



LWF World Service

Annual Report 2015



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

actalliance

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 LWF World Service

Cover photo: A man nails on tin roofing provided by
 LWF World Service as he puts the finish-
 ing touches on a transitional shelter in the
 Tamang village of Goljung, in the Rasuwa
 District of Nepal near the country's
 border with Tibet. In the aftermath of the
 April 2015 earthquake that ravaged Ne-
 pal, LWF helped people in this village with
 a variety of services, including blankets,
 shelter and livelihood assistance.
 Photo: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey

Layout: Office for Communication Services

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Work for hope

If one follows the news or social media regularly, it is very easy to become discouraged and even hopeless. Wars, conflict, environmental disaster, people spewing hateful rhetoric at each other – this is what catches the eye of media and the public at large. When you pick up this annual report of LWF World Service and take a look at what we have been doing in 2015, your impression is bound to be different: hope, joy, perseverance, dedication and action for and on behalf of churches worldwide for the sake of our suffering world.

The world is living through a period of huge migration movements in complex emergencies, many of which are protracted and seemingly difficult to resolve. LWF World Service is addressing the needs of people in the midst of crisis. We look and work for hope in situations where it is needed most.

2015 saw our global operations continue to grow as we worked in



Maria Immonen. Photo: LWF/S. Gallay

the humanitarian disasters which plague the Middle East, South Sudan, Central and Western Africa. Our humanitarian response always includes working with both the populations on the move and the communities struggling to host these large numbers of newcomers. The earthquake in Nepal was a sudden-onset disaster we were involved in from the first minutes. We expanded

our work which focuses on linking local initiatives and civil society platforms with international advocacy movements. We continued to work for sustainable livelihoods, peace and poverty eradication in South and Central America, Africa and Asia. 2.3 million people are directly involved in this work with us on a daily basis as we aim to empower them to live in dignity, even in extreme circumstances.

The gift of partnerships is highlighted towards the end of the report. We work with a wide range of partners globally, many of whom are faith-based and many who are not. Working together is a strategic choice – together we are stronger and can change the world. We remain committed to that task and invite you to join in. We can, and do, make a difference.

Maria Immonen
LWF World Service Director

About Us

LWF World Service is the humanitarian and development arm of The Lutheran World Federation, a communion of 145 member churches with 72.2 million Lutherans in 98 countries worldwide. Inspired by God's love for humanity, we serve people in need irrespective of ethnicity, religion or gender. Locally rooted and globally connected, LWF World Service has 21 country programs and emergency operations in 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In 2015 we served more than 2.7 million people in some of the most challenging humanitarian contexts like the Middle East, Central Africa, South Sudan, Myanmar and Central America.

Our long-standing commitment in some of those countries again helped us to quickly respond to emergencies. When the Nepal earthquake struck in April, our local team despite being affected themselves was operational within hours of the disaster.

Our humanitarian aid is combined with development work, especially in protracted refugee situations. We work with long-term refugees and host communities on re-establishing livelihoods, education and vocational training, and community building. We empower the most vulnerable to claim their rights and have their voice heard on the global stage. In our work with local and international partners, we maintain high stan-

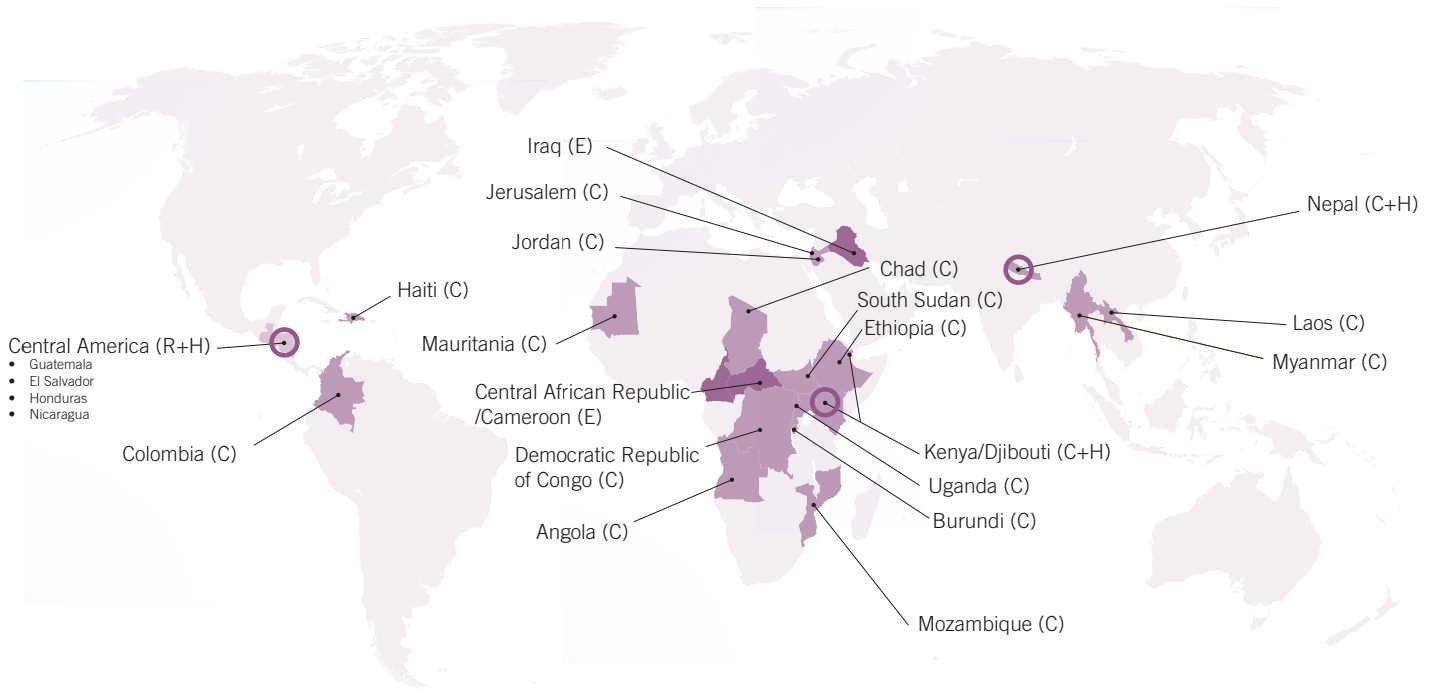
dards of accountability, reporting and financial transparency.

Our Vision

People of the World, living in just societies in peace and dignity, united in diversity and empowered to achieve their full potential, claim their universal rights, meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

Our Mission

Inspired by God's love for humanity, LWF World service responds to and challenges the causes and effects of human suffering and poverty. LWF serves all people irrespective of ethnicity, religion and gender.



- Central America (R+H)
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Nicaragua

Where we worked in 2015

- Emergency Hubs
- C – Country Program
- R – Regional Program
- H – Emergency Hub
- E – Emergency Response



LWF staff on a distribution of relief goods in Ghusel village, which was entirely destroyed by the Nepal earthquake. Photo: LWF/ C. Kästner

Emergencies

In 2015, LWF World Service responded to some of the largest man-made humanitarian crises worldwide in Syria and the Middle East, South Sudan and Central African Republic. We provided emergency relief to internally displaced people after the unrest in Burundi, and are up to now hosting Yemeni refugees in Djibouti.

Many of these conflicts have been going on for years now, and despite peace talks in some countries such as South Sudan and Syria, the displacement of people has continued. At the same time, the work environment becomes more chal-

lenging. Our aim to support people in need where they are comes with an increased risk to our staff.

LWF maintains three emergency hubs in Kathmandu (Nepal), Nairobi (Kenya) and San Salvador (El Salvador) respectively. Their members can be deployed within 48 hours to acute emergencies. Hub personnel has been essential in building up the LWF response in Northern Iraq. When the earthquake struck in Nepal, the local team supported by the emergency hub staff was operational within hours of the disaster and very

effectively coordinated the disaster response.

In the first days, food, water and shelter are the most essential needs. After that however, it is necessary to have a closer look and especially address the needs of those who are most vulnerable: children, people living with disabilities, the elderly and women. Many refugees have witnessed or experienced violence and are traumatized. Protection, education and psychosocial support therefore are part of our work in emergencies.



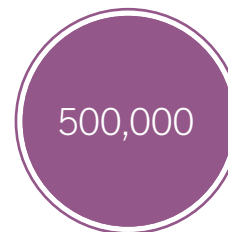
people provided with shelter and relief goods in Nepal



Syrian refugees assisted in Jordan



people provided with relief goods in Northern Iraq



refugees from various conflicts supported in Chad



A Christian refugee holds a family photo, one of the few personal belongings she was able to save after fleeing the Nineveh plains.
Photo: LWF/ Seivan Salim

Middle East

The Middle East region remains one of the most volatile regions in the world. As the war in Syria went into its fifth year in 2015 and the so-called Islamic State (IS) advanced in Syria and Iraq, 4.8 million people were uprooted and found refuge in countries neighboring Syria.

LWF World Service has continued to work in Jordan, which has become the temporary home of 1.3 million refugees from Syria as well as other countries. In the Za'atari refugee camp, we offer peace-building and psychosocial support in the LWF Peace Oasis. The center helps young people deal with ongoing insecurity,

conflict and anxiety, and prepares them for a future free of violence. LWF is also intervening in the host communities, where a majority of the refugees live, through cash-based initiatives, school and shelter rehabilitation and life-skills training.

Since the beginning of 2015, LWF World Service is also registered in Northern Iraq with the Kurdistan regional government, where we support Yazidis, Christians, Muslims and Turkmen who have become refugees in their own country. LWF provides food, installs water and sanitation systems in refugee camps and offers psychosocial support to people

who have witnessed or experienced violence.

During the summer and fall 2015, hundreds of thousands of the people displaced by the conflicts in the Middle East made their way to Europe. On long treks via the Balkan peninsula, they eventually arrived in Hungary to travel onwards to Northern Europe. Thousands were stranded at Budapest's Keleti train station for weeks. LWF assessed the situation in Hungary and Serbia and is supporting the refugee work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hungary (ELCH), an LWF member church.

“Is this a life? Is this a place where you can study, read, write, and think? I didn’t have proper clothes or shoes...we had no electricity. All my dreams evaporated as soon as I set foot in the camp. It was only when I joined the LWF Peace Oasis that I managed to pull myself together and decided to go back to school.”

*Hiba, 13, refugee in Za’atari camp,
Jordan*



Photo: LWF Jordan/Maria de la Guardia

Jordan

In 2015, of the 79,253 refugees living in the Za’atari camp, 3,806 received support from LWF. Of these, 2,662 children and youth received psychosocial support in the LWF

Peace Oasis. In their feed-back to LWF, parents and religious leaders have noted that the children seem to be feeling better and less traumatized than in previous years.

LWF Jordan assisted a further 58,876 Syrian and Iraqi refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in host communities in Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq and Amman governorates. Of these, 454 households were supported with food vouchers.

Northern Iraq

Theriakos, Sara and their children are a Christian family from the Nineva plain. Now they live in Davudiya refugee camp with other families who were persecuted for their faith. LWF installed and maintains water and sanitation in the camp and provides food aid and psychosocial support. “Thank you to all the people who are helping us. We really appreciate that. This is a stupid war of narrow-minded people.” Theriakos says.

LWF assists 55,000 people displaced by the Islamic State (IS) militia in Iraq.



Photo: LWF/Seivan Salim

Many of them live in refugee camps around Dohuk, where LWF provides women-friendly spaces, water and sanitation and food aid. Others live



Survivors of violence

Asna (not her real name), 17, is a Yazidi from the Sinjar. She and her family were captured and sold by the so-called Islamic State militia. For three months, Asna was held captive, raped and abused by one of the fighters until she managed to escape. Today, she lives in a refugee camp and regularly visits a women-friendly space. This space was run by LWF World Service that also provided psychosocial support and arranged for counseling and medical treatment to help her survive what she has been through. Asna participates

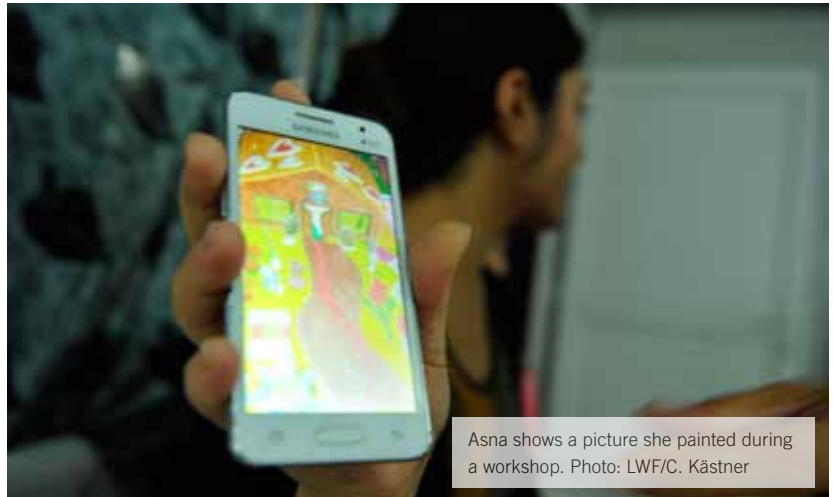
in workshops and has made friends. She hopes to be reunited with her family one day.

Together with a local partner, the JI-YAN foundation, LWF World Service provided counseling and psychosocial support to 2,000 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Northern Iraq.

Thank you to all the people who are helping us. We really appreciate that. This is a stupid war of narrow-minded people."

Theriakos, refugee, Northern Iraq.

within host communities, often in community centers or unfinished buildings under appalling conditions. LWF provides food aid and other relief goods.



Asna shows a picture she painted during a workshop. Photo: LWF/C. Kästner



Nibha Shresta, LWF Nepal, distributes blankets and other relief goods to earthquake survivors in Lalitpur district, Nepal.
Photo : LWF/ C. Kästner

Nepal

9,000 people dead and 700,000 buildings destroyed were the sad result when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal on 25 April 2015, and a heavy aftershock one month later. Having worked in Nepal for 35 years, the LWF team was immediately operational and able to distribute tarpaulins and emergency food rations to the people who had lost their homes.

Many of them were already living a difficult life: Marginalized rural communities in remote areas, day

laborers and farmers whose simple brick houses were in no way quake-proof. Many of them also lost their livelihoods that same day.

LWF had been working with many of these severely affected communities for years. The structures implemented during that time supported an effective disaster response and distribution of relief goods. Today, LWF World Service does not only facilitate reconstruction, but also the rebuilding of livelihoods and psychosocial support.

Long-standing relationships with local partners and authorities also work in favor of effective aid.

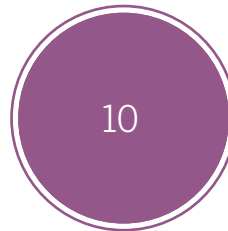
The Nepal earthquake response brought together many partners. Besides other faith-based organizations in the ACT Nepal Forum, such as the China-based Amity Foundation, the earthquake response also saw a very tangible partnership with Islamic Relief Worldwide on shelter and reconstruction.



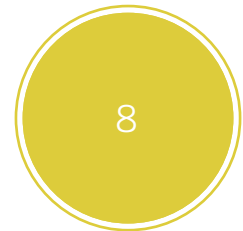
individuals could start re-building their homes and livelihoods



households received emergency relief goods and psychosocial support



hours from Kathmandu to our most remote earthquake response project site



LWF is assisting in 8 of the most-affected districts

LWF's dedicated staff

Among those affected were also many of the LWF staff, as the LWF Nepal teams consists entirely of Nepali nationals. Many had damaged houses or were sheltering relatives whose houses had collapsed.

In the two months after the earthquake, they still worked tirelessly to provide earthquake relief to others. Together with the Church of Sweden, LWF provided psychosocial support and offered counseling to staff in the LWF office. Many said that their own connection to those affected by the



Photo: LWF/Lucia De Vries

quake served as an additional motivation to do their best in providing aid.

Amrit Sunwar (*above*) was at a church service when the quake happened. His house collapsed. His elderly parents, as well as his wife and son, now live in temporary shelter. "Providing relief is one of LWF's main jobs. This is the time when we can truly contribute."



Photo: LWF/Lucia De Vries

Driver Anita Rana Magar (*left*) was on a distribution in Sindhupalchowk when the second quake hit. Her car was ambushed by angry people who wanted to loot the relief goods, and was later blocked by a landslide. "After that I feel every other job is easy," she says.



Reconstruction

After the immediate relief phase, LWF has now started reconstruction work. Our goal is not only to reconstruct buildings in a quake-proof manner, but also re-build people's livelihoods. Many have lost family and livestock in the earthquake. Psychosocial support, re-building communities and livelihood support are an integral part of our ongoing work in Nepal.

Kanchi Shresta helps stack the bricks in the community of Sanogoan. The village was completely destroyed by the April 2015 earthquake. Most of its inhabitants currently live in tents and temporary shelters. They have now started making bricks for their new houses. Each block weighs 9kg. "There is no way back. If we want to rebuild our homes, we must keep going," Shresta says.

Photo:LWF/Paul Jeffrey

South Sudan

Despite a recent peace agreement, the fighting in the world's youngest state is still going on. Additional to causing displacement within the country, it severely affects neighboring states such as Uganda, Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia who are until today hosting more than half a million South Sudanese refugees.

South Sudan itself is hosting refugees from Sudan, who fled the fighting in South Kordofan and the Nuba mountains to Unity State in South Sudan and from the Blue Nile region to Upper Nile State of South Sudan. As Unity and Upper Nile states are contested territory between the South Sudanese conflict parties, working there makes it one of the most challenging humanitarian contexts to LWF staff.

In 2015, LWF World Service served more than 260,000 people affected by the conflict in South Sudan within the country and in the neighboring countries of Ethiopia,

Kenya and Uganda. We provided water and sanitation, education, protection and psychosocial support in Kakuma (Kenya), Adjumani (Uganda), Gambella (Ethiopia), some of the largest refugee settlements in the world.

South Sudan

LWF World Service supports displaced households and vulnerable local communities in the South Sudanese state of Jonglei. They receive relief goods, water and sanitation, mosquito nets and cash grants to help them recover faster from the effects of conflict and displacement. We support initiatives aimed at community-based protection, gender and human rights awareness, peace building, education in emergency, water and sanitation and disaster preparedness and response.

Selected households received support in re-building livelihoods



with locally available resources. They participated in trainings on crop and vegetable production, flood control, fish production and marketing and facilitating small credit unions. In 2015, approximately 50,000 people benefitted directly from LWF human-



Sudan. LWF has placed 3,400 unaccompanied children in foster care.

Uganda

In 2015, LWF World Service assisted 120,000 South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. In Adjumani refugee camp we provided water and sanitation, livelihoods and psychosocial support. LWF assisted survivors of gender-based violence and supported 205 unaccompanied children. The majority of them have been placed in foster care, while 33 still live in shelters run by the LWF.

Kenya

In 2015, 90,000 students from South Sudan were registered at LWF schools in Kakuma refugee camp.

LWF raised the attendance of girls to 40 percent. 2,679 learners passed the final primary exams in 2015 and are now eligible to attend a public secondary school outside the camp. This equals a 93.5 percent pass rate.

Ethiopia

For years Gambella has been hosting refugees from South Sudan. Since the Leitchuor camp where LWF started with in 2014 is regularly flooded in the seasonal rains, a new camp was set up in Jewii and LWF transferred its assistance there in 2015. LWF supported the resettlement of the refugees and provided water, sanitation and relief items to more than 65,000 South Sudanese refugees.

itarian programs in Jonglei. More than 150,000 benefited indirectly.

25,000 refugee children received education and protection in LWF-run schools and child-friendly spaces in Jonglei and the refugee camps in Upper Nile and Unity states, South

“Our commitment has been to the refugees; to stay with them during the hardships of the floods and uncertainties, and to accompany them to their new resettlement”.

Sophie Gebreyes, LWF Country Representative in Ethiopia

M'berra refugee camp is the fourth largest settlement in Mauritania. Located in the Sahel, a two-day drive from the capital of Nouakchott, it has become home to 50,000 refugees from Mali. LWF is responsible for the overall management and the logistics in this temporary town. At the same time, LWF engages in livelihood and farming activities and peace building with the camp and the local community.

Photo: LWF/C. Kästner



Forgotten emergencies

When conflicts and displacements last for years, public attention often shifts to new emergencies. The long-lasting crises vanish from public interest. That often results in less advocacy efforts to resolve a situation, and less funding to aid those who have been affected by it.

LWF World Service continues to stand with people in these protracted refugee situations. One of our geographical focus areas is Central Africa, where the ongoing conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) continues to displace people. At the same time, terrorist Boko Haram activities spread from Nigeria into the region. Chad is currently hosting refugees from the conflicts in neighboring Sudan,

Nigeria, Cameroon and CAR. In 2015, LWF World Service worked in Chad, CAR and Cameroon, providing relief goods, food, water, sanitation and livelihoods to more than one million forcibly displaced people, for whom refugee camps and settlements have become a temporary home.

LWF in Mauritania protects and assists more than 50,000 Malian refugees who have fled tensions in their country since 2012. They are hosted in the Mberra camp, in the south-eastern parts of Mauritania. In 2015, more than 400 new arrivals in the camp were registered, exemplifying the volatility of the situation in Northern Mali, where the majority of refugees originate from. As a result,

large-scale voluntary repatriation is not foreseen for 2016.

For 14 years, LWF has been supporting those affected by the conflict on Colombia. LWF World Service supports civil society organizations in the regions of Arauca and Choco in an especially volatile environment. LWF is working with the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights-PCHR East Region on the project “Building Pathways of Peace in our Territory.” The initiative seeks to involve local people both in defending rights – which requires courage and determination – and in peace building activities which encourage trust, such as academic and recreational projects.

“I plan to rebuild my life in Mali. I will bring what I have learned here and share it with others if I can. I am a farmer. I don’t want to do anything else.”

Ali Agd Forach, Malian farmer in M'berra

Safety and Security

LWF World Service aims to stand with those who are vulnerable and suffering and who live often in insecure environments. Our presence in countries like Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Myanmar or Honduras means an increased risk to staff and their ability to deliver quality work.

Many areas are marked by complex conflicts with many different parties and rebel groups. Therefore the working environment can be very stressful and unpredictable and requires a lot of flexibility and adaptation by our staff. LWF has a

lot of national staff in their programs which are often closer to the front lines. Some staff face additional risks in their home country due to the fact that they are targeted because of their ethnic or tribal affiliation.

Unfortunately LWF had several safety and security incidents reported in 2015. The types of incidents vary from expulsion of staff, carjacking, threats, abductions, physical assault and shooting at staff, civil disorder and theft. In natural disasters like the Nepal earthquake, staff faced danger from aftershocks and landslides, as well as desperate

people trying to loot relief goods. In countries without proper rule of law, driving on public roads becomes increasingly dangerous.

The highest number of severe incidents were reported from South Sudan, Central Africa and Chad, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, many of which are conflict areas.

LWF, as many other humanitarian actors, faces increased challenges in keeping perceptions of neutrality and impartiality. Therefore, our main risk reduction strategy is to continue investing in being fully accepted by the communities we work with, by local structures and churches.

Nevertheless acceptance is not sufficient as the only strategy to work in insecure and unpredictable environments. Therefore LWF World Service has employed additional measures to protect programs, staff and assets. These include access to local security networks, security awareness training for staff and

“Twenty years ago aid workers could safely deliver humanitarian assistance by maintaining good relations with local communities and leaders. Today aid workers have become a soft target for criminals because they are not armed and carry valuable laptops and cellphones.”

Susan Muis, LWF Security advisor



An LWF transport is stuck on a dirt road after heavy rainfalls in Masisi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Photo: LWF/S. Muis

guards for field offices. In 2015, LWF World Service introduced a new updated security policy and incident reporting mechanism. Many staff members have undergone security training, and specific security plans of country programs have been updated. LWF provides psychosocial support and counselling to aid work-

ers who have been through difficult experiences.

From its overall mandate, vision, mission and values, LWF World Service aims to continue to operate in insecure environments. To be able to do so, we try to create a safer environment for our staff. Staff become more aware of their environ-

ment by assessing the security risks around them, they learn from them and they reduce the risks for other staff, organisations and churches present in the same environment. Through this approach LWF takes care of our dedicated staff in the best possible way.

Development

To many refugees, returning to their home is a question of many years, sometimes generations. LWF World Service has been dealing with long-term refugees in the camps of Dadaab and Kakuma in Kenya, M'berra in Mauritania and Za'atari in Jordan, as well as in refugee settlements in the Central African Republic, in Chad, Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan.

These protracted refugee situations put a great strain on the people affected, refugees but also host communities. Therefore, development work is an integral part of our emergency response. We help people establish livelihoods, so they can take back control of their

lives. We provide education and vocational training to children and youth, to make sure time spent as a refugee is not lost to young people in their formative years. We provide psychosocial support, to help people adapt to the new situation they find themselves in. Our aim is to give people the skills and means to start a new life – whether they return home, integrate in the local community or are resettled to another country.

LWF World Service puts special focus on protecting those most vulnerable: Women and children, who have been separated from their families, the elderly, people living with disabilities and survivors

of sexual violence. As large refugee populations put a strain on often marginalized host communities, we include the local population and promote joint projects to encourage integration and peace-building.

At the same time, we witness an increasing gap between rich and poor, less chances for marginalized populations and the growing effect climate change has especially on small scale farmers and people living in remote rural areas. 2015 was a year to continue addressing those issues and building the resilience of those whose lives are affected by extreme weather.



José Pedro Cruz, president of the Cooperativa Rayos de Sol, sells fish that the LWF-supported cooperative has caught in Usulután, El Salvador. Photo: LWF/ C. Kästner

Livelihoods

The protracted presence of large refugee settlements puts great strain on displaced and host communities alike. Supporting people in establishing livelihoods does not only improve self-reliance in refugee camps and host communities. It is a means of community-building and psychosocial support, and ensures interaction and peaceful coexistence with the host communities. This way,

livelihood projects alleviate the dependence on humanitarian aid and support the sustainable economic development of particularly vulnerable regions.

One of many examples for livelihoods projects in 2015 is the Seeds for Solutions project in Chad. It has been implemented in various refugee camps in the Southern and Eastern region of the country. In

cooperation with local authorities, people receive a plot of land, seeds, tools and training. Irrigation and storage is set up, and the people learn how to maintain them. Finally, based on an analysis of the economic situation, households are selected to form production groups. They farm the land and multiply seeds to store their produce and sell when prices are good.



CAR refugees work the land with oxen and yoke provided by the LWF. Maro refugee camp, Southern Chad. Photo: LWF/ C. Kästner

A new life

Daniel Deba (*photo*) was a biology professor in the Central African Republic (CAR). When militia in CAR began targeting civil servants as part of the government the rebels meant to overthrow, Deba had to leave. That was ten years ago. They have not been able to return since.

In the past years he and his family of 14 have built a new life in Dosseye refugee settlement, Chad. Deba is the president of the local seed production group, an agricultural enterprise set up and supported by LWF. Deba himself runs a micro project for seed production with 12 acres of land. LWF helped with new farming techniques, courses in business administration, an initial stock of seeds and farming equipment.

By now, the oldest of Deba's 12 children is married, two attend university and two have graduated and want to



Photo: LWF/ C. Kästner

start higher education. His youngest daughter just started middle school. Deba uses the money from the project for his children's education – to ensure a better future for them.

Seeds for solutions: statistics



micro-projects



provided by the local administrative and traditional leaders



households actively participated



seeds distributed



A woman harvests peanuts in M'berra refugee camp, Mauritania. As the camp is located in a desert, LWF World Service taught people to use water-saving drip-to-drip irrigation to plant vegetable gardens.
Photo: LWF/ C. Kästner

Climate change

In light of the escalating effects of climate change and the frequency and scale of disasters such as droughts and floods, LWF World Service initiates projects to help people adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. We are committed to incorporate concern for the environment into all development decisions and operations aiming to reduce vulnerability.

We aim to find solutions for people to cope especially with the

shocks and hazards caused by the changing climate, and to find sustainable means for their livelihoods.

Climate resilient farming, new fertilization and irrigation techniques, the construction of dikes against floods and provision of energy-efficient stoves and lighting are but some of the activities we have carried out in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

2015 was an El Niño year, and its effects were felt in South Eastern

Africa especially. Failed spring rains caused droughts and bad harvests in Ethiopia, the effects of which will be fully visible in 2016 and beyond. For our programming it means combining emergency food aid and water supply with early recovery and sustainable development projects.

All our projects are assessed regarding their sustainability and environmental impact.

“The new construction will capture and divert the streams that have a higher volume of water. With the additional construction of water reservoirs to store water at night, the water will now be enough to irrigate our farmlands. Unlike the traditional canal we had, the cement construction will significantly reduce seepage and increase water efficiency. My life and the lives of my neighbors will change for the better.”

Kassa Adane, 63, one of 94 participants in an irrigation project run by LWF Ethiopia in Lasta district, North Wollo Zone, which has been severely affected by drought

Education

More than half of our beneficiaries are children. Their lives have been challenged by poverty conflict and displacement. To ensure a better future for them and their environment, it is important to give them the possibility to learn. Education is a human right, and one of the most neglected in times of conflict.

LWF World Service supports children's education in many ways. We run schools in refugee camps and settlements and support students

with school material. LWF rehabilitates schools in host communities which have housed refugee and local students. Through community intervention we make sure that girls, children with disabilities and children of poor families have a chance to learn as well.

A special program has been set up for students who missed school due to conflict. To many of them, the school in the refugee camp is the first opportunity of an education in years. According to their level of knowledge,

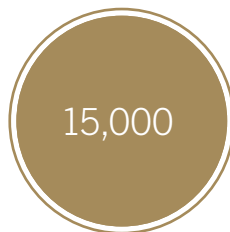
they would have to share classrooms with students of all ages, which usually results in high drop-out rates. The LWF Accelerated Learning Program in South Sudan's refugee camps has been designed to help teenagers complete their primary education and advance to classes with peers of their own age. The students are taught the curriculum of two primary school years in one year, and then go on to secondary school with students their own age.



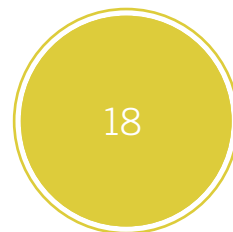
children received education and protection in Kakuma and Dadaab (Kenya) refugee camps



children and youth learn in LWF schools in South Sudan



students were supported in Rakhine state, Myanmar



classrooms and 7 schools were rehabilitated in Jordan



Photo: LWF Kenya

17 year old Margaret Awak Aguer (*right, with her aunt*) scored an amazing 400 out of a possible 500 Marks in the end of Primary examinations and thus became the best student in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. She arrived in 2010 at age 12, fleeing the conflict in Jonglei, South Sudan, and started her primary education. Margaret now hopes to join a national school, and have the opportunity to go outside Kakuma refugee camp for the first time since 2010. "I want to study law and become a judge," she says.

Early childhood (pre-schools), primary and secondary schools are linked with a child protection and child rights system to identify neglected and abused children and child-headed households, and to support them. In child-friendly

spaces, very young children have the opportunity to play, interact with others and learn in structured manner and in a safe place.

LWF is the lead agency in providing education for 72,000 refugee children in Kakuma refugee camp

and child protection for over 100,000 children. Many of the teachers trained by LWF are refugees themselves. In 2015, LWF increased the percentage of students passing the examinations. Female enrolment and female graduation increased as well.

Protection

LWF World Service is committed to ensuring the most vulnerable people within communities have access to material assistance, support and specialist care that addresses their psychological, physical and social needs and enables their full participation in communities.

Upholding the rights of children, women, men, girls and boys, the elderly, people living with disabilities and minorities within a group often means a combination of protective measures, psychosocial and livelihood support. Enabling people to generate their own income does not only raise their status in the community, but also makes them less vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Many of these vulnerable people face abuses such as rape, assault, discrimination, domestic violence, subsequent infections with HIV and AIDS, stigma, unwanted pregnancies and others. Especially survivors of sexual and gender-based violence have little or no support in their



Julie (not her real name), 28, from DRC, with her 3 children in an LWF protection house. She escaped domestic violence. Her husband tracked her down two times and threatened her to take the children. LWF plans to resettle her to a different community. Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

communities. Partnering with other organizations for medical assistance and local authorities for legal interventions, LWF helps survivors restore hope, dignity, mental and social well-being through an intervention targeting sexual and gender-based violence.



Paul (not his real name), 23, was attacked and lost his entire immediate family during the conflict in DRC. He still takes medication for the physical injuries inflicted on him. LWF arranged for him to be housed in a safe place under police protection, to receive additional food and psychosocial care. They also provided a radio, which Paul likes to listen to.

Patrick Tambure, 27, fled DRC with his 12 siblings, four of whom like him have albinism. In DRC, the genetic condition is reason for superstition and persecution. LWF World Service supports them with sun protection, security guards at the refugee camp and transport to health centers until they can be re-settled.



All photos: LWF/M. Renaux



Kakole Didi, 42, is physically disabled. LWF provided him a house, a wheel chair and supports him with material to work as cobbler. They are also monitoring a foster arrangement Mr Didi has with three young men. "We take care of each other," he says.

Mary (not her real name), 16, fled from Juba, South Sudan. She was separated from her family, attacked and raped. In the refugee camp she discovered she was pregnant. LWF World Service built a hut and provides Mary and her grandmother with cash grants to open a small business and psychosocial support.



Vocational Training

Increasingly, LWF focuses on formal and informal vocational training to help youth find lasting and valuable work. In promoting equal access to economic opportunities, we strive to overcome barriers faced by groups marginalized or discriminated against because of race, ethnicity, disability, age or gender.

Gender balance and the inclusion of people with disabilities are

mainstreamed in our programs. In refugee camps and settlements, we advocate for mixed trainee groups consisting of equal numbers of refugees and locals.

In 2015, LWF World Service provided vocational training for young people in Chad, Uganda, Mauritania, Jordan, Laos, Myanmar, Central America, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

LWF World Service runs two vocational training centers in Beit Hanina and Ramallah, in the Palestinian territories. They offer vocational training in automobile repair, carpentry, catering, craftwork, metalwork, plumbing, secretarial work, and telecommunications for Palestinian youth. In 2015, More than 90 percent of the LWF graduates found employment

Photo: LWF Jerusalem



Jasim, 26, graduated from the LWF Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina in 2006. He opened his own workshop and in the past seven years has become the village expert in aluminum, serving the surrounding area with his knowledge and skills.

Ghadeer Altawil was one of three female telecommunication graduates in Beit Hanina in 2015. She now works in a local shop, repairing damaged phones.



Photo: LWF Jerusalem

Health Care

LWF World service continues to provide specialized health care to Palestinians in the Augusta-Victoria-Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem. With 161 beds, it is the second largest hospital in East Jerusalem. It provides specialized medical services in the areas of oncology and nephrology that are unavailable in the West Bank and Gaza.

In 2015, the surgical unit was completely refurbished. The hospital also started construction of a bone marrow transplantation unit. In June, the first class of oncology nurses graduated with eleven students.

Again, the hospital was affected by the unrest in Jerusalem in late 2015. These insecurities and subsequent security measures put a great strain on patients and staff, who often have to pass many checkpoints to get to the hospital.

In 2015, AVH employed 353 staff, and the number of inpatient admissions throughout the year was a little under 6,000. Building on existing



A nurse cheers a child during her dialysis session at Augusta-Victoria-Hospital, East Jerusalem.
Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

services and expertise available in the hospital, the next focus of the AVH will be to develop services to

the elderly, to meet the increasing needs in the Palestinian community.

In memoriam

LWF remembers Dr Tawfiq A. Nasser, the Chief Executive Officer of the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. Dr Nasser worked at AVH for 18 years. He led the hospital since 2001 and was instrumental in shaping its medical orientation. Dr Tawfiq, as he was known, died of cancer on 16 May 2015.

Psychosocial support

The majority of the people LWF serves have fled war and conflict. Many have witnessed or experienced violence. Their new situation creates additional stress: Life in a crowded camp or settlement, uncertainty, difficult living conditions, the loss of home and loved ones.

They share the trauma of loss and the fear with survivors of natural disasters. After the earthquake in Nepal, people slept outdoors for weeks because they were afraid of aftershocks.

Whether natural or man-made, disasters often bring about changing roles within the family and the community, and force people to

completely re-assess their situation. Students have to stop their education to contribute to the family income, children can no longer go to school and have to adapt to a new environment, and the elderly and people living with disabilities are without their usual support system. Men and women may find themselves in situations where traditional gender roles are reversed, and while this can be positive in the longer-term, it may also lead to numerous short-term challenges, for example when women who do traditionally not participate in the labour market become responsible for providing for the household, or when men who are

traditionally perceived as the head of the household are idle and unable to fulfil their own expectations towards their family.

LWF World Service understands that for people to start over, they need more than water, shelter and material goods. Psychosocial support comes in many forms. It might mean building and organizing communities, identifying victims of violence and referring them to counselling, providing protected space, organizing sociocultural activities and helping people cope positively with their new roles in their new setting.

“These people have been in a war. They have seen family members being killed. They lost everything. I met a child whose father’s throat was cut – in front of her. You cannot leave that child alone after it has witnessed such a thing.”

Deena Houmhisna, LWF Chad

Ruth (not her real name), 48, is from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). When war broke out in her country, she was raped by militia and infected with HIV. The infection was only diagnosed in the refugee camp. The silence surrounding rape and HIV and AIDS is strong. Neither Ruth's husband, who was killed in the conflict, nor her five teenage children ever learned about what had happened to her. The aid worker who assured her confidentiality was the first person Ruth felt comfortable talking to.

LWF World Service provided Ruth with building material for a hut, and a cash grant to open a small business. Ruth is also receiving antiretroviral drugs and goes for a medical check-up once a month. The biggest help however is the psychosocial support and counseling LWF has given her. "I was feeling like the poorest person on earth," she says. "Now when I have a problem, I know there are LWF staff I can talk to."

Photo: LWF/M. Renaux



Photo: LWF/C. Kästner

Améline (not her real name), 35, lives in Maro, Chad. She developed a mental illness after an infection with meningitis. As Améline's family refused to take responsibility, her husband Adumi was soon left alone to deal with their six little children and an illness which he did not understand. Her husband indebted himself by paying a traditional healer who promised to cure her. When Améline set the house on fire and destroyed all the family's belongings, he decided to chain her to the log in the yard.

An LWF World Service case worker convinced Améline to see a doctor and take the prescribed drugs. The family's situation is monitored through visits and sessions at the listening center. Adumi was convinced to stop restraining his wife. The family has been registered for livelihood support so they can pay their debt. "I feel more respected now," Adumi says. "People greet us when they see Améline in the village. I thank God that LWF came in to help us."

Rights-based Action and Advocacy

All human beings have the right to a life in dignity. People who are oppressed, vulnerable and poor are not objects of charity but rights holders. The emphasis on human rights in the context of development helps us to focus on the structural inequities that cause and perpetuate impoverishment and exclusion, so that the root causes of poverty and exclusion receive proper attention. LWF World Service raises awareness and advocates for people's rights at all levels.

LWF World Service follows a rights-based approach. We are using our position as a globally based

non-government organization to link up local action with advocacy on the national and international level. Many LWF country programs are successfully adjusting their role as an actor and facilitator of civil society at national level.

In 2015, we have been working on two global initiatives to focus this approach: 1. on land rights and livelihoods (with projects in Mozambique and Angola), and 2. using the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council (successfully submitting parallel reports on the situation in Myanmar, Nepal and Mozambique).

These recent initiatives complement our on-going rights-based action and advocacy, something which is firmly part of LWF's identity. For example, we continue to engage in peace-building projects and advocacy in conflict areas of Central America and central Africa, to advocate for the rights of minorities in Myanmar and Nepal, and to empower women, children, the elderly and people living with disabilities by challenging policies and existing structures on the basis of principles such as equality, inclusiveness, diversity and social justice.



The plenary of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, where the Human Rights Council meets twice a year. Photo: LWF/ C. Kästner

Peace-building and Human Rights

LWF World Service believes that addressing poverty and human suffering should also include addressing its root causes. Therefore, human rights and peace-building activities are an important part of our programs in conflict areas.

In 2015 LWF has facilitated youth projects to empower young people in the countries of Central America, and advocated for and supported the peace process in Colombia.

In Central America – in a context severely affected by gang violence, poverty and migration – a holistic approach is needed. Because there is no mechanism to protect people dis-

placed by gang violence, LWF World Service and local churches work together to meet protection needs of the local population in addition to advocating with government authorities and civil society organizations.

Honduras is said to have one of the highest number of violent deaths in a non-war country worldwide. The violence tears apart families. Poverty, poor health care and lack of education and the ever-present gang violence drive thousands of young people from their homes every year. Many of them are young men who try to escape forced recruitment into local gangs, the maras, and attempt

to move to the US. Almost as many are caught by US immigration police and sent back home.

The LWF project “Life, Dignity and Justice for People in Central America” aims to re-build these structures, by empowering and strengthening the young people of the country.



Photo: LWF Central America/B. Platero

“It is really difficult to live here. You never know what will happen the next day. But this project can transmit a message of faith and hope. I feel useful, it has become my second home.”

Belinda Colindres, Honduras, LWF ecumenical leadership program

Pathways of Peace

Located in eastern Colombia, Arauca is home to about 250,000 people, many of whom fled armed conflict. The local population struggles to obtain basic services, such as drinking water, education and health. According to the United Nations, forced recruitment of children, abductions, killings, displacement and extortion are common human rights violations in the area. Landmines pose an additional danger to the local population and humanitarian organizations alike. Women are especially vulnerable to abuse by armed actors. With the male members of the family detained, many are forced to organize themselves to defend their rights and to support their families.

LWF World Service is a key humanitarian actor in Arauca and Choco departments, where the government has not had access due to the conflict. The presence on an international organization also protects the local population.

LWF works with a local partner on the project “Building Pathways of Peace in our Territory.” It provides workshops on human rights, land rights and international humanitarian law to the local population so they can demand their rights. These workshops provide opportunities to discuss common issues and in some villages, lead to the establishment of human rights committees.

As part of DiPAZ (Inter-Ecclesial Dialogue for Peace in Colombia), an initiative by faith-based organizations and churches, LWF World Service has been monitoring the unilateral FARC ceasefire and promoting an inclusive peace process in Colombia. The signing of a peace accord in early 2016 has been welcomed by LWF.



Children from an indigenous community in Choco watch the sunrise from a river bank. Photo: LWF Colombia

“Being a human rights defender is not a desk job. It requires a lot of dedication and sacrifice, but our people deserve that their dignity is respected and that their voices are heard.”

Guillermo Diaz, Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights legal representative in Arauca, Colombia

Land rights and livelihoods

Throughout the world, communities' access to land is threatened, whether by extractive industries, agri-business, environmental degradation, or lack of recognition of traditional ownership and access. This in turn undermines their livelihoods. Land allocation often lacks transparency and even where laws exist to protect the rights of local people, these may not be implemented. LWF has been working across a number of countries to address this more intentionally through rights-based action, linked to national and international advocacy.

In Mozambique, in the central province of Sofala, LWF is currently supporting communities to protect their right to land in 36 villages. A private company started exploiting

land in 2008 to produce biofuel, and obtained a concession on the land from the Mozambican authorities, resulting in the eviction of local families.

The victims are being supported by LWF Mozambique through an empowerment process of the CDCs – Community Development Committees, which are community structures composed by 25 members (usually 13 women and 12 men). 6 CDCs are being trained in land rights, land legislation, human rights and advocacy. The support includes the creation of a Natural Resources Management Committee which is responsible for monitoring investors who explore natural resources.

At the national level, LWF is collaborating with other Mozambican civil society organizations in col-

lecting data on similar cases and the companies involved to engage in advocacy towards the central government.

These issues formed part of the submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Mozambique in 2015, and the need to respect land rights was recognised by the Mozambican government. Meetings at government ministerial level have led to an opportunity for LWF, as part of the national coalition, to be involved in monitoring the implementation of this commitment.

LWF prepared an article on this case study which will be published and shared with partners. They in turn will contact the company's headquarters and ask for a response and action on this case.

Photo: LWF/S. Ofraden



Testimony

“The company asked for 5 hectares to use for a plantation. A community consultation was held, and the local government accepted the project because it was an investment that would develop the community and create more jobs. However, after the community consultation, when the company started installation, instead of five hectares the company occupied 120 hectares. With this enlargement of the area, seven families were displaced from their own land. Our school was also affected because the space that was reserved to make the soccer camp was taken.

Because it was the company that built our school and also because they presented documents from the government we had no means to react. We are weak, the companies have lawyers and we don't have access to justice. This company is going on with their activities. They lied to us. Now, where are we going?”

– Employee at the local school in Sofala, Mozambique

“I am glad that the issue of land rights was raised today, because it is a very important issue for many Mozambicans living in rural areas.”

*Nordine Ferrao,
LWF Mozambique Advocacy Officer,
after the UPR for Mozambique*

Universal Periodic Review

In 2015, LWF World Service contributed to and submitted parallel reports for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the human rights situation in Myanmar, Mozambique and Nepal. These reports were compiled after a long process consisting of consultations with communities and local civil society organizations.

A key approach has been to emphasize the voice of local people, and to amplify this to the international level. Securing commitments in

Geneva is just the tip of the iceberg: the emphasis is to build effective coalitions at national and local level which can work to see that these promises are implemented. The test is whether there is impact at local level: have people in the places where we work seen an improvement in access to specific rights as a result?

Many of the recommendations in the LWF report were taken up in the Human Rights Council. The submis-

“We succeeded in giving local communities a voice on the global stage.”

Dr Ojot Miru Ojulu, LWF Advocacy Officer Geneva

sions by LWF and our partners for Myanmar and Nepal were cited on 19 occasions in the official UN report and a number of key recommendations included.

LWF facilitated the UPR parallel report by the national civil society coalition on human rights in Mozambique. LWF emphasized especially the issue of land rights and women’s rights. The parallel report was cited 47 times in the official UN report, and the government took up recommendations made by the LWF. Meetings with the Minister of Justice – responsible for the Mozambique UPR submission – led to an invitation to be involved in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

We also started working with civil society organizations in South Sudan



The LWF delegation from Myanmar presents the human rights situation in their country at a side event in the United Nations. Photo: LWF/C. Kästner



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT

The UPR is a unique mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council aimed at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 193 United Nations member states. Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN Member States is reviewed every 4.5 years. As part of the process, non-governmental organizations are invited to submit first hand reports, so-called parallel reports. The member states can take these findings into consideration when they present their list of recommendations to the country under review.

and Uganda in 2015, playing a key role in the civil society coalitions preparing reports for the Universal Periodic Review of these countries at

the Human Rights Council in 2016. Elsewhere (Angola, East and Horn of Africa) we are using these mechanisms as a means to engage with

duty-bearers to press for action on issues critical to the communities we serve (land, refugees and IDPs, etc.)

Our Partners

In 2015, much of our work has been jointly planned and implemented with partners.

At the core of these relationships are our collaborations with LWF's related agencies. Through signing memoranda with some of our long-time partners in 2015, we have further strengthened our collaboration and built on jointly identified points where we complement each other.

With many of them we already collaborate within the ACT (Action of Churches Together) Alliance. LWF is a founding member of ACT and World Service continues to play a

key role within that organization, by actively participating in governance, advisory groups, and taking the lead in local ACT Forums for example in Nepal and Colombia.

On a second level, in 2015 we intensified our collaboration with other faith-based organizations. Key partners in this respect are Caritas Internationalis, with whom we have a long history of cooperation in a number of country programs such as Colombia, and Islamic Relief Worldwide, with whom LWF signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014. Apart from a pilot project in

Jordan, we are now collaborating in the Nepal earthquake response and have started exploring many other joint possibilities.

LWF World Service remains the fourth largest implementing partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This relationship is close and crucial for our work in 14 countries from South Sudan, to Haiti, to Myanmar. Likewise, LWF World Service cooperates with other UN agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

“This is a time when we as faith-based organizations have to say very clearly that religion is not a stumbling block, but an added value in emergency aid. In Nepal, we have a coexistence of many different beliefs. When disaster strikes, communities have to pull together to help the most vulnerable.”

LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Martin Junge



Coordination meeting with members of the local ACT Forum in Colombia.
Photo: Magnus Aronson

Thank you for your support and collaboration!



US Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)





Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection



EUROPEAID



Funding and finance

Income from LWF World service increased by 25 percent from EUR 104.6 million in 2014 to EUR 131.1 million in 2015. One third (33 percent) comes from the support of our related agencies. The UN and other government funding also accounted for almost one third (29 percent) of the total funding in 2015.

Much of that increase is due to an expansion of our work and funding of humanitarian operations and a continued commitment by our related agen-

cies. LWF World Service continued to diversify its funding and was able to secure new direct grants from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO).

The work of LWF World Service could not be achieved without our many committed partners and donors. In the name of 2.3 million

beneficiaries around the world, we thank you for your support in alleviating suffering, poverty and injustice.

Expenditure

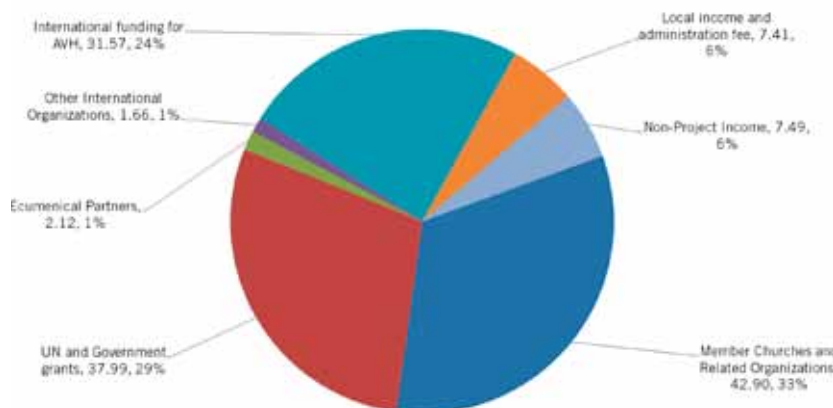
In 2015, LWF World Service spent a total of EUR 124.7 million as compared to EUR 100 million in 2014.

As in previous years, the focus of our work lies on disaster response. Half of our expenditure (50 percent) went into emergency response.

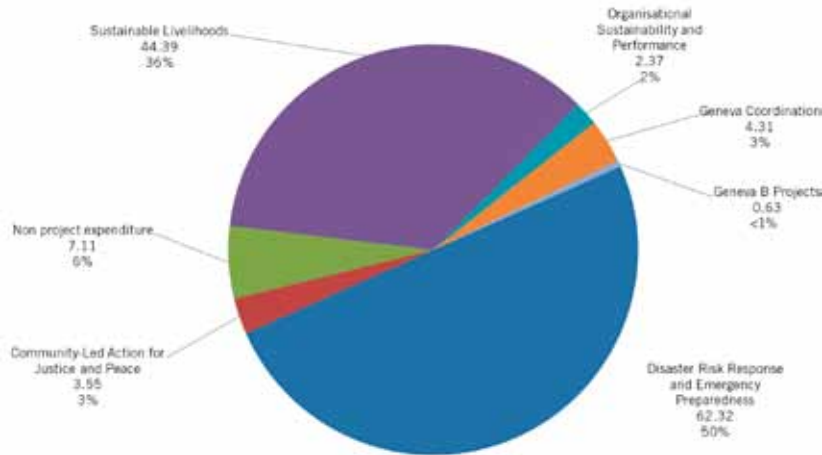
A little more than one third (36 percent) of our expenditure went into development work, ensuring sustainable livelihoods. As in 2014, three percent of our expenditure was dedicated to explicit community-led action for justice and peace programs. As this aspect is mainstreamed in all our work, the actual work dedicated to advocacy was much bigger than the figure suggests.

The global coordination cost in LWF headquarters in Geneva amounts to only three percent.

Income by Donor Type



Expenditure by Strategic Objective

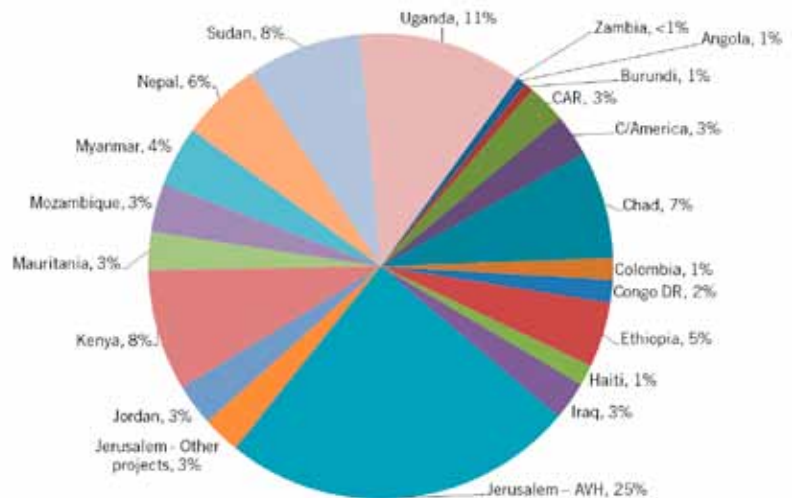


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Expenditure by Country Program



Staff

In 2015, LWF World Service staff has been working in some of the most insecure and challenging environments of the world: In South Sudan, Central African Republic, Northern Iraq, Central America and Colombia. In Nepal, the team faced aftershocks, landslides and angry people trying to loot relief goods. In Burundi, they continue to operate in an extremely insecure environment in the capital Bujumbura.

It is a sacrifice our field staff makes in order to stand with those

in need. LWF World Service is one of the most decentralized of the international non-governmental organizations. With only a small number of coordinating staff in Geneva headquarters, we aim to build local capacity by employing national staff. Our aim to empower those we serve is reflected in the high number of refugee staff we work with. We strive for a high diversity in gender, nationality and creed.

I am glad to take shelter from the sun under the trees I help to plant. I rejoice knowing that people will enjoy the fruits of their labor in the years to come. I like being part of their lives in ways I have not imagined before.”

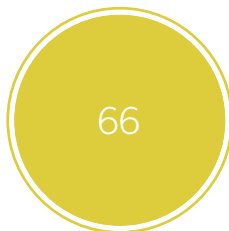
Tesfahun Abrham, LWF Ethiopia environmental officer in Bambasi refugee camp



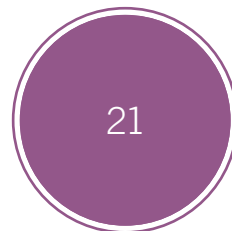
Refugee Staff and volunteers



National staff



International Staff



Geneva Staff



Staff Nabil Yaqo Geargis, LWF Northern Iraq, inspects an LWF food box given to a family in Chamanke, Northern Iraq. Photo: LWF/ Seivan Salim

“Locally rooted
Globally connected”



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