

# *Lutheran Office for World Community*

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July 22, 2011

Dr. Rajiv Shah  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20523-1000

H.E. Ertharin Cousin  
Ambassador  
United States Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome  
Via Sallustiana 49  
00187 Rome, Italy

**Re: East Africa food crisis and long term financing**

Dear Dr. Shah, dear Ambassador Cousin,

The ACT Alliance, a global international humanitarian and development alliance of 111 churches and church-related organizations, has been engaged in development and humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa for decades. As a member of the ACT Alliance, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is receiving increasingly troubling reports from members and churches about the rapidly deteriorating situation, especially in Somali, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

**Our church welcomes your recent statements, Dr. Shah, of U.S. support to address the East Africa and your recent visit to the Wajir and Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya.** As you are aware, the United Nations' appeals have received less than half the funds needed and the situation is deteriorating further. Over 10 million lives and livelihoods are at risk and more action is urgently needed.

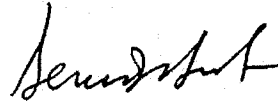
As the food crisis in East Africa deepens and the UN declares a famine in two states of southern Somalia, G20 states must provide both immediate relief and dedicated long-term climate finance to build resilience to these climate-related disasters. The Food and Agriculture Organization meeting of G20 Ministers in Rome this Monday July 25<sup>th</sup> is a key opportunity for governments to assume the global leadership to provide funds needed and prevent further crisis.

Our church urges you to contribute appropriately to this pressing need and to use your personal influence with other G20 states to ask them to contribute generously to the UN relief effort so that it reaches the required \$800 million.

The East African crisis has been caused by a range of factors but we cannot ignore the contributing impact of climate-induced hazards such as drought. The situation graphically illustrates how vulnerable people suffer in climate-induced disasters. For this reason, the G20 must also work to ensure that such disasters are prevented in future. This year, the G20 has an opportunity to do this by securing agreement on long-term sources of finance to help the vulnerable prevent, and adapt to, the impacts of climate change. I strongly encourage the United States to take a lead in galvanising political support for predictable sources of climate finance that will build the resilience of developing countries.

I look forward to hearing from you about this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Dennis W. Frado  
Director  
Lutheran Office for World Community  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America