Caribbean need more focused attention on rural areas, in light of the hardship brought by El Niño-exacerbated drought conditions and the continued blight of coffee rust disease, fueled by the warmer temperatures that are the result of climate change.
- The immediate impact of El Niño underscores the need to stimulate inclusive economic growth with the full participation of both Central American civil society and U.S. government support. Drawing on and improving the Alliance for Prosperity plan presented by the governments of the Northern Triangle nations of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, such an initiative should address the livelihood crisis in rural areas, as well as address the region's critical public safety and security issues.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- In a joint effort with two of our strategic partners, Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM) and the Lutheran World Federation, LWR's emergency response has focused on southwestern Honduras and eastern Guatemala. Assistance has included providing cash payments, vouchers for non-food items and helping local communities better respond to drought.
- Evaluating a potential response in the Northwest department of Haiti, a region where the government has identified between **64,000 - 117,000** children, women and men experiencing crisis conditions.



SAHEL REGION

(MALI, BURKINA FASO AND NIGER)

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING FOR:

DROUGHT, CONFLICT

Conflict and poor harvests are driving hunger for more than 20 million people in the Sahel region of West Africa. The effects of El Niño may exacerbate the crisis. In addition, there are approximately 3.5 million displaced people in the Sahel, more than twice the total of last year. Those who have been forced to leave their homes due to conflicts include refugees who fled northern Mali, victims of displacement in Northern Nigeria and southern Niger caused by Boko Haram and those escaping violence in the Central African Republic and Darfur. The recent coup attempt in Burkina Faso has led to a political situation that bears watching as do the continued terrorism-related security threats and incidents in Bamako and areas in northern Mali, and in parts of southeastern Niger. Many countries in this region are part of the “supply-side” of migrants seeking a better life in Europe.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ **20.5 million people** are experiencing food insecurity, including **4.4 million** who need emergency food assistance.
- ▶ **4.4 million people** are refugees, internally displaced and returnees (937,000 refugees and 3.5 million IDP and returnees).

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- Only one-third of the UN humanitarian appeal for Mali has been met, so additional relief resources are critical. However, of equal importance is continued and improved coordination among local governments, the European Union, the U.S. government and other donors for investment in the resilience of communities throughout the Sahel.
- Make effective the peace agreement signed in June 2015 by the government of Mali and the Coordination of Movements for Azawad (CMA), the main rebel coalition in northern Mali, and establish conditions for the safe return and reintegration of displaced people back to their homes in northern Mali. These conditions include greater humanitarian access to the north, including transport, and redeployment of Malian administration and social services to these areas.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- Providing cash payments through cash-for-work activities that meet emergency needs for nearly **307,000 people** who successfully rehabilitated more than **4,700 hectares** of communal land and planted nearly **884,000 trees**.
- Strengthening and developing the capacity of more than 20 community-based organizations.
- Increasing the household income and diversifying livelihoods of thousands of farmers through the expansion of livestock, crop processing, marketing and other activities.



SOUTH SUDAN

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING FOR:

CONFLICT, EXTREME POVERTY

South Sudan, which became an independent nation in 2011, has been engulfed in a civil war since December 2013 that has killed 50,000 and displaced nearly 2 million people, in addition to those who have entered the country to flee violence in neighboring Sudan. Extreme poverty and some of the world's lowest levels of development are made even worse by the armed conflict. Basic infrastructure is severely lacking and access to services such as health care, education, water and sanitation is nearly nonexistent in some areas.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ **4.6 million people** across South Sudan are severely food insecure.
- ▶ There were **180,000** internally displaced people in the country when the conflict began in December 2013; by October 2015, the number of displaced people has reached **1,658,592**.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- Seeking the reversal of an NGO bill that imposes draconian restrictions and requirements on humanitarian organizations operating in the country that will dramatically affect their ability to effectively carry out their work. The provisions include requirements that NGOs use South Sudanese banks, historically subject to extensive corruption, and allows the government to impose unspecified fees.
- Continue to mobilize all efforts for peace, humanitarian access and protection and respect for human rights. Scale up immediate emergency humanitarian assistance for the estimated 2 million food-insecure people in the country, while simultaneously investing in livelihood restoration.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- Working in the Ajuong Thok, Gendrassa, Yusuf Batil and Kaya refugee camps and the communities that host them in Upper Nile and Unity States.
- Reaching **19,450 children and youth** with our partner, the Lutheran World Federation, addressing child protection needs, ensuring boys and girls have access to basic quality education and develop life and vocational skills.
- Working to reunite children who have come to these camps unaccompanied by adults or who have been separated from their families on the long journey.



COLOMBIA

WHAT WE'RE SEEING: PEACE AGREEMENT

A peace accord between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), hammered out over the past few years in Havana, is expected to be signed in March 2016. The inclusion of conflict victims in the talks was unprecedented and various chapters of the peace agreement draft include not only transitional justice but also a plan for investment for a “new Colombian countryside.” If affirmed, the agreement will end one of the longest-running conflicts in the world, which dates back to 1964. The end to decades of violence and insecurity offers an opportunity to make an investment in Colombia’s rural areas and build a viable peace dividend for those who suffered most in the war.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ At the end of two months of FARC ceasefire, there was a **72% drop** in armed confrontations as compared with the average of the previous period.
- ▶ There are **6.3 million** internally displaced people, a global total second only to Syria, including **224,300** newly displaced in 2014.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- Continued support by the U.S. Government and its special envoy of the peace process and implementation of an eventual deal. This high-level political support is crucial.
- The U.S. should assist in providing resources for demobilization, cease-fire monitoring and other key aspects of implementation while pressing for more effective protection for human rights defenders and the displaced as they seek safe and sustainable return of land.
- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) should follow through on a promising country strategy to support local government functions and services in order to reinvigorate newly peaceful rural areas.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- Supporting cooperatives and rural populations over the past several years, including Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, to help increase their incomes and claim their rights under the Victims and Land Restitution laws. Our current focus builds on this work to promote innovative programs with the private sector that link the promise of peace to family food security in former conflict areas.

PHILIPPINES

WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

RESILIENCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In November 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, killing more than 6,300 people, damaging or destroying at least 1 million homes and devastating crops. Since that disaster, international humanitarian organizations have worked closely with the Government of the Philippines and local partners to improve disaster readiness through measures such as early warning systems, clear evacuation procedures and pre-positioned aid supplies. These investments have paid off. In the aftermath of two subsequent strong typhoons, Hagupit in December 2014 and Koppu in October 2015, the UN cited the actions of the Philippine government, working with local and international NGOs, in limiting the typhoons' impact.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ The Philippines is no stranger to natural disaster. There are about **20 typhoons** in the Philippines each year, with about three typhoons striking per month in the period between June and November. Luzon — Philippines' largest and most populous island — is significantly more at risk than southern areas.
- ▶ The Philippines also experiences nearly **900 earthquakes** annually. And of the **220 volcanoes** in the country, 22 are active.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- Provide funding to assist local governments that were affected by Typhoon Haiyan to help them meet the national government's requirements around Disaster Risk Reduction plans, early warning systems and community hazard mapping, and to help them prepare for future disasters.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- Continuing our livelihood recovery work as part of our ongoing Typhoon Haiyan response, focusing on building the resilience of small-scale farmers and the devastated coconut production and fishing sectors.
- LWR has carried out a major project working with flood-prone communities along the Silway and Klinan rivers in central Mindanao, Philippines, planting more than **120,000 trees** to increase flood control and limit soil erosion by reinforcing riverbanks and headwater areas, and training local citizens in disaster response management and first aid.



THE PROMISE OF COFFEE & COCOA IN HAITI, EAST AFRICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, INDONESIA

WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

SMALLHOLDER FARMERS INCREASING INCOME

Coffee and cocoa have the potential to be significant cash crops for smallholder farmers, allowing them to generate more income and lift themselves out of poverty by connecting with domestic and international markets. In Haiti, international aid organizations are assisting farmers in reviving a once-flourishing coffee and cocoa sector. In East Africa, the Economist has touted the potential of coffee to lift small farmers out of poverty. In Indonesia, more than 90% of its coffee is produced by smallholder farmers. Cocoa from Central America is increasingly receiving recognition for its high quality and market potential.

KEY INDICATORS:

- ▶ Roughly **30 million smallholder farmers** produce most of the world's coffee and cocoa.
- ▶ Small-scale farmers grow approximately **80%** of the world's coffee and **90%** of the global cocoa crop.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR:

- Climate change is already adversely affecting farmers. For example, temperatures in coffee-growing regions in Central America have been steadily rising, fueling the spread of coffee leaf rust that has wiped out more than half of the crop in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala.

- To help mitigate this, we support the Green Climate Fund, a multinational initiative to finance efforts to adapt to global warming in the world's poorest countries, with up to 50% of the funds going to projects that build resilience in communities already suffering from the effects of climate change.

WHAT WE'RE DOING:

Helping coffee and cocoa farmers reap the full market value of their crop through LWR's Ground Up initiative by:

- Working with farmer cooperatives to facilitate training and help access credit and markets, and supporting improved post-harvest processing and facilitating key certifications such as Organic and Fair Trade.
- Organizing gatherings of farmers, buyers and processors in meetings such as the Temu Kopi conference, an annual LWR-hosted forum held in Indonesia that convenes representatives from across the coffee value chain.
- LWR has also brought farmers to high-profile events such as the Salon du Chocolat in Paris and the Specialty Coffee Association of America annual trade show, where they can interact directly with coffee and cocoa buyers.



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