



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

partnership

Your generosity
in action

Spring 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE



Ajok Bol Anei uses a tippy-tap hand washing station. Tippy-taps provide a hands-free way to wash hands without using a lot of water. They are a cornerstone of LWF Uganda's COVID-19 prevention campaign.

Thank you — your support is making a difference!



Dear friends,

I'm so deeply encouraged by the response of Lutherans in Canada to this global pandemic. I thank God for each of you across the country who are demonstrating Christ's love to the sick, the lonely and the vulnerable in so many ways.

I was especially moved by your response when we asked you not to let God's children around the world be forgotten. Your generosity has been incredible. And I'm writing you today in the hope that I can provide some encouragement during this trying time: while the fight will continue for some time, your gifts have been received and are making an enormous difference for families who might otherwise have nowhere to turn in the face of this pandemic.

We asked you to act immediately to make sure our life-saving work can continue and so our partners can respond to this new challenge, and you responded with overwhelming generosity.

Thank you.

I hope you'll read the latest news from our partners and take courage, because your support truly is shifting things, and because we will need you this year—they will need you.

We've begun to hear dire predictions about what all this disruption will mean for world hunger and the millions who will be at risk. I want you to know that we are preparing to respond in whatever ways we can. But for now, I want to say that we're only in position to respond because of your generosity over these last weeks.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, and I pray that you are encouraged by the updates we've included here—you are part of each of these stories.

Easter blessings,

Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director

We're always ready to tell you more about how your gift is making a difference!

Contact our office any time at 1-800-661-2597



Trucks outfitted with megaphones drive through refugee settlements to broadcast important prevention information.

An innovative approach to prevention in Uganda

In Uganda, our partners are one of the few organizations with permission from the country's Ministry of Health to continue their work in the area. With your support, they provide basic services like shelter and clean water to over 450,000 refugees who have fled conflict in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Now, COVID-19 has made these services more critical than ever

"We have to ramp up our hygiene, sanitation, hand washing, make more soap available, especially in refugee situations that are high-density areas where people live in close proximity to each other," says Jesse Kamstra, the country director of LWF Uganda. But, COVID-19 presents unique challenges to getting information and services to the people who need it most.

"We must do this in a way that is safe for our staff, and also we don't want to be the conduit that is bringing COVID to settlements."

To meet these challenges, the team is using radio talk shows and trucks with megaphones to broadcast important information about prevention measures. With your support, they are also getting essential hygiene items like hand washing facilities, soap and personal protective equipment.

Because of you, staff on the ground can adapt quickly and safely to continue providing essential services to those who need it most.

"This is an unprecedented challenge that we are facing and we must be in this together in solidarity."

- Jesse Kamstra, LWF Uganda

The work continues — How we're adapting with your support

Jordan

In Jordan, our partner was planning a new project engaging refugee and host community youth to find community-based solutions to local challenges. The project is being quickly adapted to mentor and engage youth online.

Jerusalem

Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem has quickly adapted to make sure critical life-saving cancer and dialysis treatments can continue, while also preparing to provide isolation and treatment for patients infected with COVID-19. The hospital has played a significant role in leading public awareness campaigns about the virus in the region.

Myanmar

In Myanmar, limited testing is available and an undetected spread of COVID-19 is feared. To help prevent this, our partners are working with over 220 communities to share critical messaging on prevention. Our ongoing work in the country includes providing sanitation and hygiene resources to families living in displaced person camps, which is now more important than ever. Despite restrictions on movement, your support allows our ongoing humanitarian projects to continue, as staff still have access to camps for humanitarian purposes.

Ethiopia

In Lalibela, Ethiopia, construction has started on a major irrigation canal that will provide 105 families with better access to water. This large, multi-year project has been accelerated because pausing construction would cause the existing work to be destroyed by seasonal flooding. Our partners have introduced new safety protocols and protective equipment for community members working on the canal.



In Myanmar, posters written in multiple local languages give information on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections.

Protecting the most vulnerable in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia millions of people are displaced due to conflict. Families living in temporary settlements face challenges that make them especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Clean water sources are hard to find. Poor housing and infrastructure make social distancing and proper sanitation almost impossible. Early intervention is critical to save the lives of thousands of women, men and children who may already have compromised immune systems or who are undernourished.

Our partners are working closely with communities and local authorities to do everything they can to prevent a widespread outbreak and save lives, but a lack of critical resources will limit how effective they can be.

Your support is allowing our partners to give clean water and hygiene supplies to over 5,000 families who are especially vulnerable to the pandemic.

So far, the rapid response has included:

- 3,611 large jerry cans for families to store and carry clean water
- Laundry and bathing soap for 5,254 families, to increase handwashing and household sanitation
- Personal protective equipment for staff so vital aid efforts can continue

Thank you for being a critical part of these life-saving efforts.

Water purification tablets and jerry cans give families a way to get and store clean water.



Your help starts at home



As your support reaches some of the most vulnerable people around the world, our thoughts are also with our Canadian neighbours whose lives have been deeply impacted by this crisis.

COVID-19 has left our own communities facing sickness, job loss and disruption. That's why a portion of your support to Canadian Lutheran World Relief will also provide relief to vulnerable families right here in Canada. Thanks to your generous response to our appeal, we're partnering with ELCIC and LCC on projects across Canada, including feeding programs for families in need and support for recent refugee arrivals whose sponsoring churches may be suddenly facing budget challenges.

We're praying for your health and well-being during this crisis, and we thank you earnestly for the love you've shared with others!

Leaving a legacy of hope — Margaret's Story

"We all face challenges during this difficult time, but it is important to look beyond that and to think about how we can help others in need,"

says Margaret, of Regina, on why she decided to make a gift to Canadian Lutheran World Relief in her will.

"If I can help just one person through my legacy gift — whether it's clean water, medical treatment or even a place to sleep — then I will feel that I have accomplished something."

Margaret wanted us to share these words on what motivated her decision:

"To those considering making a legacy gift, I say this: we don't know what the future holds or what new challenges will arise, but we do know that we can make a difference to vulnerable people now and in the future. I have been to developing countries and have seen the good work that is being done there, so I know just how much impact a gift to CLWR has. I'm happy that this will be my legacy."

Talk to us today to find out how you can leave a legacy of hope.

Get in touch with Carla Blakley at **1-800-661-2597** or carla@clwr.org



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

600-177 Lombard Ave., Winnipeg, MB
R3B 0W5

204.694.5602 or 1.800.661.2597

www.clwr.org | clwr@clwr.org

CLWR is a registered Canadian charity
#106863038RR0001.

Material from Partnership may be
reproduced for use by congregations.

For additional copies, contact CLWR
at clwr@clwr.org or through lettermail
(physical address at left).

Would you like to receive our e-newsletter?
Visit clwr.org/signup to subscribe.

Moving? Send an email with your new and
old addresses to clwr@clwr.org.

clwr.org