year, Kakuma has received some 16,000 new arrivals. An average of 300 people, mostly women and children, arrive daily at the camp.  

United States provides more help for Zimbabwe’s hungry families
February 11, Umguza - The United States is providing the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) with an additional US$4 million to support vulnerable families suffering from the effects of drought and consecutive poor harvests in Zimbabwe. The donation brings the United States’ total contribution to WFP’s current relief efforts in Zimbabwe to US$29 million, allowing life-saving operations to continue in the 16 worst-affected areas until March, when the next harvest is due. Since October, WFP and its partners have been assisting those in need with food and cash distributions. WFP had planned to reach 1.8 million people during the current period but funding shortages have meant that only 1.2 million are receiving assistance. The contribution will be used locally to buy cereals and pulses as well as providing for cash transfers in areas where food is available in the markets. Part of the contribution is an in-kind donation of cereals from the United States. In addition to funding constraints on its seasonal relief operations, WFP is facing shortfalls for its health, nutrition and resilience-building activities. WFP still requires US$60 million out of the US$80 million budgeted for these programmes over the next six months. 

Peace and security
Darfur: Joint African Union-UN mediator continues efforts to facilitate lasting peace
March 8 – The African Union-United Nations Joint Mediator for Darfur, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, has wrapped up talks between the top African Union (AU) official and leaders of two of the region’s main rebel movements, encouraging the parties to overcome their misgivings and press ahead towards a comprehensive political accord, for the benefit of not only strife-ridden Darfur, but also for wider Sudan. According to a news release from the mission, Mr. Chambas facilitated a meeting yesterday in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, between the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and leaders of the Sudan Liberation Army, Minni Minawi, and the Justice and Equality Movement, Gibril Ibrahim (JEM-GI). The Sudanese Government and two major rebel groups have so far committed to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), named after the Qatari capital where talks were held to end the conflicts between the Government and various armed groups which have led to the deaths of tens if not hundreds of thousands and displaced nearly two million since they first erupted in early 2003. 

Global Day of Action on Military Spending, April 14 2014
Disarmament for Development: call to faith-based organisations
7 March, Pax Christi International - Faith-based organisations are invited to join the Disarmament for Sustainable Development Campaign. The main aim of this initiative is to press for an end to the over-funding of military establishments and for the creation of new funds to tackle human insecurity and common threats to the planet. Fr. Paul Lansu has written a background document which can be used for further action within the religious communities. Pax Christi International supports the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) initiative. The 4th edition of GDAMS is scheduled for 14 April 2014 and it will feature different themes and activities in accordance with domestic political circumstances. To learn how you can get involved: click here. Further GDAMS 2014 resources produced by Pax Christi UK and other representatives of the UK NGO community can be found here and here. 
www.paxchristi.net

Update: ADRA continues response to Syrian crisis
By Natalia López-Thismón, ADRA International
March 5 – Peace talks in Syria have produced no progress as violence in the country continues and the humanitarian situation deteriorates. ADRA is continuing to respond to the vast need for