



Rights-Based Approach Local to Global

Annual Report 2018



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

actalliance

Overview

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is locally rooted and globally connected. This distinctive 'local to global' character is an important part of our added-value. At the core of all we do are people and communities. Drawing on our spiritual roots, we recognize that faith finds common ground with human rights in a people-centered approach which affirms the dignity of each and every person. Human Rights vocabulary is therefore firmly part of LWF's identity and self-understanding.

Adopting a 'rights-based approach' means we support people to organize and empower themselves, and to be the agents of their own futures. By accompanying them—amplifying their voices at national and international levels—we can ensure that changes at these levels also reinforce the securing of concrete improvements in their lives at local level. We therefore work intentionally with a 'Local to Global' (L2G) methodology. LWF's presence in Geneva and its close collaboration with related agencies and international partners means that together we have authentic and credible leverage with important international actors, including the United Nations (UN), governments, private sector and other so-called 'duty-bearers'.

In recent years, LWF has intentionally developed this L2G approach through projects linking local level action for change

to national and international level advocacy, based in over 10 countries and locations. This has focused on the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and other international accountability mechanisms, with the goal of securing real change at local level in areas such as the rights of marginalized communities, refugee rights, women's rights and land rights.

This approach has been fostering cross-departmental collaboration within LWF and is currently being further mainstreamed and adopted across LWF as a major expression of its new strategic direction for 2019-2024. As we move forward in 2019, this will allow us to effectively leverage all of LWF's potential, joining-up across our various departments, from local to national to global level, and between LWF member churches and country programs.

Collaboration and co-creation with our friends and partners are a key to this. So far, concrete engagement and resources have come from Bread for the World, Church of Sweden, Finn Church Aid (FCA), the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Swiss embassy in Myanmar, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) and as we expand the approach we look forward to this collaboration growing.

Countries engaged in Rights-Based Approach (RBA) L2G projects in 2018


Countries engaging with RBA L2G in 2019



Church of Sweden 

Brot
für die Welt



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Our Local to Global approach

These initiatives are in no way separate from other LWF programmatic work: they overlap, reflect, draw on and feed into it. They do serve however, to make this RBA local to global approach more visible, better resourced, and capable of strengthening LWF’s wider programming as it is mainstreamed. These initiatives allow us to work more intentionally at linking local rights-based activity to national and global advocacy.

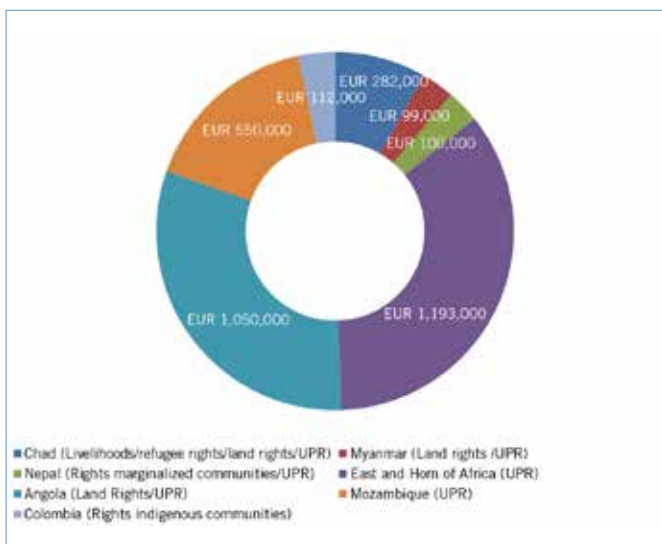


- With our focus on impact in the community this national and international level advocacy is directed towards reinforcing local impact, rather than engagement in global policy debate for its own sake.
- Our advocacy is simply amplifying the voice of the communities themselves: it grows out of development / emergency contexts, meaning that the people themselves become agents of change and advocacy.

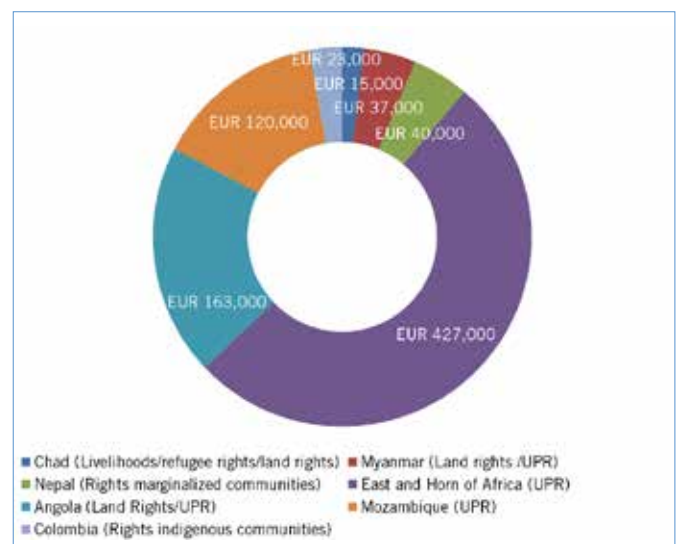
“A particularly innovative approach of LWF is to work in complementarity with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council thereby effectively mainstreaming refugee policy into human rights policies at the national level.”

2018 Annual Report of The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Engaging Faith-Based Actors for Sustainable Development (P29)

Overall funding for the RBA local to global projects (2018 – 2021)



2018 expenditure for the RBA local to global projects



1. Empowering Marginalized Communities to Defend Their Rights

Campaigning on birth registration in Myanmar

LOCAL

In 2015, LWF conducted community consultations in several locations in Myanmar (Yangon, Ayeyarwaddy, Kayin, Chin and Rakhine) ahead of the Universal Periodic Review, to allow local communities to voice their concerns and priorities in relation to their rights. The issue of birth registration appeared as a prominent one for local communities in the rural areas of Rakhine, Chin and Kayin. Indeed, UNICEF noted at the time that 3 out of 10 children under 5 in Myanmar had no birth certificate, and discrepancies across the country were high, affecting more gravely children in rural areas or areas impacted by armed conflict.

In 2018, as LWF focused on implementing recommendations made in the UPR, specific attention was given to this issue, with awareness campaigns on the importance of legal documentation and birth registration conducted in the villages. As a result, 426 children in Ann township, Rakhine state have had their birth registration process started by their parents, and are now missing only the final signature by township level authorities to obtain their birth certificates. LWF is planning additional campaigns in Chin and Kayin states with the participation of township level health and immigration departments to ensure more children access their right to a legal identity.

NATIONAL

At national level, LWF conducted advocacy with government authorities to raise awareness on the difficulties and challenges encountered by rural communities to access administration services, noting the complexity of the process when parents themselves do not possess a national ID card. The government of Myanmar has responded positively to this engage-

ment, with improved birth registration rates for children under 5 years old, particularly in Chin state.

INTERNATIONAL

The issue of birth registration and right to legal identity in Myanmar is linked to other sensitive topics, in particular right to citizenship for ethnic minorities, especially the Muslim minority in Rakhine known as the Rohingyas. For now, the government of Myanmar refuses to consider this minority group as citizens of the country and as such does not grant them legal documentation. Though it is too risky for LWF to engage in direct advocacy at local level on this, LWF has supported the advocacy visit of the Director of Equality Myanmar (a national CSO) to the UN in Geneva, where he raised the issue of human rights violations in Rakhine and discrimination in the country.

Strengthening local leadership in Nepal

LOCAL

In Nepal, LWF has followed up on the recommendations issued in the last UPR. To further its rights-based approach, LWF Nepal has focused on building the capacity of the most vulnerable communities it works with – in particular Dalits (untouchable caste), freed Haliyas (a recently abolished system of bonded labor by which Haliyas used to work for landlords to repay the debts taken by their forefathers), and Santhals (indigenous people suffering from landlessness for a vast majority). This support included helping them to establish their own democratic organizations and carry out advocacy initiatives. A major achievement in increasing local leadership was the election of 182 rights-holders from LWF Nepal target communities to different positions at local, provincial and federal levels. The elected representatives are engaged in advocating for citizenship for marginalized indigenous groups such as Santhal and Musha, and the just reha-



“Taking classes conducted by LWF Nepal is the reason behind my high level of confidence to speak to anyone against discriminatory behaviour.”
—Kausilya Damai.

Photo: LWF/A.Calma

In Nepal, Kausilya Damai was elected local government member of the Nawadurga Rural Municipality, a remarkable achievement as a woman Dalit and Haliya.

bilitation of former bonded laborers. In 2018, as a result of strengthening the capacity of local organizations, an advocacy campaign was successful in defending a total of 33 freed Haliyas families in Sikhhar Municipality 6 Pachnali in Doti district, who were to be evicted from the unregistered land where they were living. They were able to engage with local duty-bearers and can now stay without being pressured anymore. Around 50% have received freed Haliya identity card and have applied to the district level freed Haliya rehabilitation committee for rehabilitation.

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

LWF Nepal developed a mobile application to monitor Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR). In 2018, LWF trained community members to use the app to collect data on access to education, rights to health, and discrimination issues affecting the Dalits, Haliyas and Santhal communities. The direct reporting system without intermediaries provides a concrete and accurate reflection of the status of their human rights. The data received from the app informs evidence-based program design and advocacy and will inform the next UPR cycle.

2. Advancing Women's Human Rights

Campaigning against early marriage in Mozambique

LOCAL

LWF and its partner Justa Paz have engaged in the UPR in Mozambique since 2015. The process of drafting the alternative report started with the creation of a national coalition on UPR and human rights. NGOs focusing on gender justice joined the coalition and some were part of the steering committee, like AMPDC (Women's Community Development Association), based in Sofala Province, coordinating the process in the central area of Mozambique.

INTERNATIONAL

During the community consultations, the focus group discussions methodology made it possible to document the women's silenced voices. Concerns such as early marriage and women's access to land were captured in the alternative report and also raised at international level through direct lobbying from local civil society organizations towards diplomatic missions in Geneva. Thanks to the advocacy led by LWF at international level with the delegation of partners from Mozambique, the Mozambican government accepted recommendations both on access to land and on early marriage.



A girl teaches parents how to read and write in Mozambique.

Photo: Nordine Ferrao

LOCAL

As a result, engaging state authorities at local level on these issues has been much easier. For example, AMPDC approached the higher district authorities in Chibabava and Buzi, using the UPR recommendations accepted by the government on early marriage. As a result, the District Services of Health, Women and Social Welfare (SDSMAS) are part of AMPDC's campaigning against early marriage. In spite of their financial constraints, state authorities instructed their officials to lead the awareness-raising sessions and support the reintegration of girls in schools after denouncements of cases of early marriage. AMPDC was also able to get the clearance of the District Services of Education to establish Girls' Clubs, where both girls and boys in Grade 8th teach their fathers and communities to write and read. This system called PROFASA (Family without Illiteracy) has proved to be an efficient way to fight early marriage because parents and communities start to understand the importance of education and at the same time the illiteracy rate reduces.

Fighting against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) among refugees in Uganda

30% of 15 to 49-year-old girls and women experienced sexual and physical violence in 2017, according to figures published by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. The 2017 police crime report also registered 14,985 defilement cases and 1,335 cases of rape. It should be noted that most cases go unreported and the situation is worse in the refugee settlements and refugee hosting communities. Since Uganda was reviewed in 2016 under the UPR, LWF has been engaged in following-up on the recommendations related to eliminating SGBV.

LOCAL

NATIONAL

At both local and national level, LWF participated in 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, a worldwide

civil society initiative calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, which has become an effective tool to increase awareness and create opportunities for discussion about challenges and solutions. LWF conducted community dialogue meetings in six zones in Rwamwanja Settlement in Kamwenge District, working with district authorities as well as engaging with churches using music, dance and drama to raise awareness in the community about SGBV and its consequences. On the sidelines of the community meetings, LWF lawyers provided legal assistance to victims of SGBV on a one-on-one basis.

NATIONAL Over the years of providing support to GBV survivors, LWF has noted gaps in the existing legal framework around prevention and response and decided to mobilize members of the Act Alliance to make an input into the proposed new law which aims at responding to the challenges faced by survivors of sexual offences in accessing justice. LWF organized a consultative meeting with stakeholders who deal with survivors of SGBV, including civil society actors, the Directorate of Public Prosecution, representatives of the judiciary and religious leaders who are critical in providing counselling services to survivors and perpetrators of SGBV. Together, they developed an analysis of the Bill and provided clear recommendations to parliament to improve the law.

INTERNATIONAL To sustain interest and momentum, LWF will use the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2019 to advocate for the importance of passing a law that truly protects survivors of Sexual and gender-based violence in Uganda.

3. Advocating for refugee rights

Strengthening refugee and civil society networks in Kenya

LOCAL Through different community forums, LWF equipped over 200 refugees with knowledge on human rights and the UPR over the past two years. Refugees report that this has built significant self-confidence and leadership, resulting in some of the women winning elective camp positions. Conversely, young urban refugees report that there was a reduction of arbitrary police arrests, which was previously very rampant, as refugees were more aware of their rights and hence could articulate them to the police. Most importantly, these forums stirred the community's desire to create a platform that would amplify their voices, leading to the creation of NAKADA National Refugee Network in 2018. The community visualizes NAKADA as a vanguard to propel an engagement on refugee issues, by refugees for refugees in local, national and international conversations. Each three locations that the acronym stands for (i.e. Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab) has already elected their three representatives forming the coordination team, which responsibilities include capacity building of the community on human rights issues, leading in advocacy engagement with duty-bearers, as well as documenting information, lessons learnt and stories of change. This will inform the UPR national consultation process, as Kenya comes for review early 2020.

NATIONAL As a member of the Civil Society UPR Coalition Steering Committee, LWF facilitated and steered the drafting process of the UPR Midterm Review Report, that saw an all-time high sustained engagement of at least sixty NGOs. The report states that 26% of accepted recommendations have been implemented for the realization of human rights, 32% and 29% are

Refugees in Ethiopia enjoy right to water !

As part of its local to global approach, the UPR Ethiopia project supports the target communities, Somali refugees in Jijiga camps to enjoy their rights in addition to supporting advocacy at national level. To reinforce delivery of concrete impact at local level, LWF together with key stakeholders assessed the gaps affecting access to rights by target communities, revealing that poor access to drinking water was one of major challenge affecting the wellbeing of refugees.

The project, therefore procured and installed a 37 KVA surface pump in Shedder refugee camp, helping 10,500 Somali refugees and over 6,000 host communities members to have a better access to potable water. Improved supply of water also means that refugees can water their vegetables and increase their own food self-sufficiency.



Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

I am a farmer, king of the Earth.

I am the one that many despise without realizing that, in the end, they depend on me, because without my work, no human species would survive.

I work the land for myself, for my family and for coming generations, because my eye is in the future.

I wake up early in the morning and come back in the afternoon with the great mission of ensuring humankind's survival.

Through me, humanity can study, dress and feed, with my respectful mother "Earth", the essence of everything, and my father "Water", without whom I cannot survive either.

Poem from the community of Chinganga Moisés, crafted in a workshop for expression and self-esteem.



Photo: LWF/O. Schnoebelen

on-going or not implemented, while the coalition was not able to get information regarding the remaining 13%. This forms a significant tool for up-scaled monitoring and advocacy work by civil society, as well as a basis for the third UPR report. This process witnessed a close collaboration among both state and non-state actors.

INTERNATIONAL

LWF facilitated the participation of a refugee, Rose Nathike, former Olympic Athlete from Kakuma refugee camp, to attend the 5th Formal Consultation on the Global Compact on Refugees in Geneva, where she presented a statement on behalf of the CSOs/ICVA. This is an effort by LWF to support refugees' active engagement in forums where refugee issues are discussed.

4. Protecting Land Rights of Rural Communities

Securing access to land for vulnerable communities in Angola

LOCAL

In Angola, LWF has worked with a rights-based approach since 2002, empowering communities to organize themselves through Village Development Committees. In 2018, LWF worked with some 22 villages in Moxico Province building their capacity to secure their rights to land and be better prepared in conflict situations, a crucial need as land grabbing is becoming a growing threat in the context of the diversification of the Angola economy. As a




result, seven communities were able to get their provisional land delimitation, which is a great protection against eviction and abuses. As this project focuses strongly on improving women's livelihoods through access to land rights, a comprehensive approach was developed to make sure women can better understand their rights, including through literacy classes, and organize themselves, for example through establishing women's cooperatives. A remarkable achievement was reached by the women's association of Samaria, which received its final land title and a tractor paid by local authorities. This was a recognition of the association's role in promoting agriculture in Moxico Province and the result of consistent national and local level advocacy.

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

LWF has been actively involved in the creation of a coalition of NGOs involved in land issues, including through mapping existing land conflicts, data collection and collaboration with relevant authorities. It has made regular follow-up on a case of land grabbing in Camaian-gala, by reaching out to the Ombudsman and supporting the community to make their voice heard. In addition, LWF has also been leading in coordinating a UPR report that highlights the challenges associated with land conflicts, among others. To support the Angola civil society engagement in the UPR, LWF Mozambique partners came to share best practices and learning from their own experience in creating a coalition and submitting an alternative report in 2015. As a result of this workshop, a coalition of 14 organizations was created, with eight thematic clusters that each launched national consultations to feed into an alternative report to be submitted early 2019.

Examples of Impact in 2018

	Key processes	Key achievements
	In Uganda, LWF has continued to provide support to the District Probation Office and the Child and Family Protection Unit to respond to cases of children in conflict with the law and cases of child abuse.	LWF has worked closely with district authorities to provide better access to justice and supported 6 mobile courts and 6 legal aid clinics reaching 630 beneficiaries.
	In Nepal, LWF is developing community capacity to collect evidence-based data on human rights situations for three marginalized communities through a Mobile Application.	33 freed Haliyas Families were to be evicted from the unregistered land where they were living. As a result of an advocacy campaign, local duty-bearers committed to protect them.
	In Myanmar, around 580 farmers benefited from capacity-building and awareness raising on land rights and on the land registration process, through facilitation by local CSO experts.	213 farmers started the process for land registration in Ann township (Rakhine state)
	In Mozambique, working groups on early marriage and Natural Resource Management were set up, composed by Girls Clubs, Community Development Committees and local government authorities.	As a result of community-led action to fight early marriage, children were reintegrated in school in Buzi and Chibabava districts.
	In South Sudan, UPR recommendations deemed as priority by civil society on the peace agreement, reconciliation, women and children as well as institutional and legislative reforms were developed into a matrix, that was collectively validated in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and approved at a joint session by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.	The civil society coalition is now a member of the inter-ministerial committee—a platform where civil society and government engage around the achievement of the UPR recommendations and improvement of human rights in South Sudan. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice has accepted to notify the state authorities of a nationwide plan for sensitization and engagement with civil society and government.
	In Ethiopia, LWF has started a fruitful collaboration with national civil society to contribute to the next UPR cycle by supporting local actors to come to the UPR pre session in April 2019 and build capacity to develop implementation matrices.	Civil society partners successfully conducted national consultations to feed into the alternative report they submitted for the UPR.
	In Angola, LWF has been actively engaged on the creation of a coalition of civil society organizations working on land issues to map out land conflicts throughout the country.	LWF organized the first workshop on UPR for civil society, which resulted in the creation of a UPR coalition organized in 8 thematic clusters who agreed on process and timeline to gather data to be included in the alternative report.
	An advocacy visit to Geneva was organized for a representative from the Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz in Colombia, who met key Special Rapporteurs and stakeholders and reported on the situation of human rights defenders in Colombia and the lack of will of the government to investigate crimes against them.	A delegation of Colombian civil society representatives participated in the UPR pre session in April 2018 and presented the findings of the alternative report submitted as a coalition. Active lobbying with diplomatic missions resulted in recommendations being made and accepted on LWF priority issues.
	Kenyan civil society concluded a large-scale collaboration on drafting a UPR mid-term report, which was successfully submitted.	Olympic Athlete Rose Nathike, a refugee representative, participated in the Global Compact on Refugee Consultations in June 2018 in Geneva, delivering an oral statement on behalf of ICVA.
	In October 2018, a delegation of 6 representatives from Chadian civil society travelled to Geneva for the UPR pre-session. They were able to meet several diplomatic missions and to raise their main concerns and priorities in relation to the human rights situation in Chad.	Priority issues, such as threats and attacks against human rights defenders, freedom of expression and assembly, rights of children and in particular the issue of birth registration for marginalized communities, rights of women and gender equality, rights of refugees, were all included in the final recommendations made by UN member states to Chad during its Universal Periodic Review.

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Cover photo: In Nepal, Kausilya Damai was elected local government member of the Nawadurga Rural Municipality, a remarkable achievement as a woman Dalit and Haliya.
 Photo: LWF/A.Calma



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