

LWF Department for Mission and Development

Project Work

Selected Projects from the Regions

Though the types of projects supported through DMD vary, depending on member churches' needs and priorities, the aim is to empower communities to create for themselves a dignified life based on peace, justice and sustainability.

The following examples from the regions witness to the impact of church visions when given life by local commitment and support from the Lutheran communion.

Africa

In Malawi, the church organized feeding groups for 50 children in each of 115 congregations, thus reaching 5,750 children. The project addresses specific needs in terms of nutrition, health monitoring and school support. This engagement has helped “break the silence” by also opening the opportunity for AIDS education.



In Ethiopia, a church-run integrated rural development project includes a component on female genital mutilation (FGM): awareness education and help to women suffering the consequences. The project provides help with medical checks and specialized treatment, and assists with economic rehabilitation when health is recovered.

Photo: Break the Silence! © LWF/J. Schep

Asia



A young mother in Bangladesh became highly vulnerable when she was abandoned by her husband for non-payment of dowry. Without formal education, she was nonetheless accepted for a tailoring course through a church-run project. She has now developed a viable business, and her vision—as a “symbol of a shining woman” in the community—is to create employment opportunities for other youth. A young man, whose family could not afford further schooling for him, heard about the church project and was accepted into the electrical course. Now self-employed and hopeful about his future, he gives

counseling to his friends who are frustrated in finding employment.

Photo: A "symbol of a shining women" in the community. © LWF/J. Schep

Europe

A women's crisis center in St. Petersburg, Russia, provides counseling and support for women who are victims of trafficking, and works proactively to change public attitudes and to reduce risk-behavior. The center advocates for women's human rights and social justice by conveying practical features of a Christian perspective on humanity and self-esteem. Public campaigns build awareness that the women are victims, rather than causes of social problems. Workshops are conducted for teachers, psychologists and social workers; volunteers use popular meeting points to engage young people in dialogue; and training is provided for future teachers, including practical experience at the crisis center.



Photo: Swift action against trafficking – women's crisis center in St. Petersburg, Russia. © LWF

Latin America and Caribbean



The church in Nicaragua's holistic understanding of ministry combines diaconal actions with the proclamation of faith and hope in serving people who live at the margins of society. The struggle against poverty emphasizes transformation to mobilize people's own spiritual, moral and practical resources. With a focus on women, children and youth, project elements include health, education and income generation for poor households. Lay ministers provide primary leadership, traveling and working closely with rural community leaders on weekends, especially

in worship and diaconia. The constant loop of nurture, joint planning and programming, and feedback on practical experiences, empowers the hope of the people.

Photo: Mobilizing people's own spiritual, moral and practical resources. © Salvadorian Lutheran Synod / Communication Services

For further information please contact:

Secretary for Project Coordination and Administration
Vacant

Secretary for Project Implementation and Monitoring
Drs Jaap Schep
E-mail: jks@lutheranworld.org

Administrative Assistant
Ms Marlise Egli
E-mail: meg@lutheranworld.org

Administrative Assistant
Ms Catherine Currat
E-mail: ccu@lutheranworld.org