In Northern Uganda, Lutheran World Federation staff like Mercy (left) are supporting women who have fled the crisis in nearby South Sudan. The woman on the right is receiving counselling as a survivor of gender-based violence. (IMAGE: CLWR)

It wouldn’t have happened without you!

2018 was a year of massive tragedy, disaster and conflict. Here’s how you brought hope.
2018 was a year of massive tragedy, but in the face of disaster and conflict, your support changed lives.

As we reflect on the year, it’s important to us that you know how your gift is being used, and that you see how it’s making a difference.

With your support, we were able to respond to massive humanitarian emergencies by seeing the individual people affected—not as numbers, but as moms and sons and uncles and teachers and grandparents. We heard their stories, their dreams, their pain, and because of your kindness, we were able to act. Your gifts helped them not just survive crisis, but begin the process of rebuilding, pursuing their dreams, and finding a way to provide for their families again.

Everywhere we work around the world, we work through local organizations in the affected region—our “partners”—who bring local expertise and help us respond as effectively as possible. Like them, we consider you a partner in this work, because your support makes this life-changing work possible.

I hope you’ll take the time to read this update and hear the stories of just a couple of the individual people your gifts are reaching—I think you’ll be glad you did.

Thank you again for your friendship, and rich blessings in 2019!

Carla Blakley
Community Relations Director, CLWR

Skills training helps struggling family

Your gifts provide life-saving aid in times of crisis—but you’re also changing lives in the long-term by empowering people whose lives have been disrupted by conflict, disaster and poverty. In communities around the world, there are creative, hard-working people who just needed the opportunity that you’re giving them!

Khin Mar Htay was one of the millions of people displaced by conflict in recent years in Myanmar. She left school to help support her family when her father could no longer work—when she was just in grade four. She struggled for years to provide for the family with a casual job and limited education, until she heard about training in tailoring and dressmaking being offered with your support.

“I was really happy and thankful. This training was one step of my dream. I learned basic knowledge and skills such as measuring, cutting, calculating formulas and drawing designs, then learned advanced skills such as how to make shirt and coat collars and pants. Training gave me an opportunity to develop my confidence. Due to this confidence, I applied to a dressmaking shop. Now, I have a job and the capacity to support my family with dignity, and I will keep enhancing my capacity and income in the future!”

Thank you for giving Khin the chance to shape a new future for her family!
Maombi Babonye is a 29-year-old mother of 4 who has lived in a grass thatched temporary shelter in an internally displaced people’s (IDP) camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) for the last seven years. She’s among millions of people affected by conflict and political instability in the country. Many were forced to abandon their homes and livelihoods for the relative safety of camps, like the Kaye IDP camp in the North Kivu province of Eastern DR Congo.

Nearly two million children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Tragically, childhood malnutrition has affected Maombi even more closely than watching other mothers lose their children. She lost her own child to malnutrition when she couldn’t access necessary medical support.

That’s why she was terrified when her daughter Dorcas fell ill last year—she thought she would lose another child. And Maombi herself badly needed medical support at the same time.

Today, with your support, Dorcas is a happy, healthy 4-year-old, and Maombi is not only healthy, but running a small business and providing independently for the whole family.

Dorcas received nutrition support through a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) project supported by CLWR. The project is supporting vulnerable families whose children suffer from malnutrition, providing emergency medical care and nutritional support for both the children and their parents.

“I was lucky to have been identified by LWF,” she says, reflecting on the experience. Today, Babonye and her children are healthy.

Apart from the nutrition support, she also benefitted from financial support from LWF to help her build a livelihood. With it, Babonye purchased food and clothes for her children and started a business selling local vegetables and purchasing two young sheep. Through her small business, she is now able to put food on the table for her four children.

Babonye says she can now plan for the future because of these supports. Babonye feels proud she can help her family, thanks to the assistance she received.

“I am now able to single-handedly raise my children,” she says.

Your support was life-changing for Maombi and Dorcas. Thank you for your partnership!
Faith Lutheran Church in Desboro, Ontario used their 2018 VBS to share water around the world through our Gifts from the Heart catalogue!

Since their 2018 VBS theme was “Splash Canyon” they picked a water project to raise money for – with an ambitious $1900 goal! They chose to support a project that provides access to clean water. They hung up a picture of a well, colouring in the water to show progress toward their goal.

With over $1000 coming in before VBS even started, they met their goal by day 3 of VBS, and had money left over to support water storage systems and hand-washing stations!

“Gifts from the Heart is truly a way to share God’s love with the world,” said Sandy Weatherall, co-superintendent of the VBS. “Our members at Faith Lutheran and the VBS children are glad we were able to make a meaningful difference in some peoples’ lives by our offerings.”

The church ultimately raised over $2500 for water projects around the world!

Thanks to everyone at Faith Lutheran, and everyone who gave through Gifts from the Heart in 2018!

Thank you for being a dear friend to CLWR! We hope stories like the ones in this update inspire you – your generosity is making such a difference!

As we begin 2019, we invite you to prayerfully consider deepening your relationship with CLWR this year by signing up for a regular monthly gift. Monthly giving saves time for everyone, and allows us to work more efficiently!

To talk to us about setting up an automatic monthly gift, please call 1-800-661-2597, email becky@clwr.org or visit clwr.org/monthly.