

Senegal

Among the Pulaar nomadic herders in rural northeastern Senegal, milking cows is a woman's job. After rising early in the morning to milk cows, women then push a wooden cart filled with milk over rough dirt roads for miles to the nearest town where they can sell it. This is the primary source of income for some women and their families, and some villages depend entirely on milk sales for their livelihood. Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal helped ELCA Global Mission start this herder's cooperative nearly 13 years ago, working with local people to get the operation going. PRAY for the long-term success of this cooperative and for the Pulaar women who work hard every day to earn a living.

Stand With Africa

Stand With Africa is an ongoing emphasis of the ELCA that supports African churches and communities as they withstand HIV/AIDS, banish hunger, and build peace. The ELCA continues its support of Africa in this special way by recognizing the unique challenges that our African sisters and brothers face. PRAY that this effort will allow Lutherans to reach even more people in Africa as they battle a deadly disease, struggle to fight starvation, and seek an end to violence in many nations.

Tanzania

Many people in Tanzania are affected by regional HIV/AIDS and food crises, resulting from lack of health education and disease prevention as well as severe droughts. Many households are headed by children as young as 14 or 15 years old—children who often care for multiple younger siblings. PRAY for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the ELCA as it supports many people there, including the HUYAWA program that works with orphans and children who head their households.

West Bank/Jerusalem

PRAY for the many victims of violence, political upheaval, and unrest in this region. PRAY for the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities—that they might ultimately know a lasting peace and coexist peacefully in and around the Holy Land. PRAY for ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Global Mission as they actively work with and through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Bishop Munib Younan, Augusta Victoria Hospital, Lutheran schools in the Holy Land, and many more people and programs in the Middle East.

Written by Aaron Cooper, writer-editor for ELCA World Hunger



**Evangelical Lutheran
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ELCA World Hunger Global Prayer Concerns

Afghanistan

The ELCA has worked through Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran World Federation, and other ecumenical partners to bring extensive material aid to the refugees and displaced people of Afghanistan, including refugees returning from other countries. PRAY for a lasting system of development and peace in a land with a turbulent recent past.

American Indian and Alaska Native People

American Indian and Alaska Native people, the first inhabitants of this abundant land, continue to experience a poverty rate more than twice as high as the general population. PRAY for these families and communities, as the ELCA—through the domestic hunger grants program and other partnerships—works to help break this harsh cycle of poverty through food relief, community organizing, and development projects.

Augusta Victoria Hospital

Located on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem and operated by the Lutheran World Federation, Augusta Victoria Hospital has recently faced a dire financial crisis due to the loss of a significant source of its funding through the Palestinian Authority. In 2006, the ELCA gave the hospital a \$100,000 grant for emergency financial support. PRAY for the continued operation of this hospital, which daily provides life-saving treatment for so many Palestinians who walk miles and brave checkpoints to get there.

Cambodia

In Cambodia, less than a quarter of rural households have safe drinking water. The Lutheran World Federation constructed 571 deep wells, 518 shallow wells, and created active water committees in 370 villages to educate people about the need for clean water, how to monitor the water supply, and how to maintain the wells and pumps. PRAY especially for vulnerable groups in poor rural communities, who face daily challenges such as access to clean water, food shortages, malaria, and HIV/AIDS.

Chile

One out of every six people in the world lacks access to a reliable source of clean water. In Chile, ELCA World Hunger Appeal gifts help support EPES (Popular Education for Health), where staff and health promoters tackle issues like a lack of running water, sanitation, and electricity. These health workers serve a population of shantytowns where people are hungry or lack access to safe drinking water. PRAY that EPES and similar

organizations will continue to find ways to enable life-giving access to water for people in communities throughout the world.

Darfur

Darfur has been described as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises in recent times. Fighting between rebel groups has directly affected more than 2 million people, and at least 1.2 million people have been displaced since 2003. PRAY for sustaining peace in this region, that people will stop fighting and displaced people will be able to return home and live without fear. PRAY for and support ELCA International Disaster Response, as it raises and pledges money for the effort to restore this area of the world.

Ethiopia

Each year, millions of people in Ethiopia are at severe risk of starvation. PRAY for the ELCA and two of its partner organizations—Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation—that together Lutherans can make a strong and visible dent in this mass famine that continues in Africa.

Gulf Coast, United States

PRAY for people along the Gulf Coast affected by the deadly 2005 hurricane season. PRAY for ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, as it works with local churches and communities to support families and congregations during the lengthy rebuilding process.

Haiti

The ELCA has been a long-time partner in relief and development projects in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Many Haitians live on \$2 a day or less and barely survive. Through the Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA's lasting partnerships have offered Haitian farmers a chance to form coffee cooperatives and earn better livings. PRAY that this lasting relationship continues and that the people of Haiti are strengthened and sustained as they work hard to survive.

Hunger Ministries in the United States

In 2007, the ELCA World Hunger Program awarded 360 domestic hunger grants to churches and organizations in the United States that offer relief, development, and community organizing services and programs for people who are hungry or living in poverty. PRAY for the continued work of these ministries, that they might provide food, clothing, shelter, and efforts to help develop and organize people in their communities.

India

The ELCA is active in many areas of India, working through Lutheran World Relief to assist people in implementing development projects or accessing things like clean water and health care (especially for women and infants). PRAY for the sustained health of people in India. PRAY for

the many thousands of people who continue to rebuild their homes and their lives after the tsunami.

Lebanon

The Contact and Resource Center, an institution designed to enhance the future of people living with disabilities in Lebanon, is located in Beirut. It is a companion ministry of the ELCA that supports people with disabilities who are often left vulnerable—both physically and emotionally—during the current military confrontation. PRAY for the efforts of ELCA International Disaster Response, which has supported this program. PRAY for the staff at the Contact and Resource Center and people with disabilities whom they serve, that all may find peace and support in a time of conflict.

Liberia

For over a decade, Liberia has suffered from the instability of intermittent civil war. The ELCA continues to support the Lutheran Church in Liberia and all who assist in the rebuilding effort after a prolonged internal conflict. PRAY that the ELCA—working through Action by Churches Together, Lutheran World Relief, and the Lutheran World Federation—can help a mass international humanitarian aid effort to provide food, clothing, shelter, clean drinking water, and medical supplies.

Mexico

ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Global Mission support a grassroots coalition of Mexican Christians known as Amextra, or the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation. Amextra provides food and services to people in some of Mexico's poorest areas by developing community-improvement programs. PRAY for Eugenio Araiza Bahena (who is the director of the program), his family, and all those who work hard to improve the quality of lives for their Mexican sisters and brothers.

Nepal

A Lutheran World Federation program in Nepal has been supporting over 100,000 refugees from Bhutan in refugee camps for over 15 years. These refugees fled their homes in Southern Bhutan in 1991. PRAY for the well-being of the people of Nepal, especially those living in extreme poverty, and that refugees may find permanent homes and rebuild their lives.

Peru

Many people lack access to clean water in Peru, primarily water for drinking and crop irrigation. Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal have helped create fish farms to raise trout with the help of ELCA partner organization Lutheran World Relief. After three years of drought, an irrigation system will now allow multiple crops of *quinoa* (a high-protein grain) to grow in an area where 60 farm families live. PRAY that this community will be sustained through its new water and irrigation system.