



Rights-Based Approach Local to Global

Annual Report 2022



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FEDERATION
actalliance

Overview

In 2022, as the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine grabbed international attention. Humanitarian response and funding were—understandably—directed toward the new crisis while other parts of the world received less attention and resources. Whereas this has been a huge challenge, it has also served as a reminder that international aid can be somewhat ephemeral and that sustainable change depends on local people and communities being empowered as the key factors in determining their own future. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) rights-based approach ‘Local to Global’ (and back to local)—RBA L2G2L—is based on that conviction.

This report describes LWF’s work around the world from the perspective of the L2G2L approach in 2022. It covers land rights in Angola, the rights of marginalized communities in Myanmar, of refugees in Ethiopia and Uganda and of women in Jordan. Through a people-centered approach, LWF stands in solidarity with people and communities at the grass roots. In this way, the key building blocks can be put in place for a fair and just society that will be more robust and resilient in its response to future disasters and crises. Amidst the uncertainties of international aid, funding directed in this way is well-spent: a good way to ensure that positive change endures.

These principles apply equally in our extensive intervention in contexts like Ukraine, where we also work for the rights of people and communities. The international humanitarian community has increasingly adopted the vocabulary of a ‘triple nexus’, something that has always been a feature of LWF’s work. RBA L2G2L is in alignment with a ‘nexus’ approach in that it joins-up different spheres of activity: human rights and humanitarian mechanisms; longer-term progress and peace and social cohesion.

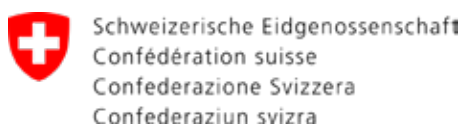
‘Local to global’ is a programmatic methodology, rather than a conceptual aspiration. L2G2L advocacy does not focus only on the global level. Every rights-based or advocacy inter-



vention is carried out as part of a clear and consistent logical framework, with activities at local, national and international level, anchored always in a particular country and a particular locality. Aiming for change for that locality at the local level and holding to the discipline of specific indicators of local, concrete change, is a way of holding ourselves accountable and focused on the ultimate goal of the respective activity being implemented and our role as an international actor. The aim is always to use the ‘local’ as the litmus test of this multi-layered activity. 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.

Collaboration and co-creation with our friends and partners continue to be key in this process. We are grateful for partnership with many, including Bread for the World, Act Church of Sweden, Finn Church Aid (FCA), the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Australian Lutheran World Service, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UPR Info and many more local partners.

This approach is not about the visibility of the 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 levels. It is based on the trust and confidence which local people and communities have in the LWF and our partners, drawing on our role at local, national and international level, working alongside, facilitating and enabling other actors in civil society. Ultimately, the success of this approach is seen not just in people having the theoretical ‘right’ to something established, but through them having the thing itself: good health, proper education, real opportunity, a healthy environment, economic security, and hope for the future.



ENGAGING IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

LWF has chosen to engage strategically in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a unique mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) which aims at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 193 UN Member States. Since 2015, LWF has engaged with civil society partners in 12 countries, in activities ranging from supporting coordination, capacity-building, data collection, submission of alternative reports to bringing local voices to the UN

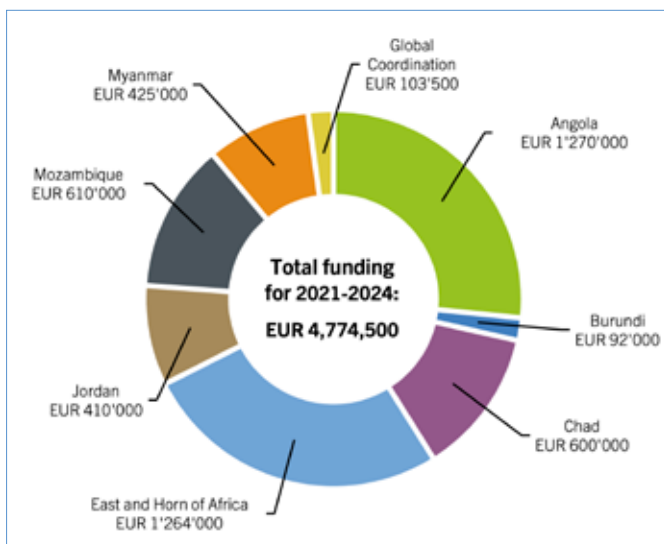


offices in Geneva to meet with diplomatic missions around the UPR pre-sessions or providing technical support to design the implementation processes.

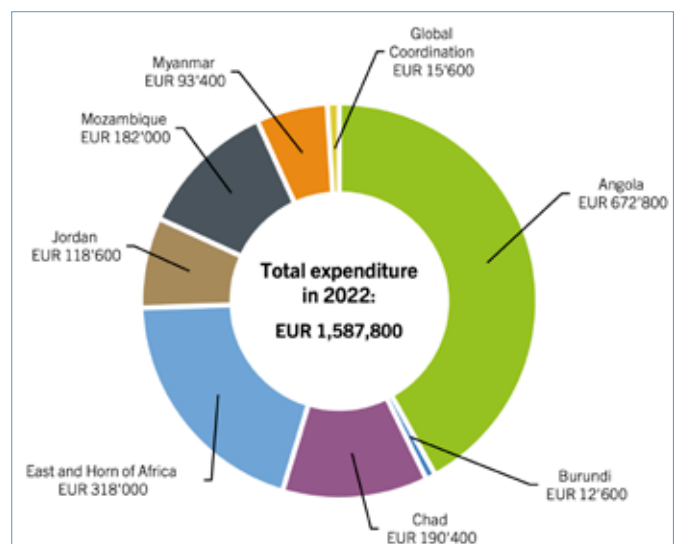
Countries engaged in Rights-Based Approach L2G projects in 2022



Overall funding for the RBA local to global projects (2021–2024)



2022 expenditure for the RBA local to global projects



1. Rights of marginalized communities

Advancing land, legal identity, and women's rights for marginalized communities in Myanmar

Since the military coup in February 2021, LWF Myanmar has been forced to adapt activities and strategies to a highly volatile and conflictual context, while bearing the burden of restrictions imposed on international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and UN agencies. In most project locations, risks were assessed as reasonable enough to keep working with self-reliance groups within partner communities, as long as those groups were registered with the authorities, as required by law.

LOCAL The fact that LWF operates directly through a person-to-person approach has been a real asset to sustain engagement, reorienting the local to global strategy onto grassroots community-based capacity building activities. Materials were developed and rolled-out for rights' awareness and participatory advocacy approaches. As an example, animated videos on legal identity were tailored in Burmese and in sign language with vivid examples to explain how the lack of identity documentation deprives people of any



Several animated videos on legal identity were created in Burmese, in sign language and with English subtitles, with vivid examples to explain how the lack of identity documentation deprives people of any basic access to health, education, justice and freedom of movement among other rights.

basic access to health, education, justice, freedom of movement, among other rights, and how to apply for such documentation. The approach proved efficient as the yearly target was doubled, with 132 adults gaining a national legal identification card and 18 families a household registration document in Kayin State. In addition, 278 children received birth certificates across 21 villages in Kayin and three in Ann town in Rakhine State, doubling the annual target.

Likewise, two videos were produced in simple language and visuals to explain the very complicated land categories and laws in Myanmar and how to apply for the corresponding registration to secure access to land, including inheriting family land. In 2022, LWF facilitated 281 households to access land registration certificates from the Karen National Union Land Registration Department. In addition, 49 women from Kayin have gained the ability to speak up by using comic books about women's empowerment, gender-based violence, and community-based advocacy guidelines.

NATIONAL Due to the various ongoing issues in Myanmar, LWF is not able to advocate or substantially collaborate on human rights advocacy at the national level. LWF will instead facilitate communities to network horizontally while building capacities of individuals and communities to advocate and attain basic rights.

INTERNATIONAL While LWF and partners had engaged in the UPR in 2020, submitting an alternative report after extensive community consultation and coordination among CSOs, the process was suspended in early 2021 due to the military coup and the OHCHR office in Geneva did not produce the final UPR report and recommendations on Myanmar. Progress on this issue requires political change. Instead, LWF at headquarters levels has ensured that key partners from diplomatic missions, the UN and funding agencies are kept informed about the challenges encountered in Myanmar, including sharing local voices.

2. Rights of refugees

Improving access to justice for refugees, host and post-conflict communities in Uganda

LOCAL LWF applies a multi-pronged approach to improve access to justice for refugees, host, and post-conflict communities and to address gender-based violence, working hand in hand with key government authorities and stakeholders as well as enhancing awareness and capacity within the communities. In Adjumani, Pader and Rwamwanja this involved six training courses for key justice actors on refugee law,

access to justice for juveniles and GBV survivors, child and gender-friendly case handling, among others. LWF facilitated 10 successful mobile court sessions so that judicial authorities could hear 156 cases directly in the settlements and communities. This intervention benefited 625 refugees and nationals who lacked the means and knowledge for seeking justice in far-distant towns through complicated legal procedures. In addition, LWF has multiplied efforts to increase capacity in the community, for example through 9 legal aid clinics which raised awareness on criminal procedures, juvenile and gender justice, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), alternative dispute resolution,

“LWF’s work has positively impacted our communities. As a result of raising awareness on human rights, victims feel more confident to report and refer to the justice system. Awareness related to Land Law is impacting the environment positively and is also reducing the number of crimes related to land issues. This makes it possible to reduce the number of prisoners and thus decongest our prisons. Thanks to LWF’s work, juvenile justice has also improved. Children are no longer detained in prison but in a remand home. Support for reintegration back into society is now possible. The project has greatly enhanced our capacities as duty bearers (police, district health officers, clinics, etc.), our committee has revived and is strengthening our collaboration with the community.” District Chain Committee member. Photo: LWF/M. Acar



family laws, and land rights. These clinics reached around 1,300 people, resulting in the handling of 194 reported cases during the one-on-one legal counseling sessions.

Separately, LWF also trained 113 women local leaders and 212 male champions (both refugees and hosts) on SGBV prevention and response, and 104 local leaders on restorative justice approaches, community services, alternative dispute resolutions, etc. Last but not least, LWF supported four community-led advocacy initiatives on issues identified, such as property rights of children, child marriage, and by-laws prohibiting alcohol.

NATIONAL LWF strived to amplify local voices through several coordinated initiatives. For example, during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, LWF invited refugees to participate in a national stakeholders’ dialogue in Kampala, where they had the chance to interact with Members of Parliament on the gender committee. LWF also coordinated the drafting and finalization of an alternative report submitted to the Committee on the Convention of Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with concrete recommendations on equality before the law and access to justice among others. LWF offered technical training to civil society partners on post-review strategies for both the UPR and CEDAW as well as shadow reporting before the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights. Another important engagement was a dialogue meeting between the CSO UPR Coalition and the Ugandan government through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the UPR and Ministries, departments and agencies to discuss the CSO UPR roadmap (2022-2024) and the UPR mid-term review in 2024.

INTERNATIONAL LWF hosted a regional advocacy and human rights workshop in Kampala with participants from Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan to map out a coordinated strategy to advocate for the rights of IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers at the African Union level, planning for further engagement in the next couple of years.

To bring international dialogue back to the local level, various live webcasts were organized in the country for Uganda’s UPR review and the CEDAW.

Upholding economic rights for refugees and host communities in Ethiopia

LOCAL LWF Ethiopia provided income-generating and saving trainings to 61 women and 14 men from both the refugee camps and host communities in Aw Barre and Kebri Bayah town and in Sheder. After developing their business plans, rights holders were organized in cooperatives and granted seed money to start or strengthen their businesses such as small shops, breeding goats, agriculture and catering. In addition, they benefited from trainings on women’s rights, child protection and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) to make the community aware of prevention mechanisms, referral pathways, survivors’ rights and legal liabilities for perpetrators of violence.

“It is the first time in my life that I feel independent and proud of myself. For years, I thought I had no value; my husband left me, but today I trust in myself and in life, and I have hope,” says Con Hamed Allah Magel, from a host community.

For refugees, running a successful cooperative business is the key to being granted the permission to move outside the camp, which unlocks the previously unattainable freedom of movement and greater socio-economic integration in Ethiopia.

To address the root causes of challenges that refugees face in accessing decent livelihoods, LWF Ethiopia actively promoted various consultative forums between local level duty-bearers and refugees, including discussions on integrating refugees in local development plans, making sure to advocate for their economic rights, like freedom of movement and the right to have a work permit.

NATIONAL LWF Ethiopia has been active in deepening the capacity of civil society organizations (CSO) in engaging in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism while following up on specific thematic issues, raising awareness at federal government level to uphold its commitment both to implement the UPR recommendations as well as to transitional justice for enhanced protection of human rights. To reach a wider audience and in coordination with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission



(Right to left): Asmera Abdi, Rukia Abdulkadir, Ayan Mohamed and Nasria Mohammed proudly showing the document of their bank account, on which they received their seed money to start their goat breeding business. Photo: LWF/M. Acar

“Our reality is difficult; we are not allowed to move outside the refugee camp. It is like a prison where we rely entirely on humanitarian aid. With this business, we will receive a one-year certificate that recognizes our cooperative. This means that we will be able to walk freely outside of the camp, and if after that period we are still able to grow and sell goats, we will have an unlimited certificate. We pray God to make our goats healthy, our cooperative strong and our lives free.”

(EHRC), LWF organized ten radio education programs that reached an estimated 120,000 listeners on issues regarding recommendations of the third UPR cycle.

The topics covered included the rights of vulnerable groups (children and women, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), people with disability), economic rights and livelihood issues, the right to be free from torture and inhuman treatment.

INTERNATIONAL A CSO partner and the LWF Ethiopia Country Representative engaged in international advocacy during the September 2022 Human Rights Council in Geneva. This visit was an opportunity to present to international decision-makers and partners the current humanitarian situation on the ground, of which LWF has first-hand experience, and to make the link with the human rights agenda.

3. Land rights

Empowering communities to claim their rights and protect their land in Angola

LOCAL At the local level, LWF Angola has a long experience of working with villagers, accompanying them in the creation of village development committees, which over the years have increased their capacity to identify problems and find solutions with the relevant authorities, something which has been particularly remarkable during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, five advocacy initiatives bore fruit, resulting in the supply of water, electricity, road rehabilitation and availability of teachers among other needs. As land conflicts became a growing concern in Moxico province over the past decade following the reopening of the railway line and the launch of economic diversification toward the agricultural sector, communities have received support in obtaining land titles, to ensure protection from any abuse in the future. As a result, in 2022, 15 agricultural cooperatives (five of which are women’s organizations) were able to obtain their land titles, benefiting 857 peasants. The local to global human rights-based approach was replicated for the first time in Lunda Sul, a hot spot for extractive industries, targeting 35 new villages. The

communities were informed about the mining code regulations that compel companies to contribute to local development. As a consequence of their advocacy initiative, a company agreed to build a school and transfer electricity and water to the villages.



Isabel Mwamba, a woman from rural Luena, raising the issues affecting her community, particularly women and children, at the Tchota national conference focusing on the management and exploitation of natural resources. Photo: LWF/C. Caseno

NATIONAL

At the national level, LWF Angola has played a convening role in enhancing collaboration among civil society. In this regard, the Human Rights Monitoring Group prepared and submitted a mid-term UPR monitoring report, on implementation of the recommendations accepted by the State of Angola, including on key issues for the LWF such as land conflicts, health, women's rights and the responsibilities of extractive industries toward the communities. LWF also facilitated the contribution of local voices to national decision-making bodies through the participation of community members in conferences and roundtables at the national level.

INTERNATIONAL

For the first time, LWF Angola engaged in regional advocacy at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, along with a delegation of LWF member churches and country programs from Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania. The Angolan delegation made a brief outline during the NGO Forum about land grabbing in communities and emphasized the need for governments to commit to uphold the land rights of rural communities and urban dwellers. In addition, a partnership started with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to raise the capacity-building of local CSOs, which resulted in a first training on Special Procedures.

4. Rights of women

Supporting women's access to employment in Jordan

Jordan's female labor force participation rate of 15 percent is amongst the lowest in the world. Despite women's impressive educational achievements and recognition of the country's female literacy level as the highest in the region, multiple barriers such as lack of childcare, harassment in the workplace, lack of safe transportation, as well as social norms prevent women from claiming their social and economic rights.

LOCAL

LWF works with two local community-based organizations, the Naya Foundation in Zarqa and Zahr Al Rumman Association in Irbid, to increase their capacity to engage vulnerable women in their community-based businesses. In both Irbid and Zarqa, the female participants completed various technical and business trainings to prepare for the following phase—the community project. In Zarqa, women will pursue collective community livelihood opportunities through a digital empowerment business called "Tahwileh," while in Irbid they will be engaged in a healthy community kitchen.

A group of 33 advocates (26 women and 7 men) was set up to engage in advocacy on women's socio-economic rights

LOCAL / NATIONAL

The group of advocates held dialogues with 120 women to gather data and identify the main challenges hindering women's access to economic rights. The information collected will feed into a national advocacy campaign and the drafting of a UPR alternative report. To ensure that the efforts and initiatives that will be implemented by the group of advocates have the buy-in of the community, LWF created two community committees with 24 members who will play a leading role at local and national levels.

INTERNATIONAL




In 2022 LWF Jordan staff benefited from training on women's rights advocacy and mechanisms such as CEDAW and the UPR to prepare for the upcoming UPR review of Jordan planned for January 2024. LWF will submit a UPR alternative report focusing on women's rights to the OHCHR in 2023.

Rasha Abu Lafal benefited from training to develop crucial technical and business skills like calculating sale prices, taking good photographs and advertising on social media. She started her own successful business distributing sweets and gift packages for various occasions such as Ramadan. She would now like to replicate the training in order to make additional income. Photo: LWF/M.Shawesh

"I took many courses that opened to me access to many fields. For example, the photography course, design of logos, business cards, social media—I can do it for people like me who are beginners. People have projects and require changing the logo or posting on social media on a regular basis, so I can do for others the things that I learned in exchange of a small fee."



Examples of Impact in 2022

	Key processes	Key achievements
	In Kenya, LWF has been accompanying a platform of refugees advocating for refugees, called KADANA. This involves strengthening their institutional capacity, ensuring 90 members from Dadaab, Kakuma and Nairobi were engaged in reviewing their governance structure and developing annual plans for 2023.	Through KADANA's efforts, 9 refugees and asylum seekers received support to submit documents to renew their identify cards or apply for a visa or a Conventional Travel Document. In addition, 17 learners also got their travel documents to enable them to attend universities outside Dadaab Refugee Camp (10 male, 7 female).
	In South Sudan, LWF has engaged concretely to foster children's rights. Two capacity building sessions on GBV and protection of children in conflict with the law were conducted in Magwi and Nimule with 28 participants (50 percent women) from law enforcement agencies, traditional leadership, social workers from the state Ministry of Gender and representatives from NGOs.	A partnership has started with the Magwi police to strengthen the follow up and investigation of cases related to GBV and child abuse. With the logistical support provided, 12 cases (11 rape and 1 wrongful confinement) were investigated and followed up by the police responsible for the gender desk.
	In Chad, the LWF has been working with refugees and host communities for better access to land and livelihoods, advocating also for women's rights and peaceful coexistence. Six meetings with local authorities, refugees and landowners were held to negotiate the use of local agricultural land.	A total of 230 vulnerable households were supported to develop income-generating activities, out of which 100 started garden agriculture. In addition, 160 young people (44 percent women) benefited from a six-month vocational training in sewing, welding, carpentry and mechanics, along with general business training.
	In Angola, the LWF has a long experience of working with villagers, accompanying them in the creation of village development committees. This has led to increased capacity to identify problems and find solutions with the relevant authorities.	As a result, 15 agricultural cooperatives (of which 5 are women's organizations) were able to obtain land titles, benefiting 857 peasants. Five advocacy initiatives bore fruit, resulting in the supply of teachers and basic needs such as water, electricity and road rehabilitation.
	In Chad, nine trainings were conducted on civil society engagement in the UPR and drafting joint alternative reports, with 180 members of civil society from the capital city or the provinces participating as an initial step toward data collection and submission of their alternative reports in 2023.	With CADH (local coalition of human rights organizations), LWF has been raising awareness on the recently approved Asylum Law, through radio and TV programs, as well as five information sessions with civil society.
	LWF Burundi has been empowering women to claim their socio-economic rights. Partnering with the OHCHR and the Center for Civil and Political rights, LWF has played a key role in supporting 13 civil society organizations to participate in the UPR, accompanying them in capacity-building, data collection and drafting a joint alternative report.	Two thematic alternative reports were submitted for the UPR, focusing on social, economic and cultural rights and on women's rights. This includes findings and recommendations on SGBV and economic social and cultural rights issues identified during community consultations where women leaders played an active role.
	LWF Ethiopia has been active in deepening the capacity of civil society organizations in engaging in the UPR mechanism, raising awareness at federal government level to uphold its commitment both to implement the UPR recommendations and to transitional justice for the enhanced protection of human rights.	As a result, 23 national CSOs members participated in a training on following up and monitoring the UPR recommendations. Also, an agreement was reached to reactivate the thematic-based coordination platform and enhance coordination in monitoring the UPR and treaty bodies' recommendations.
	LWF actively engaged in collaboration and dialogue with OHCHR, identifying several countries where national collaboration around human rights and advocacy could be conducted.	This global collaboration resulted in increased engagement at country level, including technical support for capacity-building activities in Angola, Burundi and Chad.
	LWF has been supporting its local partner in Mozambique. This included building the capacity of two key staff members enrolled in a training course on Women's Human Rights and engaging with the CEDAW in Geneva.	LWF facilitated the participation of a civil society partner in the 51 st session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and organized advocacy meetings with key stakeholders.
	LWF Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda mapped relevant regional mechanisms and developed their strategy for engagement at the regional level, including through a regional forum in Kampala where a plan of action was established.	A delegation representing LWF member churches and country programs in Angola, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania, took part in the 73 rd session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and engaged international stakeholders on issues related to their contexts.

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Cover photo: Danamadja village, Logone Oriental, LWF supports 15 gardeners, who each received seed capital to buy adequate equipment. Since 2018, LWF Chad works with refugees and host communities on issues related to right to land and livelihoods, particularly women's. Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

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