



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief



partnership

Your generosity
in action

Summer 2021



This summer, you responded quickly and generously to help thousands of people in need during the devastating second wave of COVID-19 in India. Thanks to your fast response, our partners on the ground were able to provide cash support, awareness/sensitization on COVID and hygiene kits to 45,000 people in 9,000 households.

Thank you — your support is making a difference!



Dear friends,

What a strange mix of feelings we all have at this moment.

For many of us, as restrictions are eased and vaccination rates climb, it's starting to feel like we might be leaving this era behind us. What a relief that would be!

If this is the case, and our loosened restrictions are here to stay, signaling a gradual return to "normalcy," I celebrate with you all! May the rest of 2021 be blessed with sweet reunions, earnest hugs, and all the things you've missed the most.

I must also urge you, though, not to consider this chapter closed.

In many places, the pandemic is only just starting, and reports are getting worse every day. In countries throughout the majority world, economic disruptions and extreme weather have combined to increase food insecurity, pushing more and more people to the edge of hunger—and now we're seeing new, deadlier strains spreading in these regions, including among the millions already living in discriminatory poverty. Many countries are still struggling to establish even a trickle of vaccine supply.

We called on you several weeks ago to respond to an unfolding crisis in India, and your response

was immediate—thank you. It will make such a difference. But of course, the crisis is not over in India—nor in nearby Nepal, Bangladesh or Myanmar, or in Uganda, or in Venezuela, as this deadly virus compounds the plight of those already suffering immense injustice.

When the pandemic started, we saw many predictions about the "charitable sector" in Canada and how it might struggle. And that has been true in places. But we at CLWR have been profoundly moved by your faith and your commitment to not leave anyone behind even as your own communities have fought this battle. Your faith has kept you absolutely steadfast in compassion— *"like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream... it does not cease to bear fruit."* (Jer. 17:7-8)

We have not finished this fight, but you have clearly shown us we will be able to count on you, and I am so grateful. I hope the stories that follow will provide encouragement to you along the way and show you what it really means to have you as a partner.

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

Myanmar | Ensuring safe spaces for women and girls

The 2021 military coup and the COVID-19 pandemic have further complicated the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. Your support has enabled us to partner with Lutheran World Federation-Myanmar over the past several years in helping those displaced by the crises tackle these growing challenges.

Your generosity has allowed us to provide clean drinking water and menstrual hygiene products, build skills, support entrepreneurship, raise awareness of rights, develop leadership and ensure everyone's involvement in decision making processes.

In particular, we've successfully rebuilt 29 longhouses, each able to shelter eight families. While the work has slowed due to pandemic restrictions, we are well on our way to rebuilding another 21 long-houses. We've worked to ensure these shelters are safe, especially for women and girls.

Your support was essential in providing safe spaces for vulnerable women and girls - thank you.



With your help, 29 longhouses have already been completely rebuilt and 21 more are in the process of being repaired. (Photo: LWF Myanmar)



Générose hopes she will be able to restart her farm with quality seeds and other farming tools. (Photo: LWF Burundi)

Burundi | Longer term solutions to build resilience

In 2020, your generous gifts allowed us to provide short-term emergency food assistance to vulnerable families in Burundi who were facing a hunger crisis made worse by COVID-19. Now, with your help, as well as the support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we're transitioning our efforts towards longer-term solutions.

Générose Ntihabose's family used to earn a comfortable income farming cassava and bananas, and rearing livestock. The conflict forced them to flee to Tanzania, where they got by as laborers. Upon returning to Burundi, they found their crops ravaged by disease.

Our work will aim to reduce hunger and promote sustainable livelihoods primarily among female-headed households like Générose's, returning refugees and their hosts in the Ruyigi and Cankuzo provinces.

Working with 900 households in 10 villages, we will continue to provide immediate food support to those in need, as well as training farmers, supplying seeds and agricultural tools, setting up village savings and loan groups, and supporting the rehabilitation of community resources through cash-for-work initiatives. A key target of the program will be addressing gender inequality by focusing on female farmers.

With your support, Générose will have access to the seeds and tools she needs to restart farming.

Thank you for playing a critical role in helping rebuild lives and livelihoods.

Lebanon | Nutritious meals for a family in need

Randa is a single mother living in the Bourj Hammoud municipality of Lebanon. She is the sole provider for her two sons, Patrick and Sleiman. The family was already struggling to make ends meet when the Beirut factory explosion in 2020 damaged their home and left them traumatized.

Randa lost her job as a housekeeper due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis in Lebanon. Her son Sleiman also became unemployed. Without formal employment for almost a year and money due in back rent, the family cannot afford basic necessities, including food. Randa has had to move in with her brother Robert, a father of two who is also unemployed.

CLWR partner Norwegian Church Aid has been providing hot meals to vulnerable families like Randa's three times a week. "If I don't receive this food, my family and I would go without any," Randa says.

Your support is helping Randa and Robert ensure basic nutrition for themselves and their children - thank you!

A field team member delivering lunch for Randa and her family. (Photo: Norwegian Church Aid)



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY ON

CLWR SUNDAY 2021

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Liturgical resources will be available

Beaverbrae Story | Rudy & Ruth Knippelberg

In January 1945, braving the frigid winter, 7-year-old Rudy Knippelberg and his family fled East Prussia along with hundreds of thousands of refugees, in the face of the final Soviet offensive against Nazi Germany.

Rudy and his family miraculously made it to the western half of Germany and found shelter. This meant they were in the Allied zone of occupation when the war ended, allowing them to come to Canada with the help of Canadian Lutheran World Relief. “That’s what he always said, it was a miracle,” says his widow Ruth, 82, recalling how Rudy described the escape. “He remembered how they looked for shelter wherever they could find it, picking maggots out of his food, and how the family picked lice out of each other’s hair,” she says. “He didn’t talk much about that time,” she adds. “He always just said ‘We did what needed to be done.’”

For Rudy, who died in 2003 at the age of 65, that trip on the Beaverbrae in 1949 was an exciting adventure. After arriving in Canada the family worked in the orchards, purchased their own home, and started to build a new life in a new country.

A new life in Oliver was hard for a kid from Germany who spoke little English. “He remembered being teased and ridiculed by other boys,” Ruth says. But that all changed when they saw him play soccer. “Suddenly, everyone wanted him on their team,” she says, adding, “Rudy would often say ‘Soccer saved me.’” Ruth and Rudy met in Oliver; her father was pastor of St. Paul Lutheran, where Rudy’s family attended. They married in 1959. Rudy became a teacher, teaching elementary and high school physical education and math. Among his proudest achievements were coaching students who went on to become Olympic athletes.

Today Ruth, who also had a career in teaching, is a member at Grace Lutheran Church in nearby Osoyoos. She is continuing the family tradition of supporting by buying a Gift from the Heart for her six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren every Christmas. “It’s to remind them of how CLWR helped us, and how we can help others,” she says.



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