



# LWF Annual Report 2013



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

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Photo: Church of Sweden/Joakim Roos

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# 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:

- Furthers 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;

- Furthers worldwide among member churches: Diaconal action, alleviation of human need, promotion of peace and human rights, social and economic justice, care for God's creation and sharing of resources;
- Furthers through cooperative study, the self-understanding and the communion of member churches and helps them to act jointly in common tasks.

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# Greeting from the General Secretary

In September 2013, I visited Namibia and Angola together with members of the LWF Council. Our member churches worked together with the LWF Department for World Service to reach out to a population affected by the worst drought in over 25 years. In the course of 2013, we managed to fundraise almost Euro 500,000 from member churches in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas to respond to the drought. At the time of writing, rain has begun to fall in the region making it possible for people to sow and harvest again and be able to sustain themselves in the year to come. In the meantime, I look back with gratitude at a communion of churches that is alive and active and has shown this vitality by tending with resolve to suffering neighbors.

As Christians we have received bread and wine from our Lord as signs of reconciliation and as food for body and soul. And we want to pass that on. This was visible in Namibia and Angola, and it was visible in the response to many other crises throughout the year.



Rev. Martin Junge, LWF General Secretary.  
Photo: Joanna Lindén-Montes/WCC

Some of the crises to which we responded to in 2013 were effects of extreme weather events that unfortunately, are becoming more frequent. We see that it is the poor who are being hit the hardest by climate change. The LWF is responding and engaging in advocacy efforts against climate change. During the COP 19, the LWF delegation comprised of young people initiated a fast for the climate campaign that is being rolled out in the entire communion.

Another highlight was the adoption of the *Gender Justice Policy*. The policy bears evidence to the commitment in

the LWF to the equal participation of men and women in church and society.

As we begin to prepare for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, we are grateful for the committed ecumenical dialogues that are bearing so many fruits. *From Conflict to Communion* – a joint publication born out of the Catholic-Lutheran dialogue was published in 2013. It is the first time Lutherans and Catholics jointly tell the Reformation story and do so with the firm resolve of this becoming a narrative that supports us all to move further into communion. The impact and meaning of this publication can be seen by the fact that it has already been translated into ten languages.

Service, justice, peace and reconciliation—these concepts and the vision they entail—continue to inspire the LWF communion of churches. Firmly rooted in faith, the LWF thus expresses its citizenship in this world and its vocation to be engaged and active wherever justice, peace and reconciliation are at stake.

# Greeting from the President

I am pleased to introduce this impressive report with highlights from our communion as we work together with passion for the church and for the world. Christ sends our communion to carry God's love to the poor, the needy, the vulnerable and the oppressed, sharing our many gifts and resources with the marginalized, the outcasts, the migrants and the refugees of our world. In this work, we are furthering the Kingdom of God.

We, who are grounded in the fundamentals of love, compassion, justice and peace, must affirm together that God has created every human life—indeed all of creation—to be cherished, protected and nurtured. It has therefore been a highlight of 2013 to be engaged in promoting the United Nations initiative and declaration: *Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders*. The declaration sets out principles to guide faith leaders in strengthening protection for the more than 40 million refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people across



Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, LWF President.  
Photo: LWF/H. Putsman-Penet

the globe. As Christians, we join other religions in welcoming the other in our midst. We believe that religion is not a stumbling block but a stepping stone to development, acceptance of the otherness of the other and reconciliation.

In 2013, we visited and accompanied more member churches who live and work in places that experience sectarian violence. We are grateful that churches uphold their call for justice and peace and do not deter from engaging in continued dialogue and cooperation despite the

challenges they face. We believe that in dialogue we erase the ignorance of one another.

Through its scholarship program, the LWF supported further training to a number of theologians and diaconal workers in 2013. The communion engages in dialogue with institutions of higher learning on religion, development, interfaith dialogue and theology. Education is the light casting out the darkness; it is love casting out fear; it is strength casting out weakness. Education—on any level—is contributing to a future where peaceful co-existence is possible and human dignity is upheld.

I pray that the gift of God's grace and the gift of this global communion will guide us through the coming year as we look forward to commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in a spirit of ecumenical accountability. May this vision motivate us even more to share the Good News of the Cross in our broken world.

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# What We Do and How We Work

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of churches. The LWF works for and with Lutheran churches in proclaiming the gospel, serving the poor and advocating for a just, peaceful and reconciled world.

LWF's vision statement guides the communion's work:

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

The LWF was founded by Lutheran churches in 1947 in Lund, Sweden. Today it has 142 members in 79 countries. LWF member churches comprise over 72.2 million Christians.



Photo: LWF/M. Haas



Photo: LWF/M. Markham



Photo: LWF/S. Gally



Father and son at  
Bubukwanga refugee  
camp, Uganda.  
Photo: ACT/DCA/Mai Gad

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# Member Churches

This map shows the membership of the 140 member churches and two associate members.

## Membership per continent

4,078,950

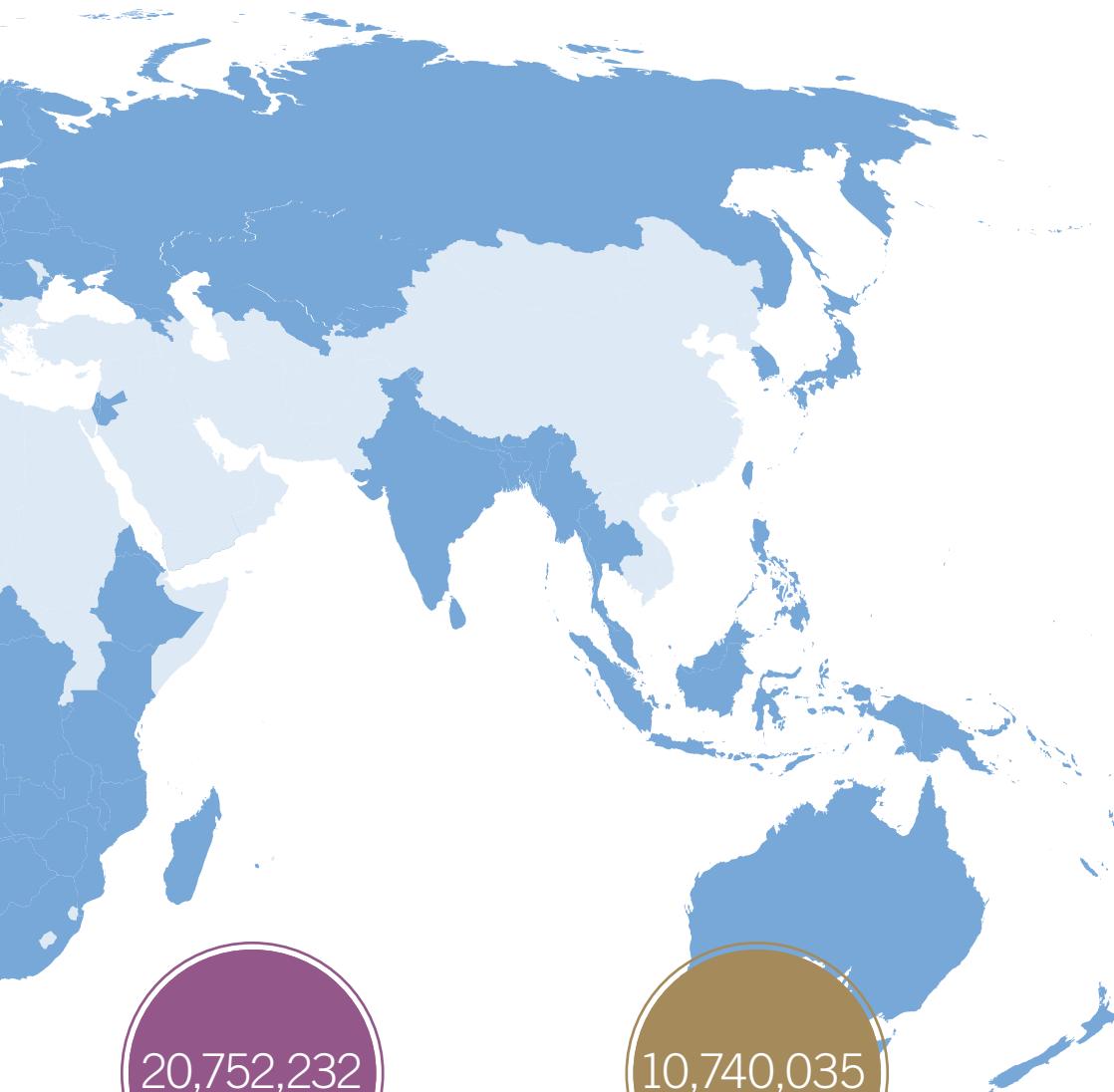
North America

844,111

Latin America and  
the Caribbean

35,853,001

Europe



20,752,232  
Africa

10,740,035  
Asia

142  
Member Churches

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# Transformative Leadership and Good Governance

The LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD) works with and for member churches to strengthen their capacity for holistic mission. Holistic mission is understood as proclaiming the gospel, serving people in need (diakonia) and advocating for justice, peace and reconciliation. An important pillar in DMD's work is the

Transformative Leadership and Good Governance program, which helps member churches train effective leaders and develop participatory systems of governance—in order to help them contribute to God's mission today. DMD also strengthens the representation of women and youth in leadership positions within churches and the LWF.

In 2013, workshops focused on leadership, human resource management, succession planning, human and institutional capacity development policy, and conflict transformation. During the year, 106 people from 19 member churches benefited from workshops in Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria and South

## Department for Mission and Development



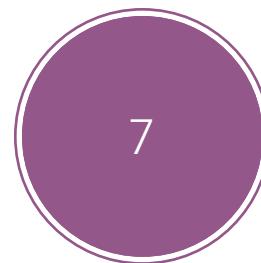
staff from 11 different countries



programmatic areas including capacity for diakonia, good governance and theological education



to support 108 member church projects



responding to the needs of member churches in the 7 LWF regions

Africa. A program on ‘Enhanced Sustainability’ assisted churches in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador in developing program monitoring and evaluation strategies, mapping and assessment, human and institutional capacity, planning round tables, and dialogues on good governance.

Through the LWF scholarship program, 90 candidates enrolled in further education in diakonia and/or theological studies in 2013. Development through the scholarship program is an important element in capacity building with member churches.

The LWF convened leadership meetings in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and in Europe in 2013. Leadership meetings offered member churches opportunities to share some of the key issues churches are addressing in their various contexts. Some of the issues under discussion in 2013 were church development, secularisation, poverty and sustainability.



Pastors from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
Photo: LWF/H.Martinussen

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# Capacity for Diakonia Program

Diakonia is one of the pillars of holistic mission in the LWF. In June 2013, DMD held a global virtual conference for diakonia, connecting 400 pastors, congregational leaders, professional diaconal workers and volunteers from around the world. The theme of the Internet-based conference “Stand Up and Walk” was based

on the story about Jesus healing a paralytic and aimed at supporting member churches’ capacity to undertake diaconal ministries and link diaconal workers globally. Participants discussed several key topics including “Faith & Action,” “Diakonia in Context,” and “Learning & Sharing in Diakonia.”



Southern Mitrovica.  
Photo: Joakim Roos

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“In the end we are all included in God’s diakonia, transformation, reconciliation and empowerment. That is how we experience God’s grace and at the same time we are each called to participate in that same diakonia by God’s grace for the healing of the world.”

Rev. Dr Kjell Nordstokke,  
professor of diakonia at  
Diakonhjemmet University  
College in Oslo, Norway

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In October, DMD published the resource *Seeking conviviality – Reforming Community Diakonia in Europe*. The publication identifies current challenges to the church and diakonia in Europe and proposes diaconal practice. The resource is published to help churches analyze their own contexts and support innovative engagement by congregations and diaconal workers as they engage in diakonia.

DMD also supported 108 member church projects in 45 coun-



Children in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, where the LWF held a diakonia consultation in 2013. Photo: Joakim Roos

tries in 2013. Projects focused on diakonia, theological education, sustainable development, capacity building, HIV and AIDS, women's empowerment and church institutional development.

During 2013, focused accompaniment, including visits and specific training in 21 small and struggling LWF member churches in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, enabled them to increase their ca-

capacity to meet the project planning, monitoring and reporting requirements on Standards for Diakonia and Communities of Practice, which is part of the reporting process for churches receiving LWF funding.

# Youth Leadership Development

New ways of interacting were developed by the LWF Youth Desk in 2013, including an E-Mentorship program for young advocacy delegates, a creative competition on Reformation, and interfaith campaigning for climate justice. The Youth Desk also conducted its first extensive 'Mapping Youth Participation and Leadership in LWF Member Churches,' with a total of 448 survey responses from

## YOUTH: Facts and Figures in 2013

- In 2013, the LWF Youth desk directly reached 729 participants in its 7 program activities
- 221 people from 42 countries took part in LWF 'Journey to Climate Justice' in October
- 30,000 young people were reached through social media and the LWF Youth blog
- Over 80 member churches involved in Youth Desk activities
- 50 youth leaders benefited from online consultations



Youth at leadership conference in Nicaragua. Photo: LWF/C. Macek

80 churches. The full report and recommendations will be published in 2014 in order to develop a strategic plan for youth participation as a cross-cutting priority.

# Fast for the climate

The LWF Youth Desk has been deeply engaged in carrying out LWF's dedication to climate issues over the past years. In 2013, the official LWF delegation to the UN climate conference, COP 19, in Warsaw, Poland, was comprised solely of youth delegates. Inspired by the plight of the Philippine delegate, who called for climate action in the wake of the devastating hurricane that hit the country days before the conference, the LWF delegation joined an initiative to fast for the climate.

The initiative gained support from a range of faith-based organizations and has led to a global call to fast on the first day of each month in soli-



“fasting made climate change real for me, opened my eyes and brought me closer to my neighbors.”

Martin Kopp, LWF delegate at COP 19

arity with people around the world affected by climate change.

The LWF has a long-standing commitment to climate change. Following COP 19, LWF resources and reflections were developed to support the initiative and those in the communion who wish to join in. People are invited to share their stories online and sign up to fast for the climate at [www.fastfortheclimate.org](http://www.fastfortheclimate.org).

Follow the campaign at **#fastfortheclimate**



Photos: Sean Hawkey



# Religion and Development

A number of LWF member churches live and work in places of conflict and natural disasters. In 2013, the LWF engaged select African member churches in a pilot project reviewing how the church is engaged as a development actor. The program looks at how religious identity is helpful in engaging in development and how it can be related to human rights issues.

In 2012, a survey was conducted among member churches to study the relationship between religion

## Department for Theology and Public Witness:

The work of The Lutheran World Federation is based on theological understanding and reflection; gender justice and advocacy are central to its witness. The Department for Theology and Public Witness takes the lead in theological reflection and formation, gender justice and advocacy as well as the preparations for the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation anniversary.



Rev. Golié, Evangelical Lutheran Church of CAR President with a woman in her compound with a burnt house in Bohong. In Bohong and five surrounding villages, attacks led to the destruction of private properties from 16 to 21 August 2013. Photo: LWF/ C. Bouka-Koula

and development. In 2013, select churches participated in mapping workshops that explored how the findings of the survey could be practically implemented. As a result, a number of theological institutions will review their curricula and churches will examine their policy documents to be able to engage in a relevant and sustainable way in the area of development in their respective contexts.

“Seventy to eighty percent of the people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean—where most development work is carried out—are affiliated to religions and see the world through their religious lenses. How then can we ensure that religion is not a hindrance but a contribution to development?”  
Rev. Dr Kenneth Mtata, LWF

# Catholics and Lutherans Jointly Tell the Reformation Story

2017 will not only mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation Anniversary but also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran – Catholic dialogue at the global level.

An outcome of the dialogue was launched in 2013 with the publication of *From Conflict to Communion*. *Lutheran – Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in*

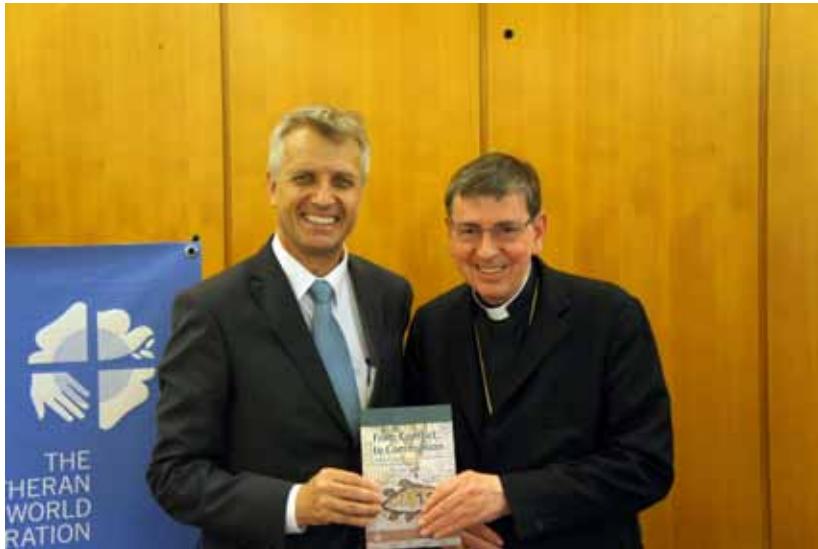
2017. The ecumenical significance lies in the fact that this is the first time ever that Catholics and Lutherans jointly tell the story of the Reformation.

*From Conflict to Communion* encourages Catholics and Lutherans to seek ways of jointly preparing for the Reformation commemorations,

## About *From Conflict to Communion*

*From Conflict to Communion* lists five ecumenical imperatives that invite Lutherans and Catholics always to

1. Begin from the perspective of unity
2. Let themselves be continuously transformed by the encounter with the others
3. Commit themselves again to seek visible unity
4. Jointly rediscover the power of the gospel
5. Witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.



LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge and President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Kurt Cardinal Koch presenting *From Conflict to Communion*. Photo: LWF/S. Gallay

to deepen common theological discussions and to strengthen their shared witness.

The publication has been endorsed and promoted by both the LWF and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU), and has already been translated into 10 different languages. The LWF

and the PCPCU are jointly preparing liturgical material for the Reformation anniversary as a follow-up to the publication.

### DTPW and Ecumenical Dialogues

The LWF has a long tradition of engaging in ecumenical dialogues:

- The Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity 1967 –
- The Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission 1970 –
- The Anglican-Lutheran International Committee 1972 –
- The Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission 1981 –
- Lutheran-Mennonite Study Commission; Mennonite action 2010
- The Lutheran-Mennonite-Roman Catholic Commission 2012 –



Collage at LWF WICAS meeting. Photo: LWF

# Gender Justice

The LWF *Gender Justice Policy* was adopted by the LWF Council in 2013. The policy outlines the main steps toward reaching gender justice and has been recommended to member churches for implementation. During the course of the year, several LWF member churches have started using the policy as a tool in their respective contexts.

The development of the *Gender Justice Policy* was spearheaded by the office for Women in Church



Rev. Dr. Marcia Blasi, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, and Ms. Phyllis Brewah, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone during the 2013 LWF Council meeting. Photo: LWF/M. Haas

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“The work of the women’s desks both at WCC and LWF had a remarkable effect in Iceland and had great influence on the feminist theology group. It has affected the life and work of all of us who took part in the work of the group.”  
*Solveig Lára Guðmundsdóttir, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Iceland.*

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and Society (WICAS). The WICAS women’s networks, which are regionally organized, are the key agents for providing contextual theological background against which to discuss gender justice. The church leadership and decision-making bodies provide the appropriate structures and platforms to implement relevant

measures and practices. The LWF is also implementing gender mainstreaming in all its projects.

The LWF is deeply committed to gender justice. As an expression of this commitment, WICAS engages with ecumenical partners such as the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Young Women’s

Christian Association (YWCA), as well as the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In 2013, WICAS, in collaboration with churches in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, contributed to CEDAW's shadow reports presented at the annual meetings of both bodies.

### WICAS

#### Fact box:

- The LWF women's desk was instituted in 1970
- 77% of LWF member churches have women in the ordained ministry.



Registrattion in Dadaab. Photo: LWF/M. Markham

# Welcoming the Stranger

*Welcoming the Stranger – Affirmations for Faith Leaders* was a joint initiative of several faith-based organizations following up an initiative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in late 2012. The LWF was engaged in the development of the document which, in 2013, was endorsed by the LWF Council. Throughout 2013, the LWF has promoted the reception of this document and the LWF President has endorsed it at several international events.

*Welcoming the Stranger* was developed based on an increased awareness in the UN of the role of religion in humanitarian response and development work, and the understanding that all religions share a sense of hospitality and play a pivotal role at a grassroots level in welcoming refugees in their contexts.



LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan speaking at a UNHCR round table for religious leaders. Photo: Peter Williams

Practical collaboration with faith-based organizations from other religions in the area of humanitarian aid as well as interfaith dialogues between Christian and Muslim scholars have been part of the reception of the initiative in the LWF in 2013.

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“My faith teaches that compassion, mercy, love and hospitality are for everyone.”  
“I will remember and remind members of my community that we are all considered ‘strangers’ somewhere, that we should treat the stranger to our community as we would like to be treated, and challenge intolerance.”  
*From “Welcoming the Stranger.”*

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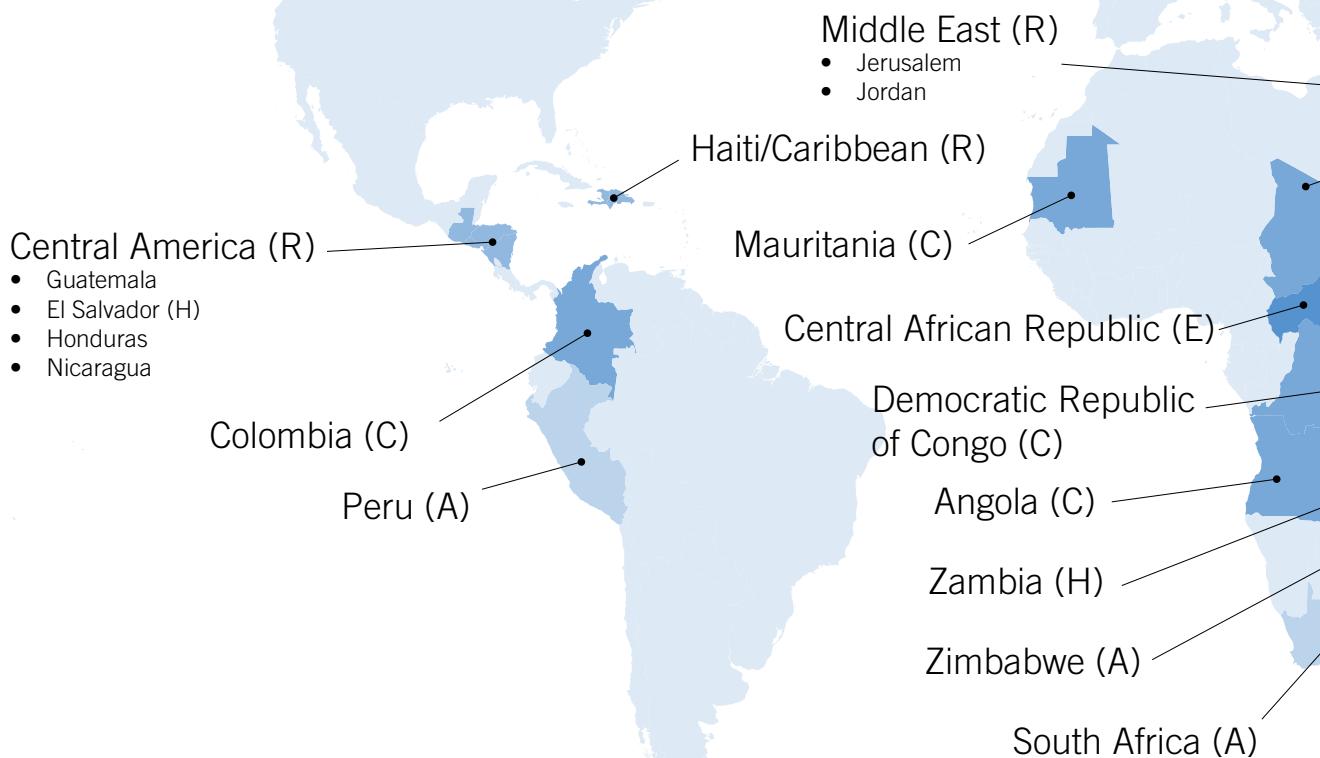
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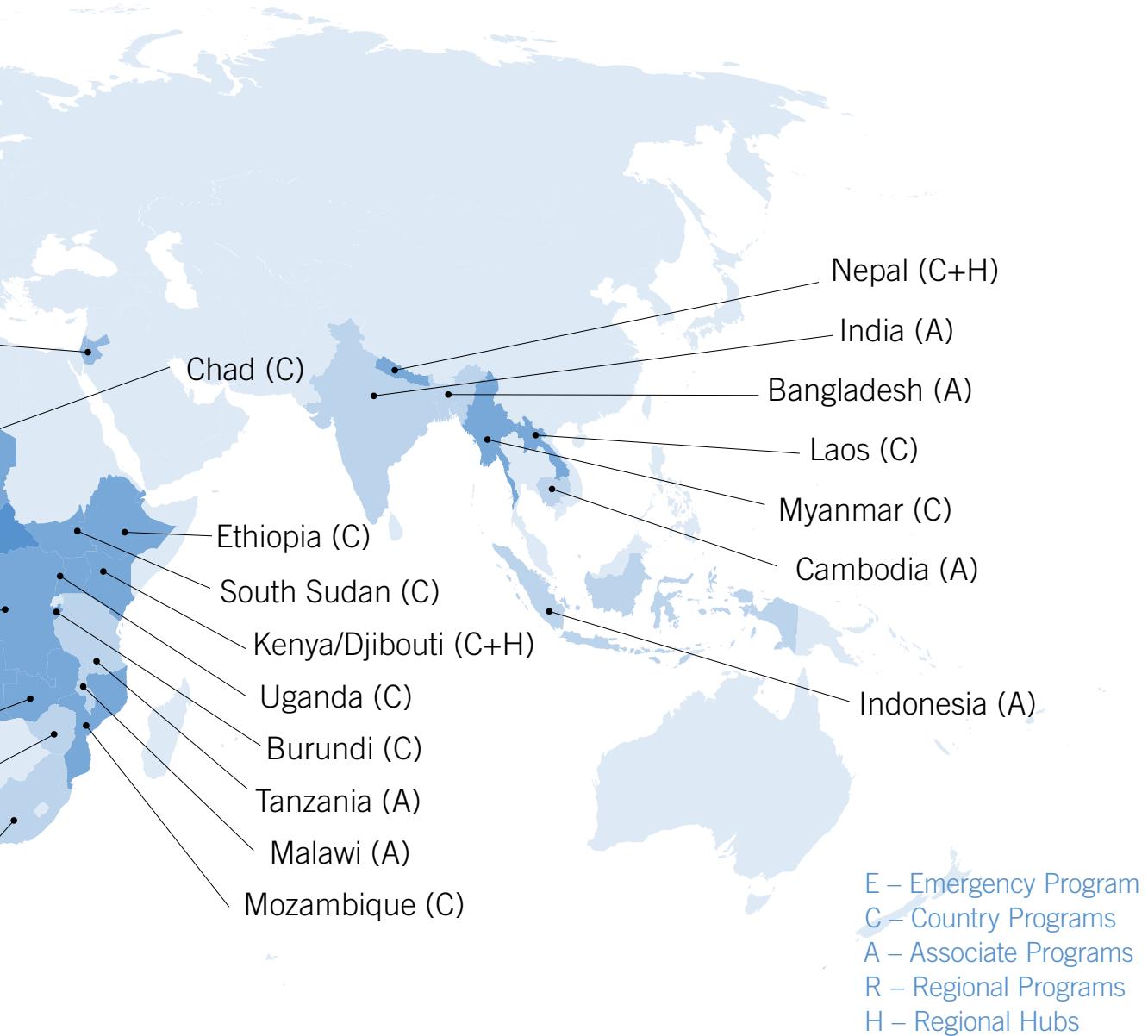
“I believe this [document] is significant, in our quest to find common values of co-existence and protection. Religion should be part of the solution.”  
LWF President Bishop  
Munib A. Younan

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# World Service Country Programs





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# Emergency Response

Through its emergency hubs, roster and effective funding, the LWF Department for World Service was able to respond in a timely manner to a number of complex emergencies and natural disasters in 2013. These included the Philippines—severely affected by Typhoon Haiyan, drought-stricken Namibia and Angola, and escalating violence in the Central African Republic (CAR), Syria, South Sudan and Myanmar, which impacted the lives of millions of people.

As UNHCR largest faith-based partner, World Service supported 1.3 million refugees and over 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 11 countries in 2013.

Following outbreaks of inter-communal violence, World Service began new humanitarian work in Myanmar in June assisting 85,000 IDPs in Rakhine State in safety, camp management, community building and psychological support activities. In addition, World Service

built temporary learning centers, trained teachers and distributed education kits to students.

Among its emergency response work, World Service started operating in CAR, where over 1.6 million people need urgent assistance inside the country since the violence started in April 2013. Interventions included delivery of food, basic non-food items, health and sanitation as well as psychosocial support to conflict-affected populations in Nana

## Department for World Service



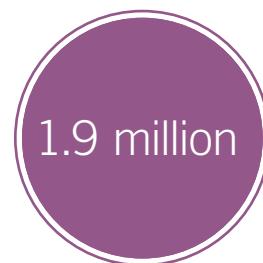
countries in which  
World Service operates



emergency hubs



on disaster risk reduction  
and emergency response



refugees and internally  
displaced persons assisted



Loading items onto truck at warehouse in Bouar to transport to distribution sites.  
Photo: LWF/DWS/Central African Republic

Mambéré and Ouham Pendé prefectures. World Service also scaled up its operations in Jordan to respond to increasing refugee flows out of Syria and in South Sudan as a result of the growing crisis and conflict towards the end of 2013.

In the Philippines, World Service assisted relief efforts through the National Council of Churches, and helped start a cash transfer program in Namibia in collaboration with local churches. This enabled 6,000 Namibians to pay for basic require-

ments such as food, clothing and medical treatment.



Photo: LWF Myanmar

## Sustainable Livelihoods

Empowering communities and creating sustainable livelihoods is a core element of World Service's development work. In 2013, Euro 13.3 million of funding (15 percent of its annual budget) was spent on food security and other livelihoods projects including income generation projects across 15 country programs.

Food security projects ranged from crop diversification in Central America, which has changed farmers' attitudes and practices, to conservation farming in Zimbabwe, which has reduced the hunger gap of rural families reached by 75 percent.

Income-generation projects have included the village savings and

loans associations in Uganda allowing families to fight poverty, create new enterprises and build more prosperous lives. World Service has also implemented revolving loan fund projects in Myanmar which have helped lift local farmers out of poverty.

# Advocacy in Human Rights

Through its development and advocacy work, the LWF seeks to uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed. LWF World Service is managing a range of community-led actions for justice and peace projects in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

In 2013, World Service implemented child rights programs in

seven countries. In Colombia, a country marred by decades of conflict, World Service works with internally displaced populations including indigenous people on human rights protection and empowerment.

In Geneva, advocacy efforts within the UN are employed to raise awareness of those populations af-

ected by conflict and human rights violations. In 2013, the LWF participated at the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Colombia and co-hosted a side-event to raise the voice of the civilian population affected by conflict in the country.



Photo: LWF/M. Hyden



Photo: Christof Krackhardt



Photo: LWF/S. Gally

## Governance

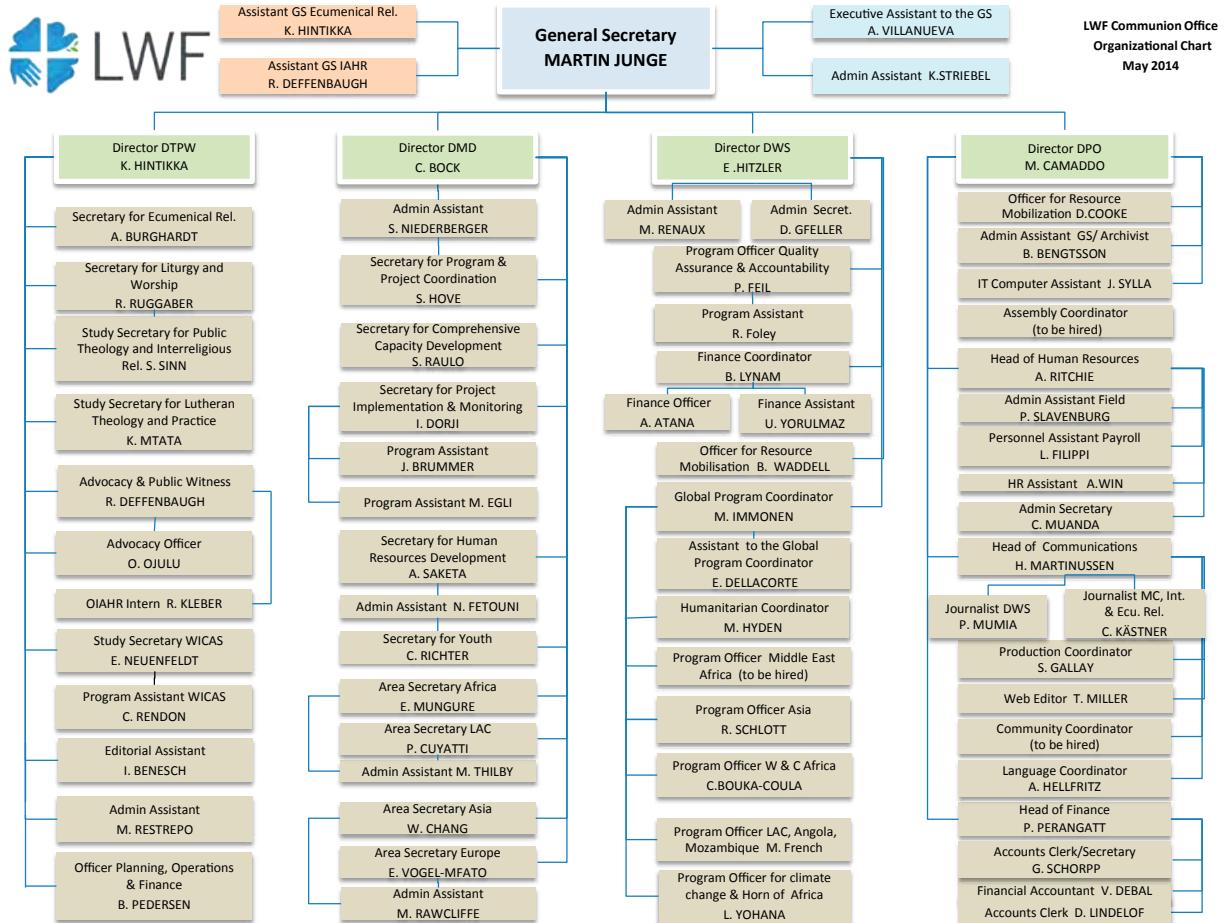
In 2013, the LWF Council met in Geneva for its annual governance meeting. The 49 Council members represent all regions of the LWF and

are elected by the LWF Assembly held every seven years. The Council comprises 40 percent women, 40 percent men and 20 percent youth.

# Staff

Department for Theology and Public Witness (DTPW)  
 Department for Mission and Development (DMD)  
 Department for World Service (DWS)

Department for Planning and Operations (DPO)  
 Office for International Affairs and Human Rights (OIAHR)



# Finances

The “Summary of Income and Expenditure 2013” provides the consolidated financial highlights for the year ended 31 December 2013. “Coordination (Geneva)” refers to the Geneva Communion Office activities, including governance, planning, coordination, program implementation, monitoring, evaluation and capacity building.

The Geneva Coordination expenditure in Swiss francs was 2 % percent below budget.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA audited the 2013 consolidated financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Swiss law without any qualifications.

## Income

In 2013 income totaled EUR 105.6 million for the year compared with EUR 100.1 million the previous year, an increase of EUR 4.5 million or 5 %. Changes in the level of income

are mainly due to the result of increased activities in the area of emergency and disaster response.

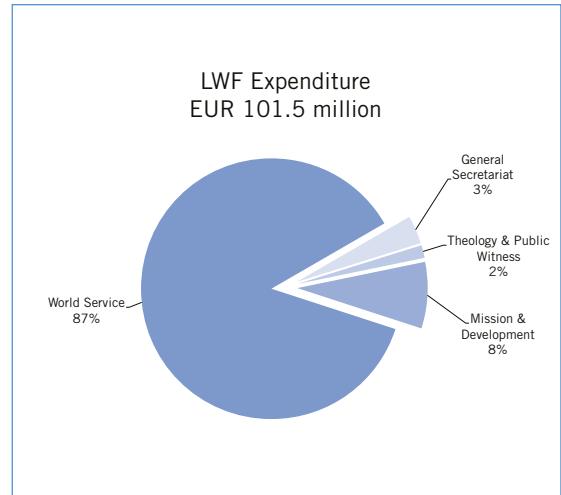
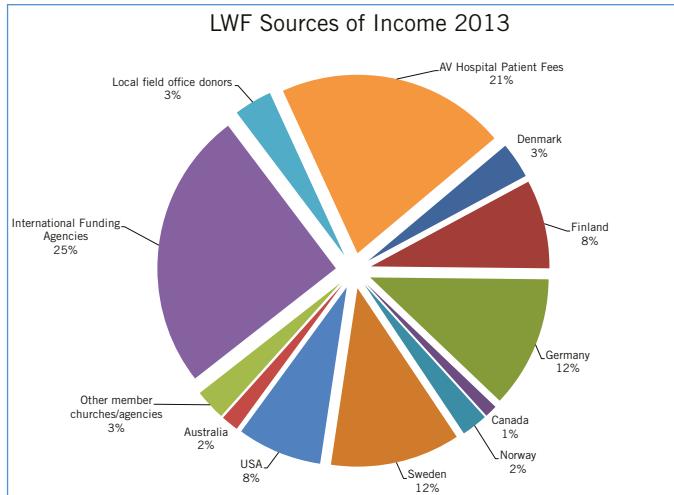
## Expenditure

The 2013 total expenditure of the LWF amounted to EUR 101.5 million compared with EUR 97.8 million in 2012. This is an increase of EUR 3.7 million or 4% in program expenditures.

## 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.

Amounts in EUR	Geneva Coordination	Program & Projects	Augusta Victoria Hospital Jerusalem	Total
<b>Income</b>	9,979,337	72,913,022	22,794,438	105,686,797
<b>Expenditure</b>	10,149,091	72,449,871	18,424,765	101,023,727
<b>Operating Results</b>	-169,754	463,151	4,369,673	4,663,070
<b>Other Financial Charges</b>		-563,088		-563,088
<b>Net Result</b>	-169,754	-99,937	4,369,673	4,099,982
<b>Reserves 31.12.2012</b>	9,289,352	3,274,162	8,968,683	21,532,197
<b>Reserves 31.12.2013 (After Restatement of IAS 19 Revidet)</b>	5,421,691	3,549,132	13,338,356	22,309,179



## The LWF 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 2013, the value of the Fund was CHF 13.6 million. During the year, it recorded a performance of 4%.

An independent Board of Trustees manages the Endowment fund.

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

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



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)