



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Partnership

Your generosity in action
Spring 2026



**Thank you for building a future filled with
hope and dignity for everyone**

Solanyi Tocaría Machado, an 11-year-old girl from Caño Claro in Arauca, Colombia, received a dignity kit filled with essentials like menstrual supplies, shampoo, body wash and underwear during a recent CLWR visit. (CLWR photo/Shaua Turnley)





Dear friends,

As we celebrate Easter, I'm grateful for the chance to share stories of resilience, renewal and growth. Around the world, many families

facing conflict, displacement and uncertainty are now experiencing safety, dignity and love because of your kindness.

In places like Somalia, where families like Ebla's have fled violence and are rebuilding their lives, your generosity is providing essentials like clean, reliable water, that shape a new beginning. In Colombia, your support is helping women and girls find safety and protection, and empowering leaders like Gloria to guide their communities toward healing and peace.

Here at home, churches and donors just like you across Canada continue to inspire us. Our

Friends of Creation campaign has already restored more than 15,600 acres of land around Lake Chad — reviving soil, planting trees and strengthening the foundations of food security and stability for generations to come.

We work in many challenging parts of the world; places where people are without safe water, reliable sources of food, or peace. With you in our community, we can help them. Thank you for walking alongside families as they face heartbreaking realities, rebuild what was lost and step into a better, brighter future.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse,
Interim Executive Director, CLWR

A new beginning with safe water

When violence in Jilib, Somalia, made life impossible, Ebla Aden Ahmed fled with her four children. "We lived in constant fear. I worried every day about my children's safety," she said. "I left my farm, my house and everything I worked for. All I wanted was a safe place for my children."

Her family found safety in the Midnimo settlement near Dhobley. Though safer, the village lacked one essential resource: clean water. "Starting over was hard. We had no water. I felt like I had escaped one danger only to face another," Ebla said.

The only borehole was three kilometres away, serving thousands of newly displaced families. Long lines formed daily, and rationing meant some households went days without water. "Sometimes we had to drink less [water] so that we could have enough. It broke my heart as a mother," Ebla said.

Everything changed when Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and the Government of Canada, with support from donors like you, rehabilitated the borehole and built a new

pipeline directly into the settlement. Five communal water points now provide reliable, solar powered clean water close to home.

For Ebla, the transformation is life changing. "Now, I can fetch water in minutes instead of hours like before ... It feels like a new life."

Thank you for giving families essentials like clean water. [Click here](#) to read the full story online.



Ebla tests the pump of the newly rehabilitated solar-powered water borehole. (LWF photo)

You are rebuilding hope in Haiti

Fearing for her safety, Alexandra Charles fled Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in August 2024 with her husband, a taxi driver, and their two young children, leaving everything behind. The family relocated to Camp-Perrin, two and a half hours from their home.

Alexandra is a survivor of the ongoing gang violence in the country. Before her displacement, she worked as an esthetician. Tragically, Alexandra became disabled after being struck by a projectile in her right hip while buying beauty products for her business. She has undergone four surgeries to restore the use of her leg.

Thanks to the generosity of CLWR donors and the Government of Canada, Alexandra has started rebuilding her life. Through implementing partners on the ground, Alexandra

and 4,464 others have received cash assistance. “The first amount allowed me to receive hospital treatment and pay my children’s school fees,” explained Alexandra.

With the second cash transfer, she purchased a pig as a step toward sustainable income. Looking ahead, Alexandra plans to use her third payment to start a small home-based business, an opportunity adapted to her limited mobility.



Thank you for helping people like Alexandra build a more sustainable future.

Through cash assistance, Alexandra was empowered to change her and her family’s lives. (LWF photo/Rodney Toussaint)

A safe way forward in Colombia



After living for decades in a conflict-affected area, Gloria Montañez Rodríguez now supports women and girls in her community. (CLWR photo/Shaua Turnley)

When Gloria Montañez Rodríguez speaks about protecting women from gender-based violence, she speaks from lived experience. At 62, she has spent her life in Caño Claro, an Indigenous community in Colombia near the Venezuelan border — an

area deeply affected by decades of armed conflict. As a child, Gloria lost her young sister to violence, and her brother-in-law was later kidnapped and killed. Danger was a constant presence, shaping daily life in difficult ways.

Like in many conflict-affected areas, the violence was carried into homes. Alcohol misuse increased, and women and girls faced

heightened risks of gender-based violence. Yet many cases went unreported due to fear, cultural norms and the lack of support services.

Thanks to compassionate donors, women and girls can now access safe spaces, legal help, medical care and counselling when they face violence or need protection through an LWF/CLWR project. Women can share their experiences, build trust and create community-led support networks.

Gloria was chosen as a trusted elder and now receives ongoing training to help identify and respond to gender-based violence. Today, she is often the first person women turn to. She listens, walks alongside survivors and helps connect them with support. Alcohol prevention efforts are easing tensions, and conversations about gender roles are creating positive change. “Now, the men do most of the cooking,” Gloria says with a smile.

Your kindness ensures care, protection and dignity are within reach. Thank you.

United hearts restore land and hope

In 2023, three Lutheran churches in southwestern Ontario faced challenges — pastoral vacancies and tight budgets — but instead of retreating, they came together. United in Faith, a shared ministry partnership, connects three communities through worship, vision and service.

When they learned about Canadian Lutheran World Relief's Friends of Creation campaign, United in Faith took the chance to make a global impact. Starting with a \$1,500 goal to restore land around Lake Chad, donations poured in so quickly the target rose to \$10,000 — restoring 200 acres. Matching gifts and Giving Tuesday support helped them surpass it, and now the congregations are aiming for \$15,000.

"It has been incredible to see our numbers rise again and again," says Rev. Joanna Miller, pastor of United in Faith Ministry. "I am proud of our



United in Faith gathers for an Advent Friends of Creation service. (CLWR photo/Charlotte Poolton)

members' generosity and grateful to witness their passion in action."

"As disciples of Christ, we are called to love God and love our neighbours," she adds. "Supporting CLWR is one of the ways we can live out that calling...caring for our global neighbours and God's creation. CLWR is an organization we trust to help us do this in just, loving ways and to steward our resources well."

"It means a lot to me that we are doing this work together, empowering people affected by climate change, using nature-based solutions and listening to communities," says Rev. Miller.

Through this project, the congregations are not just restoring land, they are nurturing hope, caring for God's creation and standing in solidarity with communities.



(CLWR photo/Charlotte Poolton)



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