



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

partnership

Your generosity
in action

Fall 2023



Your support is
providing hope
for families
facing crisis in
places like Chad.

Thank you — your support is saving lives!



Dear friends,

I'm happy to share with you a few updates from our work around the world and show you how your partnership with CLWR is making a difference.

We deeply appreciate not only your gifts but your ongoing prayer for our work and for those we serve. CLWR's mandate is to respond to some of the most difficult situations in the world, providing hope and comfort in Jesus' name, and it is a responsibility we take seriously. But it would not be possible without you.

Around the world, with your help, our partners are responding – both in the situations that are making the headlines and in places that are not. We've launched several new disaster responses over the last months that you can learn more about below, and I'm so excited to introduce you to our Nature-Based Solutions project, which you can read about on the next page.

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

In so many communities around the world, your partnership is making a difference by not only providing emergency support for today, but helping families get through crisis and rebuild their lives.

With the Advent season upon us, I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity we have to do this work, and for your trust in CLWR.

I hope you enjoy this small collection of updates from some of our recent efforts, and I ask that you please continue to keep our work in your prayers.

Thank you.

Deepest blessings,

Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director



An arial view of Eastern Chad. Warming temperatures are hurting agricultural production and temperatures in the region are projected to rise 1.5 times faster than the global average. (Photo: LWF Chad)

Chad & Cameroon | Nature based solutions

The world is warming, extreme weather is increasing, and we're experiencing a critical loss of biodiversity. Whole ecosystems that have supported life for millennia are rapidly unravelling. And ultimately, real people are suffering—hunger is on the rise, disasters are affecting more people, and lives are at stake.

That's why we're so grateful to be part of an exciting new partnership with funding from Global Affairs Canada, focused on regions where ecosystems are showing the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

In consultation with hundreds of families in Cameroon and Chad, we've designed an initiative called Nature-Based Solutions which will be carried out alongside thousands of local farmers as we restore land, reforest, push adoption of sustainable farming and water management practices, and include voices that have been left out.

We expect that in the 2.5-year lifetime of this project, over 128,000 people will benefit directly from an improved ecosystem—with better nutrition, water access, crop yields, and sustainable futures—and an additional 640,000 people will be able to live and work in ecosystems that will have been restored.

Your support is enabling us to take care of creation so it can take care of us!

Beyond the headlines | Responding to crises around the world

With your generous support, CLWR is bringing hope and relief to vulnerable communities around the world facing crises.

ARMENIA: The recapture by Azerbaijan of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh caused 120,000 ethnic Armenians to flee. These forcibly displaced families are reaching Armenia hungry, exhausted and in need of psycho-social support. Through our partners in the ACT Alliance, CLWR is responding with emergency food, hygiene products, and cash support.

CHAD: Sudanese refugees forced to cross into Chad due to armed conflict in Sudan have limited access to food, basic household supplies, shelter, or sanitation. With support from the Humanitarian Coalition and the Government of Canada, CLWR partner LWF Chad is responding by providing materials for shelter, household items, and hygiene products, fixing water supplies and constructing latrines.

HAITI: Haiti has been grappling with heavy floods and landslides as well as massive earthquakes. These disasters have caused widespread damage to homes and other infrastructure. CLWR partners are responding with cash assistance, prioritizing

vulnerable groups such as the elderly, people living with disabilities, and female-headed households.

INDIA: Clashes between ethnic groups in the state of Manipur have resulted in over 200 deaths and thousands injured, as well as the destruction of 2,000 homes and 200 churches. CLWR responded to a call for help and support from the Manipur Evangelical Lutheran Church (MELC) and is helping provide food, shelter, and hygiene products to the families affected by this conflict.

SOMALIA: Heavy rains have brought catastrophic floods to southern Somalia, devastating communities still trying to recover from record-breaking drought. CLWR partners are providing emergency shelter, water, and sanitation facilities, and working to prevent gender-based violence within communities that have been displaced by this crisis.

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

Cover Image: Conflict forced Khadidja Mahamat Saleh to flee across the border from Sudan to Chad with her family. (Photo: LWF Chad)

South Sudan | From farming to fishing

Devastating floods in South Sudan's Jonglei State uprooted the lives of over 400,000 people, forcing them to flee to higher ground. The floodwaters transformed farmlands, leaving families with no choice but to fish on land they once harvested.

Crop farming and livestock were the main income sources for Riak Garang Horok, a single mother of three children living in Maar, Jonglei State. But flooding swept away her crops and killed her livestock, leaving the family without a home or livelihood.

Thanks to your support, our partners were able to deliver food assistance to vulnerable families like Riak's who were affected by the flooding. Our partners also provided cash assistance and fishing kits to those whose land was flooded in order to help them adapt to the drastically altered landscape.

Riak said, "I received cash assistance for 5 months and a fishing kit. This helped me and my family...I was able to meet basic needs and learn new skills in fishing and fish preservation, which is a new livelihood option for me. I catch fish for consumption and keep some of the surplus to sell to meet other basic needs, including buying more nets for more catch. This is how we have been surviving the situation."

Your gifts made such a difference for families like Riak's. Thank you!

Riak Garang Horok preparing the fish she caught using fishing kits. (Photo: LWF South Sudan)



Your Stories | Artist uses creative skills to raise funds

When Cassandra Hay learned about the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and northern Syria, she wondered what she could do. “I study and make art, that’s what I do best,” said Hay, 20, an animation student at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver.

Knowing that many people were using Zoom for meetings, Hay decided to make images honouring Turkey and Syria that could be purchased for use as Zoom backgrounds. Hay is donating half of the proceeds of the purchases to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), to help provide emergency supplies and shelter, and support repair and rehabilitation efforts.

“I wanted to show the beautiful landscapes and nature of those countries,” she said, noting she also made a background of sunflowers to support CLWR’s work in Ukraine. “It was a way to use art to support people affected by the earthquakes and war,” said Hay, who is from Winnipeg and a member of Grace Lutheran Church in that city.

So far, she has sold several backgrounds already, including to two businesses which have made them available to their employees for Zoom backgrounds.

One business that bought her backgrounds is Bento Engine, a U.S. based financial investment company. “I was moved by her dedication to this cause and wanted to contribute in any way I could,” said Charlotte Ketelaar, Chief of Staff at the company. “The backgrounds are beautiful and well-designed, and we have been using it in Bento’s virtual meetings to raise awareness about the fundraiser and the work that Cassandra is doing,” she said, adding, “It has been a wonderful conversation starter in my virtual meetings.”

Ketelaar meets approximately 50 to 100 people each week; around 95 percent of them have commented on the Zoom background of a beautiful sunflower field, she said. “It’s amazing how a simple change in scenery can positively impact someone’s mood and set the tone for a productive meeting,” she noted. “The sunflower background never fails to brighten up everyone’s day and make our meetings more enjoyable.”

For Hay, the experience of making the backgrounds shows that anyone can do something to help others in need. “I have gifts and skills in art, so I can do that to raise funds,” she said. “It’s a way to show I care.”

Along with backgrounds for Turkey and Syria, Hay has made one to support CLWR’s work in Ukraine. To see Cassandra’s work, visit purposefulcolour.com.

A big thank you to Cassandra and to everyone across the country who are using their creativity and skills to make a difference through CLWR!



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