



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020–2021







**Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief**

## **OUR VISION**

A healthy and sustainable world where people live in peace with hope, justice, dignity and equality.

## **OUR MISSION**

Inspired by God's love for the world, CLWR challenges and responds to the injustice which causes human suffering and poverty.

With your support, we're partnering with Canadian Foodgrains Bank in El Salvador to provide climate-indexed crop insurance to vulnerable farmers in Central America's dry corridor. This innovative approach offers insurance payments automatically dispersed based on real-time satellite data, providing protection against drought and flood to farmers like Maria Nicolasa Oviedo (above) and Julio Gonzales Vasquez (front cover).



# GREETINGS

## DEAR FRIENDS,

It's my honour to offer to you this report on our 2020-2021 fiscal year on the pages that follow.

This year marked our 75th anniversary, a truly special milestone. I'm proud of so many things we accomplished together through this challenging year, but I'm most excited to see brand new things still happening after 75 years.

This movement started when the world was in crisis, and Lutherans in Canada heard and responded. But their response was never stagnant—even in just the first few years, our approach shifted several times as the world changed and as we learned from those we serve.

That spirit of continual reformation is in our DNA as an organization. So it's fitting, I think, that in our 75th year, we made difficult decisions to move on from some things — like our beloved We Care program — while at the

same time launching brand new initiatives we've never seen before.

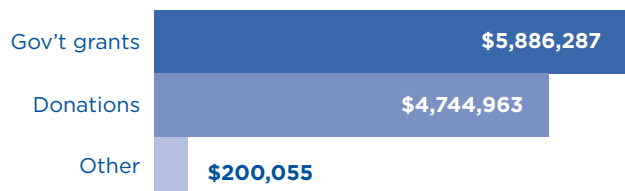
One great example is pictured to the left: Maria is one of the farmers in El Salvador taking part in a new satellite-linked climate insurance project that will reduce farmers' vulnerability to drought and flooding, and let them stay on their land growing food for their communities.

Just like 75 years ago, this work we're doing is only possible because of the movement of Canadians who stand beside us. So on behalf of our team, our partners, and thousands of people like Maria, please accept my thanks.

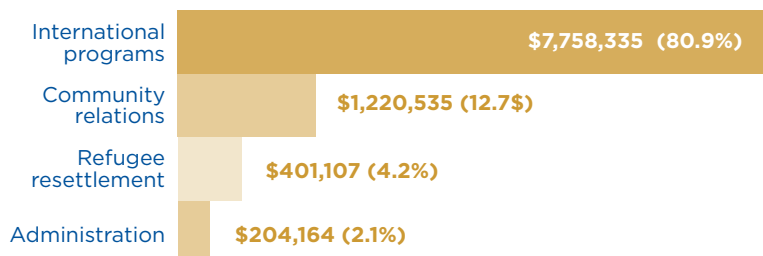
Deepest blessings,

Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



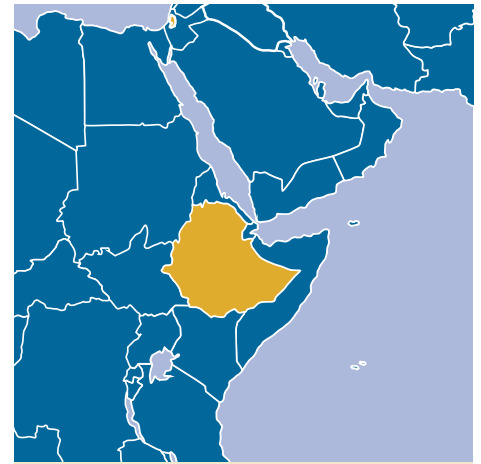


# ETHIOPIA

**In Ethiopia**, our work last year spanned three diverse regions of a country dealing with internal conflict, food insecurity, and the impacts of climate change, as drought and erratic weather increase at a faster rate than in much of the world.

In the northern states of Afar and Amhara, where farming communities and pastoralists are struggling against worsening conditions, our partners used modern irrigation schemes and watershed management to give whole communities access to water to farm with, giving thousands of people better access to nutritious, local food.

In East Haraghe, where conflict has forced many from their homes, we partnered with the Government of Canada to provide emergency support to thousands of displaced families.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### BENEFICIARIES

**58,482**

### FOCUS AREAS

**Food security, nutrition,  
climate adaptation,  
livelihoods, gender equity,  
emergency response**

## KEY IMPACTS

**1,200**

women starting their  
own businesses

**49,000**

people with better  
access to clean water,  
hygiene and sanitation

**1,300**

families with food and  
income from their own  
farms

In Lalibela, community members were paid to help build the irrigation systems that are now providing clean water for thousands of people.



*Numbers represent preliminary estimates at the time of project approval.*

# EL SALVADOR

**El Salvador** is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate risks in the world, as small-scale farmers face the threat of increasingly unpredictable rainfall and temperatures.

Already, more than half of households in El Salvador are suffering from some degree of chronic food insecurity. The farmers bearing these risks often face the trap of needing to borrow to finance inputs, losing those inputs to climate-related shocks, then falling further into debt. And many face significant barriers in accessing traditional crop insurance, making their livelihoods precarious and putting food security in their communities even more at risk. This new project, using a model that's new to both CLWR and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is helping farmers access climate-indexed crop insurance, with payments automatically dispersed based on real-time satellite data.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### BENEFICIARIES

**3,000**

### FOCUS AREAS

Food security, climate adaptation, livelihoods, gender equity

## KEY IMPACTS

**600**

families protected from drought and flood by weather-indexed climate insurance

**360**

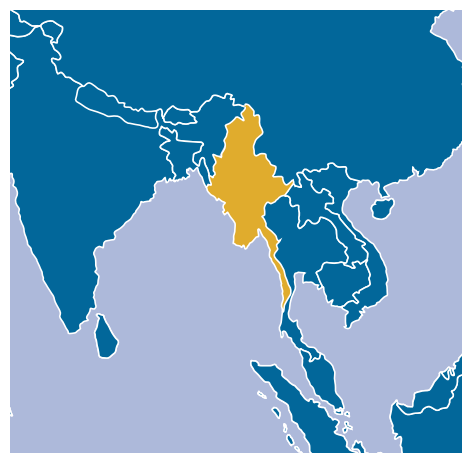
female-headed households less likely to take measures like selling land or migrating

Maria Estela Alfa (centre) and her family are among the first farmers to participate in our new climate insurance project in El Salvador.



# MYANMAR

**The humanitarian situation** in Myanmar is characterized by complex needs in the context of armed conflicts, ethnic violence and widespread discrimination. Thanks to our partner LWF Myanmar, CLWR is responding to the needs of these vulnerable populations. Based on the priorities identified by beneficiaries, our focus is on basic urgent needs including access to clean water, hygiene supplies, safety and security for women and girls, and working towards the increased representation and leadership of women in local institutions.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### BENEFICIARIES

**84,917**

### FOCUS AREAS

Shelter, water, hygiene, gender equity

## KEY IMPACTS

**4,342**

people with supplies to manage menstrual health

**4,480**

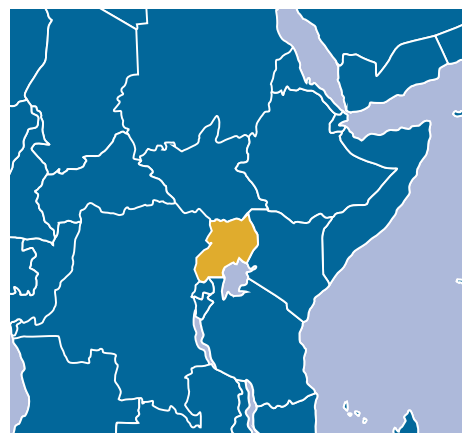
people with better access to clean water

**29**

safe multi-family shelters, designed for women and girls

# UGANDA

**While the Civil War** in South Sudan officially ended in 2020, hundreds of thousands of refugees remain across the border in Northern Uganda. Humanitarian funding has not kept pace with growing needs. Building on a history of work in the region with LWF Uganda, CLWR is providing life-saving support, including improving safe water sources, ensuring access to hygiene facilities and supplies (including menstrual health management), developing income generation opportunities, and making camps safer.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### BENEFICIARIES

**24,070**

### FOCUS AREAS

Water, sanitation, livelihoods, protection, refugees

## KEY IMPACTS

**10**

community water points rehabilitated

**1,625**

people with the support and training to start businesses

**150**

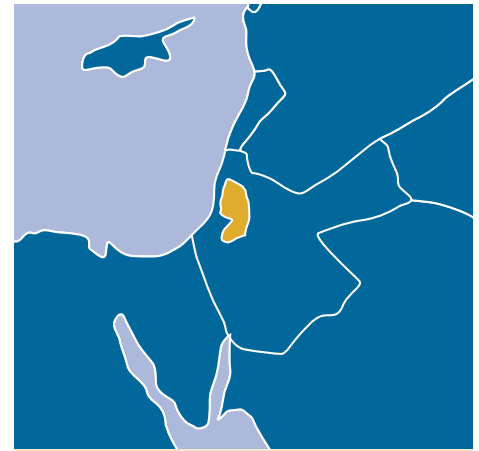
latrines constructed or repaired



# PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

**Among Palestinians**, unemployment is a key driver of poverty, with especially high rates among female youth and people with disabilities. Building off the success of ongoing technical and vocational education programs, CLWR and LWF Jerusalem have launched a major new project supporting women and people with disabilities in accessing technical and vocational education. This project will both grow the quality and accessibility of existing institutions, and support individual women in accessing these programs. Preliminary work including accessibility renovations began in the previous fiscal year, with the first enrollments under the program occurring in Fall 2021.

CLWR also continues to support Augusta Victoria Hospital as it adapts to maintain critical medical services during the global pandemic.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### BENEFICIARIES

**20,000**

### FOCUS AREAS

**Education, poverty reduction, gender equity**

## KEY IMPACTS

**1,143**

women in technical or vocational programs

**912**

permanent new spaces created for women

**112**

women with disabilities receiving accessible technical or vocational training

With your support and the support of the Government of Canada, hundreds of Palestinian women are improving their job prospects through technical and vocational training programs.

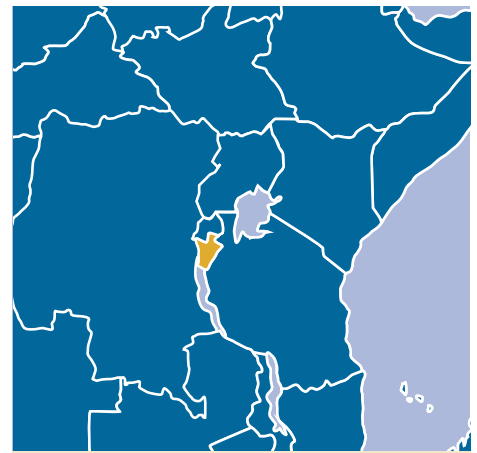


# BURUNDI

**When violence erupted** after contested elections in 2015, more than half a million people in Burundi were forced from their homes. In recent years, as violence has declined, many have returned, which has put further strain on widespread food insecurity—even before COVID-19, which was expected to have devastating impact locally.

In 2020, it was found that nearly two out of three acutely food-insecure households in Burundi are returnees.

Together with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, CLWR began an emergency response both to address immediate food shortages and hunger, and to help communities build longer-term food security.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### BENEFICIARIES

**3,000**

### FOCUS AREAS

Food security, nutrition,  
climate adaptation,  
livelihoods, gender equity,  
emergency response

## KEY IMPACTS

**600**

families with enough food  
to eat, and support to grow  
their own

**360**

female-headed households  
with better food security

**\$945k**

new food project launching  
now, building on this  
project's success

Violence forced Euphémie Nzeyimana to flee Burundi, and when she was able to return, everything had been taken. Your gifts provided emergency food and support to rebuild her life.





# EMERGENCY RESPONSES

**When an earthquake, hurricane or other hazard strikes a region where CLWR isn't operating, we partner to mobilize an immediate response through ACT Alliance, a coalition of 135 church bodies and faith-based organizations across 120 countries. Crucially, this partnership allows us to respond to disasters that are devastating communities even if they aren't making the news in Canada.**

Below are some of our recent emergency responses together with ACT Alliance:



After a major earthquake struck Haiti in August 2021, CLWR partners immediately responded through ACT Alliance with shelter, water and emergency supplies.

## THE BAHAMAS

Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas as a massive Category 5 Hurricane in late 2019, devastating areas of the country. A primary need identified by local church partners was to address the trauma of children and adults after the experience. Through ACT partner Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas, CLWR has supported emergency psychosocial/trauma support for 6,000 people, helping them heal and recover after this extreme crisis.

## INDONESIA

ACT members launched a major response after Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia was rocked by a 7.4 magnitude earthquake and the tsunami that followed it in late 2018. With funding from the Humanitarian Coalition, CLWR contributed to this ACT response, which has included shelter rehabilitation, water and sanitation, medical care and livelihoods support.

## LEBANON

After a major explosion rocked the port district of Beirut in August 2020, hundreds of thousands were left homeless and the country's food supply was critically disrupted. Together with ACT partner Norwegian Church Aid, CLWR's response included providing food, health and education support, trauma care, and cash support for the most vulnerable in targeted locations.

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

**Our refugee resettlement program** has faced enormous challenges over the last year, as pandemic restrictions have limited our ability to help churches sponsor refugees to Canada, but we celebrate the 51 new Canadians who arrived in our last fiscal year thanks to the generosity of Lutheran churches across Canada.

CLWR staff have been part of ongoing conversations with the Government of Canada to ensure the safe continuation of this critical program.

“The pandemic hasn’t diminished the need for refugee sponsorship — if anything, it’s increased the impact,” says Jennifer Ardon, one of CLWR’s refugee program managers.

“Refugees have already lost their homeland, they’re struggling in temporary host countries and they’re looking to us to give them an opportunity to settle somewhere,” according to senior policy advisor Fikre Tsehai. “There are a million and a half refugees who have already been screened and approved, who have no other issues, and who are in desperate circumstances, just sitting there trying to find a country

that will take them, but in 2020, only 57,600 people were resettled worldwide.”

“We fully support the health measures in place, but people are in dangerous situations,” explained Ardon earlier this year. “They get proper COVID-19 screening abroad before travelling to Canada, then they quarantine carefully when they get here, so it’s a safe and a critical process.”

Tsehai agrees, explaining, “These are the most vulnerable of the vulnerable. They have already been displaced, as refugees they have basic necessities unmet, and you add to that the pandemic. That’s why we’ve been advocating with the government that refugee travel should be considered essential travel — that all health requirements should be carefully followed, but then the travel should be considered essential, as an urgent humanitarian undertaking.”

With the partnership of Canadian churches, CLWR worked to resettle 51 refugees in Canada from April 2020 through March 2021. New arrivals came from Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Eritrea.

## ARRIVALS LAST YEAR

51

## COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Afghanistan, Eritrea,  
Iran, Iraq, Syria

Nuur Hassan Digale (right) and his family, originally from Somalia, arrived in Winnipeg just before the pandemic, sponsored by NEST Winnipeg, an affiliation of Lutheran and United church volunteers.





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CLWR carries out relief, development and refugee resettlement work on behalf of



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CLWR programs are implemented in partnership with



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