



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

2022-2023

Annual Report



Canadian Lutheran World Relief

OUR VISION

A healthy and sustainable world where people live in peace with hope, justice, dignity and equality.

OUR MISSION

Inspired by God's love for the world, CLWR challenges and responds to the injustice which causes human suffering and poverty.

Eugene, Vitaly and their three children were at a hospital in Kharkiv, Ukraine when the bombings started, because of their 10-month-old Ivor's heart condition. After fleeing to Lviv, they received clothes and supplies, plus the medicine Ivor needs. (Photo: Act Alliance/HIA)

On the cover: Ma Nru Itdar and Ma Nru Harsi Nar live in Ah Nauk Ywe Village, where CLWR's partner LWF Myanmar is responding to basic needs like clean water, plus providing literacy and skills training to women and girls. (Photo: CLWR/Ahkee Chel)



Greetings

DEAR FRIENDS,

It's my honour to offer you this report on Canadian Lutheran World Relief's 2022-2023 fiscal year — an honour because this is ultimately a report on the good that you have made possible.

As the world faced disaster, war and growing hunger, you responded with urgency and generosity.

When the fiscal year opened in April of 2022, we were working with our partners to mobilize a rapid response to the suffering caused by the invasion of Ukraine. By the summer, we joined other aid agencies across Canada in launching an emergency appeal to respond to a growing hunger crisis in East Africa. In the fall, devastating flooding in Pakistan displaced millions. And then in February, twin earthquakes brought massive new hardship to families in Syria and Türkiye.

In each of these emergencies, this community of Lutherans and friends in Canada has

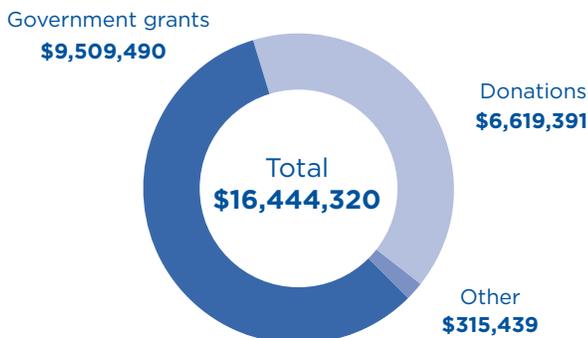
responded immediately, and in doing so you have saved lives. And crucially, you have allowed us to continue the rest of our critical ongoing work to provide hope, help communities secure their long-term access to food and water, and challenge the oppression that marginalizes and restricts so many.

On behalf of our team, our Board, our partners and the many thousands whose lives look different today, please accept my thanks.

Deepest blessings,

Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Complete 2022 audited financial statements are available on CLWR's website at clwr.org.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Your support allows our partners around the world to respond immediately when communities face catastrophe.

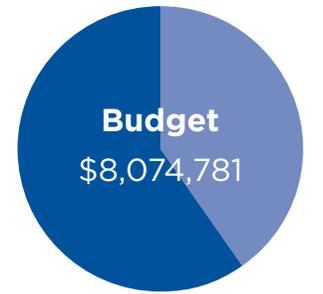
Over the last year, millions have been displaced by the war in Ukraine, and tens of millions more were affected by flooding in Pakistan and the earthquake in Türkiye. Closer to home, families in B.C. struggled to recover from the devastating floods at the end of 2021.

With your partnership, families facing disaster are receiving food, clean water, shelter and supplies, plus care for trauma.

Through Lutheran World Federation and the ACT Alliance, CLWR has local partners in each of the affected communities who can make sure we're first on the scene, then guide our response to make sure we're responding with exactly what people need.



When a pair of devastating earthquakes hit Syria and Türkiye in February 2023, your support meant CLWR partners through ACT Alliance were able to respond immediately, caring for survivors with food, medical support, blankets and emergency shelter. (Photo: GOPA-DERD)



Beneficiaries
210,344

Locations

Canada, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

5,272

displaced women and girls in Myanmar received menstrual health supplies

8

homes in Princeton, British Columbia repaired after flooding

5,000

families fleeing Ukraine received supplies to care for their babies

Elizabeth's story

IN EARLY 2022, Elizabeth was a high-school student in Kharkiv, Ukraine with dreams of being an artist when rockets exploded in a courtyard 40 metres from her home.

“We fled with the clothes on our backs and our documents,” her mother Irina says, and the family made it to a small village outside of Lviv.

Elizabeth's life was upended, moving across the country to a house that had been abandoned for eight years, had no household supplies or running water, and needed serious renovations. Her mother could not continue her IT job as there was no reliable internet in the village.

Shortly after they arrived, there was a knock on the door, from Father Alek, who manages a local organization that partners with ACT Alliance member Hungarian Interchurch Aid. “I heard you are displaced and have just arrived here. How can I help? What do you need?” he asked.

The family received clothes, food, a frying pan to cook with, even a refrigerator when they had electricity working in the house.

“The most important thing is that it is quiet here,” says Irina. “There is no shelling.”

Throughout the experience, Elizabeth has continued with her art, though the colours became stark, the imagery disturbing. But as life has calmed down in her new home, and she was able to finish high school, her art has gotten brighter again. And as she gets more comfortable, she is beginning to look towards her career in art, offering commissions and to sell her work.

Your support has allowed CLWR's partners around the world to respond with compassion for people like Elizabeth, meeting needs and sharing hope with those in crisis.



Elizabeth fled from Kharkiv to a small village near Lviv with her family in the early days after the invasion in 2022. Her art went through a dark period at that time, but she is finding hope again in her work. (Photo: Simon Chambers/ACT)

CHANGED LIVES

In Pakistan, over **25,000 people** affected by flooding have access to safe drinking water and hygiene.

In South Sudan, **1,155 families** have more stable nutrition and reduced risk of malnutrition.

In Ethiopia, **480 families** who faced crisis are generating income and supporting their communities with their own livestock farms.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

After decades of progress, hunger is on the rise again. Years of historic droughts and increased weather variability have pushed millions to the brink, and some of the hardest hit are the small-scale farmers who feed so much of the world.

Together with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, CLWR gives families the food they need today plus the skills and supplies to grow their own food — and food for their communities — tomorrow.

With your support, we're working with small-scale farmers to improve their food production and increase their incomes through the provision of agricultural and marketing training, constructing irrigation systems, protecting watersheds and preventing soil erosion.



Beneficiaries
8,380

Locations
Burundi, Ethiopia,
Uganda



In Uganda, programs for women are providing physical care — like farm support and skills training — plus emotional and psychological support, in a region where many women have experienced sexual and gender-based violence. (Photo: CLWR/Cyril Ducottet)

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

30

Farmer Field Schools

10

adult literacy groups for
at-risk refugees

690

family farms trained in new
techniques

Jeanne's story

IN BURUNDI, your support is helping families go from needing emergency help to building their own futures.

Sibomana Jeanne, 56, lives with her husband and three children in Burundi. She was forced to flee her home in 2015, during instability in the country after troubled elections. Her children witnessed killings in her neighborhood, a traumatic experience for both children and parents. She knew they couldn't keep the children in their home community anymore, and the family fled across the border into Tanzania.

They came back in 2021 when things had settled some, but life was very hard, and the family lived in constant hunger. Jeanne started receiving food in 2021 through CLWR's partner LWF Burundi, which improved the family's health and also meant she could send her children back to school.

Since then, as part of CLWR and LWF's multi-stage project in the region, she's also been given support to farm her land, and she joined a farming class that has improved how much she's able to produce from the same plot of land.

Now she has enough income to purchase other supplies and livestock and continue growing her farm — and instead of only thinking of survival, she has plans to grow the farm, to renovate her small home, and has hope of sending her children to better schools and ultimately to university.

After everything they've been through, Jeanne and her family are on the path to building a secure future, but your partnership was critical — thank you for helping make sure the family had what they needed not just to withstand crisis, but to build their lives again.



Sibomana Jeanne and her family are back in Burundi and building a new life after the tragedy that forced them to flee. (Photo: CLWR/Arnaud Mugisha)

CHANGED LIVES

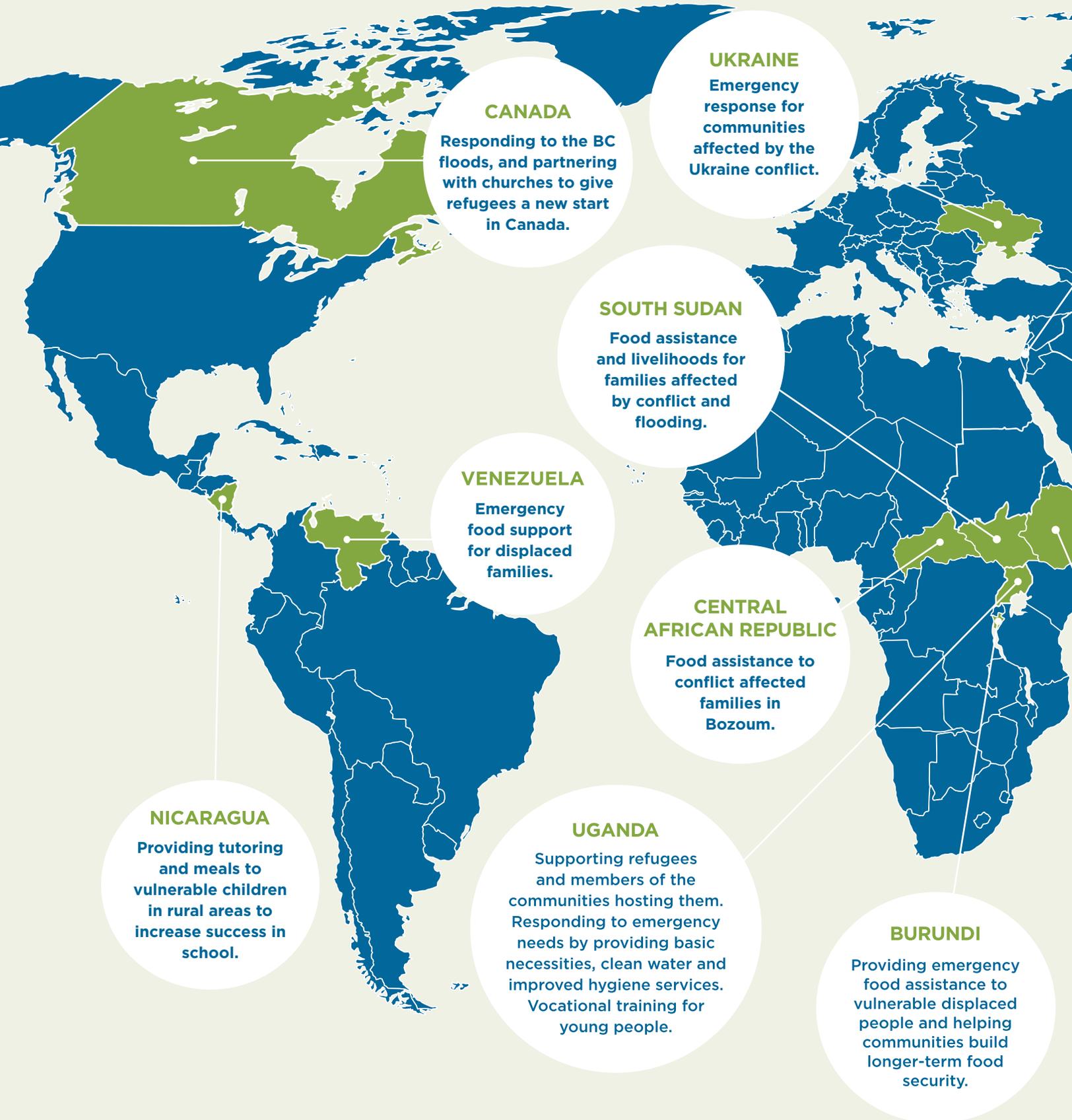
In Ethiopia, **3,450 people** on small-scale farms have sustainably increased food security

In Burundi, **700 women farmers** have more equitable access to inputs, resources and capital to feed their communities

In Uganda, **200 survivors** of gender-based violence and women at-risk have new vocational and life skills and money to start their own businesses

Canadian Lutheran World Relief

2022–2023 Program Highlights



CANADA

Responding to the BC floods, and partnering with churches to give refugees a new start in Canada.

UKRAINE

Emergency response for communities affected by the Ukraine conflict.

SOUTH SUDAN

Food assistance and livelihoods for families affected by conflict and flooding.

VENEZUELA

Emergency food support for displaced families.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Food assistance to conflict affected families in Bozoum.

NICARAGUA

Providing tutoring and meals to vulnerable children in rural areas to increase success in school.

UGANDA

Supporting refugees and members of the communities hosting them. Responding to emergency needs by providing basic necessities, clean water and improved hygiene services. Vocational training for young people.

BURUNDI

Providing emergency food assistance to vulnerable displaced people and helping communities build longer-term food security.

A world map with a blue and green color scheme. Four callout circles are connected to specific regions on the map by thin white lines. The callouts are: West Bank & East Jerusalem (top left), Pakistan (top right), Myanmar (center), and Ethiopia (bottom left).

WEST BANK & EAST JERUSALEM

Providing technical and vocational education and training to women and girls, including women with disabilities. Providing urgently needed medical care through Augusta Victoria Hospital.

PAKISTAN

Providing emergency supplies including clean water, food, shelter and healthcare to those affected by the floods in 2022.

MYANMAR

Supporting displaced people by responding to basic needs and improving living conditions. Providing literacy, skills and leadership training to women and girls.

ETHIOPIA

Improving food security for small-scale farmers through agricultural training, support, and infrastructure. Providing basic necessities and clean water to displaced families.

You are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people around the world! **Thank you!**

Your partnership with communities around the world is doing so much good.

Your gifts are:

- Providing emergency food and shelter for people displaced by conflict or disaster
 - Connecting communities with sustainable sources of clean water
 - Improving food security and building resilience to climate change
 - Helping refugees resettle and find new homes in Canada
-

We take good care of your generosity. **Thank you for your trust!**

EDUCATION

Conflict and disasters disrupt the education of vulnerable young learners worldwide. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, women have far fewer opportunities than men to find employment, and the opportunities that do exist are difficult to access. For women with disabilities, the situation is even more difficult.

Your support is giving children access to education in a safe, supportive environment. And through our five-year project called GRIT, with the support of Global Affairs Canada, you're giving Palestinian women technical and vocational training so they can secure their own futures and financial independence.



Beneficiaries
20,250

Locations

Nicaragua, West Bank



Students line up to eat at Iglesia Luterana Cristo, Verdad Y Vida, where a new meals program is making sure young learners have full stomachs. (Photo: David Friesen)

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

250

children receiving daily tutoring

5

communities with school meal programs

133

events have helped promote opportunities for women and addressed cultural barriers

Rasha's story

THROUGH GRIT, Palestinian women are getting the chance to overcome barriers to education and work.

“With only one year of training, I was able to achieve what some people take four or five years to do,” says Rasha Neemar, 35, who recently graduated from a professional program.

Rasha graduated high school in 2002 and she soon got married and began to have children. But eventually, her husband's salary alone could not provide for the family and she needed to find a way to earn an income — a difficult challenge in a setting where employment opportunities for women can be limited and restrictive.

“By that time I had five children. How could I leave five children behind me and continue my studies? I needed to find training that would help me get a job quickly, where I could study and work at the same time.”

Rasha's cousin told her about technical and vocational education opportunities through the Lutheran World Federation, so she decided to learn more and enroll.

“I did on-the-job training for three months,” Rasha says. “I gained a lot of experience dealing with customers, working on a computer, and many other office management skills.”

After her training was complete, Rasha was offered a position with the same company she trained with. Now her confidence has grown with her opportunity, as she serves as an ambassador for GRIT, helping other women learn about the opportunities available to them.

“The most important thing is to know what you want and to have the drive and self-confidence to achieve it. As long as I know I have the power within me, I can challenge anything — any difficulty, no matter what it is.”



Vocational and technical training has been transformational for women like Rasha and Ahlam (pictured), who studies graphic design. (Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert)

CHANGED LIVES

4 technical and vocational institutes have renovated their facilities to better support women, including women with disabilities

There's been a **4x increase** in the number of women applying for male-dominated vocational programs.

Among GRIT graduates, the labour force participation rate is **5x higher** than the general female population

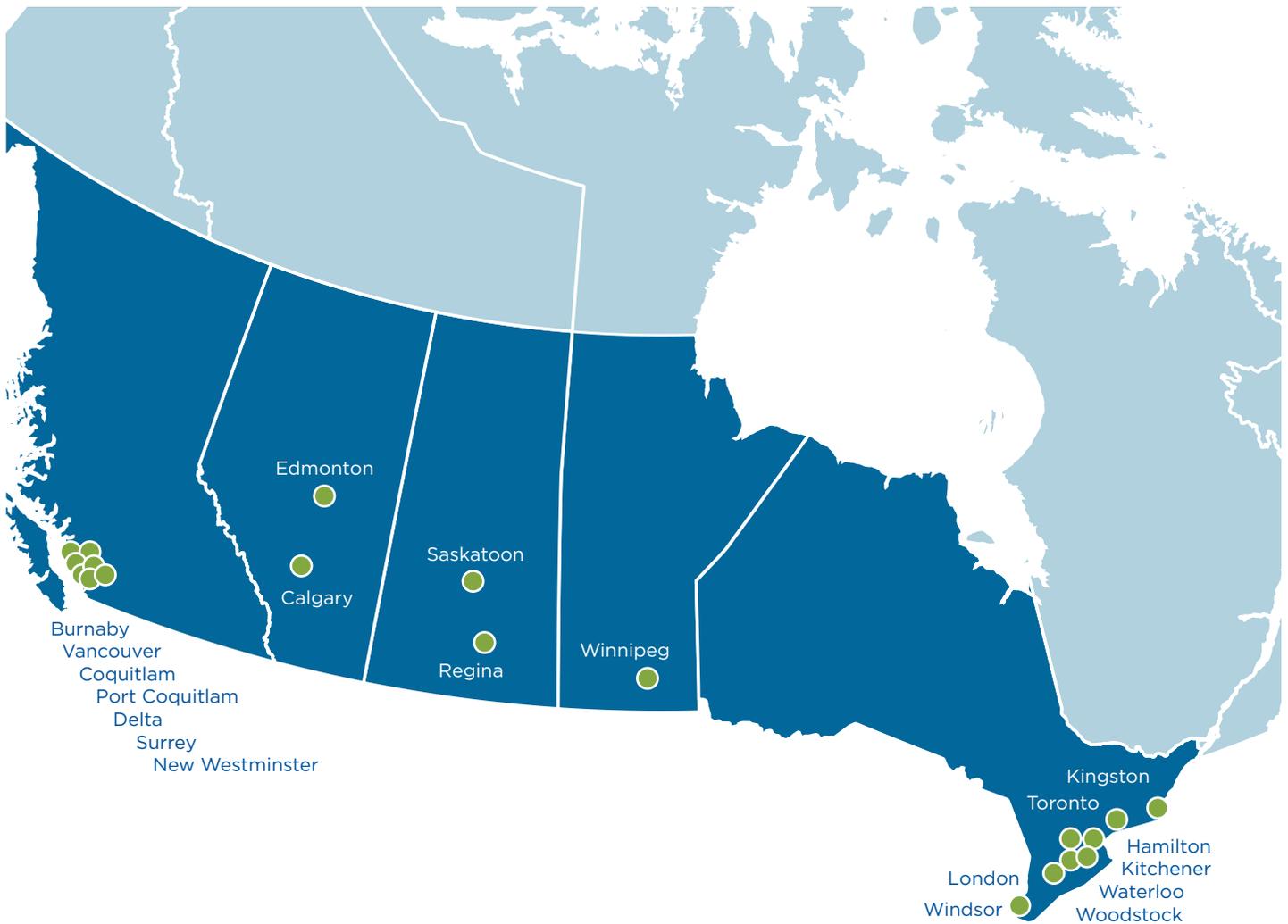
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

In 1946, CLWR was created to help people displaced by the Second World War. Our commitment to refugees continues to this day through refugee resettlement. CLWR is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the Government of Canada. Through CLWR, congregations and groups are able to sponsor refugees from abroad and help them build new lives in Canada.

Thank you to the many churches, communities and supporters across Canada who are part of this life-saving work!

Last year, 220 people went from refugee to Permanent Residents in Canada thanks to Lutheran churches and community groups across the country!

Destination cities last year



Working together

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS separated by almost 2,000 km are finding new ways to work together in providing welcome to refugees.

In Ontario, the three congregations that form the South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish had been exploring what it means to be one in the body of Christ. Their pastor, Rev. Pam McNeil, presented the idea for a refugee sponsorship partnership, which she'd experienced during her seminary placement in Halifax, N.S. It was an easy 'yes' for the South Grey Bruce parish members — many of whom had refugee stories in their own families.

But since the Ontario churches knew their rural setting would make it difficult for refugee families to settle, they approached Halifax Lutheran Church, where Rev. McNeil had had her placement, to collaborate in the effort.

The Halifax church, which has a long history of welcoming refugees, agreed and has committed to welcoming an Eritrean family to Canada, while the South Grey Bruce parish has offered to provide financial support, committing to raising \$27,000–\$30,000 towards the resettlement of the refugee family.

We commend these four churches for their creative approach to serving as one, and for their generosity in providing hope using whatever they have!



Rev. Pam McNeil, pastor of South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish and Rev. Dr. Kimberlynn McNabb, pastor of Halifax Lutheran Church.

If you want more information about how your congregation can play a part in helping refugees find a new home in Canada, visit clwr.org/rr or contact us today: email rrinfo@clwr.org or call 1-800-661-2597

Arrivals last year

220

Countries of origin

Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Pakistan, Palestine, Yemen