



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

partnership

Your generosity
in action

Fall 2022

Your quick response has enabled our partners on the ground to deliver emergency support to families in sub-Saharan Africa affected by the historic hunger crisis.

Thank you — your support is saving lives!

Photo by Fekete Daniel/HVA



Dear friends,

I'm so thankful for you.

It's been a difficult year so far. It's a year that started with the continued uncertainty of COVID-19, then quickly became dominated by the crisis in Ukraine, and then a dire, widespread food crisis—before the year was even half over. Now, it's historic flooding in Pakistan, and record heat in places from the US to China.

If it feels like the pace of these “historic” events is picking up, you're not alone in that feeling—and you're probably not wrong.

As a link between Lutherans in Canada and this work around the world, we try to do our part in making sure you're aware of what's happening in the world and giving you the opportunity to help. But out of all the ways we communicate, I most look forward to these newsletters. This is where we get to tell you some stories that you probably won't find in the news or on social media.

They're often small stories—perhaps how one single life has changed. It might be a new garden that's been planted, or the story of a family who received a bit of help to get them

through a crisis. But these small stories are so important, and they represent so many thousands like them. These are the stories that remind us that there is hope—and that's what the people in the stories tell us, too.

Over and over again, the people we speak with tell us that because of the support they received—because you stood with them—things are different now. They have hope, and they have plans for the future. And you helped make it happen.

Without these stories, the headlines might overwhelm us all. So I hope you'll take a moment to read these brief updates, and to pray for those mentioned, and for the work of CLWR. And I'm praying that today you'll feel that same sense of hope as you read.

These are the stories of how, beneath the big picture and the historic crises, your gifts are enabling transformation, unlocking ability and saving lives.

Thank you.

Deepest blessings,

Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director

We're always ready to tell you more about how your gift is making a difference!

Contact our office any time at 1-800-661-2597

Ethiopia | Responding to a historic hunger crisis

After years of progress toward global food security, the last few years have had devastating effect.

Drought, Covid-19, conflict and shifting climates had already crippled farming across sub-Saharan Africa. And now, the Ukraine crisis has severely disrupted supply chains and driven up the prices of food, fuel, and fertilizer. In countries like Ethiopia, the risk of starvation has become very real.

For women like Bizunesh Mamo, a mother of five living in Ethiopia, the ongoing drought is putting the lives of her family and community at risk.

Bizunesh's late husband was a farmer and the family lived off their land. Then she lost her husband to ethnic conflict in her region. It became impossible for her to work her farm without help.

“We were farmers. We have land and my husband used to work on the land. But now, who is the farmer? Who can harvest on our field? Nothing is

sown on our land, no one farms on our land. I also can't rent out the land because there is no water in the area for irrigation,” she said.

Thanks to your quick and generous response, CLWR partners were able to provide lifesaving assistance in the form of food, water, and livelihood support to families like Bizunesh's who were affected by this historic hunger crisis.

“My family has something to eat now, God knows about the future. I can make bread, porridge, and drinks using the flour I got from the support.”

Your generous gifts are saving lives - thank you!

Cover Image: Bizunesh Mamo, with her three youngest children. Her family received food assistance from CLWR partner LWF Ethiopia. (Photo: CLWR/Genaye Eshetu)



Floods destroyed Pageer Arok Pageer's livelihood and forced his family of seven to flee to a camp for Internally Displaced Persons. (Photo: LWF South Sudan)

South Sudan | Emergency support for vulnerable families

Recurring floods as well as conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic have uprooted hundreds of thousands of families in South Sudan. Left without housing, livestock, or crops in overcrowded camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), many of these families are at risk of acute food insecurity.

Sixty-two-year-old Pageer Arok Pageer is the head of one such family. When floods destroyed his sorghum farm and killed his livestock, he fled with his wife and five daughters to an IDP camp in Twic East County. "I had a farm where I used to harvest sorghum and green vegetables, and there were cows for milk," says Pageer, "At least I used to get food for my family for 7-8 months in a year. Then, life became a nightmare; our area is still under water, we are IDPs."

With your generous support, and that of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, CLWR partners provided emergency food assistance to hundreds of families like Pageer's.

The cash assistance has allowed Pageer to purchase food from the local market for his family. "We used it to buy sorghum, beans, oil, sugar, fish, vegetable and charcoal for cooking," he said, "...it helped us to keep some food for coming months."

Thank you for being a critical part of these life-saving efforts.

Ukraine | Addressing both immediate & long-term needs

As the conflict surpasses six months, CLWR partners on the ground continue to provide basic humanitarian aid, protection and other life-saving services in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Because of your generous support, our partners have been able to distribute over 1,000 tonnes of food and non-food items and 6 tonnes of medicine to families in need through the ACT Alliance and the Lutheran World Federation member agencies.

Longer term needs of refugees are also being continuously assessed. Displaced Ukrainians are receiving housing and cash assistance, along with counseling and psychosocial support, employment and protection services, etc. For children, summer camps, drama programs and educational support activities have been organized.

Small grants are also being provided to community groups that are meeting the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs). One example of this is START, a project focused on meeting the developmental needs of children with autism and other special needs. The project currently supports 30 IDP families with special needs children, helping them to process the trauma of their experience in a positive, tranquil environment.

Your support is providing displaced families with vital supplies and services. Thank you!

The START team used grants to purchase sensory boxes, stacking toys and other supplies necessary for learning and play (Photo: Simon Chambers/ACT)



Your Stories | Limonade Stand for Ukraine



For the past several years (except during pandemic lockdowns), eleven-year-old twins Maddox and Noah, along with their thirteen-year-old sister Maraika, had started a tradition. On Easter Sunday afternoons, when their Nana hosted an art show, the three children would sell cookies and drinks at a limonade stand on her driveway.

Each year, they would get together to plan the equipment they would need and make posters. Nana would make the cookies and, with their help, the limonade. And every year, the three children would also discuss how much of their proceeds they would keep for themselves and how much would go to someone in need. This year, however, they decided to send all the money to help those affected by the crisis in Ukraine.

On Easter Sunday, they set up their table at the top of Nana's driveway, put up their poster and tried not to eat any of the product while they waited for customers. Like previous years, they kept their stand open for about 5 hours. A few of the customers gave them extra money once they realized where the proceeds were going. At the end of the day, they were excited to have raised as much as they did and very pleased to be able to help the families of Ukraine through CLWR.

Thanks Maddox, Noah and Maraika for your big hearts and for sharing with the people of Ukraine—and thanks to our whole community of supporters across the country for your creative, generous support of CLWR!



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