



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

actalliance



Working Together:

Christian-Muslim Humanitarian Partnerships Workshop

5-8 October 2013
Amman, Jordan

Contents

1. Introduction and Background	1
2. Summary of Workshop Discussions.....	2
3. Key conclusions and suggestions for follow-up	6
ANNEX 1: Workshop Concept Paper	8
ANNEX 2: Participants list	13
ANNEX 3: Agenda.....	15
ANNEX 4: Draft Pilot Project Outlines.....	18
ANNEX 5: Feedback from Participants.....	22
ANNEX 6: Joint Statement.....	24
Partners	

Edited by LWF – Department for World Service

Cover photo: Christian and Muslim LWF staff working together in Za'atri Camp, Jordan. Nader Duqmaq (Emergency Program Manager), Wejdan Jarrah (Psychosocial Specialist) and four Syrian refugees employed by LWF in Za'atri Camp. Photo: LWF/Mark Brown

Layout: LWF Communication Services

Published by: The Lutheran World Federation – A Communion of Churches
Department for World Service
Route de Ferney 150
P.O.Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2

info@lutheranworld.org



Photo: LWF/Mats Wallerstedt

1. Introduction and Background

In recent years the humanitarian sector has seen a rise of Islamic faith-based aid organizations. Many of these emerging organizations, however, are not integrated into the international humanitarian community and often operate parallel to existing aid organizations and response mechanisms. This raises a critical question: Could humanitarian response be strengthened through increased cooperation with Islamic faith-based organizations?

Moreover, several United Nations (UN) agencies, especially the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), are increasingly recognizing the importance of faith in humanitarian assistance. The growing relevance of faith-based humanitarian actors and their increased desire to work together was confirmed at the UNHCR Dialogue on Faith and Protection, held in December 2012, in which The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Islamic Relief Worldwide

and other leading faith-based organizations played an active role.

Further, in a world where the divide between the Western and Arab worlds seems evident and where tension, mistrust and violence have increased between communities of different faiths, we ask, could faith-based cooperation play a role in reducing mistrust and building peace? The combination of these factors has given rise to the current initiative to foster closer inter-faith humanitarian collaboration.

The workshop *Working Together: Christian-Muslim Humanitarian Partnerships*, co-hosted and jointly planned by The Humanitarian Forum (THF) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and its Department for World Service, took place in Amman, Jordan, from 5-8 October 2013. More details about the workshop can be found in the Concept Paper (ANNEX 1).

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss operational issues

around interfaith humanitarian partnerships. The aim was to explore practical ways of working together in the future, through: 1) coming to a better understanding of each other's values, motivations and work; 2) identifying how working together can be mutually beneficial; and 3) designing together possible pilot projects for joint activities.

The 25 participants represented 12 different organizations varying from the UN and international coordination platforms to international Islamic and Christian humanitarian and development agencies. The list of participants can be found as ANNEX 2 and the workshop agenda as ANNEX 3.

2. Summary of Workshop Discussions

Pre-Workshop Welcome Dinner:

Rev. Eberhard Hitzler, director of LWF World Service and Dr Hany El Banna, president of The Humanitarian Forum, opened the workshop with introductory remarks. Each participant then presented him or herself.

DAY 1: Faith-based identity, vision and issues regarding interfaith partnerships:

Panel Discussion: In the first of four panel presentations, Rev. Dr Simone Sinn (LWF) presented a theological framework for interfaith partnerships, providing an overview of biblical foundations for serving people in need, and doing so in cooperation with others for the common good. She stated that the key motivation for interfaith humanitarian partnerships is to “establish more

effective humanitarian assistance as people of faith for people in need and empower them to fully exercise their rights and to work towards justice and peace.” A number of principles of interfaith partnership were proposed as important starting points, such as respect for the integrity of another’s faith, discovering shared values and articulating joint commitments from faith-based perspectives.

Mr. Atallah FitzGibbon (Islamic Relief Worldwide) presented next, speaking on the theological underpinning of Christian and Muslim humanitarian collaboration from an Islamic perspective. Using illustrations from the Qur’an and the Hadiths, he explored the basis for human dignity, prophethood and civilization, and humanitarian action. Listing a series of beliefs that bond monotheistic faiths, he then presented values for faith-based engagement, such as: mutual respect and understanding; addressing conflict; engaging with values; and harnessing

spiritual strength. He identified several principles of partnership, including a shared understanding of each other, mutual respect, appreciation and recognition, agreed responsibilities, and accountability and trust.

Mr. José Riera (UNHCR) highlighted the current trend within the historically secular UN agencies to explore ways of engaging more deliberately with faith-based partner organizations and the faith dimensions of affected populations. He indicated that during the planning of the UNHCR Dialogue on Faith and Protection some staff and members of states were reluctant to openly discuss the role of faith in their work. Yet, referring to Dr Hany El Banna’s remarks that “ignorance of the other leads to fear, but fear is a mirage not a reality,” Mr. Riera stated that fears about faith-based organizations and local faith communities need to be dispelled. Thus, he said, the UNHCR has initiated a process of increasing staff faith literacy.



Photo: LWF/M. Brown

Ms. Randa Hassan (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)) shared from her experience as head of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Partnerships that OCHA is working towards a more inclusive international humanitarian system and seeking more diverse actors, especially from the Arab and Muslim world, to help construct such a system. OCHA has been challenged in its work by the reluctance of some local humanitarian actors to take part in cluster meetings, thinking they will have to compromise their principles if they work with Western organizations. Yet,

she noted that these perceptions are gradually changing as Islamic NGOs are becoming more established, and she encouraged NGOs to continue to work together and find points of connection.

The panel discussion revealed many common values and principles between Christian and Muslim humanitarian organizations. It also confirmed the importance of closer partnerships between faith-based organizations (FBOs) in bridging UN humanitarian response mechanisms with local faith communities and with Christian and Muslim organizations that have not yet been integrated into these mechanisms.

Organization Presentations: Each participant briefly presented his or her organization, their visions for interfaith partnerships and one expectation for the workshop.

Right from the beginning of the workshop, there was openness among the participants to building trust, and a strong desire to move beyond dialogue into concrete interfaith action. There was an expectation that the workshop was a first step and that the dialogue and collaboration would continue. In addition to identifying potential partners and possible joint projects (including a joint publication on shared

values), there was also an interest in exploring more deeply *why* engaging in interfaith partnerships is vital.

Thematic working groups: In the afternoon, participants divided into three working groups, according to interest, and shared the following conclusions in plenary:

- 1) *Interfaith Partnership Principles:* The first group identified key principles that would strengthen interfaith humanitarian partnerships, including upholding shared humanitarian and faith-based values, mutual trust and respect of our differences, and acknowledging the spiritual dimension of our work.
- 2) *Added Value of Interfaith Partnerships:* The second group discussed the numerous benefits of Christian-Muslim humanitarian partnership, including synergies of sharing knowledge, skills, experience and costs. The group also noted the various factors that may also hinder such partnerships, such as a complex and sensitive political climate.

- 3) *Challenges in Partnership:* One of the main challenges the third group underlined was the general lack of knowledge of each other's cultural and religious customs. This ignorance can lead to misconceptions and mistrust at the grassroots level, arrogance on the part of humanitarian actors and a perpetuation of fear of other faiths. Other challenges that the group identified included the "governmentalization and politicization of humanitarian and religious work," and the increased professionalization of humanitarian work, which has had an impact particularly on smaller national NGOs.

DAY 2: Possible Pilot Project Planning

After a half-day of planning discussions, each working group presented outlines of possible pilot project proposals for closer concrete cooperation with the following objectives (draft pilot project outlines can be found in ANNEX 4).

1) Cash Assistance Bridging in Jordan: "To improve the living conditions of Syrian refugees in Jordan by providing cash assistance to meet their urgent basic needs, including shelter, food, and non-food items; to provide basic information about access to psycho-social assistance and sources for other forms of assistance; and to help to connect vulnerable families with local communities. Vulnerable families would need approximately 200 USD per month in cash assistance."

2) Support to Children and Youth in Dadaab Camp: "Improved overall wellbeing of children and persons with special needs in four camps in Dadaab, through collaboration between Islamic Relief Kenya and LWF," in the areas of "Education (pre-primary and primary); Psycho-social support; and children with disabilities."

3) Cooperation on Voluntary Repatriation to Somalia: "To facilitate voluntary repatriation and integration of Somali refugees returning from Dadaab" in the thematic areas of "A) Pre-repatriation (communication, in-

formation, planning); B) Movement; C) Sustainable Livelihoods in return areas in South and Central Somalia.”

4) Education Assistance to Children in Rakhine State, Myanmar:

“To improve access to formal and non-formal education for children aged three to 17.” This project aims to “improve infrastructure for formal and non-formal education, train teachers, create child-friendly spaces and improve reconciliation between Rakhine and Rohingya populations.”

During the plenary discussion which followed, there was general consensus among the workshop participants that the pilot projects should start modestly, and that a two-track approach that includes institutional trust-building alongside practical collaboration is vital.

DAY 3: Conclusions and Next Steps

The final session of the workshop focused on next steps which Christian

and Muslim NGOs might take to go beyond what Rev. Hitzler referred to as the “hermeneutics of mistrust” in order to transcend stereotypes, and to move towards what he termed the “hermeneutics of trust” and cooperation.

Dr El Banna proposed further investigation and dialogue around the “grey area” that impedes our cooperation, practical issues lying between the humanitarian principles we have in common and the religious principles we stick to which must be respected.

The final plenary discussion confirmed the general agreement that we need to continue to develop relations and cooperation, starting with the proposed pilot projects. It was noted that, in order to build stronger partnerships, it will be highly important to invest staff time and resources at the leadership level, as well as at local levels. Increased cooperation will come through community-building and by changing hearts. The workshop participants acknowledged that this will take time.

Another dimension raised by Dr Othman Moqbel, the chief executive

officer of Human Appeal International, is the importance of local and national NGO partners and the need for a stronger local voice in this kind of workshop. Local and national NGOs, he emphasized, focus on the practical side of humanitarian work and concrete actions, and provide needed experience to international NGOs, including cross-cultural expertise.

Several ideas were also shared about how to foster a more global interfaith cooperation. This can be done, for example, by linking the pilot projects with academic research initiatives. Links can also be made with similar initiatives, such as annual interfaith dialogues in Jordan. Christian and Muslim humanitarian organizations should take steps to get to know each other better through trust-building exercises at the leadership level as well as through field-level cooperation.

Feedback comments were also collected (a summary of which can be found in ANNEX 4), and participants helped draft the workshop Joint Statement (ANNEX 5).

3. Key conclusions and suggestions for follow-up

- **Pilot Project Proposals:** The details of the proposed projects will be further developed at the local level.
 - LWF Jordan and Islamic Relief Jordan are planning to convene a meeting with the other Islamic NGOs present at the workshop to finalize the Jordan pilot project design.
 - LWF Kenya-Djibouti and Islamic Relief Kenya plan to meet in Nairobi and to arrange meetings with representatives from UNHCR Kenya and UNHCR Somalia.
 - LWF and Muslim Aid's Myanmar offices have already established contact and had a first meeting in Yangon.
 - **Develop mechanisms to “discern the way together”:** Mechanisms should be established to promote communication and trust-building. Possible next-steps could include:
 - Joint information sharing (reports and proposals, operational standards, codes of conduct, etc.);
 - Possible joint research and joint publications (e.g. on shared values and principles, and common challenges we face);
 - Joint staff training (to increase interfaith understanding, trust and faith literacy);
 - Joint advocacy (e.g. on right to education);
 - Exchange visits (between organizational headquarters and possibly field programs);
 - Planning a follow-up workshop.
- The workshop concluded on a very positive note, with enthusiasm and acknowledgement on all sides that while working together is not without many challenges, it can be mutually beneficial to our organizations and especially to the people and disaster-affected communities we work with. This workshop was seen as a good first step, and an expression of the strong desire to continue interfaith engagement on all levels and to concretize the pilot projects on a local level.



Dr Hany El Banna, President of The Humanitarian Forum, and Rev Eberhard Hitzler, Director of LWF World Service. Photo: LWF/M. Brown

ANNEX 1: Workshop Concept Paper

Background

In recent years, there have been several initiatives designed to increase understanding between adherents to the world's major religions, in human rights, intolerance and humanitarian work. For example, The Humanitarian Forum has brought together Eastern and Western humanitarian leaders around specific emergencies.

Moreover, there are few strategic examples of inter-faith humanitarian partnership, and a dearth of academically rigorous research on faith or religion and development issues. We need a theological understanding of faith communities, and better understanding of their perceptions of each other, and their feelings towards working with other organizations. Better documentation of the role of faith in achieving positive outcomes is also needed.



Rev. Eberhard Hitzler and Mr Bob White (LWF World Service). Photo: LWF/M. Brown

These issues were taken up and addressed in December 2012 at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Dialogue on Faith and Protection, in which the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Islamic Relief and other leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played an active role. The dialogue strongly confirmed

the increasing relevance of faith-based humanitarian actors and their growing desire to work together.

Furthermore, over the past year various developments related to increased faith-based cooperation have converged for the LWF's Department for World Service (hereafter referred to as World Service):

- Regionally, particularly in the Middle East and parts of Africa, including areas in which World Service is engaged, religion has been a source of conflict. How might we address that through different forms of cooperation?
- More globally, a divide between the Western and Arab worlds seems evident. How might faith-based organizations work together to help narrow that divide?
- Following from the above, how might we look more deeply into the added value of faith-based cooperation?

In this light, World Service and The Humanitarian Forum are seeking to foster closer relations between Christian and Muslim faith-based organizations through hosting a workshop on Christian-Muslim Humanitarian Partnerships. We hope to use this workshop to explore possibilities to deepen and widen cooperation, including through information sharing, sharing technical expertise

and engaging in joint humanitarian cooperation. We look forward to opportunities of working together in practical ways to provide support to people in need.

Workshop Co-Organizers

World Service has over 60 years of experience in humanitarian and development assistance. It supports marginalized and vulnerable people in need, regardless of religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender or political conviction, giving special regard to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). It is also one of the founding members of the ACT Alliance. World Service is currently providing assistance to more than 3.5 million refugees, IDPs and marginalized communities around the world, a large proportion of who are Muslims.

The Humanitarian Forum is a network of key humanitarian and development organizations from Muslim donor and recipient countries, the West and the multilateral system.

It believes there is a great deal of common ground between Eastern and Western humanitarian groups, and that through strong partnerships built on trust and respect, we can achieve unprecedented results in tackling poverty, maximizing aid and creating prosperity and security.

Workshop Details

The workshop will take place over two and a half days in Amman, Jordan, starting at 18:00 with a working dinner on Saturday, 5 October and closing by lunchtime on Tuesday, 8 October. We anticipate having a small panel of speakers to provide a theological and theoretical framework, discussing in plenary issues relating to interfaith humanitarian partnership, and dedicating most of the time to discussing frameworks for operational partnerships and potential pilot projects in working groups.

The workshop discussions will focus strategically on pilot projects relating to refugees and internally displaced persons from Syria and

Somalia and on the Rohingya population in Myanmar.

Planning Process

In the spirit of partnership, World Service and The Humanitarian Forum have been planning this workshop together, with input from members of some Muslim organizations with whom we are seeking closer collaboration, including Islamic Relief Worldwide (UK) and the Al-Khair Foundation (UK).

Aim of the Workshop

To explore practical ways of working together in the future, through:

- Coming to a better understanding of each other's values, motivations and work;
- Identifying how working together can be mutually beneficial;
- Designing together possible pilot projects for joint activities.

Topics for Working Group Discussions

- **Operational partnerships:** In what thematic areas could we foresee closer collaboration? What reservations might we have about working with one another, and in what ways could we foresee building trust and working together?
 - Discuss parameters for concrete collaboration and possible pilot projects: size and length of project, challenges, reservations, oversight of the project, etc.
- **Identity and work:** What aspects of our faith-based identity guide our respective humanitarian actions? What dimension of our faith-based identity helps or hinders our operations, especially in religiously sensitive environments? Can working together on the ground enable us to overcome some of these hindrances?
- **Principles of interfaith partnership:** What is our understanding

of “interfaith partnership,” and what principles would guide such partnerships?

Participants

We expect 20-25 participants. From World Service members of the Communion Office will participate, as will representatives from the LWF Country Programs. We will also invite participation from the ACT Alliance secretariat.

We warmly extend invitations to Islamic NGOs who have similar values and standards to World Service, and who have operations in similar areas, including Islamic Relief Worldwide, IHH Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief Foundation (Turkey), Muslim Aid, Muslim Charities Forum (UK), Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), Al-Khair Foundation (UK) and the Qatar Red Crescent.

We would also like to invite speakers from among UNHCR, OCHA and OIC.



Panelists, left to right: Simone Sinn (LWF), Atallah Fitzgibbon (Islamic Relief), Jose Riera (UNHCR) and Randa Hassan (UN OCHA). Photo: LWF/M. Brown

Overview of Invited Organizations

ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance is a global coalition of 139 churches and affiliated organizations working together in 140 countries in emergency preparedness and response, and to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalized people, in keeping with the highest international codes and standards. ACT Alliance is deeply rooted in the

communities it serves, and focuses on three target areas: humanitarian aid, development and advocacy.

Al-Khair Foundation

The Al-Khair Foundation is a multidimensional agency engaged in disaster relief, rehabilitation, education, media (IQRA TV channel) and UK interfaith community work. Al-Khair aims to improve the lives of people by empowering them to work together to fulfill their potential, enabling them to make positive contributions to their communities.

IHH Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief Foundation (Turkey)

IHH is an international organization that aims to extend humanitarian aid to anyone distressed, oppressed, and marginalized, to take necessary steps to prevent any violations against their basic rights and liberties, and to carry out educational work to fight poverty and train qualified persons. IHH strives to meet urgent needs through emergency, healthcare and educational aid and through awareness-raising activities.

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IR)

IR is an international relief and development charity which envisages a caring world where people unite to respond to the suffering of others, empowering them to fulfill their potential.

Working in over 30 countries, IR promotes sustainable economic and social development by working with local communities to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and disease, and also responds to disasters and emergencies, helping people in crisis.

Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization for Arab and Muslim Relief (JHCO)

JHCO was founded in 1990. It is a multi-faceted charity aiming to deepen solidarity and cooperation between the people of Jordan and Arab and Islamic communities. It also fosters voluntary work and public service within a framework for comprehensive development.

Muslim Aid

Muslim Aid is a UK-based international relief and development agency that has been working for over two decades to help save and improve the lives of millions in over 70 countries. Guided by the teachings of Islam, Muslim Aid endeavors to tackle poverty and its causes through innovative and sustainable solutions that enable individuals and their communities to live with dignity and through promoting economic and social justice.

Muslim Charities Forum

The Muslim Charities Forum was set up in 2007 to ensure the Mus-



Ms Essmat Youssif (Humanitarian Forum Egypt). Photo: LWF/M. Brown

lim NGO sector in the UK works professionally and transparently. It works to engage proactively with other charities, governmental and non-governmental bodies and communities to promote projects and initiatives that are of benefit to all and foster a better understanding of our commonly shared values.

Qatar Red Crescent

Established in 1978, the Qatar Red Crescent operates both locally and internationally and has on-going

relief and development projects in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. As a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Qatar Red Crescent is committed to the seven fundamental principles of humanitarian work: humanity, impartiality, independence, neutrality, unity, universality, and voluntary service.

ANNEX 2: Participants list

	Participant	Position	Organization
1	Mr. Josef Pfattner	Senior Program Officer for Eastern Europe/ Middle East and Associate Program Officer for Africa	ACT Alliance
2	Mr. Keppler Silaban	Executive Director	CDRM-CDS, Indonesia
3	Dr Othman Moqbel	CEO	Human Appeal International
4	Dr Ahmet Emin Dağ	Board member & International Relations Coordinator	IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation
5	Ms. Jayyousi Ruba	Director	Islamic Relief Jordan
6	Mr. Atallah Fitzgibbon	Policy & Strategy Manager	Islamic Relief Worldwide
7	Dr Mohamed Abu Elmagd	Trustee	Islamic Relief Worldwide
8	Mr. Mohammad Kilani	Programs & International Cooperation Director	JHCO
9	Mr. Marwan Al Hennawy	Coordination Assistant	JHCO
10	Rev. Eberhard Hitzler	Director, Department for World Service	Lutheran World Federation (LWF) World Service
11	Mr. Bob White	Senior Policy Advisor	LWF World Service
12	Ms. Lisa Gano	Interfaith Partnerships Intern	LWF World Service
13	Rev. Dr Simone Sinn	Study Secretary for Public Theology and Interreligious Relations	LWF Department for Theology and Public Witness
14	Mr. Mark Brown	Regional Representative	LWF Jerusalem
15	Mr. Nader Duqmaq	Emergency Program Coordinator	LWF Jordan
16	Mr. Lennart Hernander	Program Representative	LWF Kenya-Djibouti
17	Mr. David Mueller	Regional Representative	LWF Myanmar
18	Ms. Sahar Abdulfattah	Country Director	Muslim Aid Jordan
19	Mr. Abdurahman Sharif	Operations Manager	Muslim Charities Forum, UK
20	Ms. Randa Hassan	Head of NGO & Partnerships	OCHA

21	Dr Salima Rahman	Executive Director	RDRS Bangladesh
22	Dr Hany el Banna	President	The Humanitarian Forum
23	Mrs. Essmat Yousif	Director	The Humanitarian Forum, Egypt
24	Mrs. Hening Parlan	Director	The Humanitarian Forum, Indonesia
25	Mr. José Riera	Senior Advisor to the Director of International Protection	UNHCR

ANNEX 3: Agenda

Pre-Workshop Working Dinner – Saturday 5th October 2013		
Time	Session	Purpose
18:00	Working Dinner	For Rev. Eberhard Hitzler and Dr Hany El Banna to officially welcome all participants, and for participants to meet each other informally before starting discussions the following day. Location: TBC

Day 1: Faith-based identity, vision and issues – Sunday 6th October 2013		
Time	Session	Purpose
9:00	Opening	To give an overview of the Agenda for the day and the following days, indicate who is responsible for what (e.g. logistics, administration etc.).
9:15	Plenary: Panel of Speakers	To provide a theoretical and theological framework for the operational discussions. <i>Speakers:</i> Theological perspectives: Rev. Dr Simone Sinn, LWF; Mr. Atallah Fitzgibbon, IRW UN perspectives: Mr. José Riera, UNHCR and Ms. Randa Hassan, OCHA
10:15	Plenary: Discussion	To open the floor for questions and comments regarding panelists' presentations.
10:45	Coffee Break	
11:15	Plenary: Introduction of Organizations	To familiarize ourselves with the work of each organization, why interfaith partnerships are important to them. Each presentation: 5-7 minutes.
12:30	Lunch and Prayer time	Buffet Lunch, and prayer time for those who wish
13:45	Plenary: Introduction of organizations (contd)	To finish brief introductions of each organization
14:15	Thematic working groups	Divide into working groups of 6-8 people, according to individual interest in the following topics: 1. Interfaith Partnership Principles: What do we mean by “interfaith humanitarian partnership,” and on what principles would this be based? 2. Added Value of Partnerships: What dimension of our faith-based identity helps or hinders our operations? In what areas could interfaith collaboration be mutually beneficial? 3. Challenges in Partnerships: What obstacles or reservations would we need to overcome to work together more closely and increase our impact?

15:15	Coffee Break	
15:45	Plenary: reporting back	Feedback from each working group (5-10 minutes each, using flipchart or PowerPoint presentation)
16:15 - 17:00	Plenary: Discussion	Feedback from working groups, and general discussion

Day 2: Concrete discussions about possible pilot projects – Monday 7th October 2013		
Time	Session	Purpose
9:00	Plenary: Overview	To give an overview of the day and provide logistical details.
9:15	Working Groups: Designing Pilot Projects	Divide into three working groups around: Syrian refugees and IDPs (Jordan, Turkey, Syria, etc.) Somali Refugees (Kenya, Ethiopia, etc.) Rohingya IDPs in Myanmar Each working group will work together to identify possible SMART projects with specific areas of common interest, and design a pilot project proposal as concretely as possible.
10:30	Coffee Break	
11:00	Working Groups: Designing Pilot Projects	Continue in working groups
12:30	Lunch and Prayer time	Buffet Lunch, and prayer time for those who wish
13:45	Working Groups: Designing Pilot Projects	Continue in working groups
15:15	Coffee Break	
15:45 - 17:00	Plenary: Report Back	Report back on: identified pilot projects (activities, where, timeframe etc.), highlighting the value of interfaith partnership in this particular area. 15-20 mins per group.

Day 3: Conclusions and next steps – Tuesday 8th October 2013		
Time	Session	Purpose
9:00	Plenary: Pilot Project Discussion and Next Steps	Discussion: To get feedback from other groups on proposed pilot projects, to identify common threads and to get a sense of how far along the proposal design process each group has come. Discuss actionable next steps.
10:30	Coffee break: Feedback forms	Please fill out feedback forms; they will be collected after the coffee break.
11:00 – 11:30 / 12:00	Closing Address	Draw conclusions and summaries on where to go from here.
12:00	Lunch	Buffet Lunch, prayer time for those who wish and departures

ANNEX 4: Draft Pilot Project Outlines

1) Jordan - Cash Assistance Bridging Project: Pilot Project Outline

1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW (Background on project and country context; risk assessment):
2. PROJECT TITLE: Cash Assistance Bridging Project
3. OBJECTIVES: To improve the living conditions of Syrian refugees in Jordan by providing cash assistance to meet their urgent basic needs, including shelter, food, and non-food items; to provide basic information about access to psycho-social assistance and sources for other forms of assistance; and to help to connect vulnerable families with local communities. Vulnerable families would need approximately 200 USD per month in cash assistance.
4. INTENDED TARGET POPULATION OF PROJECT: 500 to 1000 Syrian refugee families (averaging six persons per family) living in Jordan among the general population, outside of a refugee camp. The focus would be on the most vulnerable families, particularly women, children and the elderly.
5. LOCATION: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. A needs assessment will determine the areas where the needs are greatest. Areas are likely to include Amman, Irbid, Mafrqa, and Zarqa. JHCO has a database of the Syrian refugees throughout Jordan.
6. THEMATIC AREA OF ACTIVITIES: Cash assistance.
7. SPECIFIC EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Cash assistance will be provided as a bridging mechanism for vulnerable refugee families; vulnerable refugee families will be informed about sources of support and assistance available; vulnerable refugee families will be connected to local communities and agencies.
8. TIMEFRAME (for implementation, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting): The project, including needs assessment, fundraising, distribution of cash assistance, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, would be over a period of six months to one year.
9. PARTNER(S) AND ADDED VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP (rather than individual action): Islamic Relief (IR), Human Appeal International, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in coordination with the Jordanian Ministry of Planning, and

in consultation with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, will work together to raise and distribute funds to families determined to be in need for cash assistance. LWF and Islamic Relief will jointly convene a committee to develop the project proposal.

10. POSSIBLE FUNDING CHANNELS: ACT Alliance, World Food Program, Christian and Muslim faith-based organizations and their back donors.

2) Kenya - Support to Children and Youth in Dadaab: Pilot Project Outline

1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW (Background on project and country context; risk assessment): Addressing the gaps in primary education and wellbeing of children in four camps in Dadaab. Risk assessment to be decided locally.
2. PROJECT TITLE: Support to Children and Youth in Dadaab

3. OBJECTIVES: Improved overall wellbeing of children and persons with special needs in 4 camps in Dadaab, through collaboration between IR and LWF

4. INTENDED TARGET POPULATION OF PROJECT: Children in Ifo, Ifo II, Hagadera and Kambioos between ages 5 and 17 (126,729 children) Ifo I, Ifo II, Hagadera, Kambioos.

5. LOCATION: Dadaab Refugee Camps.

6. THEMATIC AREA OF ACTIVITIES:

1. Education, pre-primary and primary:
 - Informal and formal, curricula in informal schools;
 - Peace building and non-violent conflict resolution;
 - Risk education/unexploded devices and munitions.
2. Psycho-social support (e.g. sports).
3. Children with disabilities (Integration/accessibility).

7. SPECIFIC EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- a. Increased number of children enrolled in formal and/or informal education;
- b. Increased number children have their special needs met;
- c. Parents educated about children with mental challenges.

8. TIMEFRAME (for implementation, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- Discussions in Kenya and Dadaab, October-November 2013;
- Participatory project design phase, December 2013-February 2014;
- Fundraising March-May 2014;
- Implementation from May-July 2014.

9. PARTNER(S) AND ADDED VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP (rather than individual action): IR and LWF. Complimentary resources; joint applications to donors; commonality of interest and experiences; working together in Dadaab in preparation for working together in repatriation/settlement.

10. POSSIBLE FUNDING CHANNELS: European Commission/ECHO; UNHCR; Mo Farah Foundation; LWF Related Agencies (ALWS, FCA).

from Dadaab refugee camps to South and Central Somalia.

- B. Working on both sides of the border;
- C. Complimentary resources;
- D. Joint applications to donors – donor interest;
- E. Commonality of interest.

5. LOCATION: Kenya, South and Central Somalia.

6. THEMATIC AREA OF ACTIVITIES:

- A) Pre-repatriation; communication, information, planning;
- B) Movement;
- C) Sustainable livelihoods in return areas in South and Central Somalia.

10. POSSIBLE FUNDING CHANNELS: European Commission/ECHO; UNHCR Kenya, UNHCR Somalia; DFID; Mo Farah Foundation; LWF Related Agencies (ALWS, FCA)

3) Kenya-Somalia - Cooperation on Voluntary, Safe and Dignified Repatriation to Somalia: Pilot Project Outline

1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW (Background on project and country context; risk assessment): Risk assessment to be done locally

7. SPECIFIC EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Sustainable repatriation.

2. PROJECT TITLE: Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) – Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Cooperation on Voluntary, Safe and Dignified Repatriation to Somalia

8. TIMEFRAME (for implementation, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting): to be done. Meetings: IRK and LWF; IRK/LWF with UNHCR Kenya and UNHCR Somalia.

3. OBJECTIVES: To facilitate voluntary repatriation and integration of Somali refugees returning from Dadaab.

9. PARTNER(S) AND ADDED VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP (rather than individual action):

4. INTENDED TARGET POPULATION OF PROJECT: Persons Returning

- A. IRK and LWF, linkages to operational partners inside Somalia;

4) Myanmar - Education Assistance to Children in Rakhine State, Myanmar: Pilot Project Outline

1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW (Background on project and country context; risk assessment): Complex context in Rakhine state, with religious, political and economic dimensions.

2. PROJECT TITLE: Education Assistance to Children in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

3. OBJECTIVES: Improve access to formal and non-formal education.
 - Improved reconciliation between Rohingya and Rakhine communities.
4. INTENDED TARGET POPULATION OF PROJECT: Children aged 3-17 (80 percent Rohingya Muslim and 20 percent Rakhine Buddhist).
5. LOCATION: Camps in Sittwe township (Set Yone Su & Ohn Taw Gyi camps).
6. THEMATIC AREA OF ACTIVITIES: Education.
7. SPECIFIC EXPECTED OUTCOMES - Improved infrastructure for education:
 - Trained local teachers;
 - Creation of child-friendly spaces (decreased stress of children IDPs);
 - Participate to achieve Universal Primary Education (2nd MDG);
 - Improve livelihood skills through non-formal education (productive engagement of youth with higher self-esteem);
8. TIMEFRAME (for implementation, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting): two years.
9. PARTNER(S) AND ADDED VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP (rather than individual action):
 - Information sharing: assessments, sharing minutes from cluster meetings etc.;
 - Joint teacher training;
 - Working together for peace and reconciliation.
10. POSSIBLE FUNDING CHANNELS:
 - Muslim Aid: Myanmar Red Cross;
 - LWF: ECHO, ACT Appeal, UNHCR;
 - Human Appeal, IHH, Islamic Relief, Save the Children, members of The Humanitarian Forum Indonesia;
 - UNICEF.

ANNEX 5: Feedback from Participants

The following feedback is a narrative summary based on 10 completed feedback forms.

1. WORKSHOP VENUE:

On the whole, participants were very pleased with the Ibis Hotel, Amman, Jordan. They found the venue to be comfortable, well located and with adequate food and refreshments. One participant noted, however, that better communication before the workshop on the costs involved in attending would have been preferable.

2. WORKSHOP CONTENT:

Most participants thought the workshop content was very relevant. On the whole, participants found the content to be comprehensive and easy to understand. One participant thought the workshop could have been shorter.

3. WORKSHOP HANDOUTS:

Overall, most of the participants thought the handouts were good. Many thought that the handouts supported the presentation material well, provided useful additional information, and were clear and well-organized. Yet, some only partially agreed that they provided useful additional information.

4. WORKING GROUPS:

Most participants thought the thematic working groups were good, and some thought they were very good. Most participants thought the pilot project planning working groups were good. Some commented that they presented a good opportunity to cooperate with one another, and that it was very good to discuss projects with colleagues who have a good understanding of the concrete and complex local situations. However,

some noted that a viable project proposal cannot be made in the time that was provided.

5. WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST?

What most people liked best was the spirit of the workshop: the open and honest sharing and the listening and coming to understand one another better. Some participants enjoyed the practical focus of the workshop, and others appreciated that all participants were professional and committed experts. One participant appreciated learning that the humanitarian principles are adhered to by all organizations that were present.

6. WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST?

Some participants noted that the workshop was too long. Others indicated that there could have been



Photo: LWF/M. Brown

a visit to field programs. One participant observed that participants divided between Christians and Muslims in the two evenings when there were no formal plans, and another comment was that not everyone fully engaged in the discussions.

7. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT STEPS:

Many participants suggested having follow-up meetings at the local level to finalize the pilot project proposals, and at the headquarter level to keep up the momentum. The outcomes of the meeting could also be published in our respective national media. For future workshops, participants

proposed engaging around more theological topics such as “the philosophy of humanitarian cooperation,” and to invite participation from humanitarian actors of other faiths.

ANNEX 6: Joint Statement

The workshop *Working Together: Christian-Muslim Humanitarian Partnerships*, co-hosted and jointly planned by The Humanitarian Forum and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service, took place in Amman, Jordan, from 5 to 8 October 2013. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss operational issues around interfaith humanitarian partnerships. It complements the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Dialogue on Faith and Protection, held in December 2012, and the follow-up statement “Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders.”

“Partnership becomes a compelling duty on all of us; no one organization can work alone,” noted Dr Hany El Banna, President of The Humanitarian Forum. “We shouldn’t

be afraid of building partnerships; fear is a mirage not a reality.”

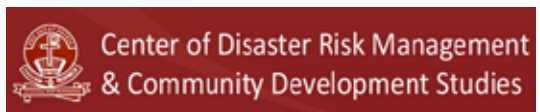
The 25 workshop participants included representatives from the UN, Islamic and Christian non-governmental organizations and international platforms; UNHCR; UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); The Humanitarian Forum (Headquarters and local forums in Egypt and Indonesia); Human Appeal International; IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation; Islamic Relief Worldwide (Headquarters and Jordan Office); Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO); Muslim Aid (Jordan Office); LWF (Communion Office and offices in Jerusalem, Jordan, Kenya and Myanmar); Center for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies (CDRM & CDS),

Nommensen University, Indonesia; Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) Bangladesh; ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together); and Muslim Charities Forum.

Participants committed themselves to practical cooperation in assistance to refugees, displaced populations and their host communities in Jordan, Kenya, Somalia and Myanmar.

“This workshop confirmed that we all have much in common and want to work together,” concluded Rev. Eberhard Hitzler, director of the LWF Department for World Service. “We strongly believe that closer cooperation at local and global levels can be of mutual benefit and, most importantly, can contribute to improving our humanitarian services for people affected by disasters.”

Partners



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Department for World Service

Member of actalliance



People of faith for people in need



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department
for World Service

member of **actalliance**