



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

partnership

Your generosity
in action

Spring 2024



Your support has been critical for families at risk of hunger in Burundi, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

Thank you — your support is saving lives!



Dear friends,

It's my privilege to write you a few times a year and share updates and stories from our work around the world—because they are stories that you have helped write. We treasure your generosity and the chance to tell you more about how your gift has been making a difference.

As we've witnessed growing conflict and continued food insecurity around the world, your partnership has meant real help and real hope. You've helped change stories like Leocadie's—forever.

CLWR's mandate is to respond to some of the most difficult situations in the world, providing hope and comfort in Jesus' name, and it is a responsibility we take seriously. But it would not be possible without you.

Around the world, with your help, our partners are responding—both in the situations that are

making the headlines and in places that are not. Your partnership is making a difference by not only providing emergency support for today, but helping families get through crisis and rebuild their lives.

With the spring season upon us, I am also excited to share with you some of the ways congregations across Canada have been creatively using CLWR resources to raise support for our work (see back cover).

I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity we have to do this work, and for your trust in CLWR. I ask that you please continue to keep our work in your prayers.

Deepest 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

Burundi, Ethiopia & South Sudan | Ensuring food security

Conflict and climatic events have contributed to an escalating hunger crisis in places like Burundi, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, where hunger is having a devastating impact on families, and vulnerable people are being forced into negative coping strategies.

Women and girls have been particularly disadvantaged. Having already faced discrimination and gender-based violence, female-headed households run an even greater risk of food insecurity.

Thanks to your fast and generous response, and with the matching fund made possible by our partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we have already been able to take critical measures to help those most at risk of hunger.

In South Sudan, immediate food assistance is helping protect the most vulnerable families from famine.

In Ethiopia, we will be working to help improve farming practices and encourage climate resilience and sustainability among beneficiaries.

In Burundi, we are supporting Farmer Field Schools

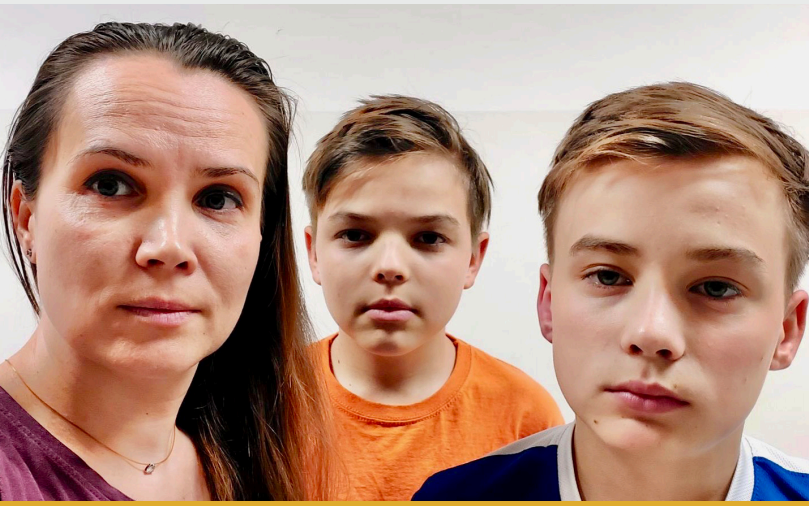
and Farmer Cooperatives, contributing to better food security for communities and encouraging sustainable practices to help families like Leocadie Ndagijimana's build resilience.

Leocadie lives with her husband and five children in Ruyigi, Burundi. Her family was one of the recipients of emergency food assistance from our partners, LWF Burundi, which allowed her to work on her farm to earn income.

Since then, Leocadie has joined a farming class and is using the techniques she's learning to produce more food from her land to sell at the market. All this has led to a great improvement in the health of her children. Now, Leocadie looks forward to acquiring greater skills in farming and obtaining capital to grow her farm.

Thank you for helping families like Leocadie's ensure their own food security!

Cover Image: Leocadie Ndagijimana uses techniques she's learned in farming classes to grow more produce from her land. (Photo: CLWR/Arnaud Mugisha)



Anna and her two boys—Roman and Maxim—at the refugee shelter in Hungary. The family was struggling to get by on Anna’s income alone, given the rising cost of living. (Photo: HIA/ACT Alliance)

Ukraine | Supporting families displaced for over two years

The conflict in Ukraine has been ongoing for two years. For refugees trying to establish a life in neighbouring countries, the differences in language and customs, as well as the lack of safety nets has been particularly challenging. To help these families cope, our partners in the ACT Alliance have been distributing flexible cash assistance.

Anna fled with her two boys from Donetsk two years ago and has been living in a refugee shelter run by our partners in Hungary. Her children are currently attending school in Hungary while also participating in online classes offered by their school at home in Ukraine. Though Anna found work after she arrived, due to the rapidly rising cost of living, her income alone is not enough for their family of three.

Anna became a part of the cash assistance program after her family’s needs were assessed by social workers. “The vouchers help us to cover our basic needs in all circumstances. We are therefore very grateful for this, as we have had to struggle to stay afloat,” she says. “I am confident that we can build on this newly gained income security provided by the voucher system... get through this difficult period and, with perseverance, create a better life for ourselves.”

Your support is enabling displaced mothers to take care of their children’s needs. Thank you!

Somalia | Restoring dignity for those living with disabilities

When floods ravaged the camp for internally displaced people in Wadajir, Somalia, eighty-year-old Bishar Hassan was among those left without proper sanitation facilities. The situation for him was particularly difficult due to his disability – despite his limited mobility, Bishar was forced to use a makeshift toilet in the nearby bushes along with other members of his family. This not only had a negative impact on health and hygiene, but also posed an added risk of attacks from wildlife. Diarrhea was common for the children in his family, putting added pressure on their inadequate resources.

With your support, our partner LWF Somalia constructed two latrines for Bishar’s family – one of which is accessible and tailored specifically to accommodate his needs. “Women, children, and disabled people have borne the brunt of the latrine shortage in our settlement. One of the children was bitten by a snake while relieving himself, and although it was not lethal, he was very distressed by the incident,” said Bishar.

“This will ensure sufficient access to sanitation services which we did not have before,” he continued. “The intervention has restored and strengthened the dignity of the most vulnerable populations displaced by the climate crisis in our district.”

Thank you for helping improve the quality of life for Bishar and others living with disabilities!

Bishar Hassan in front of the accessible latrine built specifically for him next to his home in the Wadajir camp in Somalia. (Photo: LWF Somalia)



Church Resources | Working together in mission



CLWR's placemats were a big hit at a pot-blessed supper event for members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Dryden, ON. (Photo: Norma Kiiskila)

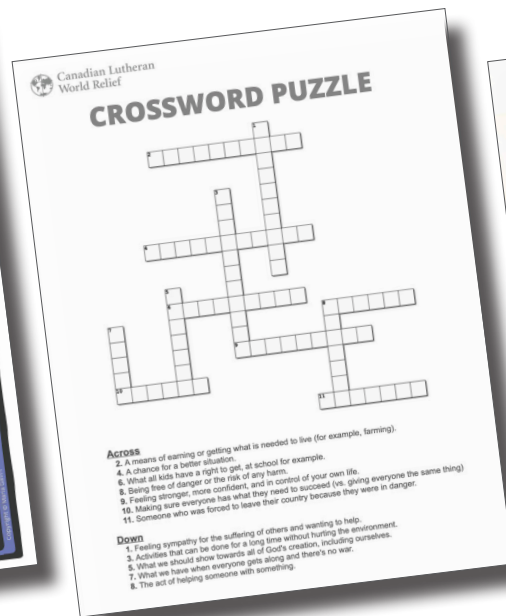
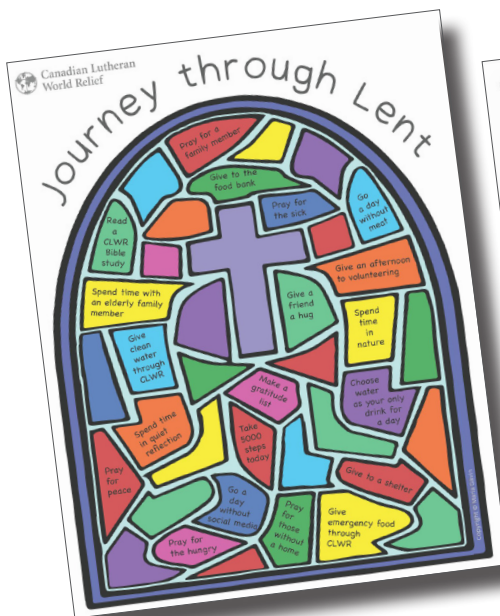
We are so grateful for all the messages we've been receiving from congregations about how much they're enjoyed using the various church resources we've been developing.

The placemats, featuring a world map with CLWR's projects in different countries highlighted, have been a particular hit. "They are very informative of the work that CLWR is doing. Jesus wants us to love our neighbour at home and abroad. God bless your ministry," wrote Ardith Pollex of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, St. Thomas, ON.

We are thrilled to see that these resources have not only informed and entertained, but also acted as a great springboard for conversations, presentations, and fundraisers

to support our shared mission. Linda Fenske, of Grace Lutheran Church in Port Alberni, BC, recently used the placemats during their pancake supper as a launchpad for her presentation on water access in Tigray, Ethiopia—the event raised over \$170 for CLWR.

We are continuously adding new and different resources for various occasions such as Advent, VBS, World Refugee Day, etc. so please keep checking clwr.org/resources for prayers, Bible studies, word games, children's activities, videos, and more. And if you have any suggestions or feedback, please email Heidi, our church relations manager at heidi@clwr.org.



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