

Solidarity in challenging times

Annual Report 2021



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

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

LWF Vision

Photo: LWF/Johanan Celine P. Valeriano



LWF President Archbishop Dr Pantil Filibus Musa (left) and LWF General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt.
Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

Solidarity in challenging times

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Cor 12:26)

In 2021, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches showed remarkable solidarity with one another, standing close, supporting, and affirming each other as they continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and make a difference locally through service and witness.

Through individual or group contacts, LWF offered encouragement to church leaders, providing prayers, counseling, liturgy or scripture messages and letters, and supporting regional initiatives that could take place. Online interaction with churches and local communities was increased, while making sure that those with limited communication tools were not left behind.

Innovative ways of continuing the planned capacity-building initiatives, conferences and seminars ensured more people could join in LWF's discussions. This broadened participation in the networks of women, youth, scholars, diaconal and human rights' workers, theologians and communicators, among oth-

ers. Through its international humanitarian work, much needed relief assistance reached populations dealing with the complex impact of a global health crisis and natural or human-made disaster, thanks to LWF's presence in the local communities.

Preparations for the Thirteenth Assembly intensified, with great support from the host church and the committees responsible for the event's content and logistics.

A leadership transition marked the year, bidding farewell to former General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge, who concluded his service on 31 October, and welcoming General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt on 1 November.

There were many memorable moments to experience the strong witness of the communion of churches, offered with great passion for the church and the world. The LWF continues its strong commitment to participate in God's holistic mission.

We invite you to read this report and learn about this work and witness in a memorable year.

*Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa, President
Rev. Anne Burghardt, General Secretary*

Assembly preparations take shape

Preparations are on track for the September 2023 gathering of LWF's highest decision-making body in Poland.

Guided by the Assembly Planning Committee (APC), the LWF intensified preparations toward its Thirteenth Assembly. The event will be hosted by the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (ECACP) in Krakow, 13-19 September 2023.

A resource, *One Body, One Spirit, One Hope* was published and distributed to all the member churches. It introduces the assembly theme and encourages the member churches to get involved. The Assembly website was launched in LWF's four languages as well as in Polish. The visual identity was also introduced in the five languages, including a package of posters, backdrops and letterheads with the assembly logo.

Meetings of the respective committees responsible for developing the study content and worship materials, and local hosting took place online and onsite in Krakow. At its first meet-

ing, the International Worship Planning Committee that leads preparations for daily worship and prayer life, began to explore key symbols, visual images and additional biblical texts that might compliment understanding of the assembly theme. "The liturgical expression of worship at the Assembly can deepen an understanding of the Assembly theme and its unity, and at the same time reflect the LWF's confessional identity," said Presiding Bishop Dr Tamás Fabiny, APC chairperson.

The host church is excited to welcome the Lutheran communion. An eight-person Local Assembly Planning Committee (LACP) made up of ECACP members is a very active and committed group that continued to meet twice a month to discuss and plan the local arrangements. The ICE Krakow Congress Center has been secured as the Assembly venue, and



Members of the APC and LAPC met in October in Krakow. Photo: LWF/A. Danielsson



“The LWF Assembly is a significant gathering of Lutheran churches worldwide. We are looking forward to hosting so many representatives from around the world.”

Presiding Bishop Jerzy Samiec, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland.



The resource *One Body, One Spirit, One Hope* introduces the assembly theme and encourages member churches to get involved. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



the City of Krakow has committed to donate two days free use of the convention center, and to extend free use of the public transportation within the city to all official participants.

355 delegates, regional Pre-Assemblies

Several decisions pertaining to the assembly were made during the year. At its meeting in June, the LWF Council approved the categories and number of participants at the assembly. Around 355 official delegates representing the member churches are expected. Their distribution will comply with LWF's quota of 40 percent women, 40 percent men and 20 percent youth. In addition, there will be 700 other participants including visitors and local volunteers.

The regional Pre-Assemblies for churches in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas will take place in the respective regions in early 2023, while the international Pre-Assemblies for women and youth will take place in Poland, prior to the Assembly itself. These gatherings play a vital role in preparing churches to actively take part in the Assembly, and nominate leaders for the next period in the life of the LWF communion.

The Thirteenth Assembly budget was approved. The APC concluded its work in October, having met four times since it was appointed in 2020.

Increased contact with member churches

When churches reflect together on the gift of being in communion, they deepen understanding of their need for each other as members of the one Body of Christ.

In a year when in-person regional conferences, workshops and visits were mostly limited by the pandemic's restrictions, the LWF intensified accompaniment to its 148 member churches in other forms.

In addition to online meetings with individual heads of churches and others in leadership, LWF offered counseling, shared prayers, liturgy or scripture messages and letters of encouragement. Staff participated virtually in significant events in the life of the church such as anniversaries and assemblies or conferences. Throughout the year, the LWF engaged with a total of 580 leaders in decision-making positions, including Council members.

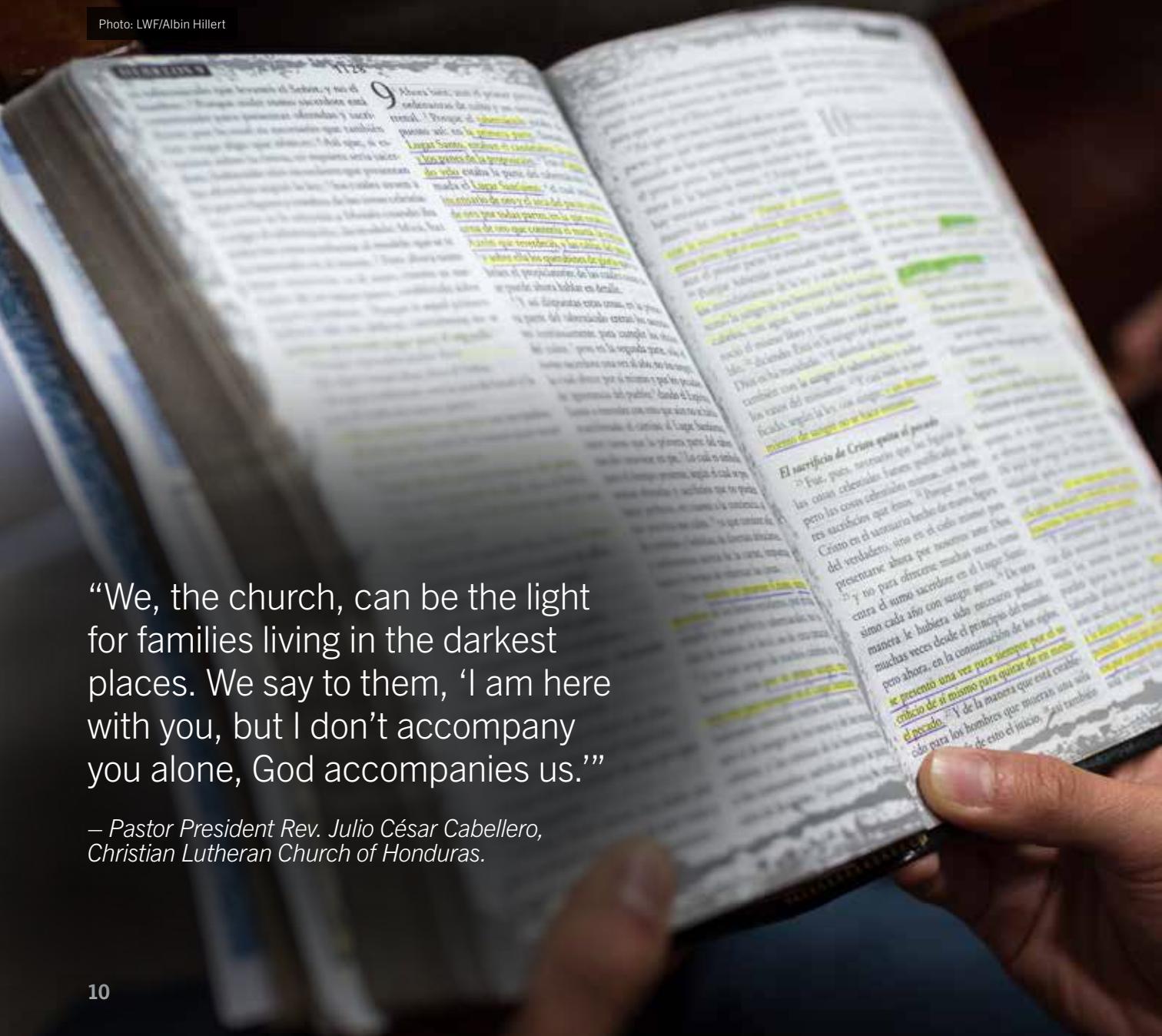
An example was the online meeting with Japanese church leaders. It was an opportunity to learn about the Japan Lutheran Church's decision to allow women's ordination, express solidarity with Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church over the pandemic's impact on its financial health, and ap-





Sister Elistaha Mlay, director of the Lutheran Sisters' Convent Ushirika wa Neema, explains the community's work to delegates of the EECMY-ELCT seminar.
Photo: ELCT/Erick Adolph

Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



“We, the church, can be the light for families living in the darkest places. We say to them, ‘I am here with you, but I don’t accompany you alone, God accompanies us.’”

— Pastor President Rev. Julio César Cabellero, Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras.

plaud Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church for its COVID-19 guidelines, reminding its members “to protect life and to keep life safe.”

LWF also provided platforms for reflection, prayer and peer support to leaders of churches facing difficult political and social contexts in the Latin America and Caribbean region. This was the case for the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, United Evangelical Church in Cuba Lutheran Synod, Salvadoran Lutheran Church, Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope, and the Guatemala Lutheran Church.

LWF’s accompaniment remains critical

Some sub-regional and regional events took place, bringing together church leaders and networks to reflect and work together on common initiatives and global processes. Africa’s largest Lutheran churches—Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus—signed a joint initiative to enhance learning and experience sharing in order to enrich their respective ministries, following a seminar hosted by the ELCT. The Lutheran Council in Africa met in-person in Ethiopia, with 44 delegates discussing the theme “Being church in the times of COVID-19” and

the church’s role in the public space amid the pandemic and other tragedies.

The Nordic region held a number of webinars on “Baptism in times of change” for churches in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Participants analyzed surveys and research materials that respond to a 2017 LWF Assembly resolution inviting churches to create platforms for exchange and learning about the changing church in the face of secularization and other societal and demographic factors.

In spite of the additional burden the pandemic placed on leaders and the congregations they serve, almost all LWF churches were able to adapt their mission and ministries to new formats according to the pandemic’s restrictions. By constantly monitoring the situation in churches through close contact with the leadership, LWF was able to apply the mechanisms it has developed to provide quick and efficient support.

It was a challenging year in many respects. Numerous churches lost their bishops, pastors and members to the deadly virus, while others experienced a significant drop in their income. The majority continue to struggle with the issue of re-opening for physical worship services. In these times, LWF’s accompaniment remains critical.

Toward new perspectives for practical ecumenical cooperation

With a shifting “center of gravity” compelling reflection on the nature, methods and topics of ecumenical dialogues, the LWF remains on track in its commitment to strengthen collaboration on the way to Christian unity.

Inner conversion and reception of ecumenical agreements can perhaps only be measured by the long-term commitment of individuals, churches and communities to the journey of moving from conflict to communion. For LWF’s ecumenical relations, 2020-2021 was an important period to consolidate and lay new groundwork for ongoing and new conversations.

The Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation in 2016 and the commitment by the LWF and the Roman Catholic to witness together and respond jointly to human need throughout the world continued to bear fruit. In June, LWF President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa led a delegation to an audience with Pope Francis in the Vatican. Both sides acknowledged the ecumenical potential of the Augsburg Confession and expressed hope that its

500th anniversary in 2030 will become common ground on which to strengthen working together toward unity and reconciliation. LWF World Service and Caritas Internationalis developed a Common Vision, which was signed and presented in Rome. Both partners are exploring ways of implementation that link humanitarian work and ecumenical initiatives more closely.

Ecumenical officers of the five adherents of the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (JDDJ)—Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, Anglicans and the Reformed—met several times and began developing a first study guide for the milestone agreement. The guide is aimed at encouraging greater collaboration in mission between local churches of the five world communions. Increased mutual cooperation continued through the Lutheran-Orthodox

Commission with an online meeting to discuss the role of sacramentals, especially during the pandemic.

The Anglican-Lutheran International Commission on Unity and Mission was launched, ensuring the implementation of our many consensus documents. A study group was also formed to explore the challenges posed to Lutherans in the Lutheran-Mennonite-Roman Catholic trilateral dialogue report on *Baptism and Incorporation into the Body of Christ, the Church*.

With the World Communion of Reformed Churches, a study group on the right of religious freedom was created. The topic is pertinent as this right is both contested in some regions and misused as a weapon in others. The LWF also began to explore the possibility of dialogue with three new partners—the Orient Orthodox, The Salvation Army, and the New Apostolic Church.

Within the LWF, there is increased attention on creating networks of ecumenical officers that link local, regional and global ecumenical initiatives. The LWF is navigating a changing ecumenical landscape, while also shaping the questions and framework that help discern what a communion of churches means.



Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

Building a theological vision that leads to transformation

LWF is committed to a theological vision and values that lead to transformation in church and society.

By grounding creative, critical, and contextual reflection in concrete action, LWF's theological work aimed to strengthen the self-understanding and transformational capacity of its member churches. Through the work of its Department for Theology, Mission and Justice, the LWF engaged with over 3,500 individuals from the member churches on contemporary theological questions, spirituality and practice, inclusion in the ordained ministry, economy of life, interreligious relations and engagement in the public space.

More than 2,600 people responded to a 'Global Survey on Being Lutheran' inviting individuals in all the member churches to reflect about their beliefs, experiences, and how faith transforms their experience of daily life. In addition, representatives from 53 member churches participated in diverse activities on Lutheran identity. Papers presented at the 2019 global consultation that kicked off the entire process were published in the book *We Believe in the Holy Spirit:*

Global Perspectives on Lutheran Identities (LWF Documentation 63).

An open-access online theological resource was launched, offering video and audio lectures aimed at equipping member churches to doing theology for the common good. The series was developed in collaboration with the Berlin Institute for Public Theology in Germany, and the Beyers Naudé Institute for Public Theology in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Also, a task force was established to develop a Jewish-Christian relations study document for member churches, which is part of the Thirteenth Assembly preparations.

Women's networks were revitalized and a study was started on women's experiences in the ordained ministry. A highlight in the year was the launch of the Hélène Ralivao Fund for theological training, leadership development and research for women in Africa. LWF congratulated three of its churches—in Malawi, Poland and South Africa—for milestone decisions on women's ordination and leadership.

Bishop Naledzani Josephine Sikhwari was consecrated on 23 May 2021, becoming the first woman to head the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) Northern Diocese. Photo: David Mang'enda/ALCINET

“I trust that with the support of the church members and the current leadership, we can transform the image of the church and make it a relevant institution in the community.”

— Bishop Naledzani Josephine Sikhwari,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, Northern Diocese



A continuous journey of life-long learning

In 2021 most meetings were held online. In this photo, participants in the 2019 Lay Leaders Seminar in Wittenberg, Germany: from left, Quelen Angudampai (Malaysia), Manoj Kumar Hial (India) and Mildred Buyiswa Sambane (South Africa). Photo: LWF Center Wittenberg

Leadership development fosters principles which build churches that are sustainable and a communion that is inclusive.

In yet another year when face-to-face encounters and exposure to local contexts could not occur, the LWF tapped into the increased online engagement with the churches to continue leadership formation programs. More than 620 people, including youth, scholarship holders, women, ordained and lay church leaders, and diaconal project coordinators, participated in various training programs.

Two online platforms were established to provide space where LWF scholarship holders from churches across the communion meet to empower and inspire each other, develop new ideas to strengthen churches, and bring a global voice into local contexts. More than 160 students took part in the quarterly “Coming together meetings” for scholars in theological studies and in devel-

opment and diakonia fields. In addition, the students themselves initiated a virtual platform where they meet weekly for networking, sharing academic experiences and learning new skills such as communication.

More than 150 young people directly took part in leadership activities involving youth during the year, and hundreds more were added through the local-based initiatives. The Global Young Reformers Network was reactivated including a new Steering Committee, and regular online meetings to strengthen relationships. The program provided targeted leadership capacity building components such as small grants for youth climate action. Following training in advocacy and communication skills, Young Reformers planned and led the LWF Green Reformation Day Service, organized a

Peace on Earth Advent Gathering attended by 50 youth from all regions, and continued their leadership role as LWF's delegation to the United Nations (UN) COP 26 climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

The annual Lay Leaders Seminar gathered 18 participants online, who in a follow-up survey indicated they had gained more knowledge on Lutheran theology and the biblical basis for church leadership. A similar number took part in the online Retreat for Newly Elected Leaders for heads of churches who have recently assumed office. In two workshops for diaconal leaders in Africa and Asia, a total of 72 participants discussed the theological basis of a diaconal church.

The leadership accompaniment also involves sharing principles of management and good governance for LWF-supported member church initiatives. At two online capacity building workshops, 38 participants gained skills on strengthening the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes of long-term projects.

A study on the 'Reception and Use of the LWF Gender Justice Policy' finalized during the year, will inform LWF's further support to the member churches in this area.

“Leadership is continuous learning and growing, and self-criticism and constructive feedback are an important part of growth.”

– Kazue Taniguchi, Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pillars of hope in times of need

Churches that are well equipped respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable people.

With LWF's support, churches continued to provide hands-on solutions to pressing needs in their congregations and wider community, as the COVID-19 pandemic put additional pressure on the most vulnerable people.

LWF shifted its COVID-19 rapid response assistance to a Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to address ongoing needs and rebuild livelihoods. By the end of 2021, the fund established in April 2020 had provided short-term grants for 181 projects by 87 member churches in 53 countries, bringing relief to tens of thousands of people. This included support to livelihood and income generating activities. "My tiffin [light lunch and tea] shop has become extremely popular, and it continues to provide an income for me," said Sagara, who was accompanied by the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam in India.

In May, the LWF launched a 'Guidance Note' to promote joint engagement and practical collaboration between the member churches and World Service programs. At two subsequent regional



LWF's Rapid Response Fund supports livelihood and income generating activities. In India, a food shop owner serves lunch. Photo: United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India



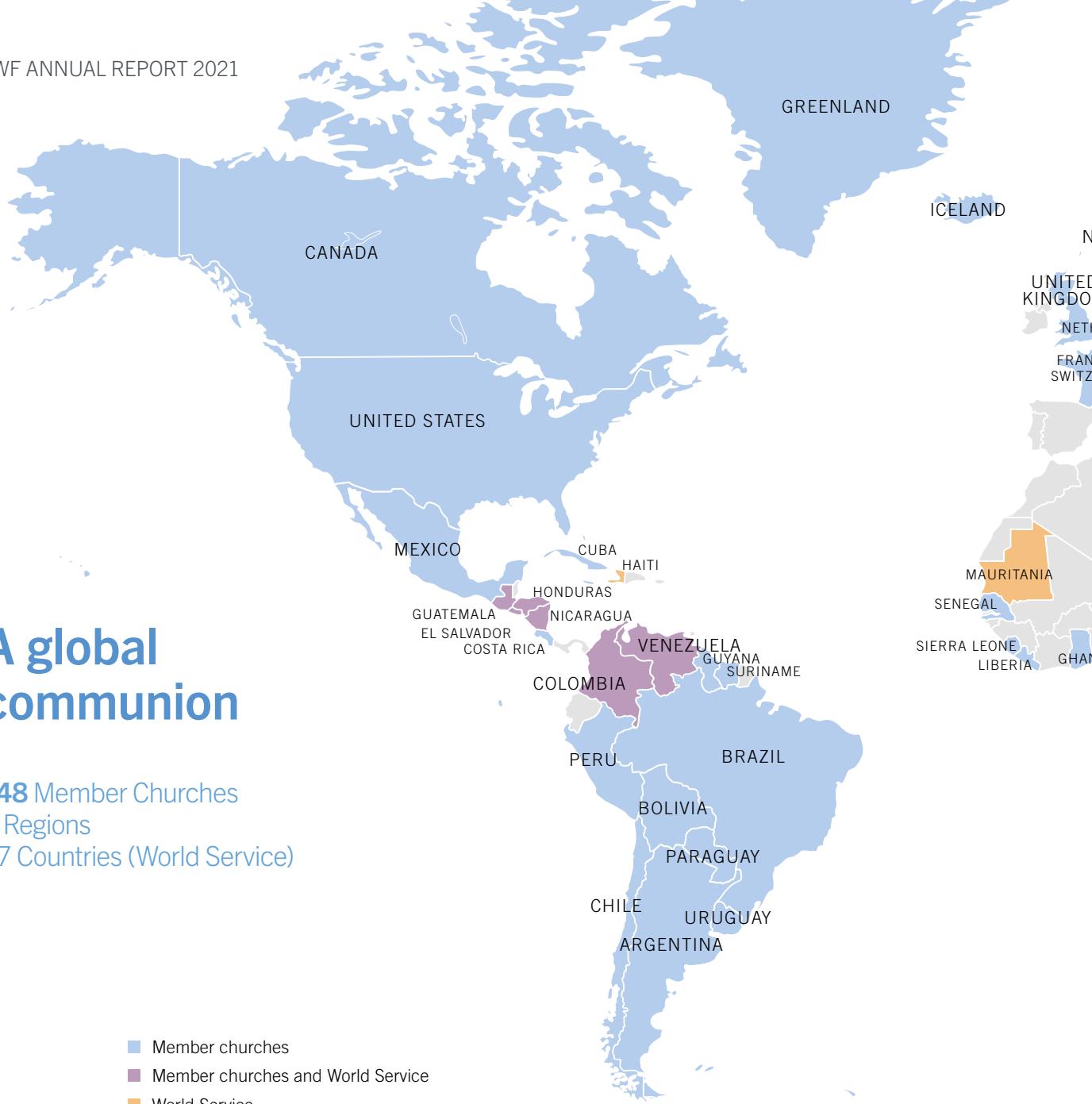
meetings online, 72 church representatives and country program staff in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean affirmed commitment to strengthen joint work in serving the most vulnerable people. Bishop Dr Victoria Cortez Rodriguez of the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope, said it was crucial to continue building on the mutual dialogue that has been established over many years.

Work on migration under the Symbols of Hope program with three LWF member churches in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe (new country) focused on increasing awareness in congregations and local communities, and psychosocial care and livelihood support to potential migrants and returnees. The country program coordinators also visited the Ethiopia program for best practice exchange. In addition, LWF's funding and technical support continued for long-term projects among its member churches, and for emergencies.

A global communion

148 Member Churches
7 Regions
27 Countries (World Service)

- Member churches
- Member churches and World Service
- World Service



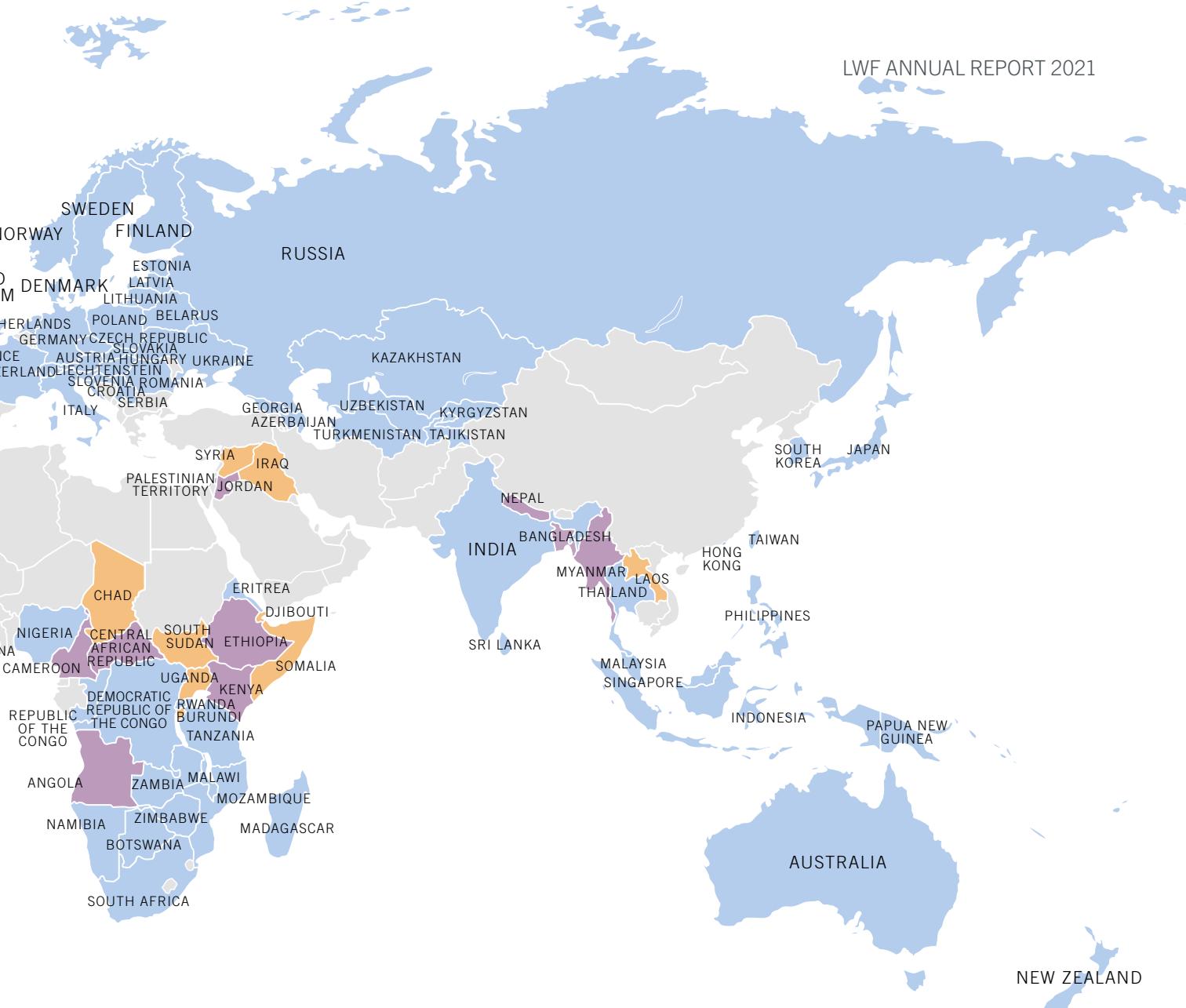




Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

Growing faith-based action for justice

Empowering local churches and communities for advocacy increases their capacity to hold duty bearers to account.

The new *Advocacy Framework* reiterated LWF's commitment to advocacy as core to the holistic mission of the communion's member churches and in the international humanitarian and development work by LWF World Service. The document elaborates on the faith inspired, rights-based and 'local to global to local' (L2G2L) approaches in advocacy. Emphasis is put on the role of Lutheran theology and capacity building with regard to gender justice, climate justice, human rights and peace.

LWF together with ecumenical and civil society partners engaged in international advocacy on protection of the most vulnerable communities from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing mainly on vaccine equity. At the UN level, this advocacy targeted key processes and institutions including the Security Council, Commission on the Status of Women, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the

High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Agenda 2030, and the World Health Organization. LWF issued over 30 statements, calling for action on situations such as the conflicts in Colombia, Ethiopia, Israel/Palestine and Myanmar among others.

At the Human Rights Council, it was encouraging to witness the deep and meaningful contribution of churches to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) processes, and their growing influence at the national level. In Sierra Leone, for example, where the death penalty has been abolished, the church was engaged in the country's UPR. Such engagement builds on LWF's ongoing rights-based advocacy work under the L2G2L initiative.

At the annual women's human rights training attended by 60 women and men, focus shifted to region-based advocacy, and participants from Africa followed up with a pilot train-

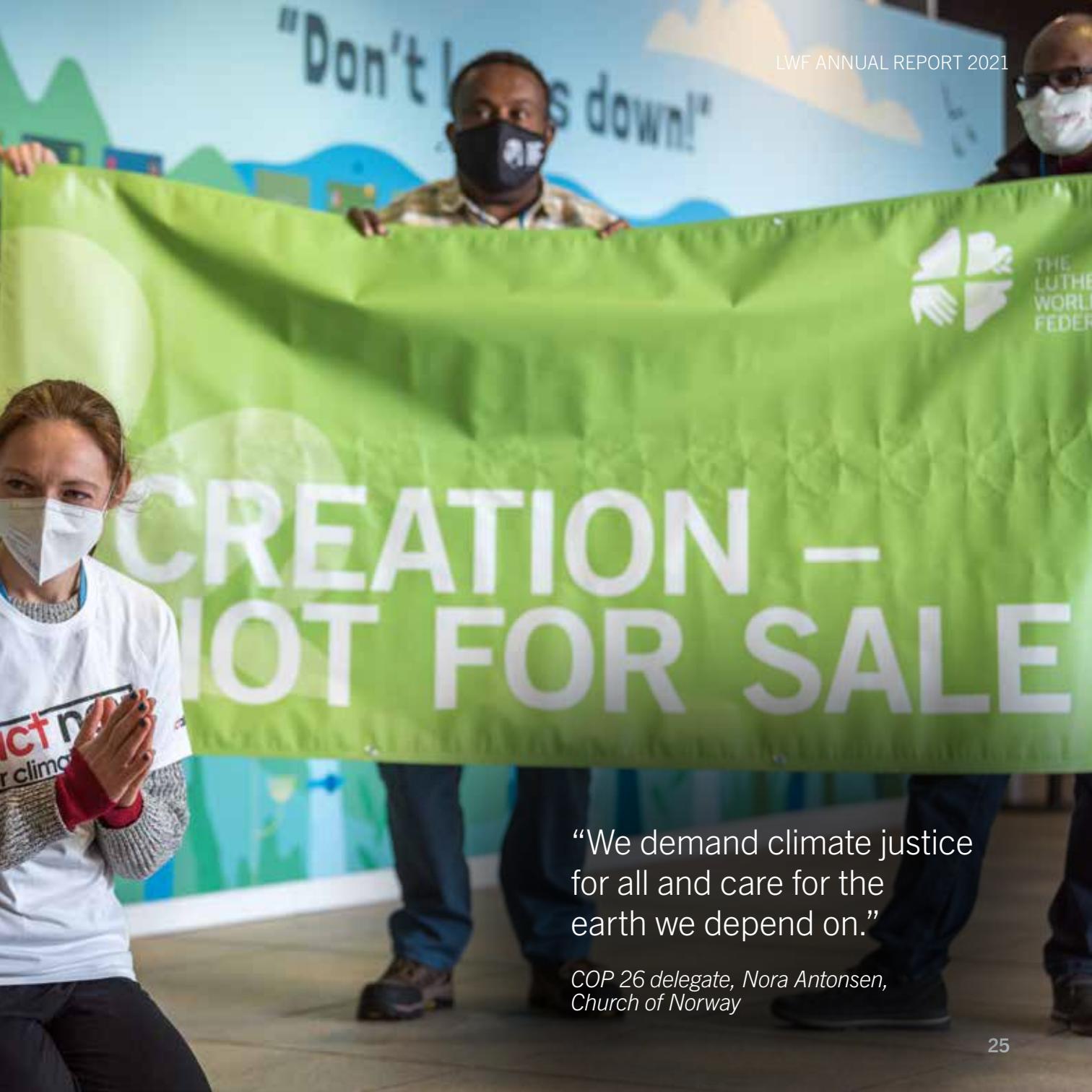
ing. LWF's support toward promotion of 16 Days of Activism against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) saw "365 days of zero tolerance" launched in Mberengwa district, central Zimbabwe. In Kismayu, Somalia, inter-school debates involving 80 pupils and 30 teachers provided a platform for SGBV awareness and inclusion of children with disabilities.

Innovative approaches and interfaith collaboration in peacebuilding connected local faith actors to regional and global platforms. Online and hybrid meetings to promote the "Welcoming the Stranger, Shaping the Future" initiative reached over 280 participants representing 135 organizations in 148 countries. Further, the LWF demonstrated the vital role of film in building capacity for social cohesion by partnering in a film festival to counteract the rising tide of extremism and xenophobia around the world. At a side event of the UN High Level Political Forum attended by 155 participants, LWF featured the work of its churches in Colombia, Indonesia and Namibia around the Sustainable Development Goals 13 (climate action) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

The LWF launched climate justice guidelines to support the work in its country programs. At COP 26, young people amplified LWF's advocacy for climate justice, with the 32-person delegation leading interfaith and other side events, and actively using social media to promote LWF's engagement on climate.



At COP 26, delegates from the LWF and its partner ACT Alliance join hands under the message, "Creation - Not for Sale." Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



CREATION – NOT FOR SALE



THE
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“We demand climate justice for all and care for the earth we depend on.”

*COP 26 delegate, Nora Antonsen,
Church of Norway*

Upholding dignity during emergencies

LWF's response to natural and human-made disasters is swift, thanks to the local presence of its international humanitarian and development arm, World Service.

In 2021 LWF reached nearly 2.5 million people, including more than 385,200 who needed direct emergency assistance.

The situation of Rohingya people from Myanmar remained precarious. Through its former country program in Bangladesh, RDRS, LWF provided food security and nutrition, education, means of earning a living, non-food items (NFIs) and accessibility to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to over 33,308 individuals. Over 65,533 locally adapted tree saplings were planted at the Cox's Bazar refugee camp, contributing to the camp's green initiative, which extends to the nearby host communities.

In Tigray, northern Ethiopia, where conflict fueled displace-

ment and famine-like conditions, LWF assisted 147,607 individuals. LWF responded with food security and nutrition programs, livelihoods' cash grants, protection programs, emergency shelter, NFIs and WASH, and deployed additional staff.

A 7.2-magnitude earthquake in Haiti left over 650,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, amid massive destruction and deaths. LWF and its partners assisted 182,826 individuals with emergency shelter, livelihoods through cash distribution, skills for disaster risk reduction and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

Through partners, LWF sustained its commitment to Syrian refugees, providing shel-



AVH receives support from local Palestinian institutions and communities, and volunteers are a large part of the hospital and its patients. Photo: AVH/ Palestinian Telecommunication Group (Paltel)



ter, psychosocial care and other basic needs to 7,734 Syrians and vulnerable Jordanians. In Iraq, 11,149 refugees had access to potable water, COVID-19 WASH kits, business recovery services and better social cohesion. In Mosul and Duhok governorates 29,090 internally displaced Iraqis and 23,868 returnees and host community members received support.

LWF and local partners in Venezuela including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela, supported 15,726 individuals—two-thirds of whom were women—to access better protection, health and nutrition, as well as hygiene and GBV prevention.

The Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in Jerusalem faced an acute cash crisis. Despite a forced halt in patient intake, it continued to “implement the vision of the LWF to give care and dignity to all people,” remarked Dr Fadi Atrash, Chief Executive Officer. The mammography mobile unit alone reached 9,185 vulnerable women with screening services and training on how to self-examine for breast cancer. Furthermore, AVH trained 96 frontline workers in diagnosing and treating diabetes.

Skills and tools that empower communities

LWF provides skills and tools that empower individuals and communities to live dignified lives.

An important component of LWF's work is strengthening child safeguarding and child protection capacities, for which work on a new policy began in 2021. In Uganda alone, over 50,000 refugees are children with specific child protection needs. The country program there served nearly 500,000 South Sudanese and Congolese refugees in 21 settlements, providing psychosocial services, child friendly spaces and advocacy platforms.

In South Sudan, training on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse was conducted for all LWF personnel, who besides national staff included over 1,360 incentive workers from the refugee population in Maban and Ajuong Thok.

The COVID-19 disruptions to economic systems called for additional livelihoods' support to the most vulnerable people. In Duhok, Iraq, a group of women and girls from Zawita sub-district began generating income after training in sewing. Over 100 farmers were trained to use new farming

technologies to boost agricultural production. In Hamdanya, Sinjar and Mosul districts, LWF in partnership with its local partners distributed farming equipment, and 10 greenhouses with drip irrigation systems along with seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, and seed capital to 35 micro, small and medium enterprises.

After years of living as refugees in neighboring Tanzania, thousands of Burundians returned to impoverished host communities. LWF supported especially female-headed households with small-income generating activities, as women have no formal right to land ownership. Such returnees were also allocated a plot to cultivate while host communities got seeds and basic tools, and both groups received emergency food vouchers.

In Myanmar's southeastern state of Kayin, LWF trained 37 farmers in new planting techniques that produce higher yields and better-quality.



In Burundi, LWF's support includes equipment to process food, an added value to agricultural production.
Photo: LWF Burundi/RAM



Following the earthquake in Haiti, LWF prioritized bringing potable water to local communities. Photo: LWF Haiti

Quality services, a basic right for all

When service provision breaks down, LWF steps in to ensure equitable access to quality education, water, energy and health care.

In northern Cameroon where LWF supports Nigerian refugees and IDPs fleeing the Boko Haram insurgency, the focus is on livelihoods, education, peace and social cohesion, WASH, energy and preserving the environment. During the year 6,615 students received educational kits, tricycles, wheelchairs and crutches, which boosts school attendance and performance.

The long dry season—December to May or April—decreases availability of potable water, pushing locals to rivers that are likely contaminated. The LWF in partnership with the UNHCR built seven solar-powered boreholes in the Minawao refugee camp and surrounding localities. The increased water supply nearly covered the standard requirement of 20 liters of water per person per day. The average of 140 cubic meters

of water produced daily meets the needs of potable water for drinking and cooking for up to 12,000 people.

An earthquake, political instability and the COVID-19 pandemic in Haiti put pressure on an already fragile system. LWF's assistance in partnership with others, transformed hand pumps into solar-powered pumps, bringing water to over 2,000 families in Basse-Voldroque in the commune of Jérémie. In the market town of Leon, a rehabilitated water supply system serves five communities. Despite the challenges in the country, a number of LWF-constructed houses following hurricane Matthew in 2016 withstood the 2021 earthquake, serving as a reminder of the enduring hope and resilience in the country.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee oversees the proper functioning of the LWF between Council meetings. It convenes twice a year. Elected at the 2017 LWF Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia, members of the com-

mittee serve a six-year term. It is made up of the President, seven Vice-Presidents, chairpersons of the Finance Committee, Committee for World Service and the specified Committees respectively.



President

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



Vice-Presidents

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



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



Central Eastern Europe

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



Central Western Europe

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



Nordic Countries -

Archbishop Dr Antje Jackelén. Head of Church of Sweden since 2014, former Bishop of Lund, 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.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Standing Committee for Constitution and Membership - Ms Ranjita Christi Borgeary, women's secretary, United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India.

Advocacy and Public Voice - Rev. Dr Jeannette Ada Epse Maina (see Vice-Presidents)

Photos: LWF/Albin Hillert



Four pillars

- Rescue for the needy
- Joint efforts in theology
- Shared witness to ecumenical u
- Common Initiatives in mission

- Communion: proclamation, wors
- service, public witness

Deep commitment to lead the Communion of Churches

LWF General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

In June 2021, the Council elected Rev. Anne Burghardt as General Secretary of the LWF, the first woman to head the organization.

An ordained pastor of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Burghardt took office on 1 November 2021. She was installed on 17 November at the Ecumenical Center Chapel in Geneva.

“I pray that my work can contribute to the growing together of the LWF member churches as they gather around Jesus Christ, the one who unites us all in our mission in the world.”

Leadership Team

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



Rev. Anne Burghardt
– General Secretary



Ms Eva Christina Nilsson
– Director, Department
for Theology, Mission and Justice



Ms Maria Immonen
– Director, Department
for World Service



Mr Szabolcs Lőrincz
– Director, Department
for Planning and Coordination



Rev. Árni Svanur Danielsson
– Head of Communication

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

Gratitude for churches' witness and serving people in need

On 31 October, the LWF communion bid farewell to General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge, an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, who had served in this position since 1 November 2010. Ahead of his departure, Junge said it had been a privilege and honor to serve the LWF.



Rev. Dr Martin Junge,
LWF General Secretary 2010-2021.
Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

“I cherish unforgettable memories from visits to member churches and continue to give thanks for each of them and [...] their witness to the good news of God’s liberating grace in Christ.”



Staff

LWF staff during the farewell for General Secretary Rev. Dr. Martin Junge. Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

In 2021, the work continued under difficult conditions due to the global health pandemic and a number of security situations. Despite restricted travel possibilities and intensive remote work, LWF remained close to the populations it serves and committed to its programmatic activities.

Staff hosted and participated in multiple webinars and online conferences, and program implementation was consistently followed through. The achievements highlighted in this report are the result of the collective effort of a competent and dedicated staff team, working from more than 40 different countries.



Geneva
Communion Office



International
staff



National staff



Incentive and
volunteers

Stable finances for long-term sustainability

The valued support of LWF's member churches and funding partners together with accountable management of financial resources are crucial for maintaining long-term stability.

Thanks to the sustained commitment of the member churches and partners, 2021 was another year with overall positive results. Implementation of approved program and project activities was secured as 99 percent of the budget was funded.

However, the continued impact of COVID-19 and measures adopted by governments in countries worldwide delayed implementation of projects, and a number of planned activities were postponed to 2022 after consultation with funding agencies.

Income

The substantial contributions from the member churches and funding partners show their strong commitment to the LWF. In 2021 they contributed generously, resulting in a consolidated income of EUR 162 million.

This represents a 13 percent increase over the EUR 143 million received in 2020.

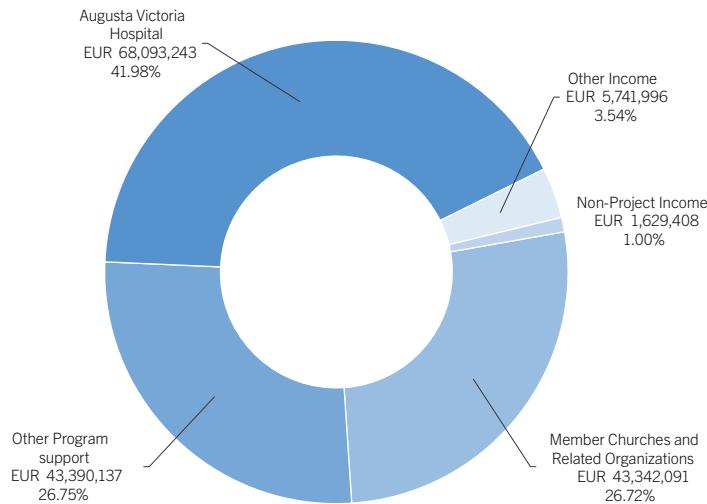
The main sources of income were membership fees, distribution from the LWF Endowment Fund, program support from church related agencies, the UN, European Union and United States government funding sources, other ecumenical partners, as well as individual donors.

Expenditure

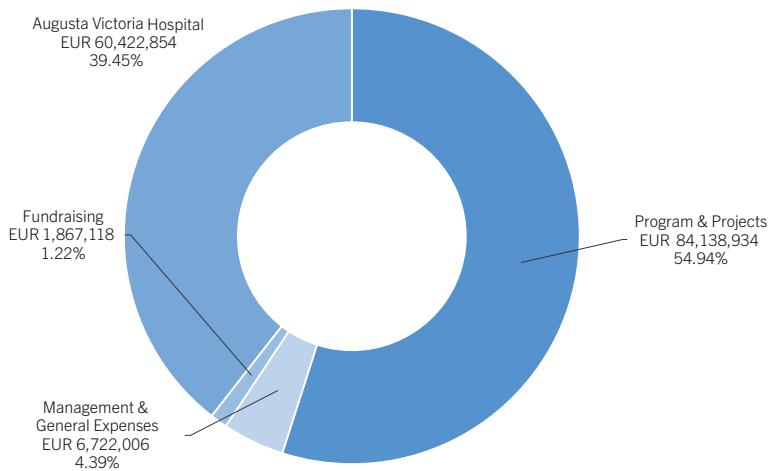
LWF's total expenditure in 2021 was EUR 153 million. The amount is 10 percent higher than the EUR 139 million spent in 2020.

There was more designated funding to LWF's humanitarian response, and increased revenue from patient services provided by the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem.

Income 2021



Expenditure 2021



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.



The LWF Endowment Fund

Established in 1999, the LWF Endowment Fund (LWB Stiftung) provides financial stability for LWF's work. At 31 December 2021 total assets of the Fund amounted to CHF 18.7 million. Its investment income is allocated annually to LWF's program and project activities.

In 2021, the Endowment Fund board approved a distribution of CHF 968,438 to LWF programs in 2022.

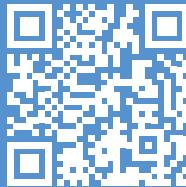
The yearly allocation helps the LWF to present a budget without huge funding gaps for key strategic programs where donor support is no longer available.

LWF Endowment Fund
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Switzerland

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Established in 1947,
The Lutheran World Federation is a global
communion of 148 member churches with
over 77 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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