



# Rights-Based Approach Local to Global

Annual Report 2021

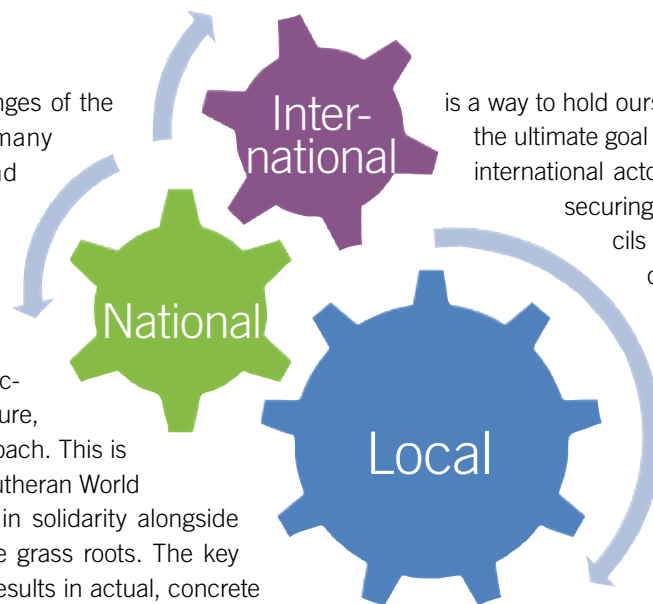


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# Overview

In 2021, the continuing challenges of the COVID crisis, overlaid with many other crises, both natural and human-made, have reminded us yet again that it is the most vulnerable who are impacted above all. We need to continue to enable their agency to be strengthened, as the key actors in determining their own future, through a people-centred approach. This is at the core of all we do as the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in standing in solidarity alongside people and communities at the grass roots. The key is to ensure that what is done results in actual, concrete improvements in the rights, the well-being, and the lives of children, women and men at local level.



is a way to hold ourselves accountable and focused on the ultimate goal of all this activity and our role as an international actor. Advocacy is not primarily about securing commitments in international councils per se, but about using those as part of a process, as simple tools which can secure leverage at national and local level to ensure that change actually happens.

When this whole cycle local-to-global-to-local works, it can be seen not just in people having the 'right' to something established, but through them having the thing itself: actual good health, proper education, real opportunity, a healthy environment, economic

security, and so on.

This requires a joined-up approach. LWF's 'local to global to local' (L2G2L) methodology is distinctive in that it joins-up different spheres of activity which often fall into silos: human rights join hands with the humanitarian mechanisms; advocacy connects closely with day-to-day programming; the local, national and international levels complement one another in rights-based action; working for changes in policy goes hand in hand with the endless task of monitoring, ensuring that change is actually implemented; objective critiques of the system go together with pragmatic positive engagement with duty-bearers to enable them to do the things which are supposed to be done.

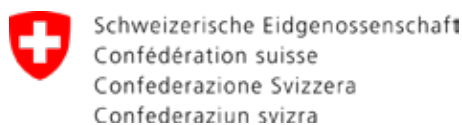
To do this requires constant, intentional effort by people who communicate, enable, encourage and empower. Lots of joining-up.

Over the years, LWF – together with many valuable partners – has developed this approach through a disciplined and carefully-structured management approach, which means that 'local to global' aims to be more than a convenient mantra, but is essentially a programmatic methodology. L2G advocacy does not focus on conceptual, thematic issues addressed only at a global level. Every rights-based or advocacy intervention is carried out as part of a clear and consistent logical framework, with activities at local, national and international level, earthed always in a particular country and in a particular locality in that country. Aiming for change for that locality, in that place, and holding to the discipline of specific indicators of local, concrete change,

LWF and partners aim, in some ways, to be self-effacing. This approach is not about visibility for LWF or our partners. It is about enabling the voices and actions of those at the grass roots to be amplified at the national and international level.

This, therefore, guides the way we work, based on the trust and confidence which local people and communities have in LWF and our partners, based on our role at national level, working alongside, facilitating and enabling other civil society actors, and based on our international profile, using our leverage – together with international partners – to secure small 'wins' among the UN, governments, private sector and other so-called 'duty-bearers'.

As ever, collaboration and co-creation with our friends and partners continue to be a key to this. We are grateful for partnership with many, including Bread for the World, Act Church of Sweden, Finn Church Aid, the Canton of Geneva, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the German National Committee, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Australian Lutheran World Service; we have collaborated with the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Mukwege Foundation, the University of Geneva, Climate Alliance, FIAN, UPR Info and many more local partners. Above all, we are grateful to courageous women, men and children who are the key actors in determining their own future.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## In Ethiopia, The UPR project “Completely changed our life”!

“LWF improved the life of many people by creating job opportunities, and today many women are generating income for their family”, says the Mayor of Awbare Town. In Ethiopia, LWF works with Somali refugees and host communities to access their fundamental human rights and meet their needs.



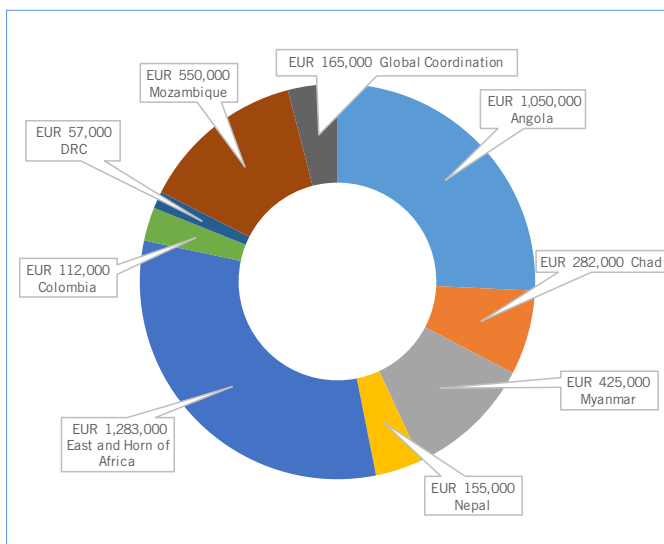
Learn in this short video how LWF helped to change attitudes towards women’s and children’s rights and how this translated into concrete actions.



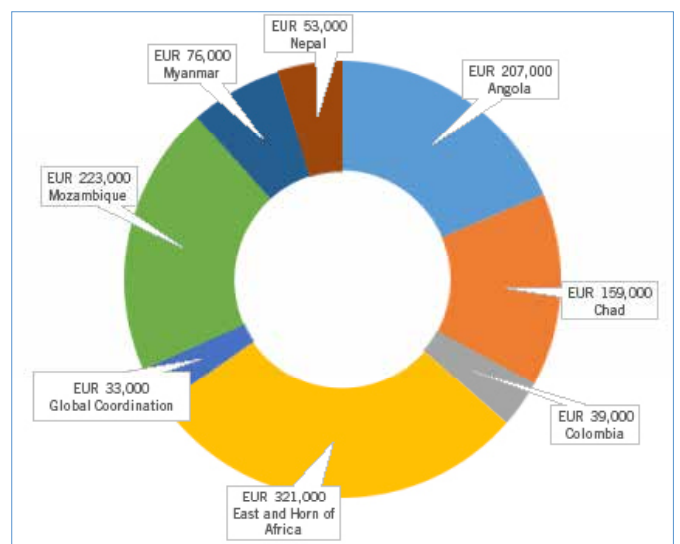
## Countries engaged in Rights-Based Approach (RBA) L2G projects in 2021



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



### 2020 expenditure for the RBA local to global projects



# 1. Rights of refugees

## Voices of hope and dignity: Refugees in Kenya speaking for themselves

In 2021, the Kenyan platform of refugees for refugees has been legally established thanks to the support of LWF. With a hundred members, they have benefitted coaching from an expert to set up all their functional aspects from finance and procurement to governance and communications as well as a three year strategic plan.

Building on several years of trainings, this platform is gathering refugees from three different locations and is called KADANA (deriving its name from the three locations where refugees live in Kenya: Kakuma, Dadaab and Nairobi).

This is a remarkable example of what we want to achieve in our Rights-Based approach in LWF: we want not only people to be trained and to understand their rights but we also accompany

them to organize themselves and be able to raise their concerns in a constructive manner at local, national and international level.

At local level they are active in dialogue with host communities to increase understanding of refugee issues and experiences towards social integration in the long-term, partnering with locally based organizations in refugee hosting counties.

At national level, they actively participated in the Refugee Bill review process and are now part of civil society coalitions where previously no refugees were represented, as if refugees' rights had not been on the country's human rights map previously. They also plan to be at the forefront in disseminating the now enacted Refugee Act 2021 among the refugees, local communities and relevant state and non-state actors. In liaison with KADANA, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) conducted various missions in the two refugee camps of the country to understand better the refugees' reality and report to government accordingly. As a result, the Commission is now more keen on refugee rights and is actively involved in the process of monitoring the voluntary repatriation exercise, particularly for Somali refugees.

At international level, in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, refugees from the three locations were able to raise their voice at the highest level in a compelling and original way. LWF gathered poems of hope created by the refugees themselves in a booklet that was launched in an online event for World Refugee Day. This way of portraying refugees' dignity and resilience was acknowledged and applauded by panelists from UNHCR and OHCHR, as it offered also a space to discuss the challenges that refugees are facing and raise awareness among a wide international audience. This resource is also gaining interest among different partners: it was presented at the University of Geneva as an educational material, opening doors to new collaborations.



*KADANA Chairperson as part of the panelist during a National Forum with state and non-state actors, organized by the UPR Kenya National Stakeholders Coalition in December 2021. Photo: LWF/Lilian Kantai*

## 2. Land Rights and Right to sustainable livelihoods

### Supporting refugees' right to land and sustainable livelihoods in Chad

LWF in Chad is working to promote the rights of refugees, host communities and women in Southern and Eastern Chad, helping them claim their rights and improve the socio-economic conditions. In 2021, around 8000 individuals were involved in project activities, with a focus on access to land and to the labor market.



Since July 2021, 160 rights-holders could start professional training for 6 months, allowing them to enter the job market in the fields of mechanics, carpentry, sewing or welding. Several information sessions around human rights, and specifically around the new Asylum law in Chad

were organised with local partners, as well as advocacy sessions with landlords and local authorities in the South and East of the country. These on-going sessions help understand how arable lands can be shared by host communities with refugees, to support self-reliance of refugees, ensure that their access to land is guaranteed and improve social cohesion.



At national level, LWF has been working with key civil society partners such as the Human Rights Coalition (CADH), supporting advocacy efforts towards rights of refugees and rights of

women. A major achievement was the adoption of the new Asylum law in December 2020, which provides improved legislation on rights of refugees, including on their right to sustainable livelihoods. Efforts to raise awareness and sensitise rights-holders and duty-bearers on this new legal instrument are underway, and LWF will raise these priority issues in the upcoming UPR cycle of Chad (planned for 2023/2024). As such CADH and LWF organised a training on the UPR for national civil society organisations in December 2021, with the aim to strengthen the capacity of local civil society in advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations, including right to land and right to sustainable livelihoods of refugees and women in Chad.

**I**NTERNATIONAL At international level, LWF had been entering in key partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (OHCHR) in Geneva, as well as at regional and national level, to support efforts to build capacity and participation of Chadian civil society in the upcoming UPR cycle of Chad.



*Sewing professional training in Goré, South of Chad.  
Photo: LWF/Albert Tinyama*

### 3. Rights of marginalized communities Fighting cast-based discrimination in Nepal

The project “Voice for Rights- Aawaj” has been implemented in Morang, Doti and Kailali districts of Nepal until December 2021. The main objective was to strengthen the capacity of local organizations to generate evidence and organize advocacy to promote the rights of Santhal, Dalits and Haliyas in Nepal.

**L**OCAL In 2021, LWF has continued to collect data on the Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ESCR) of Haliyas, Dalit, Mushar and Santhal communities, all victims of caste-based discrimination, landlessness and rights violations in Nepal. 4’504 individuals participated in this exercise through the ESCR Mobile App that LWF and its local partners are using to collect and analyse this data.



*Meeting with the Santhal community in Morang district, Nepal, to collect the issues and challenges they are facing. Photo: CAHURAST Nepal*

The capacity-building of local organizations has led to significant results in several areas, in particular towards rehabilitation of Haliyas, who are former bonded labourer suffering from many rights violations in Nepal. The Sudur Paschim provincial government included Haliya issues in its program and budget. Data on Haliyas and other former bonded labourers has been collected by the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Far Western Province. 4 District Level Santhal/Musahar organizations were established in Jhapa and Morang districts with the aim to represent these communities in the local planning processes, and to access government resources. Mohanyal Rural Municipality of Kailali district has taken the responsibility of rehabilitating 12 people who have recently received their freed Haliya card. Two media campaigns were conducted in coordination with a national TV channel in Morang district on the issues of Santhal and Musahar communities, particularly on land rights.

**N**ATIONAL In addition to its ESCR yearbook published annually on the situation of Economic, Social and Cultural rights in Nepal, in 2021 LWF published a booklet in Nepali compiling all the existing legal provisions on the rehabilitation of freed Haliyas in Nepal. This booklet included constitutional provisions, laws and regulations, as well as all UPR recommendations relating to this issue. It has been circulated at local level with rights-holders and local government authorities.

The Federal Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation has formed a high-level task-force to make recommendations to the national government on the full rehabilitation of freed Haliyas.



## INTERNATIONAL

Following the submission of the UPR parallel report in July 2020, and the online advocacy organised by LWF the UPR review of Nepal took place on 21st January 2021. Several missions that LWF and the Nepal partners met with made recommendations to Nepal in line with our parallel report, including on access to education for Dalit and under-represented casts, SGBV and forced marriages, and access to citizenship (Finland); or on the implementation of the Cast-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act, and on access to citizen-

ship (Germany). The UPR outcome report of Nepal was adopted by the Human Rights Council in June 2021: the Government of Nepal received 231 recommendations in total and accepted 195. LWF facilitated the delivery of an oral statement by a Dalit woman leader, focusing on access to land, education, rehabilitation, citizenship, and right to equality and non-discrimination. LWF also submitted comments and recommendations to the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (Professor Olivier De Schutter) during his visit to Nepal in December 2021.

## 4. Rights of women

### Promoting social and economic rights of women in Burundi

In Burundi, women are still facing issues of rights violations due to a patriarchal system, where women are considered inferior, and have long been neglected in terms of access to education, health, nutrition, and decision-making. Women are still excluded from inheritance and access to land and resources. LWF started a project in 2021 focusing on empowering and supporting women to claim their socio-economic rights.

civil society actors, and planning for support and capacity-building for Burundian CSOs to engage in the upcoming UPR process, ensuring rights of women are raised in the process.



## LOCAL

20 women were designated by their 90 of their peers in the 2 pilot villages of Cendajuru in Cankuzo province and Gisuru in Ruyigi province to represent them. These 20 women received training on advocacy and on women's social and economic rights in Burundi. At the end of this training, the women leaders identified a common theme related to women's economic and social rights to focus their advocacy: "Low access and control of household resources leading to poverty and discrimination of Burundian women".

Once the training was completed, the women leaders were empowered to articulate and advocate for their own needs. They had the opportunity to do an analysis of the chosen advocacy issue and to receive life skills training to prepare for the communal level roundtables.

A round table on women's rights was then organized at the communal level. Women role models were able to express their ideas to different administrators before asking duty-bearers to make firm and concrete commitments in favor of these rights. Specific and concrete recommendations with clear responsibilities were drawn by the roundtable participants. These roundtables have enabled the authorities to make clear commitments, including:

- Monitor cases of economic violence and apply administrative sanctions to perpetrators of economic violence;
- Listening to and guiding women victims of economic violence;
- Sensitize men, hill chiefs, and zone chiefs on women's economic rights



*"Before, women had to stay home and did not join public meetings and ceremonies. They were not sharing their problems. Now they socialize and express themselves." Léoncie NTIBITANGIRA, who joined the Women Forum after being trained by LWF on leadership and issues management.*

*Photo: LWF/L. Gillibert*



## NATIONAL

A national roundtable is in preparation, so that women leaders can present their priority issues as identified at local level. LWF is building key partnerships at national level with

## Success story: Women's empowerment in rural Myanmar: How Daw Moe became a Vice Chairperson

Daw Moe lives in a rural village of Kayin State, together with her husband and their two young children. Job security is a real challenge in this region of Myanmar and the family used to depend on the husband's small monthly income of 100 EUR.

Through the LWF Rights-based Empowerment Programme, Daw Moe has been able to join selected trainings to develop her skills in leadership, small business management, and increase her knowledge on women's rights. The family also gained practical skills, such as how to raise goats, pigs, and chickens, and now has a climate-smart sesame seed crop from which they earned 1,250 EUR in 2021.

The knowledge and experience she learnt with LWF have helped Daw Moe establish trust and admiration among her peers, and she is now an educational volunteer in her village, in order to help her community to prosper. She is actively involved in the Village Development Committee, where she has risen through the ranks from accountant to become the Vice-chairperson, thanks to her work in raising awareness for gender equality, her dedication to community development, and her self-confidence to lead community meetings and represent the village in meetings with the authorities.

*"We've learned a lot as women. I realised that I can work just as well as a man, and I can talk just as well as a man. I feel so much more confident now. In my village, we work a lot on rice harvesting and men were always paid more than women for the same work. In 2019 the women successfully raised this concern and advocated for equal pay. Now both women and men are paid equally."*



**I**NTERNATIONAL LWF has been collaborating actively with OHCHR at international and national level, including through participation in the training workshop organized by OHCHR pm the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other

international human rights mechanisms for Burundi. LWF analysed the previous UPR cycles for Burundi and recommendations already made on the issue of women's social and economic rights, and is planning to engage in the upcoming review taking place in 2023.

## 5. Rights of children Amplifying the voice of children in defending their rights in South Sudan

**I**NTERNATIONAL With support from LWF, the South Sudan Civil Society Coalition on UPR submitted a parallel report on the UPR highlighting the situation of human rights in the country, particularly around the thematic areas of peace and reconciliation, rights of women and girls, children's rights and education. This was followed by a virtual pre-session in December 2021 with the chair of the coalition presenting main recommendations from the parallel report and bilateral meetings with the missions of Belgium, Ireland, Uruguay and USA with participation from 3 representatives from national civil society. The discussions were based on the actions taken by the Government of South Sudan in addressing UPR recommendations related to women and girls, access to education and the level of understanding of human rights by both the rights holders and duty bearers at the state and national levels.

port was based on consultations and priorities raised from the local level in South Sudan. As an example, on 16th June, for the Day of the African Child, LWF organized a panel discussion with children from 4 secondary schools in Juba. Student representatives presented their views on the effects of child marriage in the area of education, on the importance of inclusive education, the role of parents and teachers in reducing the rate of school dropout in South Sudan. Participants were mainly duty bearers from the National Ministry of General Education & Instruction. The recommendations put forward by students were presented to the National Ministry of General Education & Instruction who were in the process of discussing ways of improving girl child education in South Sudan. The Director committed to present the mentioned issues to the respective departments, and LWF and its partners will follow up on these commitments and the UPR recommendations to ensure they bring concrete results on the ground.

**L**OCAL / **N**ATIONAL The UPR parallel re-

	Key processes	Key achievements
	In Uganda, both refugees and locals have secured access to justice through the mobile Court sessions in Rwamwanja and Adjumani refugee settlements.	LWF facilitated 4 mobile Court sessions and a total of 40 cases were heard, including SGBV cases. These led to convictions from plea bargaining, outright dismissals for want of prosecution, reconciliations, adjournments for further hearing, sentences to years of imprisonment, and release.
	In Ethiopia, 28 households were trained on improved vegetable production practices, and vegetable seeds and farm hand tools were provided to them, to build their self-reliance and get surplus for marketing.	These households are now running successful activities such as petty trading and small shops. 15 of them can now live and/or work outside the camp, particularly through the integration of their activities into local markets.
	In Myanmar, community-based advocacy guidelines were developed through a series of consultations meetings with. The guidelines are a five-step process that help communities to 1) undertake participatory self-assessment to prioritize their main issues; 2) collect information to help advocate; 3) devise a strategy for how to do the advocacy; 4) to implement the advocacy; 5) monitor the result of the advocacy.	A total of 161 households were involved in land registration process. Of these, 146 households received land registration card (including 9 women-headed households) in Ann Township, while 15 women-headed households were under the registration process.
	In Colombia, the Assembly of the Guardians of the Atrato, with members from 7 indigenous and afro-Colombian organizations, took place in 2021. A self-evaluation exercise assessed the functioning of the Commission of Guardians and its different bodies. Positive results were highlighted, including the educational and sensitization work conducted amongst the local communities and wider audience.	7 livelihoods initiatives were supported in 2021, including on: environmental education; traditional medicine; soap and recycling for elderly women; baking for displaced women; candle-making for women head of households; weaving for youth. LWF is supporting these initiatives with trainings, exchanges, and material support with a medium to long-term perspective, to ensure sustainability.
	In Mozambique, LWF's partners Justa Paz and AMPDC are working with civil society coalitions in advocating around the national land policy and the revision of the national Land law. A study on the sustainable access and use of land was published by the ASCUT platform, as part of these contributions. Roundtables with parliamentarians and the Ministry of Economy and Finance were held to request that the programming and budgeting processes of the Ministry of Agriculture would be more inclusive towards civil society.	A national conference on the Land reform process was organized, with the participation of the Ministry of Land and Environment, as well as the Commission on Revision of the national land policy. As a result of this conference, a statement was published by ASCUT, Justa Paz and other CSOs with clear recommendations and priorities for the process of revision of the land legislation. This statement was shared with the relevant authorities.
	In Ethiopia, LWF strengthened and empowered civil society to effectively engage on UPR commitments and other mechanisms in national and international forums. Stakeholders were enabled to take necessary steps and give due attention and focus to areas that need to be addressed in such forums.	14 civil society organizations participated in a workshop jointly organized by LWF and the Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE). The issues covered UPR Recommendations on Economic and Social rights and recommendations on what Ethiopia should do to fill the existing gaps for the next UPR review.
	In Angola, LWF supported several civil society networks in key processes, including conducting advocacy at national level for CSOs from the South of the country affected by a severe drought; facilitating a national roundtable on the theme of "Governing land in the context of climate change"; supporting the production of a Manual on participatory land delimitation in local language; revitalizing the national human rights CSO coalition etc.	With its national and international partners, LWF organized a UPR implementation workshop in Luanda in August 2021, which resulted in the design and approval of a UPR implementation matrix for civil society organizations, allowing CSOs to actively monitor the implementation of key commitments made by the Government of Angola in international platforms.

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*Cover photo: Mariam Mohammed, 42, stands by her goats she bought through the start-up capital she received from the RBA L2G project, implemented by LWF. Mariam lives in Shedder refugee camp in Somali regional state, Ethiopia. The project aims to build the self-reliance of refugees and empower them*



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