

IN CHRIST, ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER

Annual Report 2022



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

Ukrainian refugee staff attend
a workshop on psychosocial
support in Bytom, Poland.
Photo: LWF/ Albin Hillert



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Cover photo: Ukrainian refugees arrive at the train station in Zahony, Hungary.
LWF/ Albin Hillert

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IN CHRIST, ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER

In 2022, LWF marked its 75th anniversary, looking back at decades of passionate service for the church and for the world

When The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was founded in Lund, Sweden, in 1947, churches from across the whole world came together because of a shared passion. They had seen what they could learn from each other, how much more value they add to their service and witness by pooling resources in the work for justice, peace, and reconciliation.

The LWF was founded around four pillars, which have remained since then: service to people in need, strengthening churches in mission, joint efforts in theology, working for Christian unity. In 2022 we marked the LWF's 75th anniversary, looking back at major achievements through the decades, which puts into context the current work of the global communion, and helps us look to the future and reflect on how we can strengthen the communion for its witness through the next

75 years – always remembering that in Christ, all things hold together.

In-person meetings resumed fully after the COVID-19 pandemic. The year was marked by the beginning of a full-scale war in Europe, recalling the times just before the LWF was founded.

It was also a year of accelerating preparations for the Thirteenth Assembly in Krakow. Work was done across all of the LWF's programmatic areas continued, bringing people from across the communion to work together on communion relations, ecumenical relations, theology for transformation, leadership, youth empowerment, church diakonia, advocacy, gender justice, humanitarian and development work, and emergency response.

We invite you to read this report and learn more about the witness and work of the communion.

Archbishop
Dr Panti Filibus Musa,
President

Rev. Dr
Anne Burghardt,
General Secretary





The LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt, and LWF President Archbishop Panti Filibus Musa, in the Ecumenical Center Chapel at her installation. Photo: LWF/ Albin Hillert

“A GREAT JOY TO MEET IN PERSON AGAIN”

Interview with LWF General Secretary
Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR FOR YOU IN TERMS OF COMMUNION RELATIONS?

I think an overall highlight of the past year has been the return to in-person meetings after the pandemic. Beyond that, the work of nurturing regional and cross-regional relationships between member churches is a core task of the LWF and our regional secretaries have continued to accompany church leaders and offer our support to those facing challenging circumstances.

It was also a great joy to welcome some of the newest church leaders to the first in-person Retreat for Newly Elected Leaders since the pandemic in September last year, and to support our lay leaders through an online global training program. Another opportunity was an online meeting with Council members and advisors. As in-person gatherings revitalized



LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt. Photo: Aldo Luud/Õhtuleht

relations between church representatives, I had the privilege to attend all five regional church leadership conferences held in 2022.

THE COMMUNION CONTINUES TO GROW, AND YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHURCHES?

Yes, in 2022 we were delighted to welcome our 149th member church, the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine. In June 2023 the Council approved membership for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Georgia, bringing the total to 150. Both were part of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (ELCROS) network.

There is an ongoing question about the relation between the autonomy and mutual accountability of LWF member churches. The Council in 2022 supported the idea to develop a Mutual Accountability Framework which would not be a legislative document but rather a framework to which member churches are invited to commit themselves. We hope that the new Council will be able to continue with this process.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MILESTONES IN RELATIONS WITH OTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND ECUMENICAL PARTNERS?

In September, the final meeting of the first phase of dialogue with the Pentecostal churches was held and the joint statement titled “The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me” was finalized. The LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations also attended the Pentecostal World Fellowship conference in South Korea, the first time the LWF has been invited to this gathering.

We also cooperated with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and other ecumenical partners around the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) initiative. Several of our staff attended the WCC Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany. Lutherans were the largest

confessional group there, confirming that ‘to be Lutheran is to be ecumenical’.

The Anglican-Lutheran International Commission on Unity and Mission is now identifying pairs of bishops in different countries who can help to implement our many consensus statements. Work with our Orthodox partners also intensified, we just celebrated four decades of global Lutheran-Orthodox dialogue.

THE YEAR HAD AN ACADEMIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR YOU?

Yes, I was glad to complete my doctoral studies at the University of Erlangen in Germany.

WERE THERE WORK AREAS THAT DEMANDED SPECIAL ATTENTION?

Preparing for an Assembly is always a huge challenge and we have had to do this while continuing to cope with the ongoing consequences of the pandemic, as well as responding to the new crisis in Ukraine. I am grateful to our Assembly team, to all LWF staff and particularly to the Council who has led the communion with wisdom and courage through these turbulent times.

ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS

In 2022, preparations continued for the Thirteenth LWF Assembly which will take place under the theme “One Body, One Spirit, One Hope”, from 13-19 September 2023 in Krakow, Poland.

“We want to connect our local parishes with other LWF member churches and the global Lutheran communion.”

Anna Wrześcińska, Chairperson of the Local Assembly Planning Committee



Guided by the Assembly Planning Committee, LWF staff and committees continued their work on key content such as the Assembly Study Guide, the Assembly Worship, and the Pre-assemblies in different regions, which took place in the first half of the year 2023.

Member churches in 2022 nominated their delegates, guided by LWF’s commitment to adhere the quota for women, men and young adults is met. The Youth Desk together with the Assembly Office also selected 30 young people who will support as stewards – a difficult task, as the LWF received more than 300 applications. The Communications Office launched the Assembly website, which is now the main resource for sharing information and key documents.

The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland provided support for local arrangements such as planning for Sunday worship in congregations, the planned visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and reception overall. In September, one year before the start of the Assembly, parishes of [\(ECACP\)](#) started a prayer cycle, praying for each of the 149 (as of June 2023: 150) member churches of the LWF.

The ICE conference Center in Krakow, Poland, will be the venue for the Thirteenth LWF Assembly. Photo: LWF/ Albin Hillert



LATEST ASSEMBLY INFO AND KEY DOCUMENTS

BEING LUTHERAN IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

For the first time after the pandemic, church leaders of the Lutheran communion could meet in person again in 2022.

The church's role in promoting peace and reconciliation in the context of the war in Ukraine was the key theme of the leadership consultation in March 2022 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. In Africa, the leadership consultation focused on the challenge of misleading theologies. These two were just some examples of regional gatherings which brought together Lutheran church leaders to discuss the expression of their Lutheran identity in different contexts.

Regular online platforms were organized for discussion among Council members and advisors in each of the regions. In the context of LWF's annual planning process for 2023, those meetings were used for providing inputs to a context analysis from each of the regions. In the case of Europe, meetings were also organized with Ecumenical Officers or focal persons in charge of relations with LWF within the member churches. Regional Secretaries encouraged the participation of member churches in the programmatic work of the LWF. In all regions, preparatory work took place ahead of the regional Pre-Assembly meetings planned for 2023.

Timeline:

9-13 May: Leadership Conference of the Americas, Santiago, Chile

23 May: Asia Church Leadership Conference, Bangkok, Thailand

27 June – 2 July: Africa Lutheran Church Leadership Consultation, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; including meetings of LUCCEA and LUCCWA

23-26 September: LUCSA sub-regional meeting,

6-7 October: Central Western European Church Leadership Consultation, Eisenach, Germany

19-21 October: Central Eastern European Church Leadership Consultation, Bratislava, Slovakia



Participants of the Asia Leadership conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

Photo: JC Valeriano



COMMUNION SOLIDARITY FUND

As part of its 75th anniversary celebrations, the LWF established a Communion Solidarity Fund to which all member churches are invited to contribute to support each other in challenging times.

Several churches have already pledged contributions. The importance of such a fund became visible during the COVID-19 pandemic. When many congregations, families and entire communities, especially in low-income countries turned to churches to provide emergency food, pastoral care and other needs, the LWF established the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) that provided short-term grants of up to EUR 10,000 to support the diaconal work of LWF member churches. Between April 2020 and early December 2022, over EUR 1.3 million had been disbursed to 90 LWF member churches, resulting

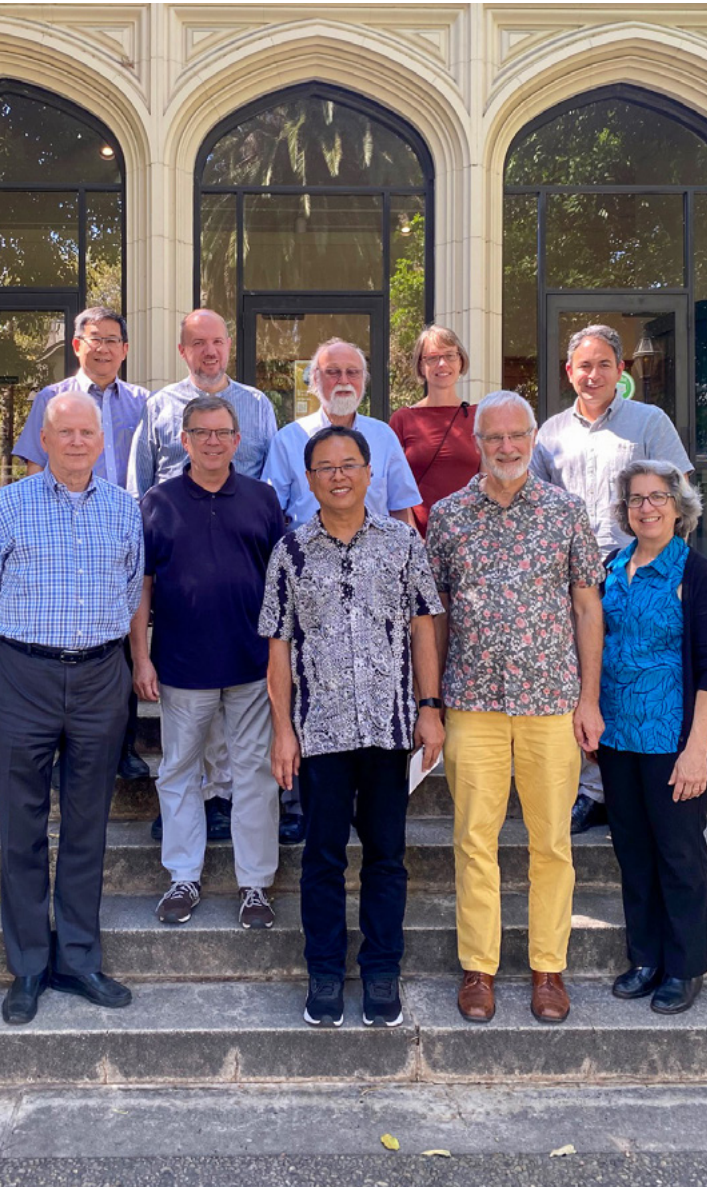
in 199 projects implemented in 57 countries around the world.

The COVID-19 RRF turned out to be an important instrument of solidarity in a difficult time. In the coming years. The Communion Solidarity Fund will build on this strength to address the many other urgent needs requiring a rapid, short-term response due to unforeseen developments such as conflicts, natural disasters, public health concerns or other emergencies affecting LWF member churches and their wider communities.

“The fund aims to enable the communion to keep standing together as churches, thereby expressing communion mutuality and solidarity as one major identity marker of the LWF.”

LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt.

Young people from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Slovak Republic. Photo: LWF



COMMITTED TO UNITY

Working for Christian Unity is one of the four founding pillars of the LWF. LWF has continued to work with Christian world communions and global ecumenical organizations, contributing to the global ecumenical movement through various bi-lateral dialogues and multilateral conversations, notably with the Anglican Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, The Pentecostal World Fellowship, the Mennonite World Conference, and the Roman Catholic Church.

2022 saw the conclusion of the First Round of the International Lutheran-Pentecostal Dialogue with the delegations from the LWF and the Pentecostal World Fellowship meeting at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, at the end of September 2022.

Members of the International Lutheran-Pentecostal Dialogue Commission meet together at the Fuller Theological Seminary at Pasadena, California, from 23-27 September 2022. Photo: LWF

The dialogue has focused on different aspects of Christian identity and ministry, including the importance of proclaiming the gospel in word and deed, attention to the poor and marginalized, as well as the ministries of healing and deliverance. A Dialogue Statement “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” will be published in 2023.

“Through worship and dialogue, walking and sharing together, we discern the path of God’s desired unity.”

Prof. Dr Dirk Lange, LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and co-secretary for dialogue commission

Ecumenical dialogue meetings in 2022

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Staff Meeting with the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity - Unity, Rome, Italy - Ecumenical Conference, Spanish Bishops’ Conference, Madrid, Spain 	September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LWF participation at the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Karlsruhe, Germany - Lutheran-Pentecostal Dialogue, Pasadena, CA, USA
March	Seminar: Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg, France	October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with the newly appointed Orthodox co-chair for the Lutheran Orthodox International Joint Theological Commission - LWF participation at the Pentecostal World Conference, Seoul, South Korea
April	Online publication of <i>Baptism and Growth in Communion</i> concluding the Fifth Phase of the Lutheran-Catholic Joint Commission on Unity		
May	Joint Staff Meeting LWF and Anglican Communion. Preparatory Meeting for the Anglican Lutheran International Commission on Unity and Mission (ALICUM), Geneva, Switzerland	November	Conference of the General Secretaries of Christian World Communions, Vancouver, Canada
July-August	LWF participation at the Lambeth Conference (Anglican Communion), Canterbury, England	December	Preparatory Meeting on Freedom of Religion, with the World Communion of Reformed Churches in view of implementing the Wittenberg Witness Churches (WCRC), Hanover, Germany

Lutheran-Reformed: Throughout the year, several meetings were held with the WCRC in view of the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) initiative.



Oberkirchenrat Norbert Denecke, Executive Director of the German National Committee, and LWF President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa in Wittenberg, Juni 2022. Photo: LWF/Marko Schoeneberg



Some of the participants in the 2022 Retreat for Newly Elected Church Leaders or RoNEL, held, 4-12 September at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Wittenberg, Germany. Photo: LWF/C. Kästner-Meyer



Young delegates at the Asia Church Leadership Conference 18-23 May 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting under the theme "Ministry after the Storm" discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the church, among other topics. Photo: LWF/ JC Valeriano



Bishop Alexis Salgado (left) of the Lutheran Church in Chile and Bishop Izani Bruch (right), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, pronounce the blessing at the May 2022 Leadership Conference of the Americas in Santiago. Photo: LWF/Eugenio Albrecht

A group of nurses join a moment of prayer in the chapel of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Photo: LWF/ Albin Hillert



GRASSROOTING THEOLOGY, MISSION, AND JUSTICE

Rev. Dr Sivin Kit, director (ad interim) of theology mission and justice, reflects on the year 2022

WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT IN 2022?

Overall, we can say that our unit was quite successful in “grass-rooting” the work of the LWF. Our Lutheran Identity process for example now with our support reaches wider audiences at

regional and local levels. We supported a series of Asian Lutheran Identity seminars in partnership with theological universities in Indonesia, Malaysia and Hong Kong. At the same time, we launched a Lutheran Confessions Project to gather resources that are relevant and useful to member churches and related agencies.

Together with our partners, we hosted a reflection on theological education in the wake of the pandemic. Our department was an early pioneer of the move to online learning and this consultation in Ghana allowed our Theological Education and Formation network to contribute to the conversation about how to strengthen capacities in different countries.



Rev. Dr Sivin Kit, presenting at the Welcoming the Stranger conference on faith-based refugee protection, convened by LWF at the Ecumenical Center, June 2022. Photo: LWF/ M. Renaux

In 2022 we approved 54 theology scholarships. We don't just provide the money, but we also want to walk alongside our students. We have also continued to support female theology students in our education program under the *Hélène Ralivao Fund* in Africa. Also in Africa, we took part in a consultation on Gender Equality and Biblical Interpretation in the Malagasy Lutheran Church and we accompanied the church in Brazil, celebrating 40 years of women's ordination there.

WHAT ABOUT THE JUSTICE AND PEACE WORK WHERE LWF OFTEN COOPERATES CLOSELY WITH INTERFAITH PARTNERS?

An important highlight was the Welcoming the Stranger conference that we organized on World Refugee Day 2022 in Geneva with our partners, Islamic Relief Worldwide and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, as well as Buddhist, Hindu and indigenous leaders. This conference was the fulfilment of a pledge to the Global Refugee Forum but it was also a good opportunity to raise the voices of our local partners to the global stage.

We are also excited about a new interfaith collaboration through a photography project with the Al Amana Centre in Oman, bringing together young Lutheran and Muslim leaders. A final highlight I would point to here is the collaboration with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane

Jesus on leadership and peace building in times of crisis, featuring Colombian bishop Atahualpa Hernandez.

In terms of our advocacy for climate justice, the youth delegations to the COP conferences are a trademark of our work with young people. At a more local level, we oversaw the implementation of 18 youth climate projects in 16 countries. All our advocacy work, including expanding engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, is underpinned by our LWF advocacy framework which was launched last year.

FINALLY, WHAT WOULD YOU POINT TO AS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF PAST YEAR?

We are a small team with limited capacity to respond to the many opportunities and requests we receive. From the ongoing effects of the pandemic in 2022 to the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine, our biggest challenge is responding to sudden crises that can disrupt even the best laid plans. Such external events require us to be flexible in cooperating with other departments, as we have seen in the work with World Service to respond to the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

THEOLOGY, PEDAGOGY AND THE PANDEMIC

LWF works on strengthening Lutheran identity, on a global level as well as through regional and local institutions in our member churches. This includes various projects on identity, education and developing accessible Lutheran resources.

What lessons have been learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic about online versus in-person education and how can these insights transform theological education? An ecumenical consultation at the Trinity Theological Seminary in Accra, Ghana grappled with these questions. Over 80 theologians and academics took part in the hybrid event in December, organized by LWF, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the World Council of Churches and Evangelische Mission Weltweit.

Participants agreed that the pandemic served as a kind of wake-up call and “catalyst in the pre-existing crisis of residential seminary education.” Keynote speaker Rev. Dr Kayko Driedger Hesslein, Canada, focused on how the pandemic had shifted the perception of physical and spiritual needs. In pre-pandemic times, she said,

theological education was principally seen as “an activity of the mind,” largely overlooking “the bodies that carry those minds around.” Yet during the COVID-19 years it became obvious how much students and teachers missed personal contact – a realization which also shifts theological perceptions.

The conference also addressed how the pandemic deepened inequalities in accessing education.

“We are not merely challenged to translate established models of learnings, spiritual and ministerial formation into new formats, but to rethink what theological education is about, for whom it is, to which ends and what it requires.”

Final Communiqué

Participants at an ecumenical consultation on ‘Pedagogy and Pandemic. Photo: Kakay Pamaran



Other projects in 2022

- Lutheran Confessions Project (launched November 2022)
- Asian Lutheran Identity Seminars (collaboration with three universities in Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong)
 - Theological Education and Formation
 - Theology, Gender Justice and Leadership Program at Makumira University, Tanzania – Helene Ralivao Fund
- Online undergraduate curriculum on global Lutheran theology



SUPPORTING STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY AND DIAKONIA

In 2022, there were 300 students worldwide studying theology or diakonia related subjects with the support of LWF scholarships. LWF awards academic scholarships for theological education and diakonia and development-oriented study fields.

The main criteria for a candidate's approval is that the proposed application responds to the priorities and capacity needs of the church. All applications must be endorsed by the respective churches. The scholarships aim to equip individuals with knowledge, skills and confidence that strengthen churches to carry out their holistic mission and prepare the next generation of leaders in the Lutheran communion.

Selection criteria include meeting the threshold of 40 percent female, 40 percent male and 20 percent youth (18-30 years) applicants. While the total number of applicants in 2022 was higher than in previous

years, many member churches did not respect the gender quota.

A majority are enrolled in institutions in their home countries or regions. The annual call for scholarships opens on 1 August and the deadline for submitting applications is 15 October. In 2022, a group of scholarship students from Asia, Africa and Latin America was invited to Geneva for a sharing session.



LWF scholarship holder
Ms Laura Saravia, a
theology student at the
Augsburg Lutheran
Seminary in Mexico. Photo:
LWF/Eugenio Albrecht

Testimonial

Ms Laura Saravia from the Salvadoran Lutheran Church (SLS) was granted an LWF scholarship for 2022. She studies theology at the Augsburg Lutheran Seminary (SEMLA) in Mexico. Her call to study further was inspired by the church’s diaconal work with the youth and children in different communities in El Salvador.

“Taking up theology as a formal academic process is a wonderful starting point to learn about God. While it is a Lutheran seminary, I also have the opportunity to have classmates from different churches and that makes it an even more beautiful experience.”

LWF scholarship holder Ms Laura Saravia



MEET LWF
SCHOLARSHIP
STUDENT LAURA
SARAVIA

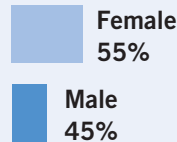
Scholarships in 2022

280
ongoing

306
applications

122 approved
70 diakonia
52 theology

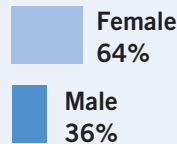
Theology



Youth
40%

1 Europe
3 LAC
24 Asia
24 Africa

Diakonia development



Youth
82%

3 LAC
33 Asia
34 Africa

INTRODUCING CHURCH LEADERS TO A GLOBAL CONTEXT

“There is a pervasive understanding that salvation comes through following the rules. For me it is about thinking how the Lutheran faith offers a unique gift that no other church offers in my context.”

Bishop Regina Hassanally, Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).



16 heads of churches from Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Hong Kong, Kenya, Indonesia, Malaysia, Serbia, Singapore, the Slovak Republic, Russia, the United States and Zimbabwe took part in the Retreat of Newly Elected Leaders (RoNEL) at the LWF Communion Office in Geneva and in Wittenberg, Germany. The LWF offers the annual retreat as a space where its member church Bishops, Presidents, heads of dioceses and synods, come together to contemplate their vocation and reflect on the concept and practice of church leadership in the Lutheran communion.

The theme for this year’s RoNEL was “Leadership and Episcopal Ministry in the LWF Communion.” Participants shared their experiences of Lutheran identity, and opportunities and challenges in their respective contexts.

The second part of the program, at the LWF Center in Wittenberg, included a presentation by Prof. Dr Cheryl M. Peterson (Trinity Lutheran Seminary, USA), and a visit to the city’s Luthergarten, a living monument of 500 trees, and historical sites of Martin Luther’s city.

Retreat participants on a guided tour with “Katharina von Bora” through the Old Town of Wittenberg. Photo: LWF/ K. Kiilunen

CHURCHES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2022, LWF continued to facilitate churches' engagement with key human rights mechanisms, particularly with the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council, and its process of Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) of the human rights situation in the UN member states. LWF supports the churches in collecting evidence and contributing to so-called parallel reports which offer perspectives on the status of human rights in relevant countries. LWF also brings local civil society together with official country delegates, who can raise human rights concerns at the council sessions.

In 2022, LWF member churches in Peru, Indonesia, Kenya, and Guatemala joined the global network of LWF member churches engaging with UN Human Rights Mechanisms, which already includes Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Iceland, Italy, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Similar human rights engagement was done by LWF World Service in country programs in Angola, Mozambique, Chad, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Burundi, Iraq, Myanmar, and Jordan.

Case study: Indonesia

Indonesia was reviewed under the UPR in 2022/2023. The LWF National Committee in Indonesia participated in the process. In their submission to the UPR pre-session in Geneva, Berkato Saragi and Dedi Bakkit Tua Pardosi from the Indonesia National Committee raised concerns about freedom of religion or belief, business and human rights and the protection of human rights defenders.

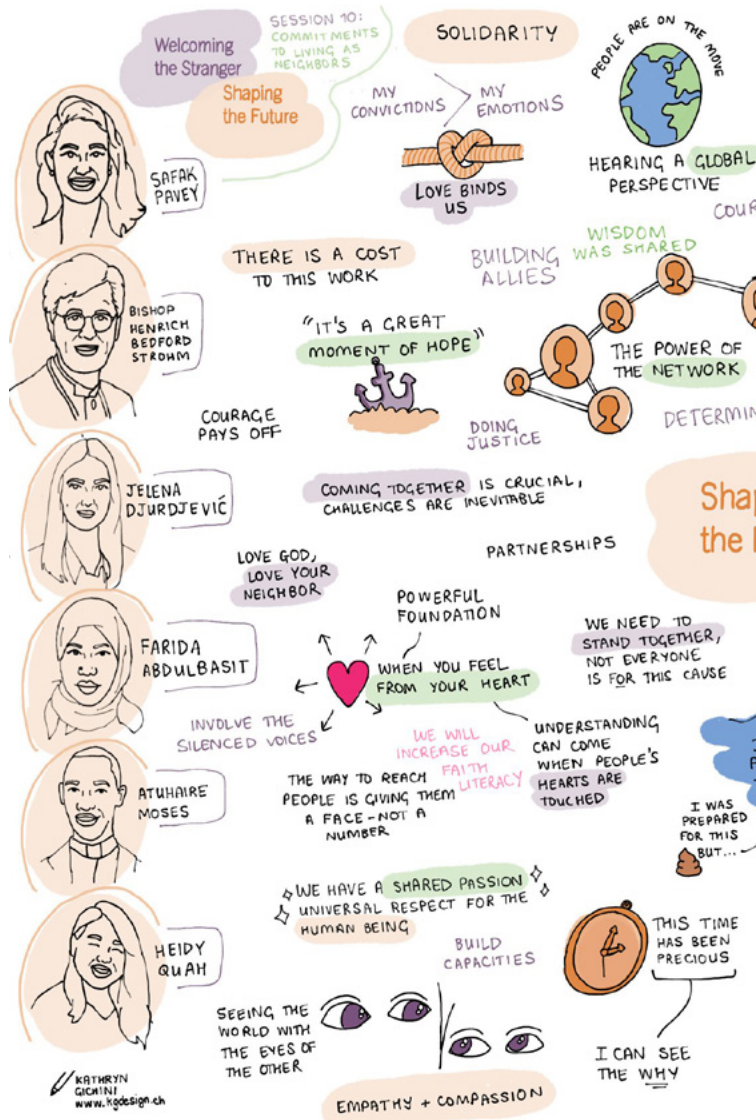


Photo: Berkato Saragi, from the LWF National Committee of Indonesia (center), in discussion with members of a local community. Photo: LWF

WELCOMING THE STRANGER –SHAPING THE FUTURE

Today, more than 100 million people have been forced to leave their homes, by war, violence or natural disaster. To highlight the role that faith communities can play in supporting and integrating refugees, LWF on 20 June 2022 (World Refugee Day) convened some 50 faith actors from at least 37 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and North America to highlight their work at both local and national levels in contributing to a coordinated and effective international refugee response.

The concept of ‘welcoming the stranger’ is a core pillar of many of the world’s major religions and inspires local faith actors all over the world to respond to the needs of vulnerable refugee communities. People of faith are often the first to respond when fresh crises break out and regularly remain long after the international humanitarian organizations have moved on.



PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING TO EMPOWER ONE ANOTHER, EVERYWHERE

THERE IS RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, AND PERSECUTION FOR STANDING FOR A CAUSE.

THIS IS ABOUT DIGNITY

WHEN YOU INVEST IN LOVE - IT'S WORTH IT IN THE LONG RUN

FAITH COMMUNITIES ARE THERE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE CRISIS

WE ARE LIKE A BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET OF FLOWERS

EVA CHRISTINA NILSSON

WE HAVE TO RESPECT FAITH, AND THE FAITH OF THOSE ON THE MOVE

MARK HETFIELD

WE NEED ALL GENERATIONS TOGETHER

FAITH DOES MATTER

SAFAK PAVEY

WASEEM AHMAD

FAITH CAN BE A FORCE FOR GOOD

WE BUILT A VESSEL

WE BOUGHT A VESSEL

I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THE LOVE STORM

USE MY RESOURCES + CAPACITIES TO HELP

DO THEY EXIST IN HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

CHAPLAINCIES

THERE'S A PERSONAL SECURITY COST - SOMETIMES HAVE TO LIVE, BEING WATCHED

WELCOME AND NEIGHBORLY LOVE IS POSSIBLE

WELCOMING FUTURE

BE INNOVATIVE WITH ADVOCACY

I APPRECIATE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US.

BRING THE PEOPLE WE SERVE TO THE TABLE, TO COLLABORATE

THE REWARD FOR US, IS SEEING THE GOOD FRUIT, GROW IN THOSE WE HELP

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

KEEP ON TRYING

WE NEED ALL GENERATIONS TOGETHER

WELCOME AND NEIGHBORLY LOVE IS POSSIBLE

WELCOMING FUTURE

ADVOCACY

LOCALIZATION STRATEGY

SPEAKING UP BRINGS AWARENESS & MAKES THE WAY FOR CHANGE

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE FOR ALL

WE DON'T KNOW IT ALL, BUT WE WANT TO DO OUR BEST

STRENGTHEN GENDER SENSITIVITY

STRENGTHEN YOURSELF TOO

PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING TO EMPOWER ONE ANOTHER, EVERYWHERE

DEEP HUMILITY HAS BEEN SHOWN FROM LEADERS HERE

CIVIL SOCIETY IS WAKING UP

HOLDING TO ACCOUNT

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

HIAS

Welcome the stranger. Protect the refugee.

Islamic Relief Worldwide

The event also aimed to strengthen partnerships between grassroots faith-based organizations and the international humanitarian system. The Global Compact on Refugees, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2018, recognizes the vital role that faith actors can play in building social cohesion, tackling xenophobia and promoting lasting solutions to the displacement crisis.

The two-day conference was organized together with Islamic Relief World Wide (IRW), HIAS, and the faith-based organizations, A World of Neighbors, Finn Church Aid, Faith to Action Network and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.



RESOURCE DOCUMENTS



PHOTO ALBUM

SHARING RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE

LWF Member Church Projects address crucial needs in congregations and wider communities, ranging from theological training to health, livelihood initiatives, adaptation to climate change, women's and youth empowerment and much more.

Member Church Projects are an example of mutual solidarity. Through projects, the global Lutheran communion shares resources and knowledge. In 2022, LWF supported 58 member churches with a budget of 1.5 million Euro in total.



Case Study: Agroecology with Maya families in Guatemala

In Guatemala, LWF accompanies the Guatemala Lutheran Church in its support to 150 indigenous Maya Chortí families living in the so-called Corredor Seco, a particularly isolated area of the country. The impact of Covid-19 and of hurricanes Eta and Iota has further impoverished the local communities. To survive, many have to accept poorly paid jobs, sell their products at a low cost or migrate to work on coffee plantations in Honduras.

The project teaches women to establish cooperatives for agroecology, marketing, saving schemes and access to credit. Community leaders are also trained in advocacy, focusing on the rights of indigenous people with the aim to preserve traditional knowledge and social structures.

The project caused great change in the community. 20 indigenous women were trained in 2022. They formed cooperatives in the municipalities of Zacapa and Chiquimula, and collaborated on agricultural production and marketing. As a result, they increased production by 30 percent and improved their access to markets and distribution channels.

2022 Member Church Projects

58

Total

17

Africa
11 countries
13 churches

14

Asia
7 countries
15 churches

10

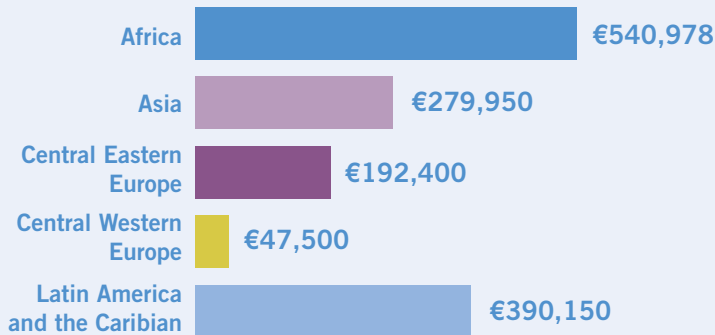
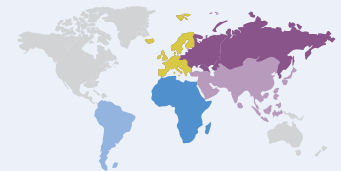
Central Eastern
Europe
5 countries
10 churches

3

Central Western
Europe
3 countries
3 churches

14

Latin America
and the Caribbean
9 countries
10 churches



€1.45M

Budget

YOUTH FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

The LWF sees care for creation as a core calling and recognizes climate change as a matter of justice and human rights. Since 2011 the LWF has sent delegations to the UN Climate Conference. Here, young people from the Lutheran communion have been at the forefront of LWF's engagement for climate justice.



The LWF participated in the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 18 November 2022. Eight young people participated in person, thirty more remotely. LWF's main calls at COP27 focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, scaling up climate finance, making significant progress on climate adaptation, and creating a new mechanism to mitigate loss and damage from climate change.

In addition to following negotiations at COP27, LWF delegates have engaged in several advocacy and networking actions on international and ecumenical level. At community level, LWF continues to provide support for youth-led climate justice projects in its member churches.

“We pray that this call will enter the ears and hearts of the delegates. The time to act is now!”

Janika Wehmann, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg, Germany.

LWF member Michelle Schwarz and other young people march through the venue of the UN climate conference COP27. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



PHOTO ALBUM

COMMITTED TO PEACE

Many young people in LWF member churches actively engage in movements for peace and justice. One of them is the LWF Peace Messengers program, a training for young adults in starting peace projects in their own contexts. In 2022, twenty young adults from 16 churches met in Rwanda for the fourth international Peace Messengers training. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda hosted 20 young adults from 16 churches for the training focused on how specific gifts and contexts prepare young people to be agents of peace. This was the second training in the



“Youth in the LWF communion have the passion, creativity, and commitment that our churches and our world need to answer the call of the gospel to build peace.”

Savannah Sullivan, LWF Program Executive for Youth

year, after the one held in Geneva, Switzerland, in June. The training focused on skills such as active listening, analyzing conflict to identify issues of power and human rights, and seeking creative solutions together. Theological reflection and youth leadership are core parts of the training, which is structured around the LWF Peace Messengers Training Manual for Participants.

The program also focuses on the intersection between peace and LWF youth priorities that include working for climate justice and revival in churches that are in ongoing reformation. Participants at the Kigali training are expected to start small-scale peace building projects that are led by youth in their respective churches, with LWF’s support.

A group of participants
at the Peace Messengers
Training in Kigali, Rwanda
Photo: LCR/ Geoffrey
Munyaneza



PEACE
MESSENGERS
TRAINING
MANUAL

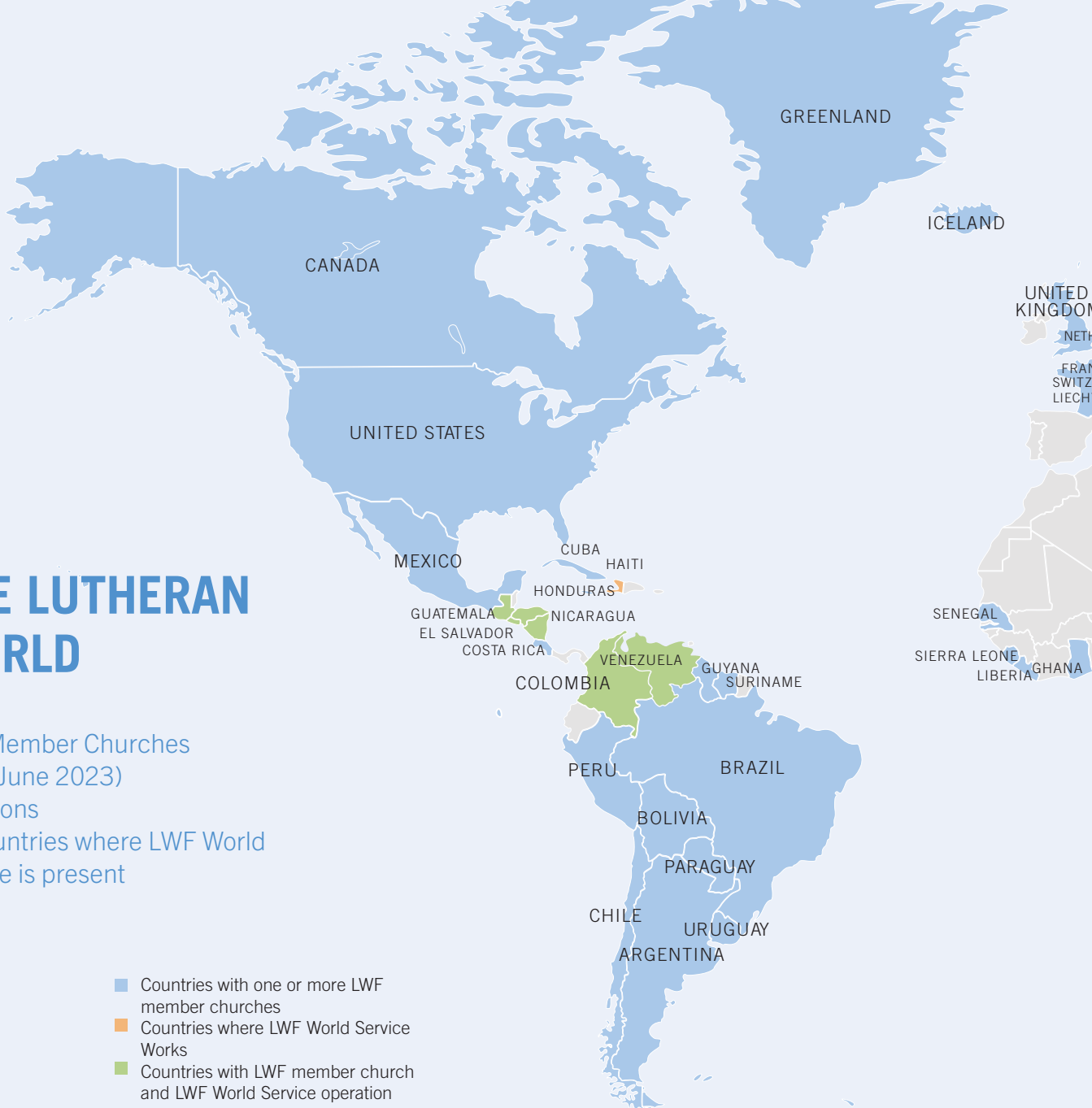
THE LUTHERAN WORLD

150 Member Churches
(as of June 2023)

7 Regions

28 countries where LWF World
Service is present

- Countries with one or more LWF member churches
- Countries where LWF World Service Works
- Countries with LWF member church and LWF World Service operation





OFFERING HOPE IN A GROWING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Maria Immonen, Director of LWF World Service, reflects on the challenges in 2022



WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR WORLD SERVICE OVER THE PAST YEAR?

2022 will always be remembered as the year when COVID-19 released its grip on the world, only to be followed by a major military conflict with the Russian aggression against Ukraine triggering mass displacement across Europe. World Service worked closely together with LWF member churches, and opened two new programs in Poland and Ukraine to help people affected by the war. While the war itself is terrible, we are proud of the work of our teams there, many of whom are refugees themselves.

At the end of 2022, UNHCR also announced a new record high of 108 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, mainly from Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Ukraine. Through our network of offices in 28 countries worldwide (at the end of 2022, LWF World Service closed the country programs in Djibouti and Laos. At time of publication, World

Caption: World Service
Director Ms Maria Immonen.
Photo: LWF/ A. Danielsson

Service works in 26 countries worldwide), we continued to provide aid to both refugees and host communities in many of those areas.

In Latin America, we celebrated 20 years of work in Colombia, another area where we collaborate with LWF member churches. In Jerusalem, a new CEO was appointed to lead the pioneering work of the Augusta Victoria Hospital, which hosted a visit by U.S. President Joe Biden in July. These were some of the high-profile events, but in all World Service programs we continued to provide vital services to the most vulnerable communities, offering hope to those most affected by a growing humanitarian crisis.

WHAT WERE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

While it is heart-warming to see the wave of compassion and financial support for Ukrainian refugees, it has been increasingly challenging to find funding for other crises that do not make news headlines, such as the drought in East Africa and the Horn of Africa or the continuing conflict in the Central African Republic. While a peace agreement was signed between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, the needs in that region remain huge too, with all actors struggling with inadequate funding.

In Haiti, the gang warfare has gotten to a level where staff are no longer safe in the office we share with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Norwegian Church Aid. Still, despite the difficulties, we continue to support people with water supplies, shelter, livelihoods, protection and gender justice programs.

In Myanmar, the military conflict challenges the daily survival of the most vulnerable and also makes our work very difficult. We try to build resilience at local community level.

WHAT GIVES YOU HOPE?

I am inspired by the dedication shown by our more than 7,700 staff working in these challenging, stressful and often remote locations. Their continued presence among the most vulnerable communities gives me great hope.

We are also grateful for the support we receive from all our partners, who are also coping with increased funding pressures. It is because of them that we can provide hope and a future for people around the world.

RESPONDING TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine. One year later, at least 17.6 million people need of humanitarian assistance and 6.5 million have become refugees outside of Ukraine.

LWF member churches provided support to the refugees from the first day of the war, welcoming refugees, providing food and other relief goods, and organizing transport or shelter. Because of the magnitude of the emergency and with the support from the member churches, LWF World Service established two country programs in Poland and Ukraine respectively.

In Ukraine, LWF World Service assisted with renovations of schools in Chernihiv Oblast. Toward the end of 2022, LWF shifted its operational focus to Kharkiv, a city which was heavily affected by the destruction caused by Russian Forces. In collaboration with the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, LWF World Service has established so called heating points in Kharkiv city and started collaboration agreements with local partners to provide life-saving assistance to the war affected families.





In Poland, LWF World Service started by providing multipurpose cash assistance in six community centers, supported by the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland. Later, the program was adapted to serve long-term needs such as training, psychological support and language classes. The majority of LWF staff in Poland are refugees themselves. They add essential capacity to the team, as they speak the language, and many are highly qualified women who worked in accounting, or the medical field before. “It made sense to recruit refugees since the work entails active engagement and information gathering with refugees from Ukraine,” says Allan Calma, LWF Global Humanitarian Coordinator.

For the people seeking assistance, it was a relief to be welcomed by people from their own country. “We could see the joy and relief from visitors to the center at being welcomed and attended to by fellow Ukrainians. From experience in working in other refugee contexts, LWF knows how critical it is for refugees to be able to engage in gainful employment and become self-sufficient.” Calma adds.

Ukrainian refugee staff Katia K. and her daughter Sofija live in a building at the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland in Bytom. Katia is an economist, and found employment with LWF. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

FOOD AND WATER IN EAST AFRICA

While the world looked towards Ukraine, a humanitarian crisis unfolded in East Africa. Across the region, average temperatures have risen a full degree Celsius over the past 50 years, making the dry seasons hotter, killing millions of livestock and destroying crops. For the sixth year in a row, the seasonal rains were weaker than usual and in some regions failed altogether. In addition, the Russian invasion of Ukraine disrupted the food supply globally and led to a rise in food and energy prices. This caused severe food insecurity and hunger - 22 million people in the Horn of Africa are at risk of starvation.

LWF responded through its programs in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, with lifesaving assistance such as food, multi-purpose cash, livelihoods, water and sanitation. In Somalia, LWF distributed food to internally displaced families in Luglow camp, who had left their farms in

search for food. As climate change is destroying people's traditional way of life, LWF continued its livelihoods work with vulnerable communities. In Ethiopia, LWF in a cash-for-work- project, built irrigation systems with local farmers to make them independent of the seasonal rain. LWF



distributed drought resistant seeds and trained young people in different skills to start a business. Through the diaconal service of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, LWF provided humanitarian aid to people affected by the conflict in Tigray.



Ethiopia

85,420

people served

44,320 female
41,000 male
17,084 households

Kenya

77,723

people served

37,445 female
40,278 male
884 people with disabilities

Somalia

3,000

people served

708 female
615 male
1677 children
955 Girls 722 Boys

SANITATION FOR STUDENTS IN HAITI

Haiti is facing a complex humanitarian crisis. Gang warfare and a total absence of rule of law have led to a breakdown of public infrastructure. In 2022, Haitians faced poverty, rising food prices and a cholera outbreak. Because of frequent shootings and kidnappings, many children no longer attend school. 4.9 million people, nearly half the population, are currently acutely food insecure. In addition, the country is prone to natural disasters, such as tropical storms and earthquakes. Preparing the communities for this kind of disaster is an important part of LWF's work.



LWF mostly works with communities outside the capital Port-au-Prince. Camp Perrin, a rural community of 32,000 inhabitants, has been heavily affected by the earthquake in August 2022. Many families still live in provisional shelters, many schools have not yet been rebuilt.

Ecole Lespwa (creole for "School of Hope") is one of the few institutions still running. Its 324 students come from the surrounding communities and walk between 30 minutes and two hours to attend their lessons, but when they arrive at school, there is often no water to wash or to drink. Many students do not have the money to buy water. The dry compost latrines smell bad, not encouraging the students to use them. It is difficult for older girls to practice proper menstrual hygiene.

LWF started to renovate the water supply of the school, the toilets and the entire school ground. The green school project will make 400 liters of safe water available for the students. They will not only have enough water to drink, but also receive a midday meal before their long walk home.

Ludny, a student at "Ecole Lespwa" in Camp Perrin, sitting on a piece of their home, which was destroyed in the 2021 earthquake. In the background is the family's makeshift house. Photo: LWF/P. Raymond



INTERVIEW
WITH NAOMIE
BEAUJOUR

A NETWORK OF BUSINESS WOMEN IN MYANMAR

Loans and savings groups are a way to build community resilience in vulnerable populations. In many countries, LWF facilitates this kind of community organization, sometimes combined with skills training. Building on traditional crafts and responding to local needs, these groups have led to many successful small businesses. As a group, entrepreneurs can negotiate better market prices. This new agency often changes traditional



roles in families, and many women invest the money they earn into their children's education.

The communities in Ann Township of Rakhine State, Myanmar, primarily earn a living with farming, livestock, and bamboo handicrafts. There are many low-income families. LWF facilitated the formation of loans and savings groups among local women, who started producing and selling soap, sewing, and processing cashew nuts. Despite the economic challenges of the pandemic, almost 50 groups have been successful and have now formed a network to market their produce.

"I believe that we will become a strong and reliable regional group very soon because we can use the knowledge and techniques gained from the LWF training. We already have strong participation and interest from several women groups in Ann township." Daw Thein Kywel, the group's president, says.

In Myanmar, Daw Thein Kywel (middle) and other women group members are working at a home garden business in Taik Maw partner community, Sittwe Township, Rakhine State, on 21st August 2022. Credit: Matchless Production, LWF.



VIDEO
ABOUT
THE GROUP

LAND FOR RETURNEES IN SOUTH SUDAN

In August 2022, LWF South Sudan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Catholic Diocese of Torit to collaborate in facilitating a safe and peaceful return of the people who fled the conflict in South Sudan to neighboring Uganda.

For South Sudanese refugees in Northern Uganda, a permanent return home is a difficult proposition. In Uganda, humanitarian support is diminishing, and some refugees feel that the land allocated to them is not enough to feed a family. In South Sudan however, the security situation varies from community to community, and many



villages have been so destroyed that people need to rebuild everything.

At the same time, people return to South Sudan, for different reasons. “There are pockets of peace and stability,” explains Lokiru Yohana, regional Program Coordinator for East Africa. Apart from wanting to grow their own food and become self-reliant, education and employment opportunities are important priorities for all returning families. “People with an education have higher chances of securing employment in South Sudan compared to northern Uganda. This continues to motivate skilled returnees to make the tough decision to return home, even though the conditions for peace are not perfect yet.”

LWF started a cross-border project in Uganda and South Sudan: Those who wish to return receive information on the security situation and training in agricultural skills. LWF works with returnees and their prospective host communities to avoid conflict over resources. Almost 73,000 people in the South Sudanese State of Eastern Equatoria and the refugee camps in Northern Uganda are part of this initiative.

A symbolic ceremony to mark the handover of the land and for lease. Photo: LWF/ M. Chol

COMMUNITY SERVICE INSTEAD OF DETENTION IN JORDAN

LWF in Jordan supports the rehabilitation of young delinquents: The LWF community centers in 2022 received government approval to offer community service to children convicted of minor offenses. While the Convention on the Rights of the Child prescribes that arrests should be last-resort measures, community service instead of detention is a new concept in the country. For this project, LWF Jordan collaborates with the Ministry of Social Development. The young offenders are referred by



the court and accompanied by a behavior monitor. LWF then employs them in their community centers and accompanies them and their families.

In Zarqa, a young man did his 20 hours community service in the LWF center's boutique, and discovered his communications and sales skills. Realizing that there is a space for young people, he brought friends and continues to attend activities at the center.

“Our community centers offer a safe environment, where adolescents are protected from the dangers of negative thinking that may lead to addiction and violence.”

Nirmeen Saadeh, LWF Jordan protection focal point.

In 2022, LWF World Service published new Child Protection and Child Safeguarding guidelines, and trained more than 100 field staff.

Mosaic session
at the “Aman”
center in Zarqa.
Photo: LWF Jordan



A magnitude 6.6 earthquake shook Nepal's Doti district in Western Nepal in November, followed by more than 200 aftershocks. Among the affected were communities of former bonded laborers, like Tara Singh Doli. His house was destroyed, LWF provided materials for shelter, heating, blankets and cooking equipment. Photo: LWF/ C. Saud



David Mueller (center), LWF Country Representative for Myanmar and Laos, peeling Cardamom with a family in Luang Namtha province, Laos. LWF worked with ethnic Khmu communities in developing their villages since 2012. At the end of 2022, the program was closed. Photo: LWF/Thomas Lohnes



Mohamed (9) was born without arms and lives in the Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya. LWF Kenya, in charge of the schools in the refugee camp, enrolled him in primary school and helped him learn to write with his feet. About 100,000 refugee children in Kenya attend schools. LWF ensures that children with disabilities have access to improved, equitable, and inclusive learning opportunities. Photo: LWF/ N. Tado



An indigenous woman prepares cassava root in Guaviare, Arauca, Colombia. The country program celebrated 20 years of service to the most vulnerable in regions affected by the Colombian civil war. Photo: LWF/D. Bastidas



In July 2022, the US president Joe Biden visited the Augusta-Victoria-Hospital in East Jerusalem. It was the only visit of the US president in the eastern part of the city. Photo: White House photographer

AN EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE OFFICE

Interview with Szabolcs Lőrincz, LWF Director
for Planning and Cooperation

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR?

We have taken some important steps in all the departments in terms of maintaining financial sustainability, despite a very challenging context of a global economic crisis, high inflation, currency fluctuations and the Ukraine crisis, which has especially affected the funding scheme of some of our major supporters. In order to mobilize additional donations from Switzerland in a more efficient way, the Council approved the creation of the Olive Branch Foundation, registered in Switzerland, a not-for-profit foundation that promotes human dignity, justice and peace in a comprehensive sense. We are also working with World Service on developing a new funding mechanism called “Development Impact Bonds,” bringing together development work in low-resource countries

and private investors to secure funding for essential projects.

The Office for Communications launched a new website in November, which, together with our social media channels, reached an audience of close to 1.5 million people worldwide. We also continued to develop our LWF Learning platform, which will enable us to share resources across the global communion of churches and we worked on strengthening ties with local communicators in member churches across the different regions. All this is important for the work of grass-rooting the LWF and raising awareness of its witness and service.

WHAT ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW DIGITAL SYSTEMS?

The administrative work we do across the organization requires continuous improvement in handling processes, documents, information, internal and external collaboration. In the past year we rolled out digital handling of payment vouchers, digital contracting software to all departments and continued to extend and develop our human resources information system, LWF People, with the aim of further deploying it to country programs as well as Communion Office staff. We also upgraded our

accounting system, Sage, improved the efficiency of travel-related processes, developed SharePoint sites for various units and country programs, enabling file-sharing and closer collaboration with the Communion Office in a secure environment.



THE COMMUNION OFFICE WILL HAVE TO MOVE IN 2024. HOW IS THIS GOING TO AFFECT LWF'S WORK?

The Ecumenical Center buildings will be closed and reconstructed from mid-2024, making way for a new environmentally friendly Green Village, expected to be completed in about three to four years. After mapping out the needs. A decision was taken, based on both staff welfare and costs, to move our temporary offices to the Octagon building close to the airport. An important aspect was to find a suitable space that supports the working culture that significantly changed in the past few years with a better balance in hybrid /remote work and also offering more collaborative space for cultivating team cultures. This building presents a variety of different spaces and meeting facilities which, we are confident, will ensure that we can maintain a competent and effective workforce throughout this interim period. However, LWF maintains its commitment to return to the newly built Ecumenical Center after the reconstruction.

Mr Lőrincz, LWF
Director for Planning
and Cooperation. Photo:
LWF/Albin Hillert

NEW LWF WEBSITE

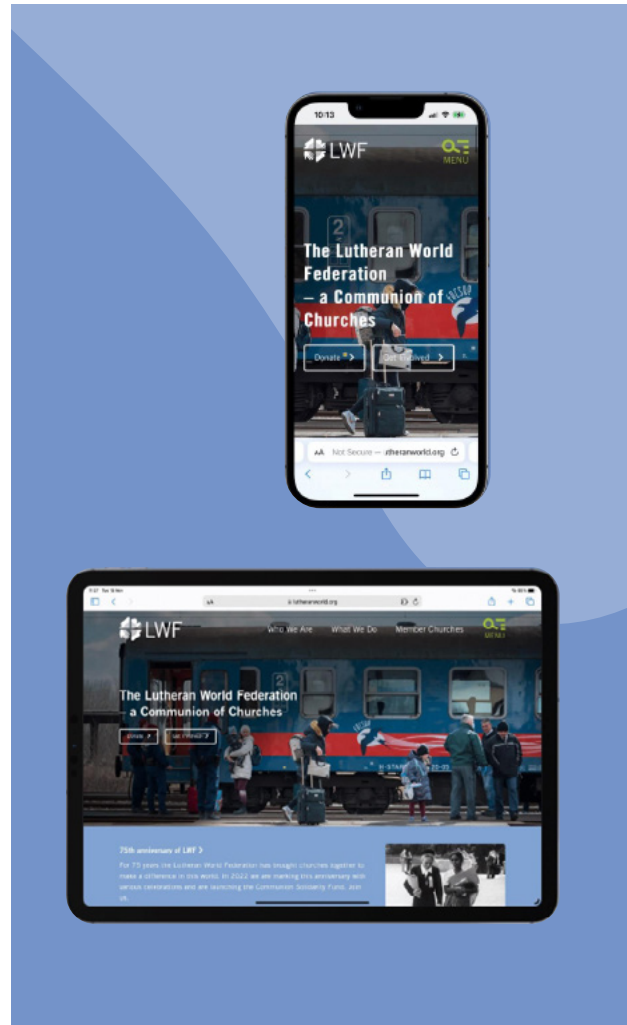
On 15 November 2022, LWF launched a new website, offering a fast, mobile-friendly, and accessible online experience for visitors seeking news, information, resources and networking opportunities within the global Lutheran communion.

The new website was designed above all with mobile devices in mind. Building on an agile, modern, content management system, the site is also designed to be accessible in areas where internet speeds are slower, connecting LWF's 150 member churches in 99 countries, plus almost 9,000 LWF field staff, many of whom live and work in remote locations, to the global communion.

“This is a significant step forward in making the life and work of the global communion of churches more visible and accessible to our member churches, partners, and everyone interested in following the LWF,” said LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt.

“Three out of every five visitors are using mobile devices.”

Rev. Arni Danielsson, LWF Head of Communications.



LWF's home page captured on a mobile device (above) and on a computer screen (below). LWF/A. Danielsson

EFFICIENT WAYS OF WORKING

Various systems and work processes have been revised to ensure the best use of resources and staff time.

In the year of 2022, the LWF Communion Office continued its transition in its working methods and digital environment. As a consequence of the previous years a more hybrid way of working has been developed, providing more tools in administration, using less paper and more options for collaboration in work processes in various areas. The change in efficiency also resulted in savings in operational costs.



Sharepoint has been established before as main platform for collaboration, consolidation of working processes and enhanced comfortability were in the focus in this year. The Human Resource Information System (LWF People) has been further developed to start playing a central role administrating working time, duty travels, induction for new staff and appraisals.

At the LWF we uphold the principle that each human being has inherent dignity as a gift of God and must be respected and protected. This fundamental right, rooted in our faith, should also be expressed in the way colleagues interact with each other. The LWF Staff Code of Conduct was launched in early 2023, with mandatory online training to all staff.”

LWF Regional Secretary
Rev. Dr Samuel Dawai (left)
with former Africa Secretary
Rev. Dr Elieshi Mungure, at
the LWF Council Meeting
2022 in Geneva. Photo:
LWF/S. Gallay



STAFF

In 2022, as the pandemic was reducing, LWF staff gradually resumed their travels and entered in the new normality of hybrid work modalities, partly on site and partly remotely. As everywhere, COVID changed the office culture. Our highly committed staff remained close to the population they serve and continued with strong engagement in their programmatic activities.

The achievements highlighted in this report are the result of a collective effort of competent and dedicated staff teams, working from more than 40 different countries.

LWF Days of Meetings
2022. Photo: LWF/ S.
Gallay

Number of staff

90

Geneva
Communion
Office

2,539

National staff

60

International
staff

5,197

staff (incentive staff
and volunteers)

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt
– General Secretary



Rev. Dr Sivin Kit
– Director (ad interim),
Department for
Theology, Mission
and Justice



Ms Maria Immonen
– Director,
Department for
World Service

The Communion Office Leadership Team supports the General Secretary in leading and managing the LWF Communion Office



Mr Szabolcs Lőrincz
– Director, Department
for Planning and
Coordination



Rev. Árni Svanur
Daniélsson
– Head of
Communication

Photos: LWF/
M. Renaux and
LWF/S. Gally

LWF FINANCES

Consolidated income for the year was EUR 178 million. The income increased by 10% compared to EUR 162 million in the previous year.

The main sources of unrestricted income were membership fees from LWF member churches, distribution from the LWF Endowment Fund; main sources of program funds come from Church Related Organizations, the United Nations agencies (in particular, UNHCR), European Union Governments, United States Government, Ecumenical partners, as well as individual donors.

Expenditure for the year was EUR 177 million, which is an increase of 15% compared to EUR 153 million spent in 2021.

This expenditure was mainly for implementing the programmatic work of the LWF as well as for infrastructure costs.

The 2022 consolidated financial reports were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA from Geneva, Switzerland. The accounts were issued on 25 May 2023.

LWF's consolidated financial reports are prepared in compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Accounting Standards (IAS) and the Swiss regulatory standards.

Key figures

Income

€178M

€162M in 2021

Expenditure

€177M

€154M in 2021



SEE FULL
AUDIT
REPORT

“In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2022 and its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and comply with Swiss law.”

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA, Patrick Wagner
and Adéline Todorova

Holy Communion at
the opening of the Asia
Pre-Assembly. Photo:
LWF/ JC Valeriano

The LWF Endowment Fund

Established in 1999, the LWF Endowment Fund (LWB Stiftung) provides financial stability for LWF’s work. At 31 December 2022 total assets of the Fund amounted to CHF 14.2 million. Its investment income is allocated annually to LWF’s program and project activities. The Endowment Fund board approved a distribution of CHF 826,854 towards LWF’s program budgets for 2023.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee Oversees the proper functioning of the LWF between Council meetings. It convenes twice a year. Elected at the 2017



President

Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa. Head, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria since 2017, former diocesan bishop, past LWF department director.



Asia

Ms Desri Maria Sumbayak. Advisor for women's fellowship, Indonesian Christian Church (HKI), and English lecturer, Pekanbaru State University.



Central Western Europe

Pröpstin Astrid Kleist. Provost, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany Hamburg district since 2013, chair of city forum on social issues.

Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia, members of the committee serve a six-year term.

The Executive Committee is made up of the the LWF President, seven Vice-presidents, chairpersons of the Finance Committee, the Committee for World Service and the specified committees respectively.



Vice-Presidents Africa

Rev. Dr Jeannette Ada Epse Maina. Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, and women's executive secretary, Council of Protestant Churches in Cameroon.



Central Eastern Europe

Archbishop Urmas Viilma. Head of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church since 2015, former school chaplain and teacher.



Nordic Countries

Archbishop Dr Antje Jackelén. Former head of Church of Sweden and Lund Diocese, past professor, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, USA.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Rev. Dr. Nestor Paulo Friedrich. Former president, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, theology professor at EST/Sao Leopoldo.



Committee Chairpersons

Finance Oberkirchenrat Olaf Johannes Mirgeler. Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany, treasurer, LWF German National Committee.



Communion Relations

Rev. Karla M. Steilmann Franco. Assistant pastor, Evangelical Church of the River Plate, Misiones, Argentina, and school chaplain.



Ecumenical Relations

Rev. Dr. Robin Steinke. Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, President, Luther Seminary, St Paul Minnesota.



World Service

Bishop Henrik Stubkjaer. Head of Viborg Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark since 2014, and chairperson, National Council of Churches in Denmark.

Advocacy and Public Voice

Rev. Dr. Jeannette Ada Epse Maina (see Vice-Presidents)



North America

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton. Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (USA) since 2013, former bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod.



Communications

Ms. Vera Tkach. Regional church youth coordinator, Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Russia and Other States, and English teacher.



Mr. Johanan Celine Valeriano. Former youth leader and communications' coordinator, Lutheran Church in the Philippines.



Theology, Mission and Justice

Rev. Yonas Yigezu Dibisa. President, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus since 2017, former mission and theology director.

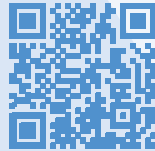


Standing Committee

for Constitution and Membership Ms. Ranjita Christi Borgoary, women's secretary, United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India.

Photos: LWF/Albin Hillert

Established in 1947, The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 150 member churches with over 77 million members in 99 countries.



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Liberated by God's grace, a communion
in Christ living and working together for a just,
peaceful, and reconciled world.



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

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