

# Partnership

A PUBLICATION OF  
Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

FALL 2008

Page 3 BBQ with a message Page 4 What is gender equity? Page 7 Celebrate CLWR Sunday

## Where a woman belongs

Confined to home unless accompanied by her husband, Manasha Charan Shaw lived a typical life for a woman in her Indian village. Then Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) started working in her community through Lutheran World Service-India, and the community's men and women were brought together through awareness meetings. It was realized that women had to be part of the development work if it hoped to succeed.

That was then. Today Manasha's life has changed considerably. She is now an active member of a community group that works on CLWR projects.

"Before we couldn't even meet with other women. Talking with the men as we do today was unthinkable," she says. "Now we can even speak on the microphone!"

While the idea of confining women to their home may seem like the relic of a past generation for many of us in North America, there are still inequalities for both women and men in our own society. Here, just as in distant countries, gender roles are ingrained in social values, assumptions and behaviour. It's with the acceptance of these facts that CLWR does not go into a foreign community with an attitude of "fixing" the roles of men and women. Instead, CLWR works within local



Manasha Charan Shaw at work. Photo: Laure Girard for LWS-India

community systems to support men and women working together in mutual respect and equality towards a shared goal of improved living.

Anima Halder is a woman who exemplifies this approach. Up until 2004, Anima and her husband struggled to meet their essential needs. They were landless and depended on an irregular income from the seasonal work that Anima's husband obtained.

After two years as the president of a CLWR-supported community group, Anima decided to take advantage of the group's resources herself. She took out a loan of \$69 and started a simple paddy processing business, which involves preparing the rice for market after it has been harvested. The results were tangible—Anima earns about \$58 a month, which is significantly more than the couple's previous income. With her husband she managed to grow the family's savings and invest in chickens, with their original brood increasing more than tenfold.

"We have a mutual understanding,"

says Anima about herself and her husband. "All decisions, including money matters, have to be taken by the both of us."

She doesn't mince words when comparing the past to the present.

"Before, when I had no income, there was no peace in my mind. Now I have a good relationship with my husband and we are a happy family." See pages 4-5 for more on gender equity. Read our newsletter supplement, *Partnership Online*, for related statistics ([www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org)).

### GENDER EQUITY MEANS BOTH SEXES HAVE:

- Wage parity
- Decision-making power in the home and community
- Equal legal rights and political representation
- Right of self-protection from HIV and other STDs
- Right to manage money and resources

## The view from here



Dear Friends:

In this edition of *Partnership*, we provide information and a perspective on gender issues as they relate to the mission of CLWR.

As we do this, I am reminded of CLWR's vision, mission and values. Our vision is a world where people live in justice, peace and dignity, and are

empowered to achieve their universal rights to basic needs and quality of life.

Given this vision, and the present reality of women in countries where CLWR is engaged, it is entirely appropriate that CLWR bring the harsh reality of the circumstances of women to the attention of *Partnership* readers. Often the most vulnerable members of societies in which we are active are women, be they girls, mothers or the elderly. CLWR programming specifically addresses the needs and circumstances of women, striving for justice and equality, while at the same time seeking to empower women to take steps towards sustainable livelihoods.

Recently I visited communities in India, where I observed the benefits of this approach. Through a variety of interventions over a period of five years, our partner, Lutheran World Service–India has equipped and empowered women to take positions of leadership in villages where the voices, skills and energy of women were once silent. Today, women are providing much needed and appreciated leadership, which has resulted in a transformation of many communities, to the betterment of all who live there!

Dignity is one of the five stated values of CLWR. We profess that we are all created in God's image, each to be valued and respected. I hope you are inspired by the articles contained in this publication. My hope is that you join us as we express this value in terms of support for women in CLWR focus countries.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Granke". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert Granke  
Executive Director

# Seeds of Hope blossom

They are not just ordinary seeds. They are Seeds of Hope.

For over a month now, donations have been pouring into CLWR in response to our spring fundraising campaign, Seeds of Hope. Together with your involvement and that of hundreds like you, seeds of hope are blossoming everywhere!

Many people have made a donation and planted the botanical paper heart they received in return. While their donations blossom into life-changing programs through CLWR, the seed-infused paper hearts are beginning to blossom into wildflowers.

Both Lutheran Church–Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada have endorsed the initiative, with pastors and congregations giving generously.

"Your gift will provide for a more hopeful future for women and men, girls and boys across Africa, Asia and Latin America, aimed at improving their overall quality of life," said Robert Granke, executive director.

"This vital financial support goes even further as it enables CLWR to apply for additional funding through the federal government's Canadian International Development Agency." It is not too late to make a difference! Write, call or go online for more information and to help grow hope.



# CLWR hosts special guest from Mozambique

In July, Canadian Lutheran World Relief welcomed Eva Pinto, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Urban Projects Coordinator from Chamanculo, Mozambique. Pinto shared stories of her work in the area of health and human rights at a series of speaking engagements, including the quadrennial convention of Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) in Calgary and barbeque events hosted by congregations in Lethbridge, Alberta; Kipling, Saskatchewan; Selkirk, Manitoba; and Kitchener, Ontario.

Throughout her stay, Pinto painted a picture of contrast in her native country. She helped listeners understand the context of need created by 16 years of civil war that decimated infrastructure and weakened the economy, while also pointing to recent economic progress that has reduced the number of people living under the national poverty line by 15 percent between 1997 and 2003. Her words and pictures revealed challenges linked to water and sanitation, domestic violence, trafficking of children and health issues related to HIV and AIDS, while also highlighting innovative ways in which people are engaging in small business and food production as an antidote to poverty.

In Chamanculo, a slum of Mozambique's capital city, Maputo, HIV infection rates are significant and have far reaching impacts on mother and child health, the number of widows and orphans, as well as people's ability to engage in a livelihood. With support from CLWR and ELW, the LWF is working with community volunteers, called *activistas*, to provide home-based care to those infected. This involves helping them access medical treatment, providing guidance in good nutrition to boost immunity, training



Photo: Elaine Peters

for family members to better care for their loved ones and support for elderly grandmothers who are now caring for their orphaned grandchildren.

Improving life in the community also includes spreading a message of prevention among young people as well as strengthening household economies through vocational training and job creation.

Such activities are helping to weave stories of hope for a brighter future. We see this hope in Alice, who is living with HIV and helping others to have the courage to seek treatment in her new role as the LWF's psychosocial counsellor. We catch a glimpse of it in Lurdinhas who, despite being born infected and orphaned at three, is a vibrant seven-year-old now living with her grandmother and able to attend school. On behalf of the people of Chamanculo, Pinto says "*Kanimambo*," which is "thank you" in the local language.

## THE FEMINIZATION OF HIV AND AIDS

The epidemic of HIV and AIDS is having an increasingly adverse impact on women throughout the world.

### IN CHAMANCULO

- 62% of people infected are women
- Only 5% of mothers take prophylaxis to reduce mother to child transmission during pregnancy and delivery
- Infected mothers should not breastfeed to avoid infecting their child
- AIDS-related deaths are increasing the number of widows and orphans

# Gender equity: a cultural shift

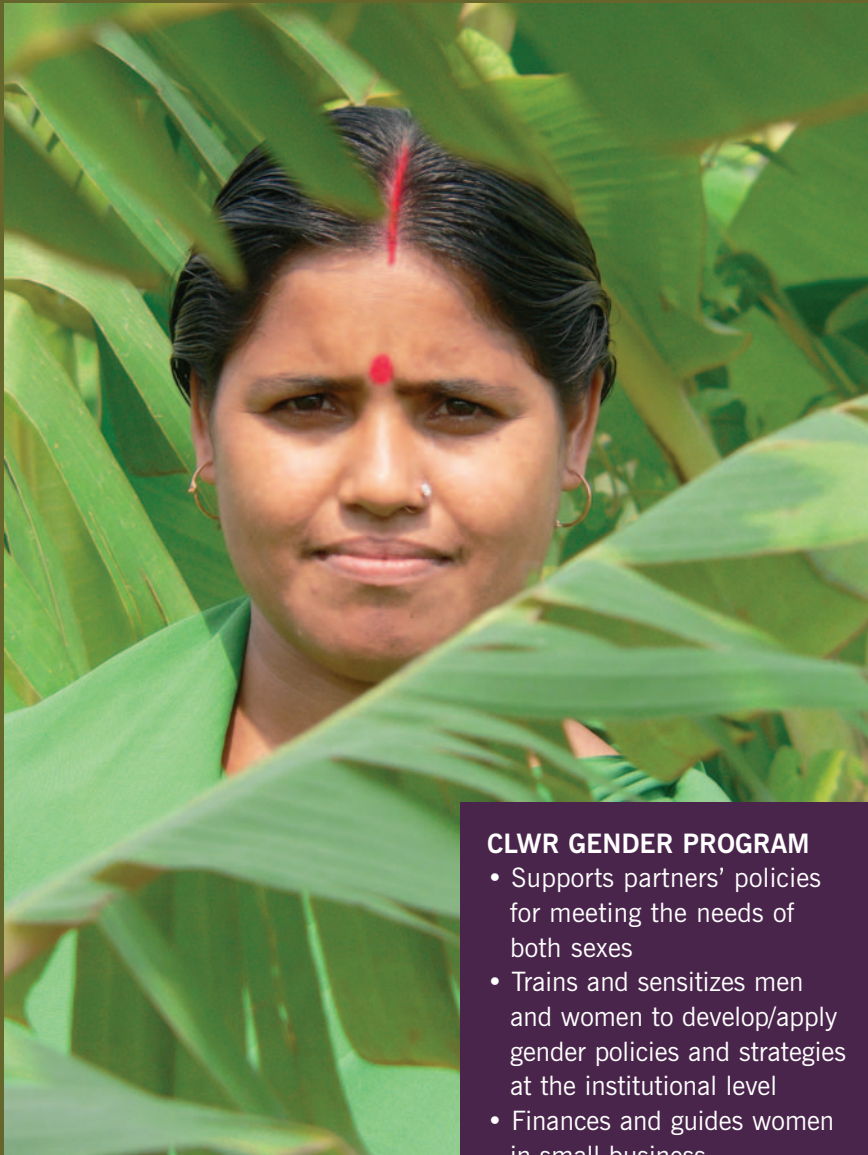


Photo: Elaine Peters

Gender equity is one of three main objectives of CLWR's community development program, which operates in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"An integrated focus on gender is an essential part of strengthening civil society and reducing poverty," says Wendy Kroeker, CLWR's program manager for Latin America. "A large portion of the world's poor are women. This is the result of the undervaluing of women's work in reproductive and productive spheres."

## CLWR GENDER PROGRAM

- Supports partners' policies for meeting the needs of both sexes
- Trains and sensitizes men and women to develop/apply gender policies and strategies at the institutional level
- Finances and guides women in small business
- Supports local government in incorporating gender issues in plans and budgets (Andean Region)

Part of CLWR's work, therefore, is to build a sense of value around the contributions of women in a community. This begins by helping women recognize their own value.

Poor and marginalized women are encouraged to organize in small groups and are supported to take up

collective actions to bring about qualitative changes in their lives. Gender stereotypes are addressed at three levels: on the personal emotional level for behavioural transformation; at the group level; and at the community level by organizing gender training and sensitization programs.

"After a while men often participate in the gender training programs," says Kroeker. "This really shows a change in the attitude towards programs that are initially considered women's programs."

## Acknowledging local culture

The concept of gender equity is essentially a set of social values, and values differ according to local custom and culture. CLWR acknowledges this reality while also respecting the position of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which provides funding support to CLWR projects and requires its supported programs to include gender equity as a core initiative.

"Our views on gender equity are shaped by the culture and context in which we live. The gender equity programming in Peru has been shaped by the unique perspective of the Andean culture and our partners there have sought to value and link their work with the perspective of that region," says Kroeker.

"In the Andean world for instance, when women plant crops or trees they become the spirit of the Pacha Mama (Mother Earth). In working with the local communities, we interpret this to symbolize the high value that Andean society gives women as the creative and regenerative life in the community. We then draw parallels from this idea

into other areas of life in order to gain broader respect for women.”

Additionally, in Andean culture, everything in nature is mirrored; this mirror partner results in harmony.

The concept is applied to humans who are seen as complete when in pairs, when they help each other and when they respect each other. These conditions make it easier to enter into

a dialogue on topics such as the workload of women and violence against women because they appeal to elements of gender equity already inherent in local culture.

## How do CLWR programs approach gender equity?

Ethiopian Shashi Ebrahim is eager to explain how her life has changed in the last two years in a CLWR-supported community.

“I live in the village of Mudi Dawe,” Ebrahim introduces her CLWR-supported community. “Because CLWR encouraged women to participate in the community groups, I was able to join the education group. We think that education needs to become the right of all children, including girls. Education and training provided to both men and women is the most important gift we have received from CLWR—how to improve our health, how to produce more food, how to eat new foods like pumpkin, and the rights of women and children. Our husbands were nervous at first, but now that they see the advantage they encourage our participation.”

Ebrahim’s personal account is powerful, yet common in CLWR-assisted communities. Such accounts are even more poignant when you stop to consider the cultural context in Africa.

“Cultural and traditional practices that do not favour gender equity are deeply held,” says Laurel Borisenko, CLWR’s Africa representative. “Men have control over resources and decision making, and they are afraid of upsetting these deeply-held traditions which favour them.”

For instance, where poverty exists

boys get preference over girls for resources like food and clothing. If anyone goes to school, it will first be the boys, while the girls stay at home to help with chores. Young girls around the age of 12 are often forced into marriage.

CLWR approaches this reality by integrating women and girls into its programs in non-threatening ways that are demonstrably beneficial to the community as a whole. Once the value of women’s skills and output are realized by the broader community, women begin to gain equity.

This reality is also recognized in CLWR’s alternative trade program, Four Corners. Four Corners follows

### IN A WORLD WITH GENDER EQUITY, WOMEN WOULD:

- Have access to (and share control of) family and community resources
- Have a more balanced share of the workload
- Be free of domestic violence
- Have positive communication with spouse
- Participate in making decisions
- Go to school in childhood
- Not be married in childhood
- Have greater security against HIV

internationally-recognized fair trade standards, which include gender equity. Specifically, women’s work is expected to be properly valued and rewarded.

“Eighty-five percent of our handcrafts are being made by women,” says Bruce Rose, program manager for Four Corners. “Therefore, it’s important that women’s work is properly valued and rewarded. In India, the government sets what it considers a fair wage for the labour force. It’s disheartening when they set one wage for a man and one for a woman, even though they’re doing the same job.”

Gender plays a role in CLWR’s work with refugees and aid shipments, too. The majority of the world’s refugees are women and children. CLWR takes this into account and works to give women equal opportunity to refugee protection. In refugee camps and other places of hardship, CLWR’s We Care kits feature gender-specific and age-specific goods so that men, women and children get the essentials that matter to them.

Gender equity is also integrated into CLWR’s staff and board structure. There is an equal gender split on the CLWR board of directors, while sixty percent of CLWR’s senior staff are women. CLWR’s total staff complement is comprised of just over 60 percent women.

# News Briefs



Idalina Ferreira runs a class on HIV prevention. Participants included people from many walks of life, including police, hospital staff and pastors.

## JOB WELL DONE: ANGOLA VOLUNTEER RETURNS HOME

CLWR welcomed Idalina Ferreira back to Canada earlier this year as she returned from volunteering in Angola. Ferreira participated in the International Volunteer Service of CLWR, which is open to Canadians who are interested in volunteering overseas. She served alongside staff of the Lutheran World Federation–Angola Program in their HIV and AIDS projects.

Ferreira, who lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, received moral and financial support from CLWR friends across Canada. Thank you to everyone who supported her and our other volunteers!

## ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY ACHIEVES SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The goal of all CLWR projects is to create sustainable and healthy communities that do not rely on continual outside support and handouts. Aura, a community in Afar state that has now completed its fourth year with CLWR, is a good example.

The Aura project involves the building of irrigation systems that enable the community to transition from pastoral animal keeping into crop production and livestock. It is a joint effort with local partner Society for Sustainable Development (SSD) and Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Through irrigation farming, the community is less vulnerable to adverse weather patterns and livestock disease. Maintenance of the established irrigation systems is now self-funded through farmer contributions.

## RISING FOOD COSTS IMPACTING THE WORLD

It is a risky time to be among the world's poorest. Millions of people who spend upward of three quarters of their income on food are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their family's dietary needs, due to drastically rising

food prices. For example, between 2005 and 2007 the price of maize rose 80 percent, and so far this year it has risen even more sharply.

The reported causes for the price increases are varied and include higher demand for meat and food in general among the growing middle class in China and India, more food crops being diverted into the production of biofuels, loss of farmland to urbanization, the rising cost of oil, and weather impacts.

“What we are seeing is a growing vulnerability that we need to remedy in order to prevent catastrophic situations that could strike a number of countries,” says Robert Granke, executive director of CLWR. “Collectively we need to pay serious attention to the root causes of these price fluctuations and take decisive action.”

## FINANCIAL AID FOR AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) contributed \$610,000 to Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) through CLWR earlier this year. The hospital in East Jerusalem is the only institution offering specialized medical services like cancer treatment and dialysis to Palestinians.

CLWR, in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), initiated this call for aid following the health care crisis created by the international embargo blocking funds to Palestinian authorities after the election of Hamas in January 2006.

“The improvements and expansion will enhance the capacity of the hospital to provide valuable services to Palestinians, including elderly patients and their families,” said Robert Granke, CLWR executive director. “The ELCIC and CLWR are pleased to receive this tangible support from the Government of Canada in response to the ongoing health care needs in the region.”

## FOUR CORNERS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH AUGSBURG FORTRESS

Four Corners, the alternative trade program of CLWR, has partnered with Augsburg Fortress. The new relationship will make Four Corners fair trade products more widely available through the retail locations of Augsburg Fortress. A full range of home décor items like table linens and carved wooden vases, fashion accessories like scarves and jewellery, as well as coffee, tea and chocolate are now available.

The Augsburg Fortress Bookstore is located at 500 Trillium Drive in Kitchener, Ontario, and the Anglican Book Centre (operated by Augsburg Fortress) is located at 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario.

# Celebrate CLWR Sunday with us

All Lutherans in Canada are invited to celebrate CLWR in their churches this autumn.

“The theme this year is ‘Share the good news,’” says Daranne Harris, director of communications and education.

“As a tumultuous year of natural disasters and issues like rising food prices nears an end, we want to lift up the life-giving impact of our humanitarian work that has perhaps not made it into the headlines.”

Among the milestones that CLWR has celebrated this year are 25 years of work within Canadian Foodgrains Bank and 30 years of Lutheran aid work in Mozambique.

Lutheran Church–Canada has declared October 12 as its official CLWR Sunday, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada marking it earlier, on September 28.

“If individual congregations find this date conflicts with their own schedules, our CLWR Sunday resources can be used on a different date of their choice,” says Harris.

In late August worship resources and a bulletin insert will be available for download at [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org) to help your congregation mark this special day. Free posters are also available by calling 1.800.661.2597.

## Special Gifts

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH ALL

Gifts to CLWR in honour of special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations not only warm the heart of the recipient, but also bring smiles to the faces of those people whose lives are transformed by CLWR’s project work overseas. In lieu of printing names in our *Partnership* newsletter, CLWR will acknowledge these special occasions with a celebratory card that shares the impact such gifts have on communities throughout the world.

### IN MEMORY OF:

ERNST ANDERSON  
MARGARITTE BAIER  
REV. GERHARDT BECKER  
EDWIN BIRKENHAGEN  
JOHN BOLEY  
VERNA DIES  
CHARLES ECKERT  
RICHARD FENSKE  
ERNEST GAERTNER  
REV. FRED GAERTNER  
CHARNO GILL  
ORLAND GOEHRING  
EVA HALMARSON  
ETHEL HENNIG  
MARY HORSBURG  
LLOYD HUTT

KAJ JENSEN  
KERRY KAUK  
HERB KEIL  
LUCINDA KRAFT  
CODY LEITE  
BILL LOGAN  
META MACKLIN  
BOB MARTIN  
FLOYD MELSNESS  
CAROLINE MILLER  
IRENE MOORE  
IRENE NILSSON  
REV. C. ROBERT PEARSON  
CLINTON PEDERSON  
CHARLIE RAINE  
JEAN REBLE

DAVID REIDER  
BERTA REINKE  
CARL & MELIDA REUTTER  
REV. WILLIAM RIEKERT  
PHYLLIS ROBERTS  
ERNEST SASTAUNIK  
E. FRANK SMART  
MATTHEW STAPLEY  
TIMOTHY STAPLEY  
EVELYN TERIN  
JUDITH THRONDSOEN  
BOB SIMPSON  
DAVID & MARIA WEBER  
DORIT WEITZEL  
EDNA WENTZELL  
MINNA WOHLGEMUTH  
ILA WUORINEN

## ENDEAVOUR TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD!

Silence, located in Kolkata, India, is a self-help movement for those who can neither speak nor hear. Sight is their major sense of perception.

Artisans aspire for self-sufficiency and strive for acceptance as contributing members of their society.

Silence strives to make its members totally self-reliant. To make this a reality, we need your support. Consider purchasing Silence products—exclusively crafted by Silence members and packed with “*the dreams of the challenged.*”

CLWR’s alternative trade program, Four Corners, is excited to introduce a line of natural candles by Silence.



**Four Corners**

An Alternative Trade Organization



For more information please contact Four Corners at 1.800.661.2597 or email [fourcorners@clwr.mb.ca](mailto:fourcorners@clwr.mb.ca).

# CLWR Sunday 2008

*Share the good news*

Share the good news of CLWR's work around the globe!

Find resources online or call us today.



**Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief**

1080 KINGSBURY AVENUE  
WINNIPEG MB R2P 1W5  
1.800.661.2597  
WWW.CLWR.ORG

CELEBRATE ON OCTOBER 12



CELEBRATE ON SEPTEMBER 28



**ELCIC's Global Hunger  
and Development Appeal**  
[www.elcic.ca/ghda](http://www.elcic.ca/ghda)

CLWR carries out international emergency relief, development programming and refugee resettlement on behalf of the ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal and Lutheran Church-Canada.

## New resources

### COUNTRY FACT SHEETS

A series of five fact sheets are now available that provide an outline of each country where CLWR funds community development programs. These are available online at [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org) in the resources section.

### FAST FOR CHANGE

Sign up today and join thousands across Canada who will be holding a fast on World Food Day, October 16. Visit [www.endhungerfast.com](http://www.endhungerfast.com) now!

## Partnership

*Partnership* is a publication of Canadian Lutheran World Relief ©2008. Material from *Partnership* may be reproduced for use by congregations.

For additional copies, contact:

**CLWR CANADIAN OFFICES**  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
1080 Kingsbury Avenue, Winnipeg,  
MB R2P 1W5  
**Phone:** 204.694.5602 or  
1.800.661.2597 (CLWR)  
**Fax:** 204.694.5460  
**Email:** [clwr@clwr.mb.ca](mailto:clwr@clwr.mb.ca)

**Vancouver:** Fikre Tsehail,  
Refugee Program Director  
202-5066 Kingsway Avenue,  
Burnaby, BC V5H 2E7  
**Phone:** 604.435.9750 or  
1.888.588.6686  
**Fax:** 604.435.9923  
**Email:** [clwr@axion.net](mailto:clwr@axion.net)

**Toronto:** Jan Drews,  
Refugee Coordinator  
125-1440 Bathurst Street, Toronto,  
ON M5R 3J3

**Phone:** 416.962.9747 or  
1.888.255.0150  
**Fax:** 416.962.3268  
**Email:** [clwrto@web.net](mailto:clwrto@web.net)

Editor: Lorne Kletke  
Proofreader: E. Diane Ward  
Design: Alen Zukanovich

CLWR carries out international emergency relief, development programming and refugee resettlement on behalf of the ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal and Lutheran Church-Canada.

**Moving?** Send your new address along with the old by email to [clwr@clwr.mb.ca](mailto:clwr@clwr.mb.ca), Subject: Partnership Address Change.

ISSN 1916-2308 Partnership (Print) • ISSN 1916-2316 Partnership (Online)



**Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief**



**ELCIC's Global Hunger  
and Development Appeal**  
[www.elcic.ca/ghda](http://www.elcic.ca/ghda)

**LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA  
ÉGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE du CANADA**

PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT #40051473  
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CDN ADDRESSES TO:  
CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF  
1080 KINGSBURY AVENUE  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA  
R2P 1W5