



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief



# partnership

Your generosity  
in action

Winter 2022



*Thank you for your  
partnership in 2021!*

PHOTO: ACT ALLIANCE



**“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” – Galatians 6:9**

Dear friends,

This is now the second year in a row where I am writing a “year-in-recap” letter about a year that was defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, and crises, challenges and tragedy worldwide. But I am incredibly grateful to observe that you have not grown weary in doing good.

Your support for CLWR has remained constant, faithful, and growing, and for this I thank you. Because of your kindness, there are so many good news stories happening in our world. They may not make the news, but as this pandemic puts lives and livelihoods at risk, and as communities continue to face the threats of conflict, disaster and climate, your gifts are changing lives and sharing hope.

If there was a theme to our year, as an organization, it might have been adaptation. 2021 was our 75th anniversary,

and we were constantly adjusting our plans for celebrating that milestone based on the shifting situation in Canada. At the same time, our projects around the world faced enormous upheaval, and here I must credit our program staff and especially our implementing partners who, together, showed such commitment to making sure this work continued no matter the circumstances and that your support reached the places it was needed most.

I’m happy to send you this newsletter now and share some names and faces with you, and I hope you’ll take some encouragement knowing that they are just a few of the many, many thousands that have been touched by your support over the last year.

**Thank you, sincerely, for your ongoing partnership, and may God richly bless you in 2022.**

**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** or email [clwr@clwr.org](mailto:clwr@clwr.org)

## **COVER STORY** Haiti | Building back better after disaster strikes

Thanks to your immediate and generous response, our partners on the ground were able to deliver life-saving relief and medical assistance to those affected by the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, and provide immediate shelter, basic necessities and unconditional cash grants to displaced families.

While working towards rehabilitating affected homes, our ACT Alliance partners on the ground discovered that the houses they had rebuilt or repaired after 2016’s Hurricane Matthew were still standing after the earthquake and appeared structurally sound.

In the days following the earthquake, these buildings became safe havens for the community and many families took refuge in them – they were confident about their quality.

The discovery provided great encouragement to our

partners. Because the design and construction of these homes were proven to last, and were accepted by local communities, the rebuilding process after the earthquake was faster using the existing designs.

The houses rebuilt after Hurricane Matthew were designed by engineers to have strong foundations, which was unusual in the area at the time. The builders worked with families to find the best locations on their property for the homes and used international standards in the mix of cement and sand used. All of these factors helped to produce houses which remained standing after the powerful earthquake in August.

Cover image: Distribution of shelter kits at the civil protection depot at Camp Perrin, Haiti, supported by our local partners, ACT Alliance member DKH.



Julio Gonzalez Vasquez checks his corn field in the rural area of the Zacatecoluca, known to be part of the Dry Corridor in Central America. Photo: CLWR/Juan Carlos

## El Salvador | Protecting small-scale farmers against crop loss

This fall, you responded generously to help vulnerable small farmers in El Salvador, like Julio Gonzalez Vasquez, whose corn fields are located in Zacatecoluca, an area known to be part of the Dry Corridor in Central America prone to irregular drought.

“I am a small farmer, I don’t own a lot,” Julio says. He has farmed in Zacatecoluca for a long time. He and his family work hard but the threat of drought or flood is never far. If either were to happen, they could lose everything they have planted. With no crop to sell, they would fall into debt and have to sell farming tools and equipment to survive, which would mean their next yield would become even harder to produce. Like many others, Julio was ready to give up on farming, which would have had a devastating impact on the country’s already low food supply.

Thanks to your support, Julio and other farmers have access to an innovative new form of crop insurance which offers compensation to farmers based on real-time satellite data. Claims are automatically triggered based on soil and weather data, which removes virtually all the work on the part of the farmer when making a claim. We are also providing training to the farmers who use the insurance and education on climate change resilience.

Your gift has provided a real life-line for Julio and many farmers like him. Thanks to you, they will be able to continue farming through these challenging times and will be better-prepared and resilient to the challenges they might face in the future.

## Ethiopia | Supporting livelihoods of internally displaced families

With your help, this year we were able to provide emergency support to thousands of displaced families in the East Haraghe region of Ethiopia, where conflict forced millions from their homes.

Families like that of 35-year-old Safia Ahmed were able to restart their farms after receiving cash support as well as goats, seeds and other farming materials.

When selecting families to receive support, women-led households were given priority, followed by families of persons with disabilities. Alongside being given cash and farming tools, beneficiaries were also trained on gender issues and water, sanitation and hygiene practices.

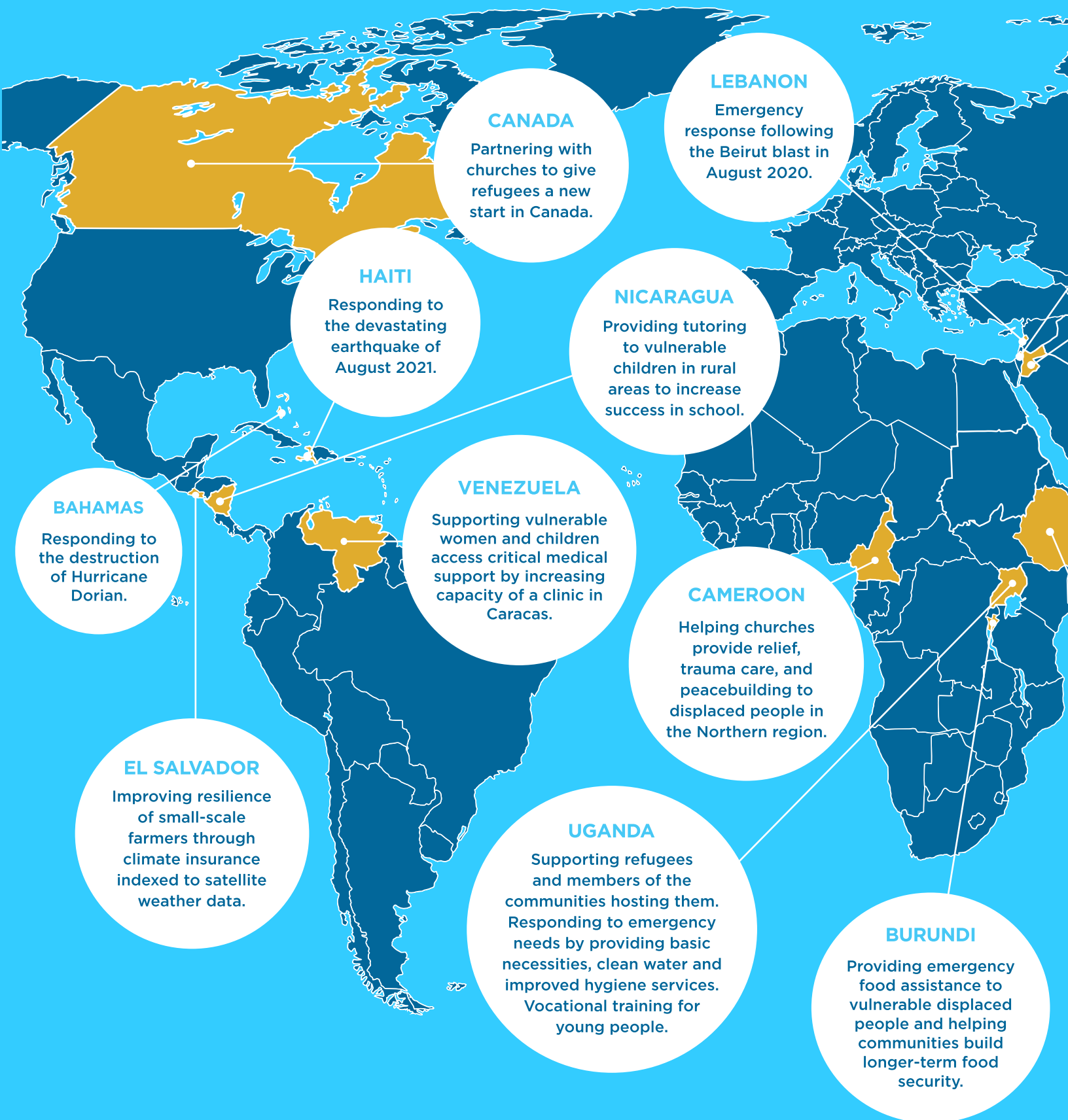
“Along with my husband, who helps me at the farm, I am now selling the harvest from the seeds donated to us. I am also fattening the goats for sale. I rent tractors to farm,” Safia says. She plans to buy tractors and get into modern farming practices in the future.

Safia Ahmed, standing at her farm in Sheikh Hussain Kebele in Ethiopia. Photo: LWF Ethiopia



# Canadian Lutheran World Relief

## 2021 Program Highlights





### WEST BANK

Providing technical and vocational education and training to women and girls, including women with disabilities. Providing urgently needed medical care through Augusta Victoria Hospital.

### JORDAN

Giving students in Jordan, including Syrian refugees, the chance to go to school in a safe, supportive environment.

### INDIA

Responding to the devastating effects of the second wave of COVID-19.

### NEPAL

Helping churches prepare for and effectively respond to emergencies.

### ETHIOPIA

Improving food security for small-scale farmers through agricultural training, support, and infrastructure. Providing basic necessities and clean water to displaced families.

### MYANMAR

Supporting displaced people by responding to basic needs and improving living conditions. Providing literacy, skills and leadership training to women and girls.

**You** are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people around the world! **Thank you!**

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**As COVID-19 continues to threaten lives and livelihoods, your support in 2021 was critically valuable.**

#### **Your gifts are:**

- Providing emergency food and shelter for people displaced by conflict or disaster
  - Connecting communities with sustainable sources of clean water
  - Protecting vulnerable families from COVID-19 with sanitation and hygiene supplies and access to improved medical facilities
  - Improving food security and building resilience to climate change
  - Helping refugees resettle and find new homes in Canada
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We take good care of your generosity. **Thank you for your trust!**



Manirakiza Irvanie with her twin boys, waiting with others in her community to receive food assistance from CLWR partner FLM Burundi.  
Photo: CLWR/Arnaud Mugisha

## Burundi | Building livelihoods and long-term food security

Manirakiza Irvanie is one of many in Burundi who were forced out of their homes due to political violence. Three years ago, she along with her husband and twin boys returned to the Cankuzo province of Burundi where they were struggling to get by growing and selling fruits and vegetables.

With your support, together with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, CLWR expanded its work in Burundi this year to include, alongside emergency assistance addressing immediate food shortages, agricultural training, and support to help communities build longer-term food security.

For the past few months, Irvanie has been part of a savings and lending group mobilized by CLWR's local partner FLM Burundi with the aim of promoting sustainable livelihoods, primarily among female-headed households. The group members are provided agriculture training and materials, which is helping Irvanie and her husband increase the yield of their crops.

Thanks to your generous gifts, Irvanie's children are getting adequate food to help improve their health. Their farming prospects are improving, and the family looks forward to a brighter future.

## Venezuela | Improving access to critical medical support

Venezuela's public healthcare system, already suffering from a lack of medicine and healthcare professionals, has been pushed to the brink by the COVID-19 pandemic. Private health care is therefore the only option for most Venezuelans, especially women and girls, despite its high costs.

CLWR's partners identified a clinic in one of Caracas' poorest districts that required assistance in providing much-needed healthcare to the local community.

Your generous response has allowed us to strengthen the capacity of the clinic to respond to the pandemic by providing training to clinic staff as well as COVID-19 protection gear. Our local partners have been working with the staff to conduct information sessions on COVID-19 symptoms and safety protocols.

Thanks to your support, members of the community now have a better awareness of what services are available at the clinic. This has resulted in people seeking medical attention and isolating sooner, thereby slowing down the spread of infections. Quicker attention to those affected by COVID-19 before they present severe symptoms has also helped reduce morbidity rates in the local community.

Your support has enabled the clinic to provide affordable and faster diagnosis of potential cases of COVID-19 as well as treatment for positive cases.  
Photo: CLWR/Rosalie Hernandez





The project is improving the accessibility of training centres and workplaces and providing specialized tools and equipment to support women like Noura to participate equally in their training. Photo: LWF Jerusalem

## Palestinian Territories | A new round of vocational training

Unemployment is a key driver of poverty among Palestinians, with especially high rates among female youth and people with disabilities.

Building off the success of ongoing technical and vocational education programs, your support and that of the Canadian government enabled CLWR and LWF Jerusalem to launch a project addressing these challenges. Currently in its third year of operation, the project has begun a new round of training that includes culinary arts, mobile applications and printing and graphic design.

Noura A'kawi is a 32-year-old Palestinian ceramic artist. Before she began training at LWF Jerusalem's vocational training centre, she struggled to find work because most workspaces were not accessible to her.

Your support has been life-altering for women like Noura. CLWR's GRIT (Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training) project enables them to access the tools and materials necessary for their craft. Noura now attends exhibitions and sells her products. She also plays the role of Ambassador for GRIT, encouraging other young women like her to take advantage of the training programs.

## India | Helping thousands survive a crushing second wave

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 on COVID-19 and hygiene kits to thousands of households.

Santoshi Samal is a 24-year-old divorcee who used to survive as a day-labourer in India's Odisha state. The lockdowns during India's second wave of COVID-19 restricted her ability to go out and find work and she was struggling to buy food to survive. Through CLWR's local partner Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT), Santoshi received cash support which enabled her to purchase a sewing machine. She had previously had experience with tailoring and always dreamed of doing something on her own.

Your support has enabled thousands like Santoshi to recover from the impact of India's crushing second wave.

"Though I have suffered quite a lot during the pandemic situation, but this pandemic has also given me the opportunity to achieve my dream," Santoshi says.

Though she suffered incredible hardship during the pandemic, it also presented Santoshi with a rare opportunity to achieve her lifelong dream of starting her own business. Photo: LWSIT





## Refugee resettlement | Walaa's story

Even during a global pandemic, Lutheran churches across Canada haven't stopped providing refugees with a new home and caring community through our refugee sponsorship program. While the pandemic has introduced delays and required all sorts of adaptations to the program, the enthusiasm of churches for this work has been incredible and encouraging!

In October, several congregations in Regina worked together to welcome Walaa with her husband Mohammad and young son Ameer, Syrians who had been living at the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. Walaa's need for resettlement was critical, as she lives with Type 1 diabetes and struggled to access medical care at the camp—and was also 24 weeks pregnant at the time of their flight!

The sponsorship group was able to arrange for a doctor via the International Organization for Migration to travel with Walaa, helping ensure a safe arrival for the whole family.

During her first month in Canada, Walaa required hospitalization three times, but improved significantly thanks to a new glucose monitor, antibiotics, and “because our entire Lutheran community prayed for her like crazy!” according to Meredith Cherland, chair of the sponsorship committee.

In the second month after arrival, as she has regained strength, Walaa has had time to add some personal touches to their apartment—with pink paper in the china cabinet and tiny cups for thick Syrian coffee—and little Ameer turned two. And on November 26, Walaa gave birth to beautiful baby Awsam, who is currently still in NICU but they're optimistic he'll be home soon.

Thanks doesn't even begin to cover it—but may God bless each of you across Canada who are part of providing new homes for those who have had to leave everything behind!



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600-177 Lombard Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5  
204.694.5602 or 1.800.661.2597  
[www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org) | [clwr@clwr.org](mailto:clwr@clwr.org)

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