



Rights-Based Approach Local to Global

Annual Report 2019



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

actalliance

Overview

The distinctive 'local to global' character of the work of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is an important part of our added-value. The core of all we do are people and communities, and they are the key actors in determining their own futures. Adopting a 'rights-based approach' means we support people to organize and empower themselves, respecting above all their dignity in working with a 'people-centred' focus.

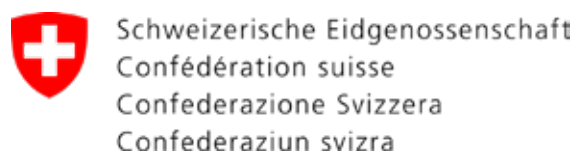
By accompanying them – amplifying their voice at national and international levels – we can ensure that their voice is heard. However, advocacy is not about simply participating in global policy debates. We aim also to ensure that commitments and promises made at the international and national levels are translated into concrete improvements in people's lives at local level. Our 'local to global' (L2G) methodology can therefore also be described as 'local to global to local' (L2G2L), emphasising where the intended impact of the approach lies and giving focus. LWF has a proactive and dynamic role at all levels – local, national and international – but at the same time we do not insist on our own profile, nor do we wish to displace other actors in local and national civil society. Equally we work together in coalition with other international actors. In this, our presence in Geneva and our close collaboration with related agencies and international partners means that together we have authentic and credible leverage with important international actors, including the UN, governments, private sector and other so-called 'duty-bearers'.

In recent years, LWF has intentionally developed this L2G approach through projects linking local level action for change

to national and international level advocacy, based in over 10 countries and locations. This has focused on the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and other international accountability mechanisms, with the goal of securing real change at local level in areas such as the rights of marginalized communities, refugee rights, women's rights, and land rights.

This approach has been fostering cross-departmental collaboration within LWF and is currently being further mainstreamed and adopted across LWF as a major expression of its new strategic direction for 2019-2024. The newly-formed 'Action for Justice' team, which straddles the LWF departments, will have a key role in ensuring this joined-up and coherent approach as we move forward in 2020 and beyond.

Collaboration and co-creation with our friends and partners continue to be a key to this. So far, concrete engagement and resources have come from Bread for the World, Act Church of Sweden, Finn Church Aid (FCA), the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), the Canton of Geneva, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the German National Committee, and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR); we have collaborated with the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC), the Mukwege foundation, the University of Geneva, UPR Info and many more local partners. As we expand the approach we look forward to this collaboration growing.



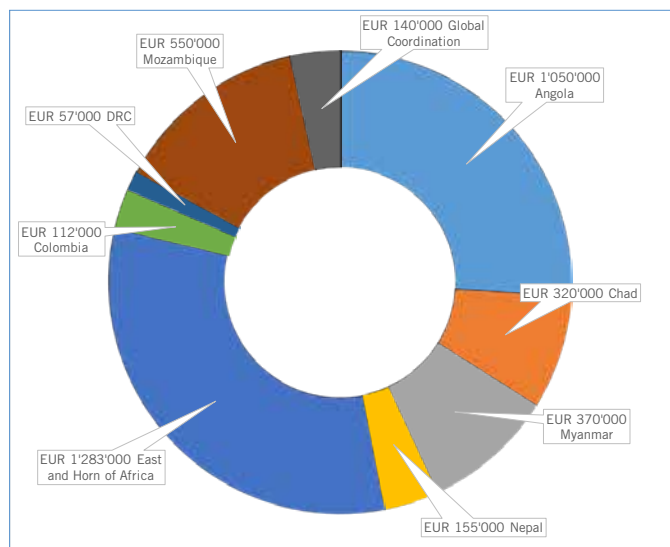
“We will no longer be voiceless, We will no longer be invisible.”

– The Santhal women in Dhanpalthan, Morang, Nepal supported by LWF Nepal through its rights-based empowerment program

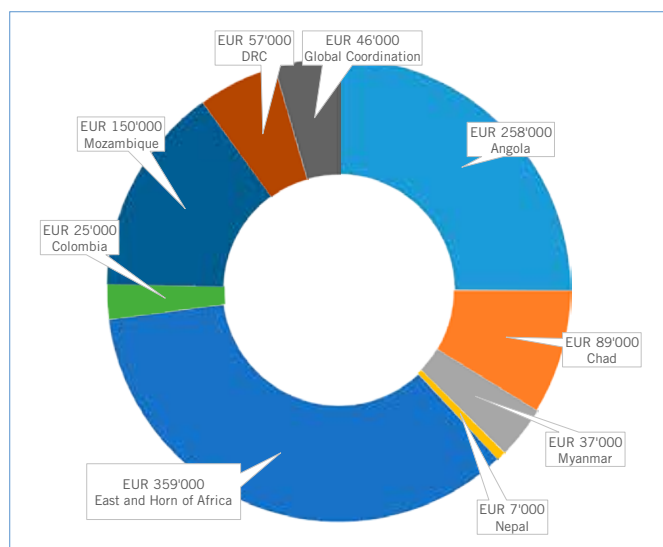
Photo: LWF/A.Calma



Overall funding for the RBA local to global projects (2018–2021)



2019 expenditure for the RBA local to global projects*



*Unaudited figures

1. Land Rights

Enabling refugees to access land in Chad

LOCAL

At the local level, LWF decided to focus its advocacy on access to land, which is a crucial issue for refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) as well as for Chadian returnees from CAR, as they need land to cultivate or develop other activities for their self-reliance. 11 support committees were created, integrating members of the host communities and refugees themselves in the areas of Goré and Farchana, aiming at creating spaces of negotiation for refugees to access pieces of land. Through its partner ATURAD and the support committees, the most vulnerable households were identified, which resulted in 75 people benefitting from capacity building in entrepreneurship, out of which 52 were selected for financial support for their project of income generating activity. In addition, 150 households benefitted from agricultural tools and seeds for their cultivations during the rainy season. 67% of these were granted to women, as they are often in a more vulnerable position.

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

LWF Chad has been engaging in the Universal Periodic Review as a human rights mechanism to hold the Government accountable for its commitments and facilitated the advocacy visit of Chadian civil society representatives in Geneva in 2018. Since then, LWF has been working with CSOs in the implementation phase to push for concrete improvements. In partnership with the Coalition of Human Rights Associations (CADH), LWF convened a two-day workshop for 48 members of civil society, providing technical expertise to come up with an implementation plan according to thematic clusters. Additionally, LWF Chad gave visibility to the issues faced by refugees, by creating radio spots and press articles on refugee mobility and access to credit for example, with the aim to raise the general public awareness and to shift the mentality of local communities towards a more open attitude towards refugees.



“Thanks to the negotiations made with host communities, I was able to cultivate a piece of land with the sesame seeds and potatoes cuttings that LWF provided. The potato yield was particularly good, this has improved our diet and I was able to pay for my three children’s school fees. I also started a small embroidery business with the income from selling part of the yield.”

Ibrahima – returnee living in Danamadja camp

2. Rights of marginalized communities

Supporting evidence-based advocacy to defend rights of marginalized communities in Nepal

LOCAL

In Nepal, LWF supported local organizations and community members in gathering data on human rights issues through a mobile app created in 2017 to feed in a yearly report on economic, social and cultural rights. LWF works with marginalized communities who have little if no access to decision-making processes in Nepal. Through this initiative, communities are empowered to address rights issues by collecting the relevant data to feed in their advocacy efforts. In particular Dalits, Santhals and Freed Haliyas participated in data collection in Morang, Sarlahi and Doti districts with 3841 forms submitted through the mobile app.

This evidence-based advocacy has shown positive results with local governments amending their policies, such as the Kanepokhari rural municipality creating quotas for Santhal, Jhagad, Musahar and Batar youths to access scholarships for vocational training programs.

The Rangeli municipality allocated specific budget for community building and a cultural promotion program for the Santhal community. Similarly Jahada municipality started a process to establish a Santhal museum, with support from the provincial government. Eight local governments collected a list of 3,892 Haliyas who were not included in their previous records. This grassroots, community-based data collection is a way to strengthen evidence-based advocacy in Nepal by bringing the local issues to the national and international levels.

NATIONAL

In partnership with national civil society actors such as INSEC, LWF supported federal and provincial level consultations where communities could raise their issues directly on items such as landlessness, statelessness and citizenship for Santhals, untouchability and discrimination for Dalits, or land and livelihoods issues for the Haliyas.

INTERNATIONAL

These issues, as raised by communities during the provincial consultations and gathered through the mobile app, will be included in the civil society UPR report that LWF and its partners will submit to the UN system in 2020. LWF will further support Nepalese civil society in advocating for these issues at national and international levels during the UPR review of Nepal (2020/2021).

Empowering ethnic communities and promoting the protection of Atrato River in Colombia

The Atrato River is one of the only three rivers in the world which has been recognized as a rights-holder. A famous 2016 judgment by the Colombian Constitutional Court, known as T-622, not only gave the river a legal status but also sees that ethnic communities are protected in their rights to life, health, water, food security, culture, territory and a healthy environment.

The Atrato River is the most important basin in the country and is acknowledged worldwide for its biodiversity. The department of Chocó where the river is mainly situated, has been facing pressures from extractive industries, with a blatant lack of institutional safeguards. As a result, the river has been gradually polluted, affecting the health and welfare of the ethnic communities that live along its banks, who also had to suffer dramatically from the armed conflict.

This judgment has become an international benchmark, attributing rights to nature and highlighting its close relationship with local communities, making them actors in the formulation of public policies. LWF Colombia and its partner Tierra Digna have been working with the *Guardianes del Atrato* (Guardian Body of the Atrato), an ethnic and community body that watches over the implementation of the decisions in the judgement.

3. Rights of the Child

Supporting civil society to advance children rights in South Sudan

LOCAL

The project supported the South Sudan Human Rights Commission in a monitoring exercise in prisons and detention facilities within Juba with technical support from the United Mission in South Sudan. The areas of focus

LOCAL

At the local level, training activities were carried out with their leaders to strengthen their capacity to advocate for their economic, social and cultural rights. In collaboration with FIAN Colombia, research was conducted to assess their food sovereignty and production patterns. The report produced is an important step in mapping challenges and formulating recommendations. In addition, it contributes to build the collective memory of traditional ways to ensure food sovereignty.

NATIONAL

In the implementation framework of Judgment T-622, follow-up instances were created, composed of both entities of the Colombian state and the community. LWF Colombia and partners have worked to strengthen the communication and advocacy capacity of the guardians, so that they can raise their voices in Bogotá with cooperation agencies, embassies and the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL

An advocacy visit to Switzerland is planned with the guardians in 2020, to strengthen collaboration and alliances with support networks for the implementation of judgment T-622, as well as to raise awareness among the general public about the importance of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.



These women are raising awareness in Quibdó for enhanced protection of their environment. Their collective message reads: We are all Guardians of the Atrato River. The Atrato River has a right to restoration, protection, conservation and maintenance. Photo: Tierra Digna

included children in conflict with the law and the situation of women (expectant and lactating women). In addition, state government officials in Pariang county were trained on the UPR process and human rights. As a result, the local ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare has expressed interest in disseminating the Strategic National Action Plan to end child marriage in Ruweng state with support by LWF. In Pamir refugee camp, another workshop was held on

“To our government: Help educate my parents on how important my education is. Teach my community and my brothers. Tell them that early marriage will put an end to my dreams which will take them up the moon. This is a voice of a girl crying and wailing for her right.”

Message from Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School

human rights and advocacy to empower a youth group to advocate on behalf of the community members. Priority issues identified are child marriage and child labor.

NATIONAL

In the past few years, LWF has been a driving force to uphold collaboration between civil society and the Government of South Sudan. As a result, CSOs have been invited by the Government to engage in other human rights instruments such the Conven-

INTERNATIONAL

LWF supported the participation of three CSO representatives to the Human Rights Council in February 2019 and organized a side event on the South Sudan UPR implementation process with the Minister of Justice. The aim of the event was to show best practices of government and civil society collaboration and an opportunity for panellists to make statements on peace and reconciliation and women's rights.

4. Rights of Refugees

Empowering refugees in Kenya to be heard in national and international forums

LOCAL

Following its steady capacity building of refugees in human rights over the past few years, LWF Kenya was able to spur the creation of a nationwide platform of refugee advocates, called KADANA, encompassing members from Kakuma, Dadaab and Nairobi. Its aim is to be the voice of the communities, engaging in local, national and international advocacy, data collection and information sharing. In 2019, LWF focused on providing them with training and accompanying them in their democratic constitution process. KADANA and its 130 members have been constantly linking the realities faced by refugees at local level, be it in camp settings in

NATIONAL

KADANA has a strong regional base of highly educated refugees and a particularly vibrant urban refugee team who have contributed greatly to breaking the isolation of refugees. In addition, LWF has been constantly raising refugees' issues on the national human rights agenda through the civil society coalition on the UPR, which submitted a joint report signed by 130 organizations. In addition, LWF, KADANA, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya and the International Rescue Committee submitted a report focusing on specific issues for refugees. Furthermore, LWF invited various organizations to exposure visits in the camps. The Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR)

Kakuma and Dadaab or in urban areas of Nairobi, with debates taking place at national level.



“For us, KADANA can be our voice to reach decision-makers at international level. It is a dream of 25 years, something we have tried to do before but failed at because we were alone. LWF is like our Wi-Fi, now we are connected with each other throughout the country. All of us here are leaders or volunteers in refugee-led organizations and we have a lot of experience to share. I assist refugees and migrants when they have issues with the police. Even if you are a paralegal, you are put aside because you are a refugee. At least now the police knows us well so we can better work together. LWF has given us a safe haven where we can dream and cry, it really has a big heart.”

Said Abukar – Chair of KADANA – Refugee from Somali

conducted two fact-finding missions in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps and has been playing an important role in monitoring the relocation process of Somali refugees in Dadaab ever since, holding follow up meetings with members of parliaments, UNHCR, the National Police Service and Refugee Affairs Services. LWF is making sure its findings are taken up for further advocacy at national level. Strong coordination was also achieved in the Refugee Bill formulation process: LWF submitted a position paper to the National Assembly and supported KADANA members to attend the public sessions.

INTERNATIONAL LWF supported the advocacy visit of two civil society representatives to Geneva for the UPR pre-session. One of them was a refugee from Dadaab representing KADANA, who was able to articulate realities and recommendations in a compelling manner in their meetings with ten diplomatic missions. It should be noted that refugees from the Global South are seldom able to raise their own voice directly in international forums, as getting a travel document is extremely difficult.

5. Rights of Women

Amplifying the voice of Survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has faced one of the deadliest conflict between 1996 and 2003 with over 5 million deaths. Sexual violence has been largely used as a weapon of war, and despite the official end of the conflict, sexual violence and rapes are still widespread, especially in conflict-affected provinces such as North and South Kivu, as well as Kasai.

LO C A L The Movement of Survivors of Sexual Violence was created in 2017 with the support of Dr Denis Mukwege in Eastern DRC. Its aim is to break the silence and empower survivors to participate in the fight against sexual violence. LWF, in partnership with the Mukwege foundation and the Survivors Movement, supported the extension of the movement in Kasai province, where the forgotten crisis has led to widespread sexual and gender-based violence.

As a result, 289 women have joined the network in Kasai, and 1800 participated in awareness raising activities. Three survivors were identified as coordinators for the regional network and have raised their voice to fight against stigmatisation of survivors. 8 radio shows were broadcast in the local language Tshiluba to raise awareness amongst the broader community on the impact of sexual violence. The network is now a recognised actor at the provincial level.

NA T I O N A L LWF ensured a close coordination between the new network in Kasai and the Survivors Movement in Eastern DRC, whose members are more experienced. Survivors from Kasai were able to travel to Bukavu in Eastern DRC to participate in activities led by the national movement, in particular around the Interna-




The movie SEMA (Breaking the silence in Swahili) is a compelling story on surviving sexual violence in time of conflict, made by the Survivors Movement of DRC.



tional Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in conflict and the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

INTERNATIONAL LWF, the Mukwege foundation and the Survivors Movement collaborated on several advocacy opportunities. The national coordinator of the Survivors Movement travelled to Geneva for the Universal Periodic Review of DRC. Several issues were highlighted during this visit around holistic care for survivors, prevention of sexual violence, the fight against impunity for perpetrators and the need for a reparation fund for victims. The same organizations submitted a joint report titled “The voice of survivors of sexual violence in conflict” to the CEDAW committee for the review of DRC. In addition, LWF organized a capacity-building and training event on advocacy and public speaking for seven members of the International Network of Survivors (SEMA) in Geneva. The movie “Breaking the silence” produced by the Survivors Movement in DRC was screened at the University of Geneva during this visit.

Examples of Impact in 2019

	Key processes	Key achievements
 LOCAL	In Chad, 11 support committees were created integrating members of the host communities and refugees, aiming at creating spaces of negotiation for refugees to access pieces of land and for a better integration as a whole.	75 people benefitted from capacity building in entrepreneurship, out of which 52 were supported to start an income generating activity; in addition, 150 households benefitted from agricultural tools and seeds.
	In Colombia, the Guardian Body of the Atrato benefitted from capacity-building and coaching, so as to empower them in claiming the recovery of their food sovereignty.	As a result of a research to assess food sovereignty and production patterns in Chocó, 12 initiatives were identified to develop livelihood projects in breeding, environmental education, art craft, cultural activities and traditional medicine.
	In Myanmar, LWF collaborated with local NGOs in the 16 Days of Activism campaign on preventing violence against women, reaching over 290 community members.	LWF assisted communities to claim their right to a legal identity. As a result, birth registration applications were filed for 426 children from Ann Township.
	In Mozambique, campaigns against child marriage were carried out in Sofala Province in 32 schools and through 20 community trainings. The law that criminalizes child marriage was approved by the Assembly of the Republic, and is being disseminated in the communities.	26 schools in the districts of Buzi and Chibabava have integrated early marriage into their educational curriculum. As a result of community-led action, about 80% of girls who had left school because of early marriages are now back in school.
 NATIONAL	In South Sudan, LWF organized a capacity building workshop on the drafting of Mid-Term Reports for the Universal Periodic Review, which both the government and civil society submitted timely.	CSOs were able to engage with Government on other human rights instruments such as CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
	In Uganda, in partnership with the ACT Alliance, LWF continued with advocacy engagement around the Sexual Offences Bill by reaching out to various religious groups and conducting capacity building sessions to enhance their understanding of the Bill and the role they can play in promoting the law.	LWF met with the speaker of Parliament in a meeting organised by Uganda Women Parliamentary Association, which attracted all organisations engaged in advocacy around the Sexual Offences Bill. The speaker promised to have an expeditious handling of the Bill once it is gazetted for debate.
	In Nepal, LWF supported provincial level UPR consultations in collaboration with INSEC, where communities could directly raise their main concerns and challenges, requesting to have these included in the UPR process. Issues include rehabilitation for freed Haliyas, landlessness, statelessness and citizenship for Santhals as well as discrimination for Dalits.	Local level municipalities already made significant changes in their policies to address some of the issues raised including budget for capacity-building for youth, support for cultural promotion, registration of over 3000 unlisted Haliyas, etc. At national level, LWF with its partner INSEC have agreed to submit a UPR parallel report addressing the issues raised by the communities during the provincial consultations.
 INTERNATIONAL	In Ethiopia LWF supported 3 civil society representatives to present their reports and recommendations in the UPR pre-session in Geneva. The delegates held advocacy meetings with 6 permanent missions thanks to LWF's support.	Ethiopia accepted 8 recommendations given on LWF priority areas, namely rights of refugees and IDPs. 4 of these 8 recommendations were made by states that met with the Ethiopian UPR delegation during the pre-session.
	In Kenya, KADANA members and other local partners were supported to submit joint reports towards the Kenya 3rd UPR cycle review as well to lobby with 10 foreign missions.	A refugee from Dadaab representing KADANA was able to attend the UPR pre-session in Geneva, which is an achievement in itself seeing how difficult it is for a refugee to be allowed to travel for such events.
	In Angola, LWF was active in coalition building and submitting a UPR alternative report. A large delegation of civil society representatives was supported to attend the pre-session in Geneva and meet with foreign missions.	Angola received a number of recommendations on LWF priority issues, including land issues, women's rights and refugee rights.
	A joint report on "the voice of survivors of sexual violence in conflict" was submitted by LWF, the Mukwege foundation, the Panzi foundation and the Survivors Movement to the CEDAW committee during the review of DRC.	A number of recommendations made in the alternative report to CEDAW were taken up by the committee in its review of DRC. On the issue of sexual violence, the government of DRC accepted 11 recommendations made by the countries that LWF and the DRC delegation met with during the UPR pre-session.

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Cover photo: LWF gave seeds to host communities and refugees in Eastern Chad, promoting peaceful coexistence and better access to land to vulnerable households. Hawaya Adam Idriss from Glane village is proud of her peanut yield. Photo: J.Daitangar/ATURAD



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