



Freely you have received,  
freely give

THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

Annual Report 2018

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Ash Wednesday prayer at the chapel of the Ecumenical Centre, Geneva. 14 February 2018. Photo: LWF/S. Gallay



LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr  
Martin Junge and LWF President  
Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa.  
Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

# Freely you have received, freely give

The Lutheran World Federation looks back at 2018 as a good year. It was a period of analyzing insights from the 2017 Assembly and preparing the new LWF Strategy, which will guide the communion's global witness from 2019 to 2024.

Approved by the LWF Council in July, the strategy builds on the ongoing journey and witness of the LWF and its member churches, taking up new initiatives to address a changing context.

This Annual Report shares the work of the LWF during the past year. We invite you to read about the LWF's commitment to God's holistic mission, into which God calls the LWF member churches, and which moves us to work together and accompany each other. You can read about the LWF's dedication to Christian unity, expressed in ongoing ecumenical dialogues and joint witness. You will read how the Lutheran communion's commitment to accompany member churches and people in need addresses the root causes of suffering and empowers marginalized people. In 2018, this included direct support to more than 2.3 million refugees, internally displaced people and host communities.

The commitment to human rights, gender justice and the full inclusion of youth in the church, as well as the critical role of young people as the LWF advocates for climate justice are highlighted. Here you will read about church leaders engaging with theology and dialogue for peace. And, you will learn about Waking the Giant, an initiative mobilizing churches as key actors in the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), expressing the commitment to leave no one behind.

This work is grounded in our faith commitment as we witness to the gospel, coming together as churches in communion, to work for a just, peaceful and reconciled world. We thank you for being a part of it.

*Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa, LWF President  
Rev. Dr Martin Junge, LWF General Secretary*

# Affirming God's gift of diversity in a growing communion

As a communion of churches, the LWF is visible in many ways, not least in the vibrant life of its different member churches.

In 2018 LWF membership grew with the addition of the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala, the United Evangelical Church in Cuba Lutheran Synod and Christ Lutheran Church in India. This pushed the total number of LWF member churches to 148, representing more than 75.5 million believers in 99 countries.

Accompaniment through pastoral and leadership exchange visits was important. Member churches in the seven regions faced common challenges, including the rise of religious fundamentalism and narrow nationalistic politics. In countries such as India and Indonesia, churches were confronted with conservative religious groups, which threatened the rights to freedom of worship.

In Europe, especially in countries in the Central Eastern region,

governments with nationalistic policies victimized churches that were welcoming migrants and refugees. And in both North America and the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regions, populism led to greater polarization in society.

While vitality of church life is not defined by numbers, declining church membership in the global North was seen as an opportunity to reflect on rediscovering the role of churches in a changing society. LWF-led gatherings addressed these challenges and reflected on how to promote mutual support. Regions experiencing church growth, such as Africa and Asia, focused on nurturing women and youth leadership and promoting good governance.





The church of San Lucas of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, brings together a congregation of some 100 people in the southern areas of Bogotá.  
Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



Church members from The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria return visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. Photo: Horváth-Bolla Zsuzsanna



## MEMBER CHURCHES

# Living, learning and working together

Throughout the year, the LWF continued providing opportunities for leaders and church members to encounter one another and expand their knowledge of the global communion.

Learning Through Exchange of Leaders was one such program, involving 16 churches, two of which are mentioned below.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary and The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria exchanged visits. In the eastern area of Yola, the Hungarians witnessed how health delivery services through the Wakka Community Health Program help families living in settlements. Visiting Budapest, Nigerians actively participated in Sunday worship, learned about local diaconia and Martin Luther's original works.

Through the "People on the Move" program, 16 European churches reflect together on the impact of growing diversity and fragmentation in Europe, seeking common ways of responding to migration and social change and working towards people's peaceful coexistence in a diverse society.

In Africa, churches seeking to overcome systemic poverty and injustice adopted a new model of inclusive community resilience, which focuses not only on improved economic well-being but also on advocacy for communities' human rights.

In LAC, a youth camp of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile with participants from Argentina and Mexico, was one way of exchanging young people's understanding of what it means to be a vibrant local church.

On the global level, the International Lay Leaders' Seminar in Wittenberg, Germany, brought together 20 delegates from 18 countries, focusing on the theme Reformation in Progress – the Relevance of Reformation Today. Participants emphasized the role of the annual gathering as an important platform for non-ordained leaders in all LWF churches.

## Deepening ecumenical relations

Global, ecumenical, and ongoing—the spirit of ecumenical accountability that guided commemorations of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 continued the following year, helping to deepen ecumenical relationships in many ways.

The year started with an ecumenical service in the Ecumenical Centre Chapel in Geneva, during which the Lund Cross, a key symbol of the 2016 Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation, in Sweden, was formally installed in the shared place of worship.

A milestone in the longstanding commitment to Christian unity was the completion of both the bilateral dialogue with the Eastern Orthodox churches and the trilateral dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church and Mennonite World Conference. The Council received the Lutheran-Orthodox statement on *The Mystery of the Church: Ordained Ministry / Priesthood* and the Lutheran-Catholic-Mennonite Commission's report on *Baptism and Incorporation into the Body of Christ, the Church*. Engagement in the five-year Lutheran-Pentecostal dialogue that began in

2016 advanced, with a meeting held in Santiago de Chile, focusing on diakonia and service to the poor.

During the year, a new model for Anglican-Lutheran relations was introduced. Henceforth, joint work will be carried out through the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission for Unity and Mission. This structure moves beyond classical dialogues and invites practical engagement with the goal of promoting regional and national cooperation. Other activities included a visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Phanar in Istanbul.

Developing guidelines to accompany the reception of ecumenical dialogues remains an important part of our work. To this end, the LWF Ecumenical Commitments document was received by the Council, affirming, “To be Lutheran is to be ecumenical.”





LWF President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I after Vespers at the Stavropegial Monastery of the Life-giving Spring at Baloukli, Turkey. Photo: LWF/ A. S. Danielsson



Rev. Dr Elieshi Mungure, LWF Africa Area Secretary, Ms Jubileth Mungure, theological student at Tumaini University Makumira, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Rev. Danielle Dokman, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname, members of the Theological Education and Formation Strategic Advisory Group composed of eleven teaching theologians, students and representatives from member churches. Photo: LWF/S. Gallay

## Tools to help leaders engage in dialogue for peace

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin, wearing glasses and a blue lanyard with small white flowers. She is looking slightly downwards and to her left with a thoughtful expression.

Theologians around the communion continue to express appreciation for the added value of reflecting together about the different contexts in which theology is applied.

One such platform is the two-week International Theological Seminars for Pastors hosted by the LWF Center in Wittenberg. In 2018, “Learning Spirituality with Luther” and “Reading the Bible with Luther in Our Respective Contexts” were the topics clergy discussed, affirming the seminars as unique opportunities to experience the whole Lutheran communion in one place.

“I am taking back home our global fellowship of faith,” is how Rev. Klaus-Peter Tietz from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia summed up his participation. And for others like Rev. Dr Nikola Schmutzler, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony (Germany), the seminars are an opportunity to realize that “Lutheran theology is always a compelling theology. It is about proclaiming God’s ‘for you.’”

The LWF also initiated programs for church leaders to train in conflict management, resolution and peace-building, especially in view of growing tensions and polarization around the world and collective failure to resolve conflicts. One such activity, the LWF International Seminar on Prevention, Conflict Management and Peace-building in São Leopoldo, Brazil, hosted 40 leaders from 21 churches in Africa, Asia, the three European regions, LAC and North America.

Geared toward empowering church members to live and work together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world, the global process equips trainees with tools that make them resource persons engaged in dialogue that promotes peace in society.

# Lutheran identity and theological education go together

Theological education is a fundamental feature of Lutheran identity and a foundational commitment of the LWF.

Through the program for Theological Education and Formation (TEF), the LWF focused on:

- Building the capacity of member churches to have leaders who can engage theologically with contextual challenges
- Strengthening internal cohesion through activities that deepen understanding of Lutheran identity

The TEF Strategic Advisory Group elaborated a strategy for member churches, theological institutions and partners. TEF's participatory approach encourages mutual sharing of resources from around the communion, trans-contextual reflection on critical theological issues, and promotion of processes to edify education and formation.

At the regional level, 13 African theologians designed courses at an

LWF convened workshop on transformative pedagogy, related to SDG 4, held in Rwanda. In LAC, support was extended to the Networking for Theological Education and Formation program through the Lutheran School of Theology in Brazil and the Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico. Other 2018 activities included formation of theology students in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and at the Lutheran Study Center in the Asian region.

Support to churches' holistic mission work continued through the LWF Scholarship Program, which approved 74 new scholarships for study in fields related to theology or diakonia in 2018. Five of the scholarships were earmarked for doctoral studies in theology, in view of the urgent need for qualified teaching staff at theological institutions.



A 10-year old girl at Mangesh camp, Amedy District, Northern Iraq, holds a decorated cross, a gift given to her father by Saint Matti Church in Maqlub Mountains. Photo: LWF Iraq/Elma Okic



Borgop refugee camp, south-east Cameroon, is home to about 10,000 refugees from the Central African Republic. LWF has built schools and supports with peace-building and income-generating activities, such as tailoring, poultry farming and agriculture. Photos: LWF/ C. Kästner

# Humanitarian response that empowers people on the margins

Sadly, 2018 was yet another year marked by the worsening impact of conflict and weather-related crises on civilians, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Forcibly displaced people comprised slightly over one third of the estimated 200 million people—men, women and children—around the world who were in need of emergency assistance, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

During the year, LWF's humanitarian response arm reached over 2.3 million refugees, internally displaced people and host communities through 17 long-term development programs and two emergency responses across 18 programs in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central America and the Middle East.

In Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, LWF responded to new humanitarian needs while continuing to engage in ongoing development programs. These included response to the Ebola outbreak, forced returns to the DRC and returnee movements to Iraq.

The emergency assistance programs launched between 2013 and 2016 in Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Iraq are still needed. Intensification of the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria created an influx of 40,000 new refugees in Cameroon, who LWF assisted in collaboration with ACT Alliance with support from Christian Aid.

The Central America emergency hub coordinated support to victims of the Fuego volcano eruption in Guatemala City, which buried several villages and displaced 1.7 million people. Following the large-scale humanitarian crisis triggered by the influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh, potential was considered for an emergency operation in Southern Bangladesh. And, as regional stability improved relations between Syria and Jordan, the LWF began exploring possible engagement inside Syria.



LWF staff and members of the Nepal Evangelical Lutheran Church await the arrival of LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge at Biratnagar airport. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



## Transforming lives, building resilient communities

At the core of the LWF's work is the goal to empower people and communities to become more resilient and economically self-reliant by acquiring knowledge, skills, tools, and access to networks that provide support and absorb possible future shocks. By promoting a rights-based approach, the LWF's humanitarian intervention seeks to ensure that vulnerable populations claim their rights and lead a dignified life.

In 2018, the LWF worked with 9,500 farmers in Angola and in Myanmar so they became aware of their land rights and are better prepared to handle conflicts. Seven communities in Angola were able to get their provisional property boundaries drawn up. And, sustained national and local level advocacy saw the women's association of Samaria finally receive its land title and a tractor, paid for by the local governor.

The special consultative status of the LWF to the UN facilitates contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council. Collaboration with civil society coalitions remains critical and was evident in the case of Colombia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda, where duty bearers increased their capacity to fulfil human rights obligations.

For example, the Uganda country program collaborated with district authorities and partners to

improve access to justice and separate juvenile detention from adult incarceration. This resulted in significant progress including the commencement of prison inspections, community re-integration of convicted minors and provision of free legal counselling for nearly 600 marginalized women, men and children using six mobile aid clinics. The LWF supported a delegation of Chadian civil society organizations to travel to Geneva to meet with officials of diplomatic missions and discuss recommendations regarding prevention of violence against women, supporting female entrepreneurship and refugee rights.

LWF Nepal focused on advocacy capacity for the most vulnerable and indigenous communities, resulting in the election of 180 Dalits (lowest caste), freed Haliyas (bonded laborers) and Santhal (indigenous group) as local, provincial or federal level government representatives.

## Communities adapt to climate change impact

A significant focus of the LWF's work is responding to the devastating impact of climate change by mitigating the effects of extreme weather activities and increasing adaptation so that the most vulnerable people have secure livelihoods. This was the case in hot and semi-arid Lokipoto near the Kenya-Uganda border. Farmers there trained in climate smart agricultural techniques involving both irrigation and rain-fed agriculture, increased production of nutritious vegetables for consumption and sale at the local market. In addition, a bore-hole equipped with a solar-powered system and water pipeline provided clean water at community taps and cattle troughs in the village.

The year marked the end of the LWF World Service 2013-2018 Global Strategy and a shift towards a new strategy focusing on three interrelated programmatic areas—livelihoods, quality services, and protection and social cohesion. The overall aim is to strengthen the link between emergency intervention and recovery and development work.



Livestock drink from reservoirs in  
drought-prone areas of Ethiopia.  
Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



Waking the Giant gives visibility to  
churches' work on the SDGs.

Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

## Waking the Giant – Leaving no one behind

During its first year the LWF's Waking the Giant initiative convened ecumenical partners worldwide around the SDGs, establishing closer ties between church-related actors and the UN.

Churches have long been key actors in providing social services and advocating for justice and dignity.

They contribute to the achievement of the development goals but are often unaware of them and are unable to seize the opportunities that come with the commitment of governments to the goals. Waking the Giant has begun to bridge the gap that exists between churches, on the one hand, and the UN and governments on the other, making both sides aware that together they can successfully achieve the goal of “leaving no one behind”.

The initiative was launched in 2018 in Geneva, followed by Colombia and Liberia. The program is active in four target countries, including Tanzania and the United States

of America, and gained popularity among faith partners, governments and the UN. In Liberia, Waking the Giant events have been honored by the participation of state ministers, and in Colombia, local and federal government have partnered with Waking the Giant strengthening churches' involvement in achieving the national development agenda. In all target countries, churches and faith-based organizations started joining hands to map out their contributions to the development goals.

Waking the Giant has provided visibility for churches' work on the SDGs, creating tools for them to relate their activities to the UN Agenda 2030.

# Who we are and where we work

**148** Member Churches

**7** Regions

**20** Country Programs

**4** Emergency Hubs

**North America**  
**2** Member Churches

**Latin America  
and the Caribbean**  
**19** Member Churches

Europe

41 Member Churches

Asia

55 Member Churches

Africa

31 Member Churches



Participants in the Women's Human Rights Advocacy Training engaged with the United Nations. Photo: LWF/George Arende

## Realizing women's rights from a faith perspective

Our deeply-rooted commitment to respect, promote and realize gender justice at every level as a concrete expression of our faith is a core value and a prophetic call to the churches.

Strengthening our member churches' voices and amplifying their efforts is at the heart of our work.

In 2018 we accompanied member churches in implementing and contextualizing the LWF *Gender Justice Policy*: an increasing effort to use it as a model to transform the churches into more inclusive and gender-just spaces. The United Protestant Church of Alsace and Lorraine adopted a resolution on balanced representation of women and men in the church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land used the policy in its efforts to address discrimination in church-based family laws.

The LWF promoted communion building through women's empowerment in regional networks. The Gender Justice desk worked with the Waking the Giant initiative, setting indicators

and conducting training for national coordinators on SDG 5, gender equality.

The 16 Days Campaign to Overcome Gender-Based Violence provided online liturgies and videos to raise awareness and address sexual and gender-based violence. Three online videos produced for the campaign had over 9,000 views collectively. The Women's Human Rights Advocacy Training strengthened a rights-based perspective among churches and FBOs, with 39 participants using the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as an advocacy tool to address discrimination.

In collaboration with its institutional partners for the Training, the LWF published *Affirming Women's Human Rights, Resources for Faith-based organizations*.



YOUTH

## Affirming youth leadership in climate advocacy

One of the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation anniversary programs was the Global Young Reformers' Network, a group whose members infused passion and creativity within the communion and beyond by discussing the role of youth in the church.

With the program's conclusion in 2017, the question was how to maintain the momentum of the good work begun and nurtured by young reformers from all the seven LWF regions. On Reformation Day 2018, the Global Young Reformers' Network 2.0 program was launched, kicking off a new phase, with 140 young reformers from 74 member churches so far. They are to engage with youth in member

churches by probing "What is it to be a Young Reformer?" The overarching goal is to build a strong network able to make a meaningful contribution to Lutheran churches worldwide in the future.

Three young reformers from Estonia, Hungary and Poland participated in the European Regions' Meeting, identifying major challenges for their generation, while urging revival in their churches.



The LWF delegation to COP24 in Poland consisted of youth leaders from member churches around the world. LWF/Sean Hawkey

The *LWF Peace Messengers Training* manual, designed for people of different faiths, was distributed to the member churches. In Nigeria, the LCCN conducted a training program implemented by two young people, one from the Lutheran church, the other from the Muslim community.

Youth advocacy for climate justice continued through international and regional activities. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sierra Leone, the LWF supported reforestation and environmental education projects. Later in the year, seven young delegates from across the commu-

nion participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Katowice, Poland, advocating on behalf of the LWF for the poor and vulnerable globally.

Young people also contributed to the intergenerational and ecumenical program, Season of Creation, which offered liturgical resources for prayer and action on protecting God's creation, in its 1 September-4 October campaign.

## Advocacy that is rooted in local experiences

The LWF champions the cause of human rights in an integrated local-to-global approach.

The LWF brings authentic local voices to global arenas through some of the United Nations human rights instruments such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and CEDAW, elaborated under the gender justice section.

In 2018, the LWF presented the shadow UPR report of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria to the UN in Geneva, highlighting the right to peace and security and girls' rights in view of abductions in northeastern Nigeria. The report attracted considerable attention and pertinent recommendations were made to the government of Nigeria to improve the security situation in the northeast of the country. This was due to successful advocacy and lobbying work by the LCCN with many missions in Geneva through the support of the LWF Office for International Affairs and Human Rights.

The office supported an advocacy mission to Geneva for human rights defenders from Bolivia and Guatemala who participated on the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and met with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The situation in Myanmar has been another priority focus area for the LWF. In collaboration with our

country program, the LWF have issued several joint statements with like-minded International NGOs advocating for humanitarian access to conflict areas, respect for international law and calling for cessation of hostilities between the parties to the conflict.

Globally, the LWF has actively followed and contributed to the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. The compact was adopted last year. The final document recognizes the role of faith based actors as important stakeholders in response to refugee situations.

Shrinking civil society space continued to be of concern to the LWF. In collaboration with the ACT community of practice on human rights in development, the LWF organized a regional workshop on the role of religious leaders in promoting an enabling civil society space. At the end of the workshop, the religious leaders adopted the "Kampala Declaration on Religious Leaders for Civil Society Space" that summarized the best practices, identified actions and commitments of religious leaders toward promoting and defending civil society space.



Maria Corina Ramirez Hernandez, Lutheran Church of Guatemala (left) and Guido Castro Endara, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia. Photo: LWF/S. Gallay

FAITH AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

## Faith matters for people in need

Humanitarian organizations have become increasingly aware of the role of faith in the lives of the people they assist.

The LWF and Islamic Relief Worldwide exemplified this recognition by jointly publishing *A faith-sensitive approach in humanitarian response*, a guide to providing practical support to those involved in program planning for people in need. Other international organizations supported the publication.

This resource gives attention to promoting community health through local faith communities, referring people to religious actors for psychosocial or spiritual care, and engaging with faith leaders to



Samira Alemu, who left home in Ethiopia to work in Dubai in 2016.

Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

eradicate harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage. At the Kakuma refugee camp, religious leaders were involved in education programs aimed at avoiding proselytization.

Others included the Symbols of Hope project, enabling churches in Ethiopia and Nigeria to establish centers that offer potential migrants information on trafficking and home-based alternatives to the mostly perilous life of discrimination, abuse and violence abroad.



Students in one of the schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Photo: LWF/A. Danielsson



Women's group meeting in one of the camps for internally displaced people in Myanmar.

Photo: LWF/ I. Htun

In addition, 42 churches in 34 countries carried out other diaconal projects focusing on women's empowerment, human rights, theological education, sustainable development, climate change and capacity building.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land supported 1,400 students in four Lutheran schools in the West Bank, integrating peace, cultural respect, democracy and gender justice into their curriculum.

The Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church advocated for the rights of the Santal, a poor ethnic minority. The church provided assistance to victims of violence, while engaging 20 youth volunteers to give literacy training to 200 children.

Climate justice was the focus for the Lutheran Costa Rican Church, which committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2021, through strengthening its environmental advocacy and promoting good environmental practices.

# With Passion for the Church and for the World

The LWF launched its 2019-2024 Strategy on the 501<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, 31 October 2018.

The new strategy identifies priorities for the communion of churches. It was shared with the member churches in the four official languages—English, French, German and Spanish, and in Bahasa Indonesia and Kiswahili.

The strategy responds to the evolution of the LWF as a communion of churches and the priorities set forth by the member churches at the 2017 Twelfth Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia.

It calls member churches to live and work together as a communion of churches in ongoing reformation through two strategic priorities:

- Supporting churches' witness in the world
- Promoting human dignity, justice and peace

It highlights the LWF's commitment to *dia-konia*, ecumenical dialogue, the inclusion of

youth, and gender justice, while responding to member churches' desire to act for climate justice, and work on theological education and formation.

LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge described the strategy as “an orchestral score along which LWF member churches intend to play together a tune that powerfully echoes God’s liberating grace that sets human beings free to serve and love the neighbor and God’s good creation.”

The goals and objectives of the LWF's international humanitarian and development arm are elaborated in the *World Service Global Strategy 2019-2024*. The new strategy enables the LWF to serve refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and communities at risk, while remaining flexible amid changing situations.



Holy Communion at the opening worship of the Lutheran World Federation's Twelfth Assembly. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



Session 2  
Partners' priorities and  
programs

LWF staff and partners during the  
“Working Together” meeting in  
Geneva. Photo: LWF/S. Gallay



## PARTNERSHIPS

# Together for justice, peace and reconciliation

The LWF has long-established relationships with many partners, agencies of its member churches, development agencies, national governments, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and civil society.

Many are long-standing and committed partners of the LWF in the funding and implementation of programs. There is also mutual sharing of knowledge, experience, and resources, which enriches the work towards a shared mission. Some of these organizations also contribute to governance and policy through strategic advice, reflection, and joint action on the challenges the communion faces. Without these partners, the LWF would not be able to achieve its goals.

The LWF values the close cooperation with its “sister” ecumenical organizations. A healthy engagement with those of other church and faith traditions enables the LWF to be outward looking and to increase a shared understanding of the churches’ place in the global context. Much of the LWF’s work also relies on collaboration with other humanitarian actors and local civil society organizations. The UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is helping to provide a common language across different organizations, and opening new possibilities for partnership.

All of these partnerships are important for the LWF and its member churches, as we work together for justice, peace, and reconciliation in the world. The LWF acknowledges with gratitude the many partners who worked in different ways to help achieve a shared mission in 2018.



Leadership staff from Lutheran World Federation World Service country programs meet with the Communion Office colleagues in Geneva. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



# Staff

The LWF is staffed by a highly committed workforce in the Communion Office, the World Service programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the LWF regional offices.

Most of our staff are locally contracted, working in the country and emergency programs. All contribute to the realization of the LWF's vision of a just, peaceful and reconciled world.



Geneva staff



International staff



National staff



Refugee staff  
and volunteers

# Faithful stewardship of resources

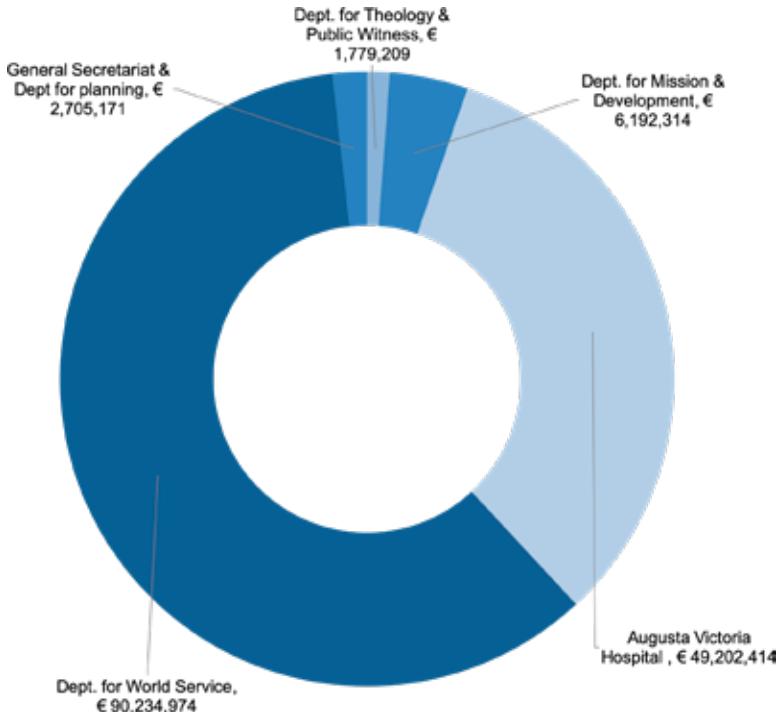
The LWF's programmatic work is coordinated through the Communion Office (CO) departments and offices. The financial reporting follows this structure.

This summary of income and expenditure provides the consolidated financial highlights for the year ended 31 December 2018. Unrestricted Income refers to the Geneva CO activities, including governance, planning, coordination, program implementation, monitoring, evaluation, non-project income and capacity building.

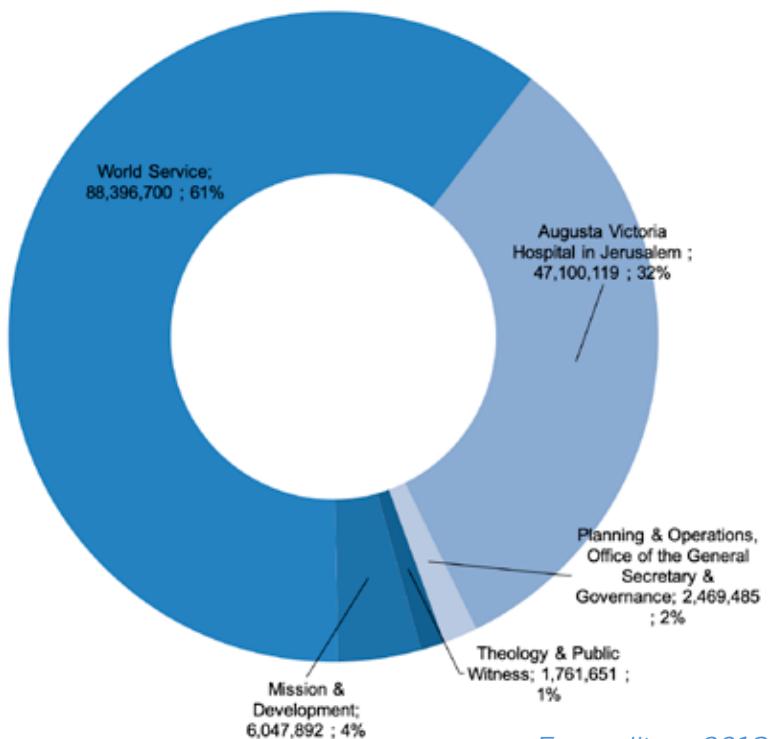
The 2018 consolidated financial statements are issued in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards and Swiss Code of Obligations without any audit qualifications.

## Income

The LWF's sources of income are member churches' fees, individual donors, church-related agencies, the UN, European Union and US government funding sources, and other partners.



*Income 2018*



In 2018, the LWF received a total of EUR 150 million.

## Expenditure

In 2018, the LWF spent EUR 146 million to implement its strategic priorities.

## Management and Control

The LWF operates in many difficult situations in numerous countries and is exposed to various financial risks that could adversely affect its financial results and performance. The risks are managed through the Risk Management Policy and Internal Control Systems as per the Swiss regulations, and evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA.



Meeting of the LWF Endowment Fund Board in Geneva.  
Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

## The LWF Endowment Fund

The LWF Endowment Fund was established in 1999 to help secure a financially sustainable future for the LWF. Yields from the fund secure the continuity of the work of the LWF.

At the end of 2018 the total value of the Fund was CHF 15,215,492. During the year, contributions to the Endowment Fund totalled CHF 238,412 from member churches and unrestricted gifts. In 2018, the fund distributed CHF 453,597 for LWF programs.

An independent Board of Trustees manages the Endowment Fund. Gifts and lega-

cies from individuals, churches and organizations are welcomed with gratitude.

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Established in 1947, The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 member churches with over 75 million members in 99 countries. We share a common Lutheran heritage, shaped by the diverse contexts in which we experience and witness to God's liberating grace.

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