



# Together in Hope

Annual Report 2016



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION



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# Together in hope

We are convinced that our hope in Jesus Christ will continue to guide us toward paths of reconciliation and joint witness.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Annual Report for 2016 presents LWF's work over the past year through the theme "Together in Hope."

The historic Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation, held on 31 October 2016 in Lund and Malmö, Sweden, bringing together Roman Catholics and Lutherans, provided the inspiration for this title. It affirms our joint conviction that our hope in Jesus Christ will continue to guide us toward paths of reconciliation and joint witness in a wounded and broken world.

The joint commemoration provided the motivation for committing to even more passionate dialogue, so that remaining differences are overcome, and the hoped for unity can be received and celebrated.

## Four priorities

The Annual Report presents highlights of our work according to the four priority areas laid out in the LWF Strategy 2012-2017:

1. A communion strengthened in worship and ongoing theological discernment, ecumenical dialogue, and interfaith collaboration.
2. Member churches growing in capacity for holistic mission and deepening relationships with each other.
3. Effective and empowering diakonia addressing human suffering, injustice, and emergencies.
4. Organizational sustainability and effectiveness.

The report highlights some of the many concrete projects and programs, to show how objectives were achieved, challenges met and lessons learnt for moving forward in the work of the LWF.

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# Prepared to give reason for our hope

In the midst of times of challenge, we have let our togetherness and our witness speak to the hope that continues moving us to action.

The year that lies behind us has been challenging in many respects. We seem to be living in times of lots of confusion and growing conflicts. An unprecedented number of human beings have been displaced by war. When it comes to bare survival, a large number of refugees flee from inequalities that push them to breaking point. Climate events have battered the world everywhere, hitting those most vulnerable the hardest.

It is in this context that the same old world of the apostle Peter has motivated us, reminding us that we should always be prepared to give reason for our hope (1 Pt 3:15).

As a global communion of churches we have done so. In the midst of times of challenge we have let our togetherness and our witness speak to the hope that continues moving us to action.

Together in Hope was the headline under which Catholics and Lutherans jointly commemorated the Reformation, leaving conflict behind and embracing the unity that lies ahead. Together in Hope was the heading that inspired our response to refugees in the world, which has reached millions of people. Together in hope has been the motto that nurtured our many other actions that are reflected in this report. In all of that, we have aimed to live up to our vision of a communion of churches, which is liberated by God's grace, to live and work together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world.

*Rev. Dr Martin Junge, LWF General Secretary*



LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge at the 2016 LWF Council meeting in Wittenberg. Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

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# Proclaiming that which unites us

Salaam and grace to you from Jerusalem, in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The spirit of hope in ecumenical friendship and trust through the one who came to reconcile us to himself, Jesus Christ, is the hope that moves us forward in our holistic prophetic mission.

As The Lutheran World Federation communion of churches commemorated the 500 years of Reformation in Lund, Roman Catholics and Lutherans made a public and prophetic witness in 2016 to mark 50 years of dialogue and a commitment to work together in diakonia for the unity of the one Holy Apostolic Church of Christ.

Our shared hope was that the commemoration in Lund and Malmö would water the thirst of reconciliation that began at the grassroots. By the Holy Spirit's guidance, the Roman Catholic Church and the LWF communion of churches celebrated our commonalities and, through friendly discourse, examined our differences.

We gathered to proclaim: that which unites us, is much more than what divides us.

We gathered to remember that we are united in the Holy Sacrament of Baptism and grafted together in the Body of Christ. This sends us out together, to live life against hurt in a broken world.

We gathered together in dialogue to combat extremism and to find the common values of living together in hope in this world—the value of peace, justice, reconciliation, of working together—for humanity, and for working toward global peace and justice in the world.

I am grateful to the General Secretary, the departments of the Communion Office, the Council and the Meeting of Officers. We joined our efforts to become a beacon of hope.

This act of commitment sparked boldness within our communion to worship and pray in joint ecumenical services around the world. Our renewed hope in Christ's resurrection from death on the cross to bring unity to humankind, the world, and each person to the other, ignited these services.

By God's grace we came together in Lund to be active participants in the working of Christ's love and we left with the same energy.

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope.” (Eph. 4:4)

We are called together to love, to live one hope, and to be committed to mission, to our common witness of reconciliation, and to our one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan, LWF President*



LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan at the 2016 LWF Council meeting in Wittenberg. Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

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# Highlights of the year

## January

In his New Year message, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge emphasizes, “We must not leave anyone behind,” encouraging member churches to continue serving the poor and most vulnerable.

LWF and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) invite Lutheran churches and Catholic bishops’ conferences to use the joint Common Prayer to prepare the 2017 commemorations for 500 years of the Reformation.

## February

LWF and 41 humanitarian organizations assisting Syrian refugees underline more funding, protecting civilians, livelihood assistance, and education as their most pressing needs.

Churches in Bogota jointly host the fourth meeting of the Lutheran–Catholic–Mennonite Trilateral Dialogue Commission.

## March

Ethiopia faces its worst drought in 30 years. LWF country program appeals for assistance to feed more than 10.2 million people.

LWF with the University of Oslo’s Faculty of Theology and the Center for Islamic Theology in Münster, Germany jointly organize “Transformative Readings of Sacred Scriptures” consultation in Oslo.

## April

LWF General Secretary Junge thanks the German Chancellor and churches for their massive engagement

with refugees. He warns against the curtailing and undermining of international humanitarian law while dealing with refugees and their protection.

## May

General Secretary Junge launches a 365-day countdown to the Twelfth Assembly, inviting member churches to prepare to make it meaningful and joyful.

## June

Assembly lantern is “lit” as LWF President joins Namibian Lutherans at a ceremony in the capital Windhoek, the official start of the Twelfth Assembly local preparations.

At Wittenberg Council meeting, delegates connect to their churches’ historic roots, garner Reformation anniversary momentum and learn of their shared witness. Statements and resolutions focus on the world refugee crisis, a call to support the Middle East Christian presence, working on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on church public space participation and hermeneutics. Deep sadness is voiced at the Latvian church decision to restrict ordination to men, with an affirmation of women’s ordination as a shared LWF goal.

## July

The United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein lauds LWF’s advocacy and work with Mozambique communities while meeting their human rights defenders at the Human Rights Council 32<sup>nd</sup> session in Geneva.



LWF Uganda receives in less than a week more than 12,000 South Sudanese refugees fleeing violent clashes in neighboring South Sudan.

LWF member church representatives participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> International AIDS Conference, in Durban, South Africa.

### August

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand hosts Asia's Pre-Assembly in Bangkok, starting Twelfth Assembly regional preparations.

After LWF workshop in Myanmar, the government agrees to set up a national steering committee to promote human rights.

LWF publishes membership statistics up to December 2015. Its 145 member churches had more than 74 million members, an increase of 2.1 million from 2013. The trend of general growth in the global South, places for the first time, the largest Lutheran communion churches in the global South: Ethiopia and Tanzania.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname hosts Pre-Assemblies for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and North America, in Paramaribo, a first for the two neighboring regions to meet at the same venue.

### September

LWF hosts a retreat in Geneva, for 11 newly-elected church leaders from around the world. They share experiences, learn about the LWF, its collaboration with other Ecumenical Center-based organizations, and the UN.

Lutherans and Pentecostals begin a five-year dialogue for better understanding and common witness locally and globally.

### October

As military action starts to oust Islamic State from Mosul, Northern Iraq, LWF assists civilians fleeing the fighting.

LWF and the Catholic Church hold the Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation, in Lund and Malmö, Sweden. The commemoration is co-hosted by Pope Francis, LWF President Younan and LWF General Secretary Junge. A Joint Statement, signed by Pope Francis and LWF President Younan, calls on Lutheran and Catholic parishes and communities to be “bold and creative, joyful and hopeful in their commitment to continue the great journey ahead of us.” At Malmö Arena LWF World Service and Caritas Internationalis sign a Declaration of Intent to jointly respond to human need throughout the world.

### November

LWF delegates, mainly from churches and country programs in Africa participate at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference to the Parties (COP 22) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Marrakech, Morocco.

LWF hosts 80 mission practitioners in Geneva to discuss the church today at the Global Consultation on Contemporary Mission in Global Christianity.

LWF is part of a faith-based coalition to end violence against girls and young women in 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, themed, “Girls in School, Girls with Dignity.”

### December

The LWF General Secretary visits the humanitarian and development program in Chad, complimenting the integrated work with long-term refugees and host communities, and the generosity of local hosts to welcome and work with refugees. The visit also includes a meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



The joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation in Lund and Malmö, Sweden, on 31 October, was a milestone in ecumenical relations.

Photos: LWF



# Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation

The Catholic–Lutheran Joint Commemoration of the Reformation in Lund and Malmö, Sweden, on 31 October 2016 significantly defined the work in this area as part of global initiatives to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. It also marked other work priorities in the Communion Office. This unique event has become a landmark for the ecumenical journey, and it has also redefined the relationship between theological dialogue and joint service.

The year began with the LWF and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) inviting Lutheran churches and Catholic Bishops' Conferences across the world to make use of a jointly-developed *Common Prayer* to prepare commemorations for the 500 years of the Reformation in 2017. In the meantime, the LWF received with gratitude translations into local languages of the 2013 report *From Conflict to Communion Lutheran–Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017*.

A highlight of the Lund Cathedral prayer service was the signing of a Joint Statement by Pope Francis and President Munib Younan. The document expresses gratitude to God for the sustained and fruitful ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans, in which mutual understanding and trust have deepened. It states that both partners “are no longer strangers,” having grown closer through dialogue and shared witness. The commitment is made to leave behind conflict that has marked earlier history between Lutherans and Catholics, and to embrace the common future into which God calls them.

During the public event at Malmö Arena, the LWF and Caritas Internationalis signed a Declaration of Intent mutually committing the two global Christian organizations to deepened relationships and closer cooperation in humanitarian response and sustainable development.

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# Ecumenical accountability

The Reformation anniversary enables LWF's ecumenical partners to deepen relations, or explore existing ones. Plans are advanced with Anglicans, Reformed and Orthodox on how to commemorate 2017. The Anglican-Lutheran International Coordinating Committee is preparing joint reflections. Interreligious partners are discussing "Religious Identity and Renewal," as reform is not only a Christian issue, but for all religious traditions. Conversations with the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) focus on preparations to sign the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in July 2017, with discussions between WCRC, the LWF and the PCPCU.

## Report on the Mennonite Action

The report, "*Bearing Fruit: Implications of the 2010 Reconciliation between Lutherans and Anabaptist-Mennonites*" was published in 2016. It responds to LWF's Assembly commitments to read Lutheran confessions after the Mennonite Action in Stuttgart. It also provides an example of engaging commitment in exploring unresolved issues around peace ethics, and illustrates good practices and cooperation after the reconciliation action.

## Hermeneutics program

The Hermeneutics program, which was started in 2010, builds on the LWF member churches' love for the Bible and analyzes how context and Lutheran confessional theology

shape how the Bible is understood. In June 2016, the Council recommended: *In the Beginning was the Word: The Bible in the Life of the Lutheran Communion —A Study Document on Lutheran Hermeneutics*.

## Religion in the public space

Study on the public space deepened theological reflection with more active interfaith engagement. The "Strengthening Participation and Dialogue - Lutheran Engagement in the Public Space" study group met in February for a second time in Oslo. It considered country and regional experiences and insights from previous LWF global studies. In 2016, the LWF Council endorsed *The Church in the Public Space* statement. Shared with LWF departments and regional Pre-Assemblies, it points to the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation anniversary as vital for engagement on what it means to be Lutheran. It also explains LWF's engagement to SDG 16, to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. An interfaith workshop in January 2017 in Myanmar continued this focus.

The interreligious program continued collaboration with the Center for Islamic Theology in Münster, Germany, drawing more Muslim scholars from several institutions. Cooperation includes the publication *Interactive Pluralism in Asia: Religious Life and Public Space*, highlighting the public influence of religious commitment. It examines Christian theology's contemporary engagements.

# Women in an inclusive communion

Collaboration between the Women in Church and Society (WICAS) program at the Department for Theology and Public Witness (DTPW) and other LWF departments led to greater focus on gender globally. Joint work with World Service helped to increase participation in the annual Women Human Rights training in Geneva.

The Department for Mission and Development (DMD) has worked closely with DTPW on advocacy and public witness, gender justice and theological reflection. This included raising awareness about the UN and action on vulnerable human rights defenders in Guatemala, and working on women's participation in the LAC Pre-Assembly.

Preparations for 500 years of the Reformation included assessing women's contribution to church reform, and encouraging churches to support an inclusive communion where women and men are equally encouraged and affirmed for church leadership.

A baseline assessment among the 145 LWF member churches in 2016 showed the proportion of women in decision-making positions and in the ordained ministry. According to the survey, 119 of the 145 LWF member churches ordain women. It also indicated that many of the churches that do not ordain women for the ministry

of word and sacrament ordain them as deacons and are actively discussing women's ordination. It captures regional trends, showing different dynamics and remaining challenges.

The assessment is a tool to determine implementation of the LWF Gender Justice Policy (GJP) and is a valuable resource to discern the way toward a fully inclusive communion. Programs in DMD and in World Service increased collaboration to set up policy implementation guidelines. The GJP translation, integrally or partially advanced to reach more than eight languages by the end of 2016. It was discussed locally and regionally, systemically and contextualized in all seven LWF regions. Reflections included LWF's contribution to SDG 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Specific implementation plans and tools were agreed to in each context.

In June 2016, the Council reiterated LWF's long-standing position on women in the ordained ministry. It issued a statement acknowledging that the restriction and exclusion of women's gifts in and for the church, serves to devalue all women and increase their discrimination in both church and society.



Delegates from LWF member churches in the seven LWF regions met at five pre-assemblies, in Bangkok (Thailand), Paramaribo (Suriname), H or (Sweden), and in Johannesburg (South Africa), to prepare for the Assembly.

Photos: LWF



# Towards the Twelfth Assembly

In 2016 interaction intensified with member churches to prepare for the Assembly and the Reformation anniversary. LWF member churches and ecumenical partners grew increasingly involved in Reformation anniversary preparations under the Assembly theme “Liberated by God’s Grace” and the sub-themes stressing that salvation, human beings and creation are “not for sale.” Member churches started studying and translating the Reformation 2017 booklets, and local processes were also linked to the themes. Some ecumenical partners, such as Anglicans, are directly taking up own reflections on the reformation themes.

The principles of the Reformation anniversary setting the tone also for the Assembly, have been communicated to churches namely: the global nature or “citizenship” of the Reformation; ecumenical accountability; and reformation as an ongoing process for churches. Many local initiatives are under way, and some will be presented at the Windhoek Assembly in the Omatala and workshops.

The Assembly lantern “was lit” as LWF President Younan joined Namibian Lutheran church leaders in

the capital Windhoek for the official launch of local preparations for the Twelfth Assembly. Later, women and youth from the three Assembly host-churches kicked off preparations for the international Women and Youth Pre-Assemblies to be held prior to the Assembly.

Pre-assemblies for the Asian region, held in Bangkok, Thailand; and LAC and North America, in Paramaribo, Suriname, prepared delegates for the Assembly. Overall planning reflected that the Africa, Europe, Women and Youth Pre-Assemblies would convene in 2017. In addition to sharing assembly content information, rules of procedure and other participation issues, the pre-assemblies agreed on the allocation of delegates to be appointed to the next LWF Council.

The pre-assemblies facilitated dialogue on the life and ministry of churches in the regions, enabling sharing of experiences and exchange of ideas. In addition to the LWF General Secretary and the President’s participation, each pre-assembly heard a presentation about Namibia from one of the bishops of the three local Lutheran churches. Feedback from participants highlighted the open forum on SDGs as a good pre-assembly addition.

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# Communion building, mission and diakonia

LWF's direct engagement with the member churches in 2016 focused on increasing member churches' organizational capacities, greater contextual understanding of diakonia, a sense of better ownership and belonging, all of which are significant factors for building communion.

The Contemporary Mission in Global Christianity consultation in Geneva, with 80 delegates from member churches and mission organizations reflected today's mission challenges and best practices. The goal of a zero-budget consultation was also achieved with participants paying their own way, exploring new gift sharing models among churches supporting LWF's work. The Sub-committee for Mission and Development expressed its appreciation for recently introduced online screening tools for member church project applications as these made the process more efficient. LWF accompanied several member churches in developing capacity for project planning, evaluation and reporting.

## Diakonia and human resource management

Several workshops supported diakonia, key for church engagement, to strengthen responses to community need. This included four diakonia and human resources workshops in Cameroon, Kenya, Nepal and Nicaragua,

which involved 103 church leaders, diaconal workers, including women and youth from 21 member churches. Further, four skills' training workshops centered on theological reflection, disaster preparedness and emergency response were held for six member churches in Chile, Madagascar, Kenya and the Philippines. A child rights' and gender justice workshop was held in Malawi for 13 African churches. For Europe, the diaconal process, focused on "conviviality"—the art of living and working together. It explored theological questions on hospitality in Europe for neighbors seeking refuge.

An online virtual conference in March 2016 drew more than 400 worldwide participants, sharing expertise on improving churches' social service delivery to people in need. LAC member churches used two Lutheran identity resources, while the Africa network of theological institutions facilitated rich discussions that included Reformation at 500 years, and produced an on-line curricula development resource also on Lutheran identity.

The LWF Center in Wittenberg, and the Brazil-based LAC Sustainability Institute accompanied member church theologians and pastors to sharpen competencies and increase Lutheranism knowledge. The institute developed on-line church management and gender in community life courses, supported by the churches in Bolivia and Brazil and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



LWF member church representatives from Africa, Asia and LAC joined faith-based organizations (FBOs) in Durban at the 21<sup>st</sup> International AIDS Conference in July 2016 to fast track the fight against the HIV epidemic.

## Youth leadership in climate change advocacy

Churches and ecumenical organizations see a need to engage young people more and the LWF continues to develop youth leadership, particularly in climate change advocacy.

The Youth desk continued its leadership of LWF's representation at the annual UN climate conferences. Eight delegates at the November COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco, included six from member churches and two from country programs. LWF joined FBOs, including ACT Alliance, WCC and the World Young Men's Christian Association. They demanded accelerated transition to a low-carbon economy based on clean energy to halt rising temperatures, raising LWF's visibility and impact at international, national and local climate justice platforms. In Marrakech the LWF held a discussion on how FBOs are implementing climate projects.

Mauritania's Mari Oumar Sall was the first Muslim to join the LWF delegation. She described how LWF, present in the country since 1974, combats desertification with tree planting for a "Green Belt," works on agricultural adaptation projects with displaced Malians seeking refuge, and collaborates on climate with neighboring Senegal's LWF member church. "The first thing I want to do when I get back home in Mauritania

is to unite and bring together the young Muslims in my country to fight against climate change," she said. Her interest is not only to work with fellow Muslims. Pascal Kama, 31, General Secretary of the Lutheran Church of Senegal noted, "In Senegal we experienced drought and we tried to reach out to our neighboring country and partner with Mauritania so they can help us with their expertise."

Biruk Kebede, LWF Ethiopia country program coordinator said, "I've seen children suffer, I've seen women suffer. Two weeks ago I was in a village talking to an old woman. I'm here now in Marrakech talking to young leaders from all over the world." He said he brings "the voices of the most vulnerable," making sure "that those voices are heard by decision-makers." With civil war and hunger, "we have young people migrating to Europe; that needs more action."

A presentation from Central America showed how the LWF program is increasingly focusing on climate change advocacy and becoming a major interlocutor with key state and non-state stakeholders, especially in El Salvador. Innovative initiatives such as "climate micro-insurance" is a strategy to protect vulnerable targeted groups from climate change effects. Strengthened emergency response and preparedness in close cooperation with the regional and national ACT fora has positioned LWF as a strategic humanitarian response actor.



In 2016, LWF World Service served 2.6 million people needing humanitarian and development aid, and advocacy support.

Photos: LWF



# Diakonia tackling suffering

The Reformation 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary Joint Commemoration in Sweden was a highlight. Notable for World Service was the public event in Malmö during which a Declaration of Intent was signed with Caritas Internationalis, committing both humanitarian and development organizations to further collaboration and action worldwide.

Through the work of World Service in 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, LWF served more than 2.6 million people in some of the world's most troubled regions and countries, including Central Africa, Central America, the Middle East, Myanmar and South Sudan.

LWF responded to growing needs in several country programs and emergency operations, including those listed below.

**In Chad**, a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) pilot funding for the Seeds for Solutions project ended in December 2016. Through the initiative involving collaboration between the authorities and local communities, refugees receive a plot of land, seeds, tools and training to earn a living. It has resulted in not only diversified income sources but also dialogue between the refugee and host communities and enhanced social cohesion and peace. Food self-sufficiency has increased as has refugee and host community autonomy.

**In Angola**, government, development sector peers and communities single out LWF Angola as respected

and trustworthy, due to work among vulnerable people where others do not venture.

**In Burundi**, human rights abuses and targeted violence proliferated. A falling economy hit LWF project areas deemed fragile before the unrest. There were 4.6 million chronically food-insecure people, more than 61,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), and malaria cases hit five-year highs. Humanitarian space shrank after targeted attacks on NGOs.

**In Colombia**, with the signing of the Peace Accord (rejected by a referendum, but still pursued), hopes for a new era are fragile. Humanitarian needs persist. LWF strategy addresses 'Life, Peace, Land,' applying the humanitarian response, but transitioning to a rights-based approach, using international leverage to strengthen civil society.

**In the Democratic Republic of Congo**, election postponement is likely to thwart peace and development. LWF carried out humanitarian programs and emergency response targeting about 150,000 people affected by flooding and a cholera outbreak. LWF led food aid responses with the World Food Programme for 75,000 people.

**LWF Ethiopia** – Following a two-year drought, Ethiopia declared an emergency in 2016, warning of food insecurity for 10.2 million people. LWF assisted small-scale farmers with organic gardening, irrigation techniques and efforts to protect clean water. This

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resulted in high-yielding crops that can also survive in the changing climate. At the Bambasi refugee camp, LWF introduced biogas plants as an alternative household energy option to firewood for the more than 16,000 Sudanese refugees residing there.

**In Jerusalem**, the LWF-run Augusta Victoria Hospital's Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit was inaugurated in April, conducting successful transplants. The Joint Commission International's triennial quality survey led to three more years' accreditation. The vocational training center opened a multi-purpose sports field to further civic values, and 250 students graduated in May. High employment for graduates persists: 92 percent were employed or self-employed six months after graduation, compared to 31.6 percent for Palestinian youth.

**LWF Kenya/Djibouti** continues a positive impact on over 400,000 refugees and host communities, mainly through education; child and youth protection; specific needs' care; community livelihood and empowerment programs. The shifting policies of the Kenyan government towards hosting refugees have made it necessary to explore ways of supporting people who are returning to Somalia, both in their host countries and back home.

## Universal Periodic Review advocacy on land rights

LWF continued initiatives in land rights and UPR mechanism, expanding its 'local to global' approach to themes like gender and climate justice. Submissions by LWF and partners for Myanmar, Mozambique, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda UPRs were frequently cited

(often verbatim) in official UN reports, which included LWF's key recommendations.

The UPR project for the East and Horn of Africa helps country programs gain national level advocacy profiles. For South Sudan, the LWF facilitated local and national civil society actors. LWF met with key stakeholders such as the South Sudan Council of Churches, to keep this initiative in the current volatile context. National and international partners have greatly valued the LWF's involvement. The livelihoods and land rights project are under way in Angola and Mozambique. The projects have succeeded in securing rural communities' land tenure in project areas, empowering community groups (such as village development committees, farmers' and women's associations) to address local duty-bearers, entering land legalization and registration processes. Communities grasped these initiatives, systematically stressing the value of securing and claiming their right to land.

This model links local activities with national and international advocacy, raising visibility on land rights in national debates and internationally. LWF Colombia facilitated the participation of indigenous and Afro-Colombian community members at UN events, giving access to key stakeholders such as UN Special Rapporteurs. LWF Mozambique has engaged in discussions with national partners and government to set up a national conference on land. The local to global model proves its value here, involving a biofuel company with links to the Netherlands. Local level community consultations facilitated by LWF allowed material and information gathering to draft a case study and discussion with the company nationally and internationally to defend the affected communities' rights.

# Emergency operations and life-saving actions

The major impact of LWF's intervention is significant and often includes life-saving activities to provide shelter, non-food items, psychosocial support, social cohesion, and food security for returning refugees, IDPs and host communities.

Key challenges are volatile and unpredictable political and security situations. Violence, including attacks on civilians and humanitarian staff continues to pose significant risks to staff security.

## Cameroon

LWF works with thousands of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), IDPs, and host communities across vast and remote areas of Cameroon in two separate conflicts. There are CAR refugees in the border region of Adamaoua, and IDPs, refugees, and host communities impacted by the Boko Haram violence in the extreme North region neighboring Nigeria. Major interventions include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security, livelihoods, and psychosocial support.

## Northern Iraq

The focus is on meeting life-saving needs especially WASH following new displacements in and around Fallujah and Mosul, providing psycho-social support and promoting social cohesion between the host community and IDPs. Some of these activities were conducted in partnership with Islamic Relief Worldwide.

## South Sudan

When violence erupted in July in the South Sudanese capital of Juba, LWF staff assisted internally displaced people and refugees in neighboring countries, on top of heightened security concern for staff in Juba and the Maban field office.

## Uganda

The program has assisted more than 750,000 refugees who crossed into the country following an outbreak of violence in South Sudan in July.

# Finances

The summary of income and expenditure provides the consolidated financial highlights for the year ending 31 December 2016. Coordination in Geneva refers to the Geneva Communion Office activities including governance, planning, coordination, program implementation, monitoring, evaluation and capacity building.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA audited the 2016 consolidated financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards and Swiss Code of Obligations without any qualifications.

## Income

LWF income comes from the member churches, individual donors, church-related agencies, the UN, European Union and United States government funding sources, and other partners.

In 2016, LWF total income increased to EUR 151 million, 5% or EUR 6 million over the previous year's income of EUR 145 million.

## Expenditure

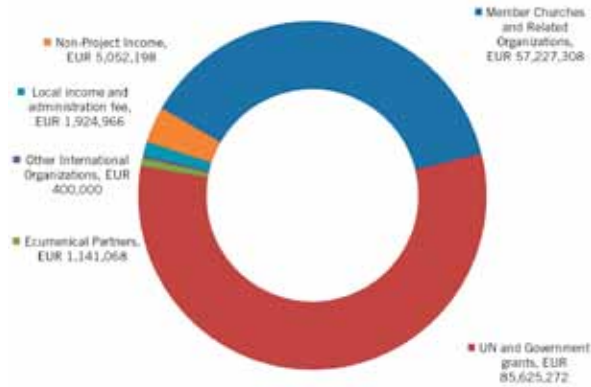
In 2016, the LWF spent EUR 142 million to implement its strategic priorities. The overall annual expenditure grew from EUR 137 million in 2015 to EUR 142 million in 2016, representing a 4% increase in program expenditures.

This increase has been driven mainly by increased funding designated for LWF's humanitarian response, revenue from expanded patient services provided by the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, and additional funding for theological work.

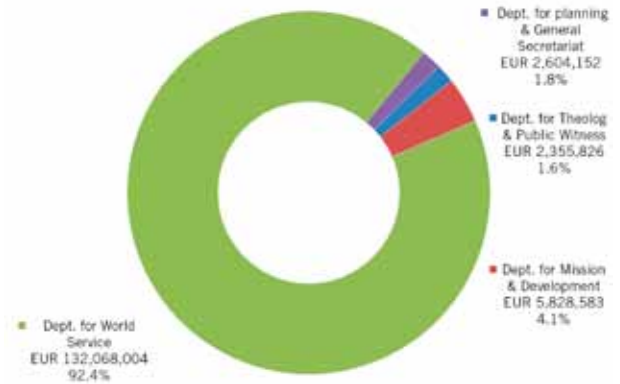
## Consolidated Results in 2016

Amounts in EUR	Geneva Coordination	Program & Projects	August Victoria Hospital Jerusalem	Total
Income	10,588,709	94,977,903	45,804,200	151,370,812
Expenditure	10,427,926	96,315,945	36,112,694	142,856,565
Operating Results	160,783	-1,338,042	9,691,506	8,514,247
Other Financial Income	-29,254	2,080,783	0	2,051,529
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>131,529</b>	<b>742,741</b>	<b>9,691,506</b>	<b>10,565,776</b>
Reserves 31.12.2016 (After Restatement of IAS 19 for Pension)	2,633,927	4,008,283	34,151,823	40,794,033

## Income



## Expenditure



## Endowment Fund

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

A CHF 20 million target is set for 2017. By the end of 2016, the total value of the Fund was CHF 15.34 million. During the year, member churches contributed CHF 316,370 to the endowment fund. In 2016 the fund distributed CHF 359,853 to LWF programs.

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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## Management and Control

LWF operates in many difficult countries and is exposed to various financial risks that could adversely affect its financial results and performance. The risks are managed through the Risk Management Policy and Internal Control Systems as per Swiss regulations and evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA.







LWF staff demonstrate support for the Thursdays in Black initiative, which was started by the WCC in the 1980s as a form of peaceful protest against rape and violence, especially during wars and conflicts. Gender justice is a cross-cutting priority for the LWF. Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

## Staff

73

Geneva Staff

71

International Staff

2,689

National staff

4,408

Refugee Staff and  
volunteers



LWF continues to provide space and support for young people's involvement in the ongoing work of the communion including theological reflection and dialogue through the Global Young Reformers' Network.

Photos: LWF



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Photo: LWF/ Marie Renaux

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a communion in Christ living and working  
together for a just, peaceful, and reconciled  
world.



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