



The Lutheran World Federation

Annual Report 2014



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

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Cover photo: In visiting congregations with youth ministries in Papua New Guinea, Reuben Mete often ventures off the beaten paths. Photo: LWF/ M. Renaux

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Photo: LWF/JC Valeriano

Message from the General Secretary

The LWF is a communion with purpose. It lives and works together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world. The report that you hold in your hands offers a variety of insights into the different fields of engagement of the LWF. They all give expression to a fundamental self-understanding of the LWF, according to which the gift of communion—hence the gift of relationships of mutuality and interdependence between the 144 LWF member churches around the world, becomes at the same time a task—a commitment to nurture and give concrete expression to those relationships. The togetherness of LWF member churches is not an end in itself. It inscribes itself within a deep commitment for justice, peace and reconciliation. It is this commitment that structures and focuses the way in which the LWF witnesses in this world. As the report shows, a witness characterized by a prophetic presence, a passionate service, and a patient bridge-building.



Rev. Martin Junge, LWF General Secretary.
Photo: LWF/Ryan Rodrick Beiler

During the year 2014 the actions, programs and operations of the LWF at a local, regional and global level have touched millions of lives around the globe. The number of refugees reached by the LWF has represented the most dramatic increase. I have ambivalent feelings in view of this increase. It saddens me to realize that ruthless power struggles, abject poverty, and protracted conflicts are pushing millions out of their homelands. At the same time, I find consolation in the fact that the LWF

remains vibrant and committed to work with this increased number of people for the sake of their protection. A wide network of churches and partners has made this possible, as has a clear-cut theological identity. This is seen, in the service of the world, as one of the LWF's fundamental reasons to be. The important theological work and its specific commitments reported in this publication is therefore an integral part of the LWF's commitment. It nurtures ecumenical and interfaith relations, which are critical for regional and global networks within the LWF and its member churches.

There are good reasons for humble gratitude for the many accomplishments during the year, for lasting relationships within the LWF and with a wider network of churches and organizations that have enabled this witness. But most importantly: for that unbroken vocation to be together for the sake of justice, peace and reconciliation in this world.

Message from the President

The cover photo of this 2014 Annual Report tells something about the LWF and its journey today. Building on the visionary decisions of leaders who preceded us in our communion, the LWF committed to ensuring that 20 percent of our participants would be people under 30 years of age. The LWF is increasingly learning to receive the gifts young people bring into discussions, decisions and leadership throughout our communion.

These gifts have been particularly important in addressing the most comprehensive challenge faced by humankind today: climate change. Several years ago, the LWF decided to encourage our young leaders to lead our global communion's response to this challenge. That decision has been a blessing. Through them, the communion has begun to grasp in tangible ways that climate change affects basic questions of



Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, LWF President.
Photo: LWF/JC Valeriano

inter-generational justice. This special perspective is found in our annual report. The “Fast for the Climate” campaign, co-initiated by LWF Youth two years ago, has become a global movement.

I am struck by the beauty and vitality of the report's cover image—the Lutheran presence in Papua New Guinea. A history that began over a century ago in the

1880s, is today seen in the growing witness of independent churches that are bound in relationships of interdependence, operating many educational and diaconal institutions, alongside seminaries and evangelist training centers. As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017, the LWF is upholding its commitment to demonstrate the global nature of the Reformation today: *ecclesia semper reformanda*—a church in ongoing reformation—that is interdependent and a global citizen.

The 2014 annual report of the LWF, which I commend for your careful reading, shares the vitality, activity and commitment of our global communion. Inspired and rooted in faith, our communion takes up its citizenship in this world, engaging actively with others for the sake of a just, peaceful and reconciled world.

The LWF – A Global Communion of Churches

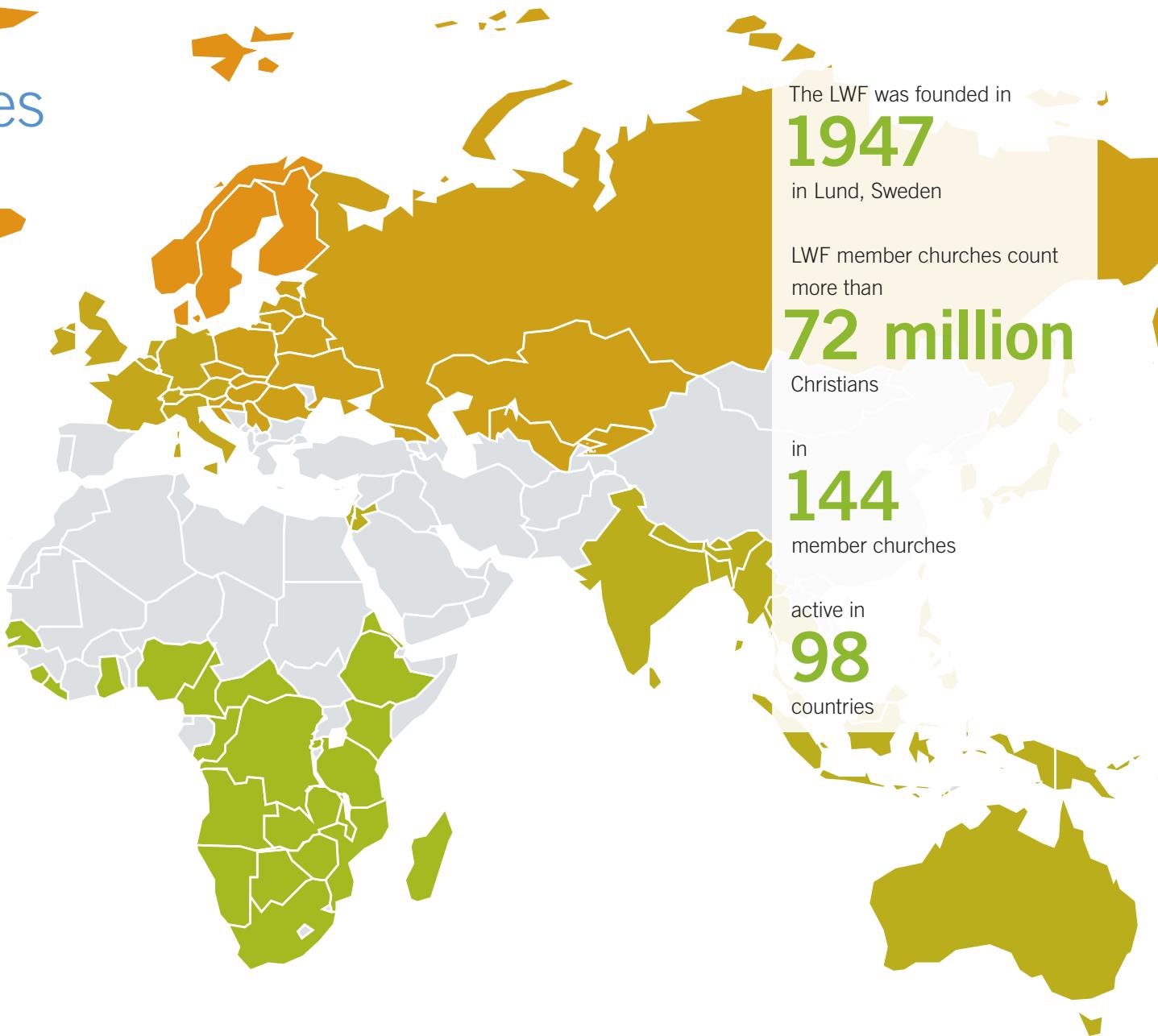
The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of churches. Together, LWF member churches care for over 2 million refugees a year and run development and humanitarian programs in 23 countries through its Department for World Service. It supports hundreds of church-run projects to help local communities develop and become self-sustainable. Through its Department for Mission and Development, it supports leadership development in churches across the world; dialogue and exchange of experience in church-based social work, capacity building and communications; and it offers scholarships to over 200 students who wish to contribute to the life and work of member churches. Through its Department for Theology and Public Witness, the LWF holds regular dialogue with people of other Christian traditions and people of other faiths; it advocates for justice and peace with international bodies such as the United Nations and it is the largest faith-based implementing partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The vision and work of the LWF is carried according to the vision statement

Liberated by God's grace, a communion in Christ living and working together for a just, peaceful, and reconciled world.



nes



The LWF was founded in

1947

in Lund, Sweden

LWF member churches count more than

72 million

Christians

in

144

member churches

active in

98

countries

Commitment to Collaborate, Learn and Support

In 2014, there was a growing sense among the member churches of the LWF of their commitment to one another expressed through collaboration, mutual support and learning – globally and regionally. Member churches stood in solidarity with people in the Philippines hit by typhoon Hagupit, with those struggling with the Ebola outbreak in

West Africa and drought in Angola and Namibia. This included both prayers and practical support. European churches supported Italian churches in assisting migrants from North Africa and the Middle East attempting to make new lives for themselves by making the treacherous journey by sea to Europe. In Latin America the healing process

of the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church was underpinned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Church of Finland. These and numerous other examples of collaboration within the Lutheran communion were bolstered by cross-church reflection on a number of issues including poverty and mission.

Solidarity with Ebola Affected

The LWF called on churches throughout the communion to join in prayers on 28 September and stand in solidarity with the member churches affected by the Ebola crisis.

“Soothe the hearts of everyone affected by the Ebola epidemic. Comfort them, strengthen the weak and afflicted. Lighten their burden. Help us use our gifts for the good of others.”

— *Solidarity prayer prepared by African member churches*

“We give thanks to God for sparing mercies and for the knowledge that there are others out there who continue to be with us in their prayers.”

— *Bishop Thomas J. Barnett, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (ELCSL)*



Photo: Piervincenzo Canale (CC-BY)

Advocacy for the Vulnerable Neighbor

A message from the European Regions' Conference advocated for a more balanced and just division of responsibility among the European Union nations in receiving migrants and refugees.

“It is encouraging to look at the commitment [in Italy] in advocacy and diaconal action with immigrants and refugees and the strong ecumenical efforts to accompany the vulnerable neighbor.

There must be established a culture of welcome to these affected people. We want to help them regardless of their religion, their gender, their origin.”

— *Message from the European Regions' Conference*



Standing with Drought Affected in Southern Africa

LWF member churches rallied to fundraise for and distribute drought relief through cash grants to affected families in Namibia. Aid was distributed irrespective of religious affiliation and carried out by the churches and hundreds of volunteers assisted by humanitarian professionals from the LWF.

Photo: LWF/M. Hyden

“One woman was able to pay her debts, buy food for the family, catch up on contributions to the church, and buy a goat so that she could increase her herd.

We must nurture these relationships to learn and share experiences, problems in preparedness for future emergencies such as droughts and floods, as these will happen again.”

— *Harmut Diehl, Namibian Drought Coordinator*

LWF Membership Strengthens Churches

Guatemalan Lutheran Church was one of two new member churches of the LWF in 2014.

“LWF membership opens up many possibilities and opportunities to be united in prayer, in faith, in the sacraments, as well as solidarity and communication with member churches worldwide.

Membership in LWF reaffirms our Lutheran identity in the Latin American context within which urgent actions of a prophetic church are required to defend life, promote peace and seek justice.

LWF membership means that we are not alone in our mission; we are accompanied and supported jointly by the global communion.

Membership makes our pastoral work and advocacy in defending human rights much more visible to the world and deters threats and risks to our lives.”

— *Rev. José Pilar Álvarez Cabrera,*
Guatemalan Lutheran Church leader

Photo: LWF/M. Haas





Photo: Szilard Szabo



Engaging in Service to the Neighbor

LWF's commitment to helping nurture member churches in their engagement in diaconal practice or practical service to the world was enhanced in September 2014 by the Virtual Conference on the theme of Transforming Diakonia. The conference was titled "Called to be Transformed and Transforming". Focusing on the sub-themes "Transforming Conflict, Continually Transforming Church and Transforming the World through Prophetic Action," 22 speakers addressed the topics through video messages made available in five different languages. The virtual conference drew 312 participants from 60 countries across the Lutheran communion.

Highlights from the Virtual Conference on transforming diakonia



Photo: LWF/H. Martinussen

“By their service, Christians are showing what society could be and what ought to be its essence. By its diakonia, the Christian church is questioning the power structure of any society by giving the poor, the neglected, the marginalized the highest priority. In this way, the actual life of the church is or ought to be a transforming power in society.”

— *Bishop Niels Arendt, Denmark*

“How can churches, with the participation of as many as possible of their members, set out on the way into the future so that they can become a spiritual and social home for as many people as possible, so that under the conditions of the present time and the realities of life, they can be a hospitable, welcoming and credible church community of Jesus Christ, as a sign of peace and unity for this world to the glory of God and the salvation of mankind?”

— *Rev. Paul-Hermann Zellfelder, Germany*

Photo: Avo Üprus





“Diakonia that methodologically excludes spirituality from its service can therefore not reach the full person.

LWFC. Kästner

That, however, does not mean that the service provider imposes her or his spirituality on the client. It means that everything needs to be considered from the point of view of the client, which may include space for expressed spirituality and the sharing of faith.”

— *Po Chu Grønvold, Hong Kong*

Church Growth and Sustainability

The LWF helps nurture member churches to develop theologies relevant to their varied contexts. They reflect as Lutherans on their proclamation of the gospel, their diaconal service to the world and the importance of strengthening congregations as agents of empowerment. Alongside sister churches from the

same region they learn how best to transform communities, advocate for justice, promote reconciliation and peace. Workshops and conferences on sustainability and leadership were held in Asia and Africa in 2014 as part of LWF's support to member church growth and sustainability.





Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

Feedback from Member Churches

“The leadership conference is an opportunity to thank God for this expression of communion. Latin America and Caribbean member churches are in fellowship, affirming diversity as a gift and the commitment to work hand-in-hand in God’s mission.”

— Rev. Roberto Trejo, Mexican Lutheran Church, at the annual leadership conference held at Mexico City, April 2014.

“Theological education is a search for the balance between academia and engaging in the everyday lives of marginalized women and men.”

— Dr Eddla Eggert, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, at the annual leadership conference held at Mexico City, April 2014.



Photo: Adriana Castañeda

“The [Sustainability Program] enables churches to generate their own institutional, administrative and financial changes. The program belongs to every church and helps strengthen their service in the contexts in which they are based.”

— *Gustavo Driau, Regional Coordinator, the LAC Sustainability Institute, a partnership of the Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (IECLB) and DMD based at the Higher School of Theology at São Leopoldo, Brazil.*



Photo: IECLB



Photo: Ollivier Girard/CIFOR (CC-BY-NC)

“The leadership crisis in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (EELCO) since 2003 has caused a lot of pain in the parishes, between pastors and among congregation members, indeed over 12 dark years. But thanks to God, and the persistent accompaniment of our brothers and sisters in LWF, the Lutheran Communion in Central and Eastern Africa (LUCCEA) and our partners in Germany, this conflict over church governance and property is now over.”

— *Gilbert Ilunga Nkusa, General Secretary of the EELCO*

Youth Participation

The LWF is committed to youth participation and has a quota of 20% young people for all governing bodies and meetings. In 2014, LWF youth engaged together through the Global Young Reformers' Network and launched a global tool-kit for intergenerational dialogue and youth participation.





Photo: LWF/JC Valeriano

Global Young Reformers Network

The Global Young Reformers Network was launched in 2014 with 120 delegates endorsed by 80 member churches. They come together as an online network to discuss themes identified in the first virtual gathering “Freed by God’s love to change the world” on Reformation Day, 31 October. By sharing experiences and asking questions, the network nurtures dialogue among informed,

inquisitive young reformers about what it means to be Lutheran. The Website (www.youngreformers.net) offers space to “Reflect, Connect and Act”. Grounded in scripture, connected globally and acting to change the world, these young Lutherans are ready to *be* the global church in on-going reformation.

Global young reformers connect on the social platform goodwall.com to share joys and challenges in their different churches and countries.

Photo: LWF/JC Valeriano



Intergenerational Toolkit

In 2014, the LWF presented the study “Youth Participation and leadership in the LWF member churches”, and the “Toolkit on Intergenerational dialogue in the communion”. Young members of the LWF governing body led discussions among LWF leadership on becoming more inclusive, intergenerational and open to youth-led initiatives. The toolkit was published online to be used in all LWF member churches.



Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

From the “Toolkit on Intergenerational dialogue in the communion”

“There is so much wisdom and knowledge in the LWF that is not written down, but has to be passed on from generation to generation.”

— LWF Council member, 2013

“Children, youth adults and older people can and indeed should stick together in the life of the LWF so that the generations may continue in dialogue with each other, speaking, reflecting and deciding together.”

— Prof. Dr Vilmos Vajta, 1983

“We appreciate very much the intergenerational approach by the LWF. The generational sharing has been eye-opening for us and I would like to use this model in my church context.”

— LWF Council member, 2013

Climate Justice Advocacy

In 2014 the LWF renewed commitment to work on climate justice as a matter of social, economic and ecological justice. The LWF Council in Medan endorsed both the campaign “Fast for the Climate” and the LWF Public Statement on Climate Justice. The LWF commits to becoming carbon neutral at global, national and local levels by 2050. The LWF helped organize the national launch of “Fast for the Climate” in Paris and facilitated interfaith collaboration prior to the

United Nations Climate Conference COP21 in 2015. Asia Vice-President Eun-hae Kwon represented the LWF at the New York Interfaith Summit on Climate Change. 15 African youth were trained on climate justice advocacy. Seven young delegates represented the LWF at COP20 in Lima, helping to organize interfaith encounters, advocacy action and a solidarity event for the Philippines, which was hit by typhoon Haigut during the conference.

“Many countries in the Pacific are very small island nations. People live on those islands; people depend on the land for survival. Every year we hear of the rising sea affecting people’s lives, their crops, their houses, their roads. The water keeps rising slowly, but steadily. Is it too late?”

— *Warime Guti, Member of the LWF Delegation to COP20, the United Nations Climate Conference in Lima, Peru*

“As a believer, this is what has helped me during the difficult moments: Stepping back, finding myself and my God in the silence, finding reassurance in the beliefs of my Christian values and reflecting on the responsibilities that we all carry.

Doing this does make a difference.

During the Climate Change Conference, there were regular meetings between people of

faith. By working together we learned from each other.

The major decisions of the climate negotiations are not taken during COP, but on the national level. This was where religious communities could have a strong impact when advocating effectively and passionately for climate justice”

— *LWF Youth Secretary Caroline Richter reflecting on the interfaith cooperation during COP20*





Photo: LWF/Sean Hawkey



Photo: LWF/C. Kästner



Member Church Projects

Support for member church run projects is one way the LWF is assisting member churches in living out their vocation in their contexts. The LWF Department for Mission and Development offers professional support to member church projects in the framework of the LWF's strategic priorities.



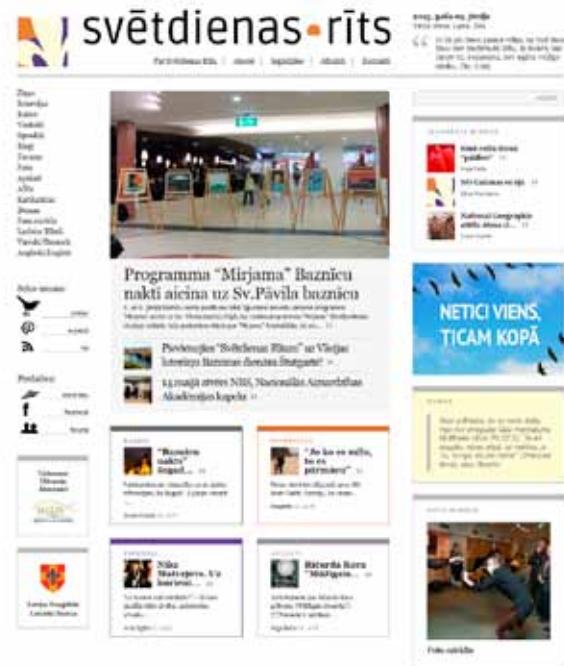
Photo: LWF/J. Brümmer

Reducing HIV Infections in Zimbabwe

An Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe project is playing a vital role in helping to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the country through education and advocacy. The project includes a home-based care center in Musume, which provides voluntary testing, treatment and counselling, life skills training and income-generating initiatives for people living with HIV and AIDS. It also aims to reduce discrimination by involving people with the virus in all church events and decision-making processes. Isheunesu Dubiwas was one of the first people to publicly declare his positive HIV status in 2003. He now works as a caregiver at the centre in Musume. He says his involvement with the project “changed his life.”

Raising Awareness of Diakonia in Latvia

The development of the print and new online versions of “Svētdienas Rīts” magazine published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia has led to an increase in readership, particularly among young Latvians, and a greater sense of connection with the global communion of Lutheran churches. The monthly magazine, which is read by Lutherans and other ecumenical denominations, also aims to raise awareness of topics such as holistic mission in the church and to keep readers informed about local and European diaconal activities.



Conflict Resolution in India

A “Conflict Transformation and Peace Building (CTPB)” project run by the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI) focuses on resolving conflicts within and among its member churches, including property and election disputes, theological differences, mismanagement, leadership problems and corruption. The UELCI also promotes dialogue with other denominations, and religious groups. As a result of the project, a small congregation of the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ranchi was reunited after 25 years of separation.



Photo: Szilard Szabo

Ready for the 500th Anniversary of Reformation

A growing number of LWF member churches globally are planning how to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

The LWF approaches the anniversary under the theme, “Liberated by God’s Grace”, and the three sub-themes; “Salvation – Not for Sale”, “Human-beings – Not for Sale” and “Creation – Not for Sale”. Materials reflecting these themes were pre-

pared in cooperation with several LWF programs, study processes and ecumenical partners, and will be published in June 2015. The member churches have been encouraged to reflect on these themes together with their Lutheran and ecumenical partners.

As the Twelfth Assembly of the LWF in 2017 will focus on the same topics, many churches are taking

up the themes and applying them in their local processes. In 2014, a website was launched at **2017.lutheranworld.org** to engage member churches in the Reformation Anniversary program and to share plans and events across regions.

Significant reception processes have taken place around the document *From Conflict to Communion: The Lutheran-Catholic Common*

Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017, compiled by the international Lutheran–Roman Catholic Commission on Unity. Published in 2013, this first attempt by Lutherans and Roman Catholics to jointly tell the story of the Reformation is currently available in English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish and Spanish with further translations underway, notably into other Nordic languages and into Dutch.

In Africa, North America and Europe, churches are making preparations for the 2017 anniversary. They will celebrate ecumenically, with sisters and brothers of different Christian traditions.

One of the most far-reaching reception processes was organized in 2014 by the LWF German National Committee (GNC). Together with the Roman Catholic Church, the LWF/GNC launched the project *Gemeinsam Unterwegs* (Together on the Way) to discuss the document *From Conflict to Communion*

in anticipation of the Reformation anniversary. Around 15,000 people took part in related online discussions over a period of 32 weeks. In addition, 62 individuals from both church circles and the wider society answered 31 Questions of the Week on topics raised in the historic document. The project has generated both ecclesiastical and secular media attention. Conversations continue at **www.2017gemeinsam.de**

In Peru, the Peruvian Lutheran Evangelical Church organized a reception process in 2014 in cooperation with the local Roman Catholic Church. It is our hope that *From Conflict to Communion* will continue to be studied at regional, national and local levels.



LIBERATED
BY GOD'S
GRACE

2017 - 500 YEARS OF REFORMATION

Reading the Bible in Contemporary Context

As Lutherans around the world commemorate 500 years of the Reformation, they take up concerted study of the Bible across the diversity of their contexts seeking to appropriate the life-giving message for a broken world. Lutheran scholars from member churches worldwide have taken part in the LWF hermeneutics study processes—reading

the Bible in contemporary contexts. Consultations were based on reading the Gospel of John (Nairobi, Kenya), Psalms (Eisenach, Germany) and Matthew (Chicago, USA).

The forthcoming consultation based on Paul's letters will be held in Aarhus, Denmark, in September 2015. The hermeneutics process has strengthened research by the

participating scholars and allowed Lutheran theologians to have space to interact and enhance communion-building by looking at the biblical texts in light of the Lutheran heritage. The results of the consultations have been posted on the LWF website as well as in publications and reports used in seminaries and theological networks worldwide.

The hermeneutics program offers new shared understanding

“The consultation on hermeneutics has had a huge influence on my teaching and research. Focusing on the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, the program concentrates on Scripture, which has been at the heart of the ongoing reformation of the Church since the 16th century. As a professor of Christian doctrine and ecumenical theology, I am happy that the LWF is focused on what is at the center of Lutheran churches. The hermeneutics program not only uses biblical exegesis, including doctrinal and pastoral considerations, but it tests such theories through joint readings and interpretations centred on the often very difficult experiences and contexts of the participants in the hermeneutics process. This impresses me immensely. The intensive sharing of our understandings has given me new insights into the interpretation of biblical texts and into hermeneutics itself. Therefore, I have introduced hermeneutical reflections and information on hermeneutics in my teaching.”

— Prof. Dr Hans-Peter Grosshans (University of Muenster, Germany)

aised the Lord Jesus, and will bring us with
presence. 13 Yes, everything is
e, so that grace, as it extends to
re people, may increase thanks
e glory of God.

Living by Faith

16 So we do not lose heart.
our outer nature is wasting away
nature is being renewed day by
slight momentary affliction
for an eternal weight of glory
because we look
cannot



Photo: LWF/ELCM

Religion and Development

The LWF has been working to articulate the theological bases for the development, advocacy and humanitarian work of the communion and in so doing, strengthening the capacity of member churches to work on development issues. This has taken place through the religion and development pilot project involv-

ing the churches in Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe and the 2014 LWF global consultation on religion and development, held in Berlin, Germany. One important outcome has been the increased collaboration of these actors through the formation of the Community of Practice for Religion and Development to facilitate

ongoing collaboration in research. Religion and development resources developed during these workshops have now been shared widely among the member churches. Also, three academic institutions have begun processes to incorporate religion and development courses into their curricula.

Religion and development

“It is a challenge to train pastors, theologians and community workers to take issues of development seriously in a country as notoriously religious as South Africa. This challenge was resolved when we began incorporating development issues in our theology curriculum, enabling people to appreciate the synergies between the two fields. Most of our graduates see themselves and their religious communities as agents of development. They use their theological knowledge to unpack complex issues of poverty and deprivation then develop models of intervention. It is not surprising that some community projects are faith-inspired. The integration of development in theological education is imperative.”

— Prof. Raymond Simangaliso Kumalo, Associate Professor Religion and Governance Director, Ujamaa Center for Community Development and Research, School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, University of KwaZulu-Natal

UNHCR's Leading Faith-Based Partner

The LWF continues to be the leading faith-based partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In 2014 the LWF signed a new Memorandum of Understanding, extending its more than 50 years of close collaboration with the agency in providing assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees. The LWF and UNHCR will collaborate in coordinating and managing camps and settlements, and in community-managed peace and protection interventions for children and other vulnerable groups.

The agreement helps the LWF stand with people suffering from persecution, oppression and hunger. The agreement was signed at a time

when the world is witnessing record levels of forced displacement, making faith-based partners of UNHCR critically important to their work.

The LWF is also exploring with the UNHCR and faith-based organizations how they might collaborate in the work of protecting refugees.

Following the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Faith and Protection in 2012, the LWF worked with other faith-based organizations to draft a code of conduct for faith leaders on *Welcoming the Stranger*. The text of the document draws upon principles and values of welcome that are deeply rooted in all major religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.





Photo: LWF/James Macharia



Photo: LWF/H. Martinussen



Interfaith Collaboration to Welcome the Stranger

In 2014, the LWF and co-drafter of the *Welcoming the Stranger* document, Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), took the collaboration of faith-based organization to the next level by signing a Memorandum of Understanding

to cooperate in humanitarian work. This is the first official cooperation between a global Christian and a global Islamic humanitarian organization.

In October, the first joint project between the LWF and IRW kicked off in Al Mafraq, Jordan working with Syrian refugees and the Jordanian host community.

Compassion and commitment unite us across religious differences

“At the heart of our collaboration are the many core values we share such as dignity, justice, compassion and commitment, and our common vision to empower and support vulnerable communities and people affected by disaster, which unites us across our religious differences.”

— Eberhard Hitzler, Director of the LWF Department for World Service (2014)

Faith-based organizations provide model for mutual respect

“We live in a time when our fragile world appears more disrupted by human suffering; religion is often construed as the dividing line between peoples in conflict. We believe that in these fragile times, faith-based humanitarian organizations are best prepared to provide a uniquely powerful model for mutual respect, service and cooperation for the betterment of all of humankind.”

— Dr Mohamed Ashmawey, CEO of Islamic Relief Worldwide



Photo: LWF/I. Benesch



Building Constructive Interreligious Relations

Today most Lutherans across the world live in plural societies, where issues of interreligious relations, public space and citizenship are central in understanding how to create just and peaceful societies. The LWF has established interreligious cooperation with partners such as the Center for Islamic Theology in Münster, Germany, Islamic Relief Worldwide and the National Muslim Council of Tanzania. It empowers member churches to constructively engage with people of other faiths in the public sphere and to develop theological perspectives that support dialogical engagement. In 2014, the LWF held interfaith consultations on three continents, focusing especially on Christian-Muslim and Christian-Muslim-Jewish relations, and made numerous new contacts with scholars of other faiths.

“Religion, its doctrinal expressions and its rites are robust and changeable at the same time. New challenges will shape new alliances across religious communities. In the process, the religious geography of this world may be up to some surprising changes. The public role of theology is not only possible but also necessary. The question is not if but how theology plays its public role. It is an analyzing and interpreting role, as well as a bridge-building role, a role of listening, speaking and acting.”

— Archbishop Dr Antje Jackelén, Church of Sweden

Advocating for Justice, Peace and Human Rights

The LWF cooperates with non-governmental and faith-based organizations in promoting justice, peace and human rights, emphasizing improving the lives of the marginalized.

In 2014, the LWF Office for International Affairs and Human Rights (OIAHR) helped advance the visibility and influence of the LWF at various United Nations forums. The

LWF organized events on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, made statements on human rights violations in Iraq and Nicaragua and supported sister organizations during the Universal Periodic Reviews of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The LWF included the element of advocacy in regional training for

member churches in Africa and in its Myanmar program.

The 2014 LWF Council, meeting in Medan, Indonesia, adopted public statements on climate change, the 2013 UNHCR Welcoming the Stranger statement, violence in sub-Saharan Africa, Indonesia, Ukraine, and a resolution on the universal code of conduct on holy sites.

On Indonesia

“The LWF Council joins and supports the Indonesian churches in their efforts to uphold freedom of religion, their interreligious solidarity in working against injustice and in responding to human need, and in their continuing engagement in dialogue with different religious groups to promote understanding, just and peaceful communities and environmental protection.”

— *LWF Council statement on Indonesia*

On Welcoming the Stranger

“We see today that Welcoming the Stranger is as necessary as ever before in our world. It is part of our duty to act with love toward those in need, regardless of their religion, gender or nationality.”

— *LWF Council statement on the UNHCR Welcoming the Stranger statement*



Photo: LWF Myanmar

Gender Justice Policy Implementation

The Gender Justice Policy is being used as a tool to orient the LWF member churches in the commitment to build inclusive and sustainable churches.

The gender justice policy principles and methodology are enabling churches to engage in processes that address challenges of structural barriers of exclusion and establish platforms to empower women to

participate equally in church and society.

Below are some of the concrete achievements in the implementation:

- Regional study processes and translations are enabling the contextualization of the policy
- There is an increase in qualified participation of women in leader-

ship and decision-making spaces through the women theologians' networks

- There has been wider interaction between women in church networks and civil society, enhancing the presence of faith-related reflection on women's human rights, using gender justice as a common tool.





*Women on the Move:
From Wittenberg to
Windhoek – WMWW*

This project leading up to the Reformation anniversary celebrates the leadership and participation of women in ongoing reformation.

“Her-stories”—the telling of women’s stories and experiences in the ongoing Reformation—is one element in the WMWW movement.

The aim is to build on institutional memory by making visible women’s contribution to the church mission and theological production. This is being developed on the regional women theologians’ platform.

A folder with tools to guide the process was published and is available at: **www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-women-move-wittenberg-windhoek-toolkit**



Photo: ELCH



Ecumenical Dialogue

The LWF has longstanding commitment to and praxis with various Christian traditions particularly in the field of bilateral dialogue. The LWF is at the moment involved in dialogues with the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Anglican Communion and the Mennonite World Conference. The present dialogues are both building on long-term relationships and study processes that have sometimes continued for decades. At the same time they are responding to the burning issues of local Christian communities arising from their ecumenical relations.

In 2014 the LWF Council received the report of the Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission titled “Communion: On Being the Church.” It also took a decision that the LWF will begin a five-year dialogue process with the Pentecostal movement with effect from 2016.

While the ecumenical dialogues strengthen the joint Christian witness for justice, peace and reconciliation, their ultimate goal is the visible unity of the body of Christ, the Church.

Ecumenical accountability is also one of the main principles in the way the LWF is approaching the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Joint celebrations and commemoration of the anniversary are under preparations with most of the ecumenical partners.

LWF World Service Operations



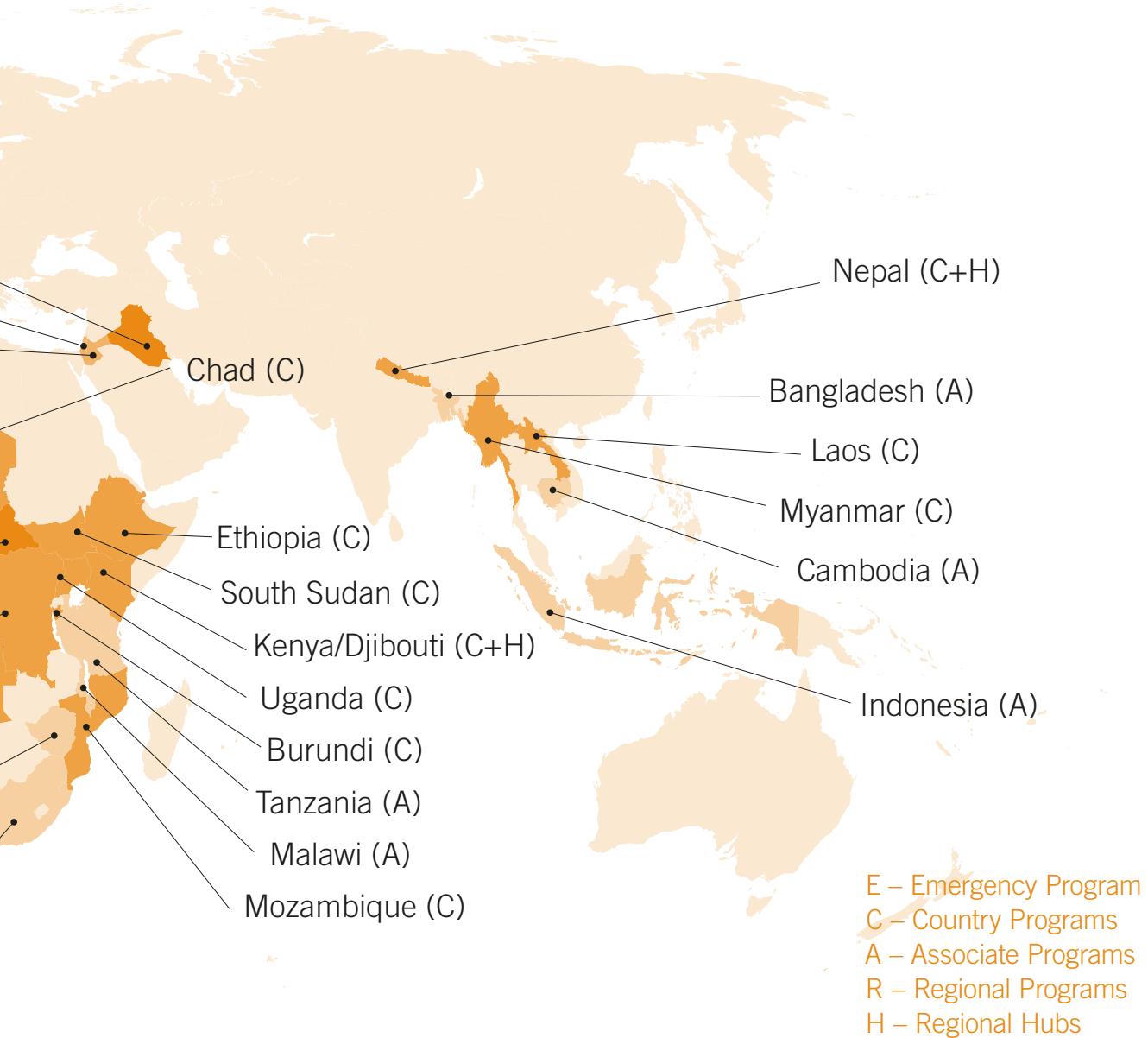




Photo: LWF/Sandra Cox



Disaster Response and Preparedness

As LWF's internationally recognized humanitarian and development arm, LWF World Service assists more than 2 million people worldwide, including 1.4 million refugees and 700,000 internally displaced people. With an expenditure of EUR 104.6 million in 2014, our 6,000 global staff work with and through communities following a rights-based approach. LWF is a founding member of ACT Alliance.

In 2014, LWF World Service responded to the four largest emergencies on the UN scale. We launched a new emergency operation in northern Iraq, solidified our assistance in the Central African Republic and Jordan, and continued programs in East Africa, the Horn of Africa, South Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Kenya, which have responded to violence and protracted refugee situations in the region.

Many of these environments are extremely challenging and insecure. The ability to negotiate access to remote areas, to draw on local knowledge and good relations with authorities have made LWF World Service the fourth largest implementing partner of the UN refugee agency UNHCR. LWF has agreed to collaborate with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) in humanitarian response to support vulnerable communities in different contexts.

Examples of Work with Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness



Photo: WLF Cameroon

Cameroon

In 2014 LWF World Service assessed the needs of thousands of refugees from the Central African Republic who fled violence there, taking refuge in Cameroon in villages in the East and Adamawa regions. Working with UNHCR, LWF World Service set up water, sanitation and livelihood programs and conducted peace and reconciliation workshops.

Ethiopia

Flooding in Leitchuor refugee camp where over 50,000 people have made a home fleeing from South Sudan, created an emergency within an emergency. “Refugees have started salvaging materials, while they take shelter on the elevated roads and among host communities in nearby villages and churches,” said LWF Ethiopia

Country Representative Sophia Gebreyes. LWF Ethiopia provided water, sanitation and hygiene in the camp and distributed thousands of jerry cans, soap, hygiene kits, buckets and washbasins. Hygiene and sanitation campaigns were conducted to combat the outbreak of diseases in the wake of the flooding.



Photo: LWF/DWS Ethiopia



Uganda

Among the over 150,000 people who have fled to Uganda from the crisis in South Sudan are also Sudanese LWF staff. “I was working in LWF Maban when the war broke out, and we were evacuated on 24 December. They flew us to Juba where I met my wife, and we travelled to Uganda,” Peter Jok says. He is assisting LWF Uganda’s emergency response team in Adjumani, which focuses on providing refugees with life-saving food and water, and meeting basic needs such as hygiene, sanitation, health and protection. “I found LWF in Adjumani, I was happy to come to Uganda and find the LWF family here. We work hand in hand as a family.”

Photo: DCA/ACT/LWF/Mai Gad

Central African Republic

Ruth Nambeyam found refuge at the Lutheran church in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR). Together with her children aged five and seven, she is one of about half a million people internally displaced by sectarian violence in CAR. Her biggest concern now is how to feed her children, as her little son has already been hospitalized because of malnutrition. It is estimated that over half of CAR's population needs immediate assistance. In 2014 LWF World Service assisted people displaced by the conflict in the west of the country with shelter, sanitation and psychosocial support.



Photo: LWF/P. Mumia

Jerusalem

LWF Jerusalem sent two volunteer medical teams to Gaza to care for the high number of people injured during the conflict with Israel in 2014. LWF's Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem also prepared 12

additional surgical beds and four intensive care unit beds to serve casualties. The hospital predicted that it would take six months to bring Gaza cancer patients who missed treatment back to a normal routine.



Photo: LWF Jerusalem/M. Brown



Photo: LWF/Sandra Cox

Northern Iraq

Gorgya Paols just wants peace. The Assyrian Christian was originally forced to flee al Qaeda and later the ISIS insurgency in Baghdad. She shares a small house near the Turkish border with her sick husband and her son's family. Her situation is dire but she hopes for peace. In 2014 LWF World Service provided monthly food vouchers and winter support to internally displaced people in Dohuk governorate, northern Iraq.

Sustainable Livelihoods

To support people in emergencies and natural disasters, simply rebuilding what has been damaged is not enough. LWF World Service aims to build resilient communities to prepare the people we work with for future challenges. In 2014, LWF World Service built capacity in community-based emergency response through workshops in disaster-prone areas such as Haiti, Myanmar and Nepal. While natural disasters often cannot be prevented, creating sustainable livelihoods and reliable community structures enables people to cope better with material loss and to rebuild their lives.

LWF World Service has set up and supported income-generating activities and credit unions for women and vulnerable communities in Asia, Central and East Africa and Central America. A special focus is placed on women's empowerment and proactively preparing communities for the effects of climate change. Workshops on agriculture include new approaches in dealing with extreme weather. In the Palestinian territories, as well as in host communities in east and central Africa, vocational training centers give young people the skills to start a business. LWF World Service works with communities and encourages rights-holders to form groups, in order to increase business opportunities and set up support systems in times of need.





Photo: LWF/C. Kästner

Examples of Work that Enables Sustainable Livelihoods

Burundi

“I am really happy to learn everything about masonry. It’s a skill that will allow me to make a living and that I can keep forever,” says Mpawenimana Jean-Marie. LWF Burundi supports technical training for the most vulnerable youth in Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces. Mwiruzi Hill, also supported by the LWF, says “I feel respected and acknowledged as a woman mason, because women aren’t used to having this type of job.”

Photo: LWF Burundi/G. Quedraogo





Photo: LWF/C. Kästner

Chad

A year ago, LWF Chad helped set up a local seed production group in Dosseye and provided the group with oxen and plows, a set of seeds and a warehouse. Now the group has three warehouses and an abundant stock of their own grain. “We buy the seeds in a farm, multiply them and resell at a higher price,” Deba, the group president, says. “LWF helped us with a more specialized, professional approach.” Deba uses the money from the seed production project for his children’s education.

Colombia

Twice Kevin has been injured by landmines. First he severely hurt his leg. Four years later a landmine ripped away both his arms. Colombia is the world's second most heavily mined country. Almost all mine accidents occur in rural areas and most survivors are left permanently disabled. However, landmine victims are left alone to fight for their rights with the authorities, because they are stigmatized as being former guerrilla. LWF Colombia helps Kevin and many who suffer similar wounds gain skills to improve their livelihood and set up a business. They also conduct awareness training to minimize further landmine accidents.

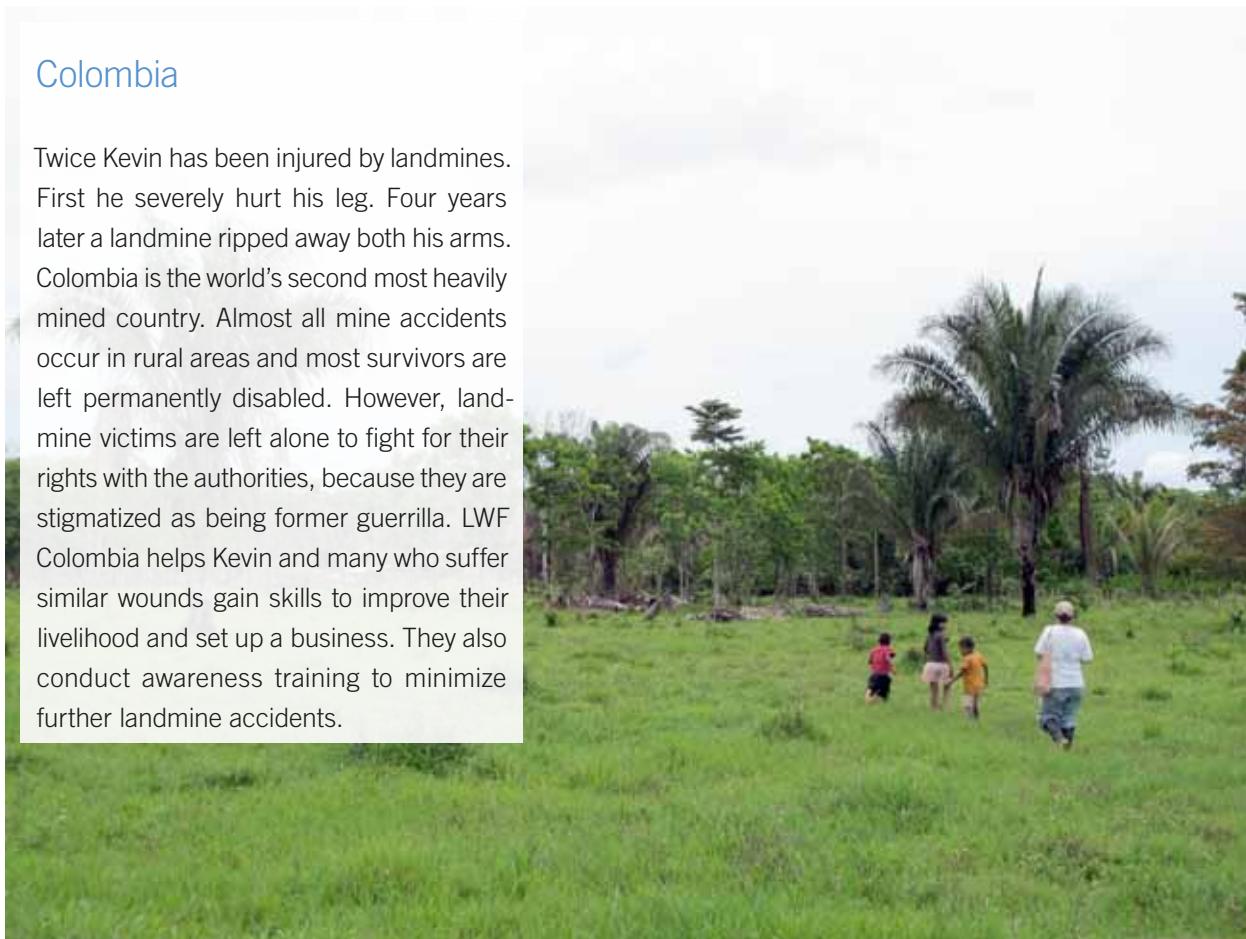


Photo: LWF/DWS Colombia/Martin Sjögren

Kenya-Djibouti

Alemsahay came to Ali-Addeh refugee camp in 1992 at the age of 17. Today she works as a teacher in the camp. Recently, with the support from LWF Kenya-Djibouti, Alemsahay pursued a diploma in teaching.

“Being a teacher was the turning point in my life, an opportunity that has propelled me to where I am today,” Alemsahay says. “My dream of being a role model for my three daughters has finally come to pass.”



Photo: LWF/Melany Markham

Mozambique

LWF Mozambique supports training on food conservation in Mozambique. This is new in the rural area, which normally experiences food shortages over the dry period from August to November each year. Food conservation means food can be conserved for up to a year. “This is a solution towards hunger reduction within households in this community during the months of scarcity,” says Sergio Banze, participant in the workshop and teacher. “I grew up seeing my mother throwing out tomatoes and green leaves during the harvest period because we could not eat them all, yet during the dry season we did not have anything for meals. Now I can confidently say that my students will face a different scenario,” he says.



Photo: LWF Mozambique/Gilberto Banze



Photo: LWF South Sudan/Birhanu Waka

South Sudan

Walid Awad Majir lost his parents and sister when planes bombed his village in Sudan. He escaped to a refugee camp where LWF South Sudan runs schools that gave him a future. Regional conflict has killed thousands and uprooted 2 million. LWF World Service provides emergency assistance and education.

Since March 2014, Walid has been attending the accelerated learning program supported by the European Union (EU) Children of Peace project. The project is funded by ECHO—the EU humanitarian office—and was established after the EU won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. With the program, LWF South Sudan offers teenagers who missed school because of conflict an opportunity to finish primary education in an appropriate learning environment, and to cope with the traumatic experiences of war.





Community-Based Action for Justice and Peace

Safeguarding the rights of disadvantaged groups has long been a prime concern of LWF World Service work. As an international organization, we are rooted in the communities we work with and use our leverage to bring their concerns to the global stage. In 2014, we conducted consultations with communities, disadvantaged groups and local civil rights organizations in Myanmar and Nepal. Our findings were combined in a report submitted to the UN Human Rights Council for these countries' Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR).

Through workshops in peace-building, human rights and conflict resolution, we supported advocacy on the grassroots level. We aim to empower marginalized communities to ensure the most vulnerable can access essential services and support such as health care, education, protection especially for children and people with special needs, recreation and community services.

Examples of Work with Community-Based Action for Justice and Peace

Haiti

Income-generating schemes in Haiti are helping the most vulnerable groups, who are still suffering after the 2010 earthquake. The program includes a micro finance system that allows poor people access to loans and savings so that they can start small business to strengthen their resilience to natural disasters. “LWF Haiti is focusing on the need for sustainable change on behalf of the most vulnerable groups of Haiti’s population. As a result, we are working with projects that are enabling people to get sustainable incomes,” LWF Country Representative Perolof Lundqvist says. “The Human Rights-Based Approach also brings support to local communities in their advocacy campaigns for better inclusion, participation of vulnerable populations in decision-making processes, promotion of gender equality and equity, and psychosocial well-being.”



Photo: C. N. Engle



Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

Jordan

“We empower youth by providing vocational training opportunities and encourage youth initiatives. We want to help the young people feel that they can be an active and important part of their community, and that their voices matter,” says LWF Jordan psychosocial project manager Wejdan Jarrah, who runs the Peace Oasis program in Za’atri refugee camp. The camp is home to over 80,000 Syrian refugees of whom more than 50% are under 18. “One staff member who is also a Syrian refugee told me, ‘I can respect others from different religions, and I now feel like I have a purpose in these times. I can help others through my work.’ I felt then that our work was really having impact,” says Wejdan.

Myanmar

Ma Swe Naing wants children's lives to be beautiful. The teacher helps children at the Oh Taw Gyi camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) learn to read, write, count and respect one another. LWF Myanmar assists 30,000 IDPs through the Education in Emergencies program, operating in 11 locations.

Photo: LWF Myanmar





Photo: LWC. Kästner

Nepal

Dil Kumari did not tell her husband that she had joined a women's cooperative. Like many men in her village, he considered the group a waste of time. But one day she used a cooperative loan to buy a buffalo. From selling its milk she was able to buy 13 more animals. Today Dil Kumari, who never attended a school, is a wealthy business woman and the provider for her family. The cooperative is one of the projects the LWF Nepal is implementing with local organizations in Nepal. Its economic power has given women a stronger voice in the community. The group has sub-committees for education and against domestic violence. Community structures like these support marginalized people in claiming their rights at community level and with district authorities.

Mauritania

Community people living in mining areas have been neglected by the international mining companies and the host government. There is little attention to the impact mining has on the environment, and the mining industry has never been held to account for its social responsibility. LWF Mauritania supports the initiative of the Mauritanian coalition “Publish What You Pay” by accompanying the coalition in a rights-based approach framework and offering financial support. In 2014, the coalition facilitated a workshop on transparency and tax system for 18 Members of Parliament from the mining areas of Nouakchott, Zouerate and Akjoujt. At the end of the workshop, the delegates agreed that they will advocate so the government can put in place a particular fiscal system for mining areas.

Photo: LWF/Thomas Ekelund





Photo: LWF/C. Kästner

LWF Constitution

Article II. Nature and Function

The Lutheran World Federation is a communion of churches which confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship.

The Lutheran World Federation confesses the one, holy and catholic, and apostolic church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.

The Lutheran World Federation:

- *Furtheres the united witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthens the member churches in carrying out the missionary command and in their efforts toward Christian unity worldwide;*
- *Furtheres worldwide among member churches: Diaconal action, alleviation of human need, promo-*

tion of peace and human rights, social and economic justice, care for God's creation and sharing of resources;

- *Furtheres through cooperative study, the self-understanding and the communion of member churches and helps them to act jointly in common tasks.*

Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

Governance

Between Assemblies, the LWF is governed by the LWF Council. In 2014, member churches in Indonesia hosted the Council, which took place in Medan. The 49 Council members represent all regions of the LWF and are elected by the LWF Assembly held every seven years. The Council has a quota of 20% youth, 40% women and 40% men.



Staff

In December 2014, there were 72 staff working in Geneva in the Communion Office.

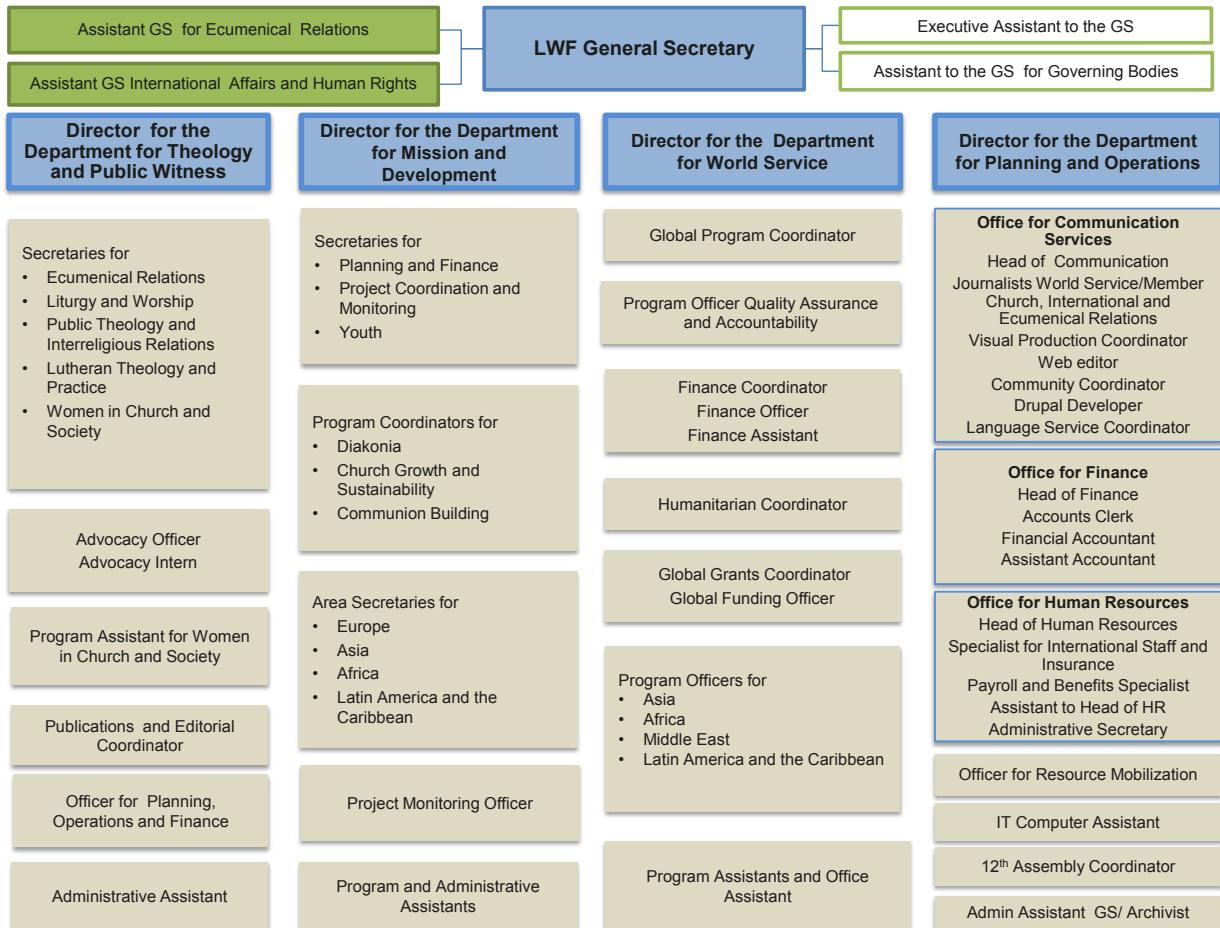




Photo: LFW/DWS Central African Republic

LWF World Service Country Programs Staff

Sixty international staff (including short-term contracts) and around 2,500 staff hired locally were working in the LWF Department for World Service programs in 2014.



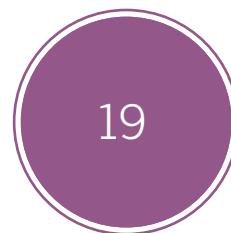
Refugee Staff



National staff



International Staff



Geneva Staff

Finances

The Summary of Income and Expenditures 2014 provides the consolidated financial results for the year ended 31 December 2014. PricewaterhouseCoopers SA audited the financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Swiss law without any qualifications. The table reflects the income and expenditures according to the program/

project and Geneva coordination cost.

Income

The 2014 total income was EUR 116 million, an increase of EUR 11 million or 10% compared to the 2013 figures. The increase is mainly due to the rise in emergency and disaster responses.

Expenditure

The 2014 total expenditure was EUR 112 million, an increase of EUR 11 million or 11% in program and coordination expenditure compared to 2013 figures.

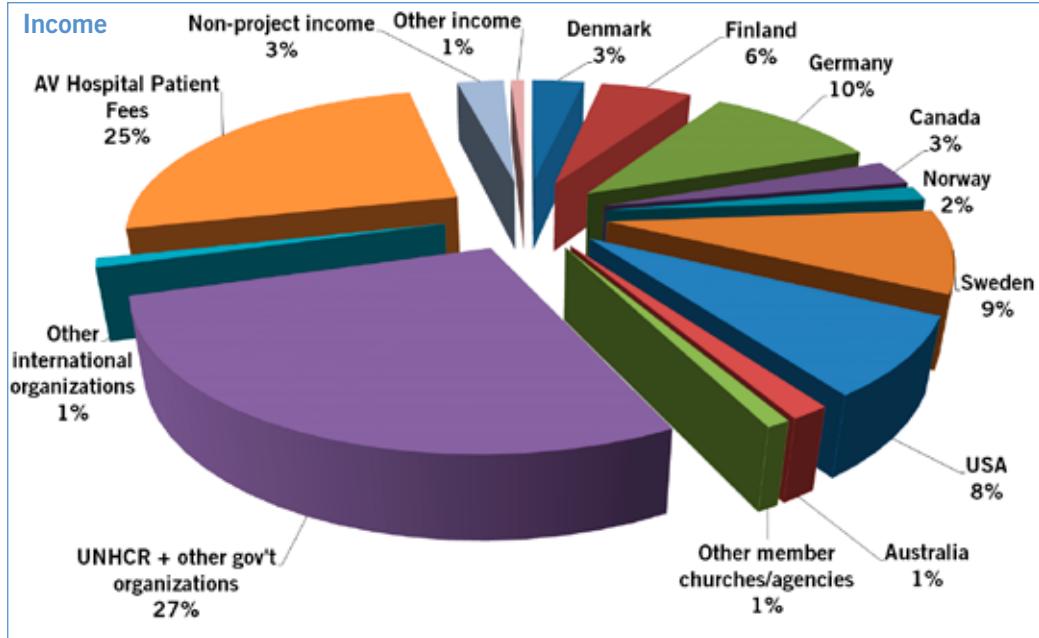
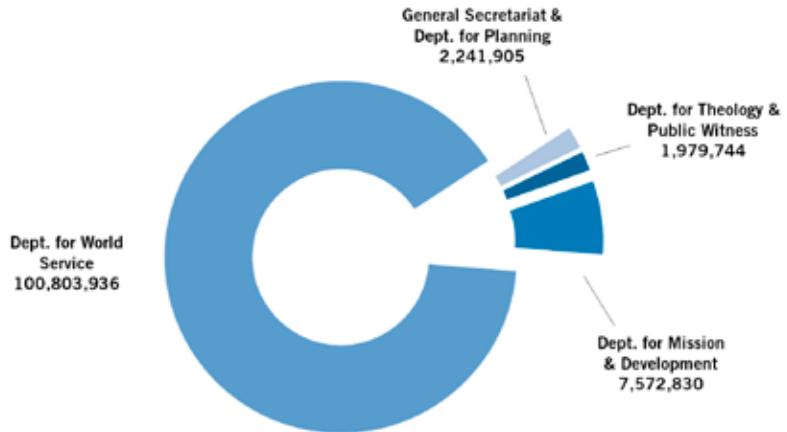
Consolidated Results in 2014

Amounts in EUR	Geneva Coordination	Program & Projects	Total
Income	10,943,620	105,278,914	116,222,534
Expenditure	10,883,322	101,715,093	112,598,415
Operating Results	60,298	3,563,821	3,624,119
Other Financial Charges		669,022	669,022
Net Result	60,298	4,232,843	4,293,141
Reserves 31.12.2013 (After Restatement of IAS 19 Revised)	3,797,983	18,511,196	22,309,179
Reserves 31.12.2014 (After Restatement of IAS 19 Revised)	913,280	22,744,040	23,657,320

Management and Control

Our financial exposure to a variety of risks that could adversely affect our financial results and performance are managed through an effective Internal Control System (ICS) as per the Swiss regulations and evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA.

Expenditure



Endowment Fund

The LWF Endowment Fund was established in 1999 to help secure a financially sustainable future for the LWF. Yields from the Fund secure the continuity of the work of the LWF.

A CHF 20 million target is set for 2017. By the end of 2014, the value of the Fund was CHF 14.77

million. During the year, it recorded a performance of 7 %.

An independent Board of Trustees manages the Endowment fund.

Gifts and legacies from individual, churches and organizations are welcomed with gratitude.

Please contact:

Email: info@lutheranworld.org

Telephone: +41 22 791 6455

Donate online at

www.lutheranworld.org



Photo: LWF/Ryan Rodrick Beiler

Liberated by God's grace,
a communion in Christ living
and working together for a just,
peaceful, and reconciled world.



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