



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

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LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

The President

Message from the LWF President on Coordinated Humanitarian Response in Pakistan

The recent devastating flooding in Pakistan has affected more than 17 million people, and claimed more than 1,600 lives. Many of the survivors have hardly recovered from the impact of recent disasters in the last five years—two major earthquakes, similar flooding, internal armed conflict and ongoing drought—which further threatens food security in addition to other basic needs such as shelter, and health

In July this year, the LWF held its Eleventh Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany, under the theme “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread.” As a global communion of Lutheran churches, also carrying out humanitarian work throughout the world, the LWF affirmed at its Assembly the Christian prayer for “daily bread” as extending also to the care for the neighbor and for creation. In the Assembly Message, we committed “ourselves to foster the awareness of receiving and the blessing of giving” by among other actions, “sharing not only our material goods, but also our knowledge and know-how with others” and by “caring for the environment, which we do not own, so future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation and lead wholesome lives.”

The world over, many marginalized communities are experiencing the devastating impact of climate change because of recurring storms, flooding, and drought. Such large-scale devastation as has occurred in Pakistan calls for global response irrespective of religious or political positions. The LWF welcomes the international relief response to this disaster, including from many of our partner agencies. But we also realize enormous human and financial resources will be required in both the emergency and reconstruction phases.

I wish to call on all humanitarian relief agencies—religious and secular—to draw on our shared common values and principles and find ways and means to coordinate our work together in a common strategy that ensures far-reaching support to the people in need in Pakistan. Disaster does not differentiate along ethnic, political or religious lines; neither should we.

I especially urge churches and their related organizations working in disaster relief to work toward renewing their commitment to the care of creation. With one disaster following upon another, the environment is once again responding to humankind’s failure to care for the world God gave us. The whole international community bears responsibility in ensuring that future generations may “enjoy the fruits of creation and lead wholesome lives,” as stated at our recent LWF Assembly. Climate change affects all of us, and it is urgent that we take

responsibility in taking concrete actions locally to safeguard life and livelihoods for future generations.

The LWF through the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) is committed with its resources, its expertise, and its prayers to accompanying the people of Pakistan in the midst of this tragedy.

I therefore appeal to all LWF member churches to uphold in ceaseless prayers the people and churches of Pakistan, and their witness at this time.

Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan
President
The Lutheran World Federation

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