




THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

World Service
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LWF WORLD SERVICE

.....
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



A woman in a vibrant pink and black patterned dress walks on a path, smiling. She has a small bag slung across her chest. In the background, other people, including children, are visible, some pushing strollers. The setting appears to be an outdoor area with greenery.

The focus of our strategy remains clear: it is always on the people we serve. At the center of everything we do are the people involved in and affected by our work: refugees, internally displaced people, returnees, host communities, and communities at risk.

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Published by: Office for Communication Services,
Department for Planning and Operations

Route de Ferney 150
P. O. Box 2100 1211
Geneva 2, Switzerland

Design: Weaver Creative, www.weavercreative.co.nz

Cover image: LWF Mauritania food security project through irrigation, fruit trees and gardens in Kiifa. © LWF Mauritania/Mamoudou Lamine Kane.

This image: Supported by the Lutheran World Federation, the Beldangi refugee camp in the Jhapa district of Nepal hosts more than 5,000 Bhutanese refugees. © LWF/Albin Hillert.



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CONTENTS

Welcome	02
About us	04
Emergencies	06
Livelihoods	08
Education	10
Faith-sensitivity in humanitarian response	12
Climate justice	13
Rights based approach	14
Where we work	16
Gender justice	18
Safety and security	20
Child protection	22
Augusta Victoria Hospital	24
Finances	26
Looking forward	28

WELCOME

Human beings, human rights – unassailable and indivisible

World Service's work in the world, in the midst of some of the most intractable and challenging humanitarian and development situations globally, always focused on the human being.



Women and children cross a flooded intersection on their way to market in Chantal in Haiti's South, where Hurricane Matthew at the end of 2016 worsened problems related to climate change.

© LWF/Starry Sprenkle.

The people we work with are at the core of our strategy, emphasizing the unassailable worth and dignity of each individual, no matter how challenging, desperate or difficult their situations may be. This emphasis leads us to approach all our work through the lens of human rights and provides us with a universal framework through which to respond to the needs in our world today.

This report provides you with a glimpse into what that means when we look at our engagement in emergencies – how we work with refugees for the fulfilment of basic human rights such as the right to education, shelter, livelihoods or food.

We are proud of the work we carried out with other faith actors and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2018 to develop guidance for humanitarian practitioners in how to take peoples' faith identities seriously and use them constructively for protection, mental health and psychological support to people very seriously impacted by violence and forced displacement.

Our work in livelihoods is also underpinned by human rights, specifically the right of all people to engage in economic activity and be able to support their families. Land rights, gender issues and a focus on the rights of women and girls are closely related to work on livelihoods and inform our programming.

Education as a basic right is a sector LWF has decades of experience in, empowering generations of young people, who are also refugees and internally displaced people, to face their futures with crucial skills, which will enable them to be active agents in their own lives.

Climate change and work to combat it is also approached from a human rights perspective, where people who are seriously affected will be less able to fully enjoy their rights to health, livelihoods, and a safe environment. Child protection and the rights of the child are promoted in everything we do.

The report for 2018 also showcases our work in Jerusalem and the Augusta Victoria Hospital, situated on the Mount of Olives. This crucial service meets the health rights of the Palestinian population in several specialized fields, including cancer and kidney care.

World Service staff work in environments which are unstable, often impacted by violence and unrest. Staff well-being and safety and security are areas we continue to take very seriously and improve on each year.

LWF World Service is a reflection of the member churches of the LWF's stated commitment to serve those in the world who most need our assistance. We continue to do so in a challenging environment. We are encouraged and supported by our many partners from churches, interfaith communities, the UN family, governments, and international donors. We are grateful for all your support and participation in the work we do together to uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed.

Thank you.

Maria Immonen
LWF World Service Director

ABOUT US

Uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed

LWF World Service continued to challenge and respond to the causes and effects of human suffering and poverty in 2018. Our objective is to help create a world where people are empowered to achieve their full potential, meet basic needs, claim universal rights, and enjoy life in dignity.

We value dignity and justice for all, compassion for and commitment to others, respect for diversity and inclusivity. Our participatory approaches guarantee both transparency and accountability to the communities with whom we work.

As the humanitarian and development arm of the communion of 148 member churches representing 75.5 million people, World Service strives to work with the LWF constituency and other religions in ways that are both sensitive to faith and relevant to the communities we serve.

In 2018, we were engaged in 17 long-term development programs and two emergency responses across 18 programs in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Central America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. We could only do this with a strong and committed team of 7,305 colleagues (including incentive workers and volunteers) overseen by 25 global staff.

We continue to assess our work to maintain our high standards of effective and strategic care. In May, World Service country representatives and team leaders came together for our Global Leadership Team Meeting, where we celebrated our continuing collaboration and worked through challenges at both operational and strategic levels. Recognizing the value of learning from each other, two regional management team meetings were also held during the year; the first in Haiti for the Caribbean region in May, and the second in Jordan for the Middle East in September.

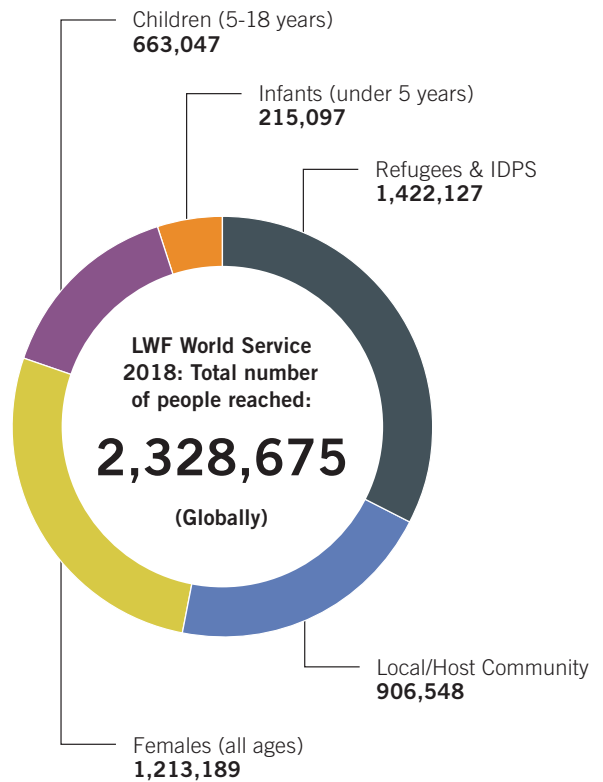
We received with gratitude the worldwide recognition of our work. The 2018 annual report of the United Nations (UN) Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development cited our authentic outreach:



Janet Gorges teaches sewing class to Yazidi women in a “Women Friendly Space” in a camp for internally displaced persons at Dawodiya in Iraq’s Kurdistan region. © ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey.

“These active endeavors demonstrate the commitment LWF has to practicing what they preach, and showing how FBOs (Faith Based Organizations) can lead the way in transforming the power dynamics that continue to perpetuate harmful and oppressive structures... A particularly innovative approach of LWF is to work in complementarity with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council thereby effectively mainstreaming refugee policy into human rights policies at the national level.”

Amid conflicts and violence that cause suffering and the forced displacement of people, exploitation and pain, World Service continued to affirm the inherent dignity and equal rights of every human being.



EMERGENCIES

Assisting the most vulnerable

The Global Humanitarian Overview 2018 published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reminds us that 201 million people in 134 countries in the world needed humanitarian assistance.



Refugees at a tapstand in Minawao refugee camp, extreme North, Cameroon. © LWF/C. Kästner.

Conflict remained the main driver of humanitarian needs, with protracted or new outbreaks of violence and crises. Also, natural disasters such as floods, recurring drought, volcanic eruptions and epidemics continues to cause death and desperation in many countries.

In 2018, UNHCR estimated that among the 70 million forcibly displaced people in the world, 25.4 million were refugees. Internally displaced people (IDPs) accounted for 39.7 million.

World Service responded to these crises through our existing country programs, by reinforcing ongoing emergency operations and by opening new locations in our operation through emergency hubs, and with local partners.

In Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, DRC, Kenya, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda, we responded to new humanitarian needs while continuing to engage in ongoing development programs. These included responses to the Ebola outbreak and forced returns to the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), and return movements to Iraq.

In Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Iraq, we continued our emergency assistance programs that were launched between 2013 and 2016. The intensification of the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria created an influx of 40,000 new refugees in Cameroon, to which we responded in collaboration with ACT Alliance, with support from Christian Aid.

The emergency hub in Central America coordinated support to victims of the Fuego volcano eruption in Guatemala City, which buried several villages and displaced 1.7 million people. We provided food, hygiene kits and psychosocial support to 11,000 people evacuated after the disaster in the most affected communities in Chimaltenango, Escuintla, and Sacatepéquez.

The influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh continued in 2018, causing a large-scale humanitarian crisis. Towards the end of the year, World Service began exploring the possibility of launching an emergency operation in Cox's Bazaar in Southern Bangladesh, one of the largest refugee camps in the world, with support from the Asia and Pacific emergency hub.

The potential for regional stability following improved relations between Syria and Jordan and the consequent re-opening of the joint border for the first time in three years last October created an opportunity to explore possible engagement inside Syria.

LIVELIHOODS

Empowering communities and transforming lives

At the core of our work is the goal to empower people and communities to become more resilient and economically self-reliant by helping them to acquire the skills, tools, and networks necessary to support themselves and absorb possible future shocks. World Service delivers benefits for individuals, households, communities and institutions at the height of emergencies, during recovery, and longer-term development.

PELUQUERIA S.G



Carlos Marín, one of the young people who has started his hairdressing business as part of the project actions Local initiatives for the development of migrant population returned from the department of Olancho, Honduras. © RDS-HN.

World Service works with the most vulnerable households, offering skills development and income generation training, with a specific focus on women, youth and people living with disabilities. A significant focus of our work is the devastating impact of climate change on the livelihoods of the most vulnerable. Our engagement seeks to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and increase adaptation to these changes, while fostering smart technological approaches.

In Cameroon, improved crop production methods, animal rearing, fishing, vocational training, and income-generating activities were the backbone of our livelihood related activities. Community Resource Persons (CRPs) were trained to carry out regular visits to targeted communities in order to help them gain financial literacy, and agricultural and vocational training. Seen as role models in their communities, CRPs were influential in implementing modern agricultural and improved breeding techniques. This intervention led to increased food security and income, as well as the mastering of new agricultural techniques, use of improved seed varieties, and a higher accumulation of livestock.

Drip irrigation transforms lives in Lokipoto

At Lokipoto, 78 kilometers from Kakuma along the Kenya-Uganda border, unpredictable climatic patterns make agricultural production difficult and limit prospects of secure household incomes. World Service introduced Climate Smart Agricultural techniques (CSA) that involved both irrigation and rain-fed agriculture. We constructed a borehole in Lokipoto, which was equipped with a solar-powered system and water pipeline network linked to tap stands and cattle troughs in the village. This enabled people to have access to 20 liters of water per day for domestic use. Farmers received training on using drip irrigation techniques for intensive production of high-value vegetables, such as spinach, kale, and cowpeas. They also learned how to plant different crops and agribusiness skills. As a result, they were able to sell their vegetables to vendors in Kakuma town on a weekly basis.

Saidou Ibrahima is a refugee and animal farmer from the CAR who lives in Borgop refugee camp in Cameroon with his family of 12 children. With World Service support, he cultivated and planted onions, tomatoes, maize, groundnuts, cassava and other crops on a 2,500m² parcel of land. The harvest has helped Ibrahima improve his household food ration and pay tuition fees for his school-age children.

EDUCATION

Providing a foundation for the future

More than half of the world's refugees are children, according to UNHCR, and many of them will spend their entire childhoods away from home, sometimes separated from their families. Their access to education is limited, with a significant number unable to attend school.

World Service, in partnership with governments and other stakeholders, is committed to ensuring quality education for refugee children and young people. Education helps to protect displaced children from forced recruitment into armed groups, sexual exploitation and child marriage. Education also empowers children by giving them the knowledge and skills to live productive and independent lives.

Children with disabilities in refugee camps are often doubly disadvantaged because most parents and caregivers keep them at home. Our projects during the year included assessment of children with disabilities to ensure they receive the appropriate level of assistance such as qualified special educational needs teachers.

In Laos, we worked closely with the district education department in Viengphoukha and the Nalae districts of Luangnamtha province to ensure the right to education for primary and secondary students in ethnic minority communities. The Rights-Based Empowerment Project supported teacher training, distribution of teacher and student learning kits, school and dormitory renovation and construction, while providing bicycles for secondary students to access distant school facilities.

In Jordan, the four-year "Improved Learning Environments" program, which we developed in partnership with the Jordanian ministry of education, currently involves up to 175 primary and secondary schools in seven governorates (or regions), including those with the highest number of Syrian refugees.



The prospect of a better education is more likely for Ma Khin Nu, seven, a resident of the Ohn Taw Gyi camp, Myanmar. © LWF Myanmar/Isaac Kyaw Htun Hla.

Providing education for children excluded from the formal system in Myanmar

In Myanmar, World Service promoted the right to education for children in IDP camps and in under-served communities in Chin, Kayin and Rakhine states. Through the Education in Emergency Working Group, we advocated for national education policies, and collaborated with state and township education offices to ensure quality teacher training and improved student-to-teacher ratios at primary and secondary schools.

At the World Service temporary learning center in Ohn Taw Gyi camp in Rakhine state, seven-year-old Ma Khin Nu, who dreams of becoming a teacher, and her two younger siblings are among the 32,000 children who benefit from our Education for Change program.

The grade five student is one of the estimated 140,000 displaced Muslims or Rohingya in Rakhine, living in some 60 different camps. Under Myanmar law, they are not entitled to citizenship rights, and without birth certificates, they have little or no access to public schools or formal vocational training.

“I love going to school,” the young student says. “I have lots of friends here and I can study, draw pictures, recite poems and play with toys.”

In 2018, World Service continued to manage educational programs for refugees in Kenya and South Sudan, which are based on the national education curriculum. We celebrated the success of students such as Juk Mabior Kuai, a pupil at the Angelina Jolie Girls Boarding School in Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana County, northwest Kenya. She scored 418 out of a possible 500 marks, the highest mark in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education.

The school offers an education especially for at-risk-girls facing dangers such as exploitation and forced marriage. It is managed by LWF, the lead implementing agency for primary education in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, on behalf of UNHCR.

“Now I want all girls in my community to be encouraged to go to school and succeed like me,” Kuai, says.

FAITH-SENSITIVITY IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Respecting faith and faith identity

LWF and Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) published a manual in 2018 aimed at helping both secular and faith-based humanitarian agencies adapt their work to the faith and background of people affected by conflict, disaster and displacement. The manual, “A Faith-Sensitive Approach in Humanitarian Response: Guidance on Mental Health and Psychosocial Programming,” was launched at the UNHCR-NGO Consultations in June.

The manual was developed with input from World Service and IRW country offices in Kenya, Jordan and Nepal, and is closely aligned with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings. It aims to strengthen the support given to refugees and displaced people through more effective engagement with local faith communities and religious leaders during humanitarian emergencies.

“The intention of faith-sensitive psychosocial support is to address their needs and those of the communities where they settle, whilst remaining true to humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality,” said LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge.

The manual addresses faith sensitivity right across the spectrum of humanitarian responses. Sensitivity to religious identity is not only related to the spirituality of those fleeing disasters or conflicts, or the psychological, medical and social arenas, it also affects practical aspects such as offering appropriate food, shelter and meeting spaces.

The manual is available on our website.



CLIMATE JUSTICE

Responding to disaster and climate change

LWF World Service is committed to addressing climate change, which has a disproportionate impact on the world's most vulnerable people and communities. Climate change is an issue of justice as it threatens jobs and livelihoods, economic and human security, human rights and stability, and may lead to more violent conflicts.

It requires action, not just at the local level, but also through commitments by national governments and international agreements. A key aspect of World Service's contribution to global humanitarian efforts is our local-to-global approach. This allows us to utilize grass-roots engagement to influence national and international policy and practice.

In Nepal, we responded to the floods and landslides caused by the heavy monsoon rain. Support to the affected communities was immediate, but also included putting in place long-term disaster preparedness measures, such as planting bamboo trees along riverbanks and building spur dykes. Discussions with the local government focused on identifying ways to mitigate future extreme weather events linked to climate change.

In Haiti, we worked with communities who had been affected by Hurricane Matthew.

In these areas that are prone to frequent tropical storms, we constructed homes that are able to withstand the increasingly frequent severe weather events, and we introduced agricultural activities aimed at preventing catastrophic landslides and mud flows.


Central America is one of the regions most affected by climate change, with frequent drought in the "dry corridor" running through Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Climate risks in the region are expected to increase, resulting in water scarcity, more frequent floods and landslides, a drop in the quality and quantity of food production, and the spread of vector-borne tropical diseases.

In November, 153 leaders from academia, faith-based groups, governments, civil society and the private sector took part in events in El Salvador focused on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report "Global Warming of 1.5°C" and the impact on gender equity. The World Service-organized meetings included sessions on adaptation and mitigation measures. In addition, 2,866 young people from the four dry-corridor countries developed advocacy campaigns for climate justice, emphasizing messages on "Thinking Green," "Young People Acting Against Climate Change," and "Food Security and Sovereignty."

RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

From local to global

World Service is community-based and rights-based. Rather than focusing on only delivery of aid and services, we support people to organize and empower themselves, and to claim their rights at the local, national and international levels.

A photograph showing two young men standing in a field of growing cabbages. The man on the left is wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful graphic and blue jeans. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and dark trousers. They are both smiling. The field is filled with rows of young cabbages in dark soil. In the background, there is a field of tall, dry grass and some trees under a clear sky.

Villagers in Chinganga Moises, Moxico Province Angola are happy to show their gardens as part of a food security project. They processed their land titles which protects them in case of land conflicts. © LWF/O. Schnöebelen.

Land rights

In 2018, our global work included support to 9,500 farmers in Angola and Myanmar to build capacity to claim their rights to land and be better prepared in conflict situations. As a result, seven communities in Angola were able to get their provisional land delimitation. In addition, the women's association of Samaria received its final land title and a tractor paid for by the local governor. This was the result of national and local level advocacy, and in recognition of the association's role in promoting agriculture in the province of Moxico.

The LWF continued its leading role in coordinating civil society coalitions for the UN's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reporting on the obligation to respect human rights in individual countries. We focused not only on land rights in the two countries mentioned above, but also on other issues in Colombia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. We promote a non-confrontational approach and work with those who are entrusted with responsibility, encouraging them to enhance their capacity to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable. This is particularly essential at the implementation phase of UPR recommendations. For example, LWF Uganda focused on helping juveniles gain access to justice and ending their detention alongside adults. By working with district authorities and partners, we facilitated prison inspections, reintegration of convicted minors into their communities, and provided six mobile legal aid clinics offering free counseling to nearly 600 marginalized women, men and children.

World Service also supported a visit by a delegation of Chadian civil society organizations to Geneva to lobby diplomatic missions. The aim was to encourage the government of Chad to accept recommendations on issues such as the prevention of violence against women, support of female entrepreneurship, and refugee rights.

Strengthening local leadership in Nepal

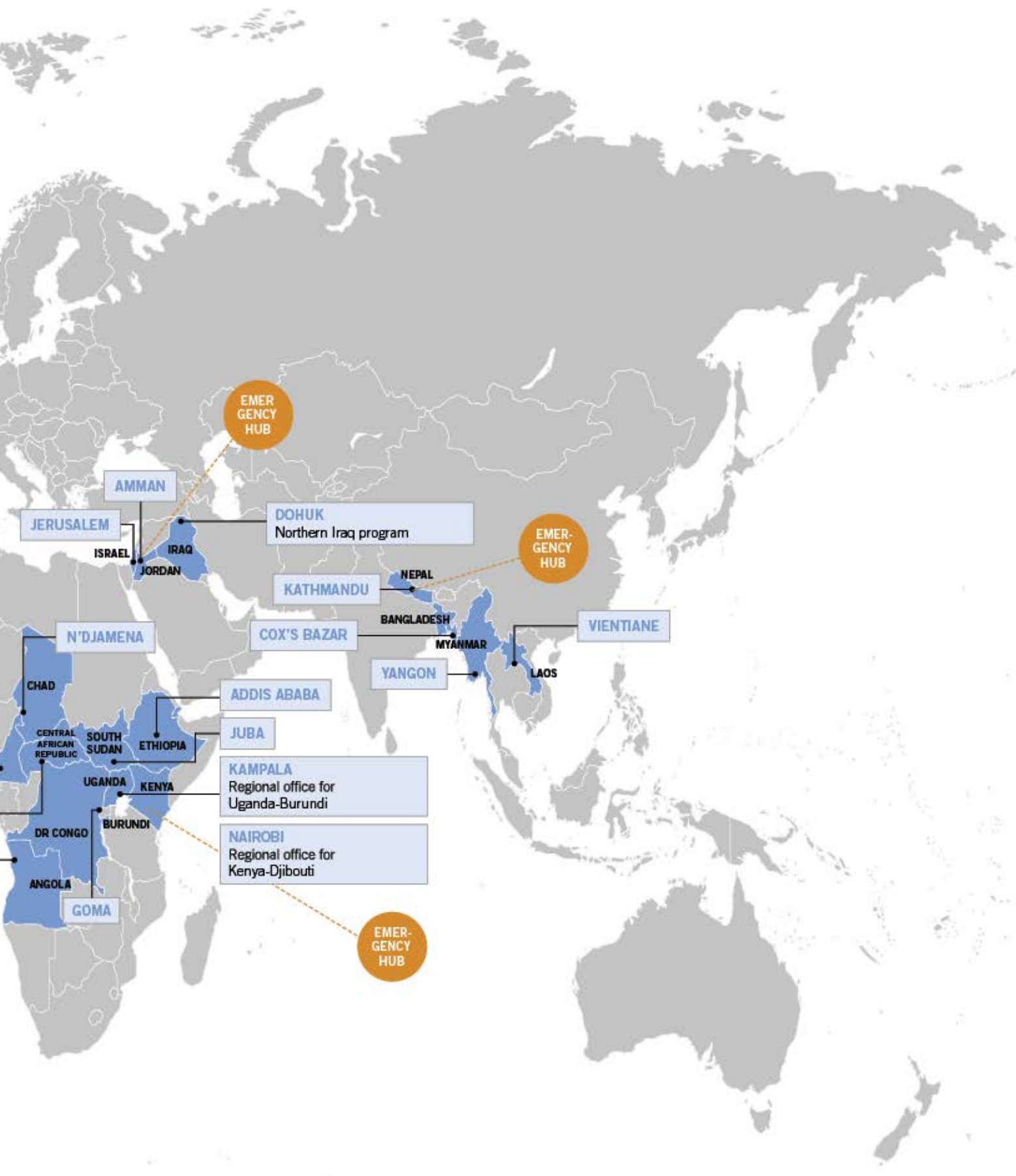
In Nepal, we followed up on the recommendations of the previous UPR by strengthening the capacity of the most vulnerable communities – Dalits, former bonded laborers (or Haliyas), refugees, and indigenous people. This included helping these groups to establish democratic organizations to carry out advocacy on their behalf. A major achievement in increasing local leadership was the election of 182 rights holders to local, provincial and federal positions in communities in which LWF is working. The elected representatives are engaged in advocating for citizenship for marginalized indigenous groups such as the Santhal and the Musha, and the just rehabilitation of former bonded laborers.

LWF Nepal developed a mobile application (or app) to monitor economic, social and cultural rights. In 2018, we trained community members to use the app to collect data on access to education, rights to health, and discrimination issues affecting the Dalits, Haliyas and Santhal communities. The direct reporting system provides a concrete and accurate reflection of the status of their human rights. The data received from the app informs evidence-based program design and advocacy.

WHERE WE WORK

LWF main offices in the country program





EMERGENCY HUB

AMMAN

JERUSALEM

DOHUK
Northern Iraq program

EMERGENCY HUB

KATHMANDU

COX'S BAZAR

VIENTIANE

N'DJAMENA

ADDIS ABABA

YANGON

JUBA

KAMPALA
Regional office for
Uganda-Burundi

NAIROBI
Regional office for
Kenya-Djibouti

EMERGENCY HUB

GOMA

GENDER JUSTICE

Committed to empowering women and girls

World Service made notable advances in realizing gender justice and women's empowerment in 2018. With the support of the Australian Lutheran World Service and Canadian Lutheran World Relief, training programs were organized in five country programs in Asia and East Africa. Church of Sweden supported additional training in the Central American region, including a workshop on transformative masculinities in Colombia.

LWF maintains zero tolerance regarding sexual abuse or misconduct using our Code of Conduct as a concrete tool to fight sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse. By the end of 2018, more than 90 percent of World Service country programs had been engaged in awareness raising on how to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

In some countries, raising awareness was an integrated part of education or community engagement programming. However, in an increasing number of country programs, interventions were developed simultaneously to address prevention of and protection from SGBV, and social and economic empowerment of women and girls. Gender analysis is an

invaluable tool to ensure that programs are designed to respond to the priorities and needs of women, while addressing issues related to power and the control of resources.

Developing a strategy to integrate men in the discussion on gender justice and in concrete actions was also a priority during the year. The regional program in Central America, for example, brought together men and teenagers in El Salvador and Honduras to focus on self-confidence, gender roles, and violence within families and communities.



Damak, Nepal: Supported by the Lutheran World Federation, the Beldangi refugee camp in the Jhapa district of Nepal hosts more than 5,000 Bhutanese refugees. Here, a woman welcomes LWF general secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge as he visits the camp. © LWF/Albin Hillert.



Building LWF's security risk management capacity

World Service supports people who often live in insecure environments. In many areas, LWF staff and partners face high levels of stress, insecurity, health concerns and a lack of infrastructure.

We worked closely with country programs security focal points to enhance our ability to identify threats that could affect personnel, assets and operations. We were able to establish awareness about security in the organization through different types of security training and recruiting security

experts. In South Sudan, for example, we recruited a security expert and were able to maintain a good relationship with authorities and communities and protect LWF staff and assets.

“LWF South Sudan’s approach is to get access to and build strong relations with trusted local actors, such as churches, government officials and village leaders, to reduce the risks of intimidation and extortion. We also work with volunteers / incentive workers from local communities so that we are able to reach those with the biggest needs, such as IDPs and host community members.”

LWF continues to assess realistic threats such as kidnapping, abduction, ambushes, and robberies. By protecting staff, we reduce the risk of threats that can do them harm, which reduces high stress levels, and improves their ability to deliver good quality program work together with the communities we serve.”

Jacob Aleer, LWF South Sudan Security Liaison at the ICRC-EISF-LWF event

World Service, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the European Interagency Security Forum (EISF), co-organized an event in June to discuss the security challenges that international actors face while working with local activists.

In 2018, World Service developed a contingency plan to reduce the risks of further outbreaks of Ebola in the DRC and neighboring South Sudan and Uganda. Furthermore, safety and security training was organized for staff in Uganda, Chad and Iraq.

To be prepared for complex security situations, LWF’s core crisis management team members were trained in how to manage and act during a crisis using a realistic simulation exercise. World Service staff in Geneva also received security training with a focus on first aid, duty of care, travel risk assessment, and crisis management.

During the year, we reported 30 incidents that had a direct impact on teams and programs, an increase of about 50 percent compared to 2017. Aside from damage to assets, most incidents were related to traffic accidents, threats against staff, and burglary.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child safe and child friendly programs

LWF World Service is committed to ensuring the protection, safety and wellbeing of children in all its humanitarian and development programs.



When children become part of a displaced or traumatized population, there is an increased likelihood of abuse, exploitation or neglect due to widespread deprivation and distress. Unaccompanied minors are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault, harassment, forced labor and human trafficking.

We recognize the importance of training personnel in child safeguarding procedures, so that girls and boys participating in our programs are protected against all forms of violence and abuse. We strive to ensure the active participation of children in the planning, implementation and evaluation of our programs.

In 2018, World Service conducted child safeguarding assessments in refugee settlements and camps in Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda. Children played an important role in such an evaluation through focus group discussions and provided feedback on a range of safety and protection issues. They highlighted, for example, the establishment of community feedback and complaints mechanisms as good measures in preventing harm, as well as responding to allegations and misconduct.

Equally important is the concept of safe learning environments. That means ensuring schools, community facilities and child play spaces are safe for all children – including those with disabilities -- and that all these children have access to drinking water, trained facilitators and caretakers.

At the Adjumani and Moyo settlements in Uganda, the children commended World Service for building separate toilets for boys and girls, which are also accessible for children with disabilities.

LWF Cameroon created 10 child protection networks in refugee camps in the eastern and Adamawa regions in collaboration with administrative authorities. The networks were trained to prevent and respond to cases of violence, abuse and exploitation. Ten child-friendly spaces were also established. A total of 1,184 children benefited from psychosocial support, 595 adolescents were trained in preventing Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and how to prevent and respond to it, while temporary foster families and vulnerable children received training in gardening in order to improve their livelihoods.

Image: Sohal Tole, Jahada rural municipality, Nepal: The government-run Adarbhut School in Sohal Tole hosts a total of 143 children from the nearby community inhabited by Santal and Dalit (Musahar) people, who find themselves as the very margin of society in Nepal. © LWF/Albin Hillert.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Lifesaving treatment for patients from the West Bank and Gaza

The LWF-run Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem, is a center of medical excellence, serving 5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. AVH, which is accredited by the Joint Commission International for its outstanding quality, offers specialized care that is not available in other hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza, including radiation therapy for cancer patients and pediatric hemodialysis.



AVH is able to operate because of the support of LWF member churches and longstanding partnerships with the USA and the European Union (EU). AVH and the five other East Jerusalem hospitals rely on the latter governments' funding each year to cover approximately half of the costs for cancer patients and others referred to these hospitals.

In September 2018, the US administration decided to cut support to all humanitarian programs, not just its support to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) but also to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network. This decision was taken despite the exemption of hospitals from the Taylor-Force Act, passed by the US Congress and signed into a law by President Trump in March 2018 to strengthen restrictions on aid to Palestine. The decision created serious cash flow problems at all the hospitals and caused delays in life-saving and other urgent treatments, which are available to Palestinians only from the East Jerusalem hospitals.

LWF, therefore, encouraged the Palestinian Authority (PA), Israel, the US, and EU to work together to find long-term solutions for the sustainability of these services.

These include addressing the accumulated PA debts to the six East Jerusalem hospitals, promoting reforms of the Palestinian health system, supporting ways to increase funding locally, and working to secure continued international support.

Recognizing the need to reinforce its advocacy and fundraising efforts in the US context, LWF created a new position of senior advisor for advocacy and fundraising, based in Washington DC and hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The senior advisor is tasked with developing overall strategies

and plans for advocacy related to AVH, with particular emphasis on identifying more sustainable funding mechanisms, and fundraising for special projects, such as the proposed Elder Care and Palliative Medicine Institute.

In 2018, the senior advisor focused on advocacy regarding the US administration's review of its assistance to the West Bank and Gaza and the importance of the release of its Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and 2018 humanitarian assistance, including funds designated for AVH and the other East Jerusalem hospitals.

In close co-operation with the ELCA and its Peace Not Walls campaign, the senior advisor has led numerous workshops and spoken at events to increase the participation of individuals, congregations, and leaders in advocacy with key US officials.

While the release of the FY2017 funding could not be secured, it is hoped that the FY2018 funding might still be released. In addition, recognition of LWF's work at AVH has grown on Capitol Hill and among US policy makers and opinion leaders overall, and there are high hopes for renewed US commitment to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network and to AVH, in particular, in 2019.

2018 in Augusta Victoria Hospital

20,918 IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS

21,064 DIALYSIS SESSIONS

17,590 CHEMOTHERAPY SESSIONS

24,570 RADIATION SESSIONS

Image: Patients and staff make their way through the lobby of The Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem. © LWF/Ben Gray.

FINANCES

Ensuring a sustainable future

Income

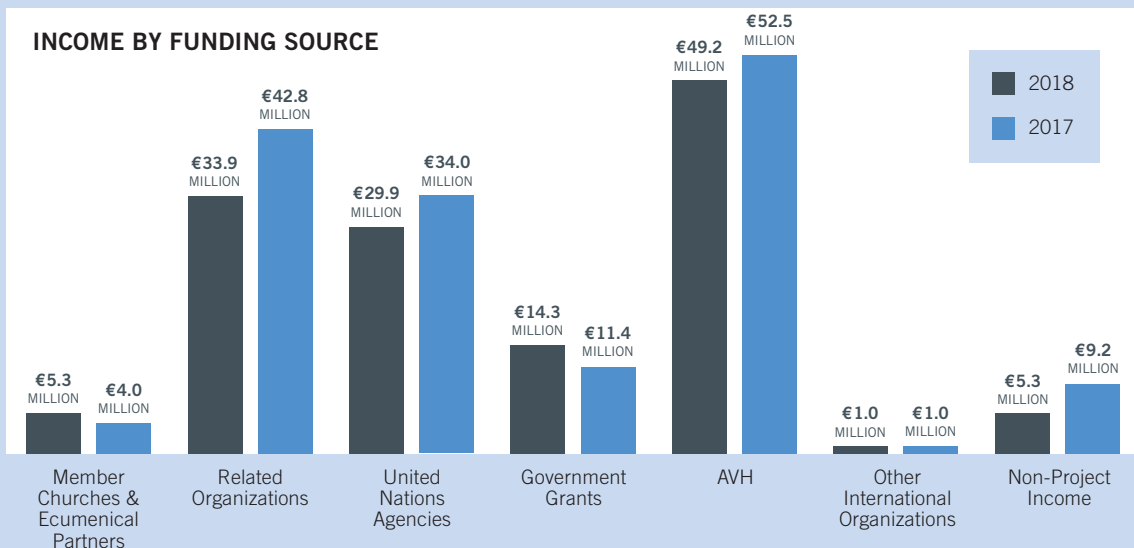
In 2018 we reported €139 million in income, a €16 million (10%) decrease from the previous financial year. This reduction was mainly due to lower income from emergency response in 2018 as compared to previous years.

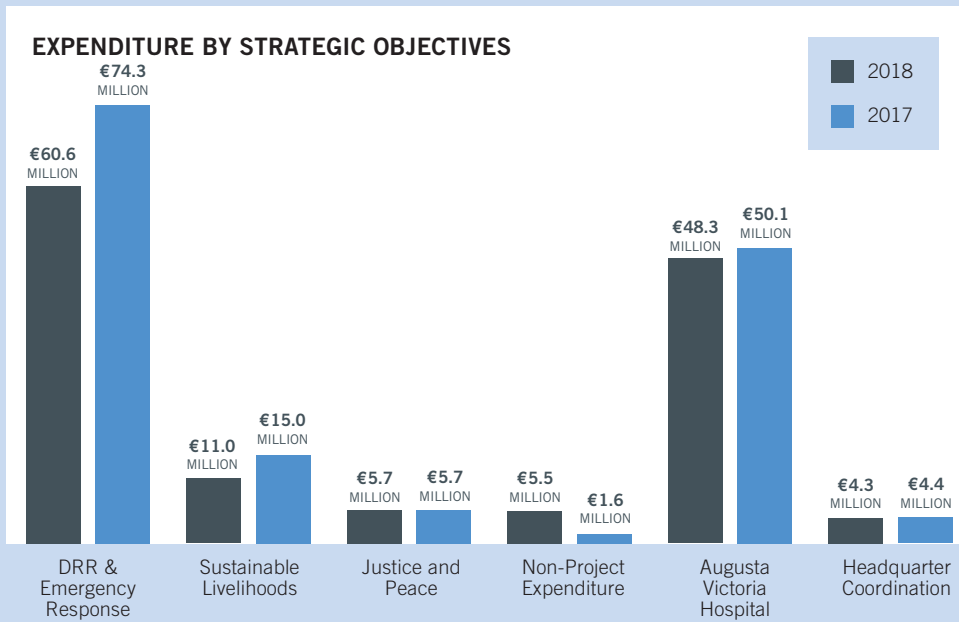
We give special thanks to all our donors who have continued to support our work during challenging economic times. The Related organization provided €34 million of the funding. The LWF member Churches and ecumenical partners generously provided €5 million.

All of us at World Service and the people that we support appreciate this important contribution from our member churches, Ecumenical partners and the Related organizations.

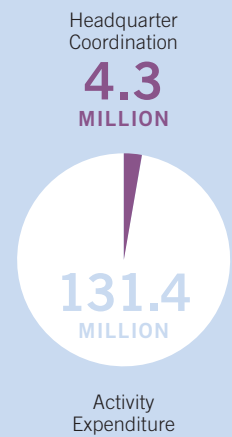
The UN organizations provided €30 million towards our work, while €14 million euros came from Government grants. €49 million of the income relate to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. €7 million of the income came from other international organizations and from non-project income.

ANNUAL INCOME





EXPENDITURE



Expenditure

Our total expenditure for the year was €136 million which represents a 10% decrease from 2017.

Expenditure on Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency response was €61 million (€74 million in 2017). We spent €11 million on Livelihoods work (€15 million in 2017) while €6 million was spent on Justice and Peace work. Expenditure on Augusta Victoria Hospital was €48.3 million (€50 million in 2017). €5.5 million went into non-project expenditure, while €4.3 million was spent on the coordination costs at the Geneva office.

The coordination costs relate to the expenses that were incurred by World Service office in Geneva. The costs include program coordination, quality assurance and accountability, finance coordination, grant management and fundraising, logistics, human resources, IT and communications.

These services play a crucial role in providing core organizational support in the delivery of our programmes globally. The total coordination costs of €4.3 million (€4.4 million in 2017) represents 3% of the total expenditure.

Raising Funds

The Global Funding Team had a successful year securing a total of €10.4 million (11 new grants) in 2018, surpassing the target of €8 million. Including multi-year grants, we secured a total of €12.8 million through to 2020.

During the year, 2018, LWF secured €26 million from UNHCR and remained the 7th largest recipient of UNHCR funds. By the end of 2018, we had 6 grants managers who were based in the country programs and who are charged with the responsibility of managing the institutional grants.

LOOKING FORWARD

Continued focus on livelihoods, quality services, protection and social cohesion

The year marked the end of the World Service 2013-2018 Global Strategy. The 2019-2024 Global Strategy, which is closely connected to the LWF Strategy 2019-2024, presents a new approach to our work worldwide. It sets a clear direction for an effective, integrated, and relevant response to increasingly complex and ever-changing operational contexts.

Our work focuses on three interrelated programmatic areas: livelihoods, quality services, protection and social cohesion at individual, community and institutional levels, linking relief interventions with recovery and development work.



VISION

People of the world, living in just societies in peace and dignity, united in diversity, are able to meet their basic needs, achieve their full potential, and claim their universal rights in order to improve their quality of life individually and collectively.

MISSION

Inspired by God's love for all of humanity, World Service is dedicated to challenge and address the causes and effects of human suffering and poverty, linking local responses to national and international advocacy.



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

World Service

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