



# Department for Mission and Development

Annual Report 2014



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

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## Cover photo:

The first baptism in the newly dedicated Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) Church of Christ congregation in Tacloban city. The old church was destroyed in the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan. This new church was rebuilt and furnished with support from LWF churches in Asia and Europe.

Photo: LWF/W. Chang

# Introduction

I am delighted to bring you The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for Mission and Development (DMD) Annual Report 2014, summarizing overviews of the main areas of our work with member churches. DMD is at the core of the LWF with the mandate to nurture member churches in their mission to proclaim the gospel, advocate for justice and peace, and work for and with people in need. We call this accompaniment for holistic mission. To achieve this goal, DMD supports churches in the global LWF communion mainly through network and relationship building, sharing resources and know-how, training and capacity development and financial assistance.

The review process that began early last year is part of an on-going reflection on how DMD can better equip and accompany LWF member churches in holistic mission and strengthen the communion in the face of global and contextual chang-



Rev. Silvio Schneider, DMD Interim Director.  
Photo: LWF/S. Gallay

es. In response to these challenges, LWF member churches renew their commitment to grow in relationships through sharing experiences, developing contextual theologies and liturgies, ministering by serving their communities, and expressing solidarity with suffering neighbors.

In 2014, we were involved with project work in 54 member churches in 42 countries. The six projects

highlighted in this report are only a small part of the valuable work DMD does in supporting member churches.

DMD will continue to strengthen youth participation and leadership in all levels of communion life and decision-making, as well as intergenerational dialogue. In 2014, a delegation of young Lutherans representing the LWF advocated for climate change

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as a “matter of social and economic justice” at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima (COP 20), and continued to play a leading role in the “Fast for the Climate” campaign. The monthly fast was launched by the LWF together with many other global organizations in 2013.

Once again, many of our member churches witnessed extremely challenging catastrophes—war, natural disasters, forced population displacement, hunger, diseases, and ethnic and religious violence—which resulted in loss of life for many of the communities served by our churches. Lutheran churches in Liberia and Sierra Leone, for example, were affected by the first outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, which started in

Guinea and has claimed more than 10,000 lives.

During the year we bid farewell to our Director Dr Carlos Gilberto Bock, who returned to his home church in Brazil at the end of January 2015. Marlise Egli retired after serving DMD in the area of project monitoring and implementation for 38 years. Our acknowledgements and gratitude are expressed to both of them, as well as to all colleagues in DMD for their dedicated work.

In its renewed role, DMD emphasizes accompaniment and coordination among member churches as key features which support existing work, development of capacities and mutual learning. Three programmatic areas were identified, namely

Church Growth and Sustainability, Capacity for Diakonia, and Communion Building. Project support to LWF member churches undergirds these strategic priorities and within the next few years DMD will support about 50 projects.

I also take this opportunity to thank our partners for their support and different forms of collaboration. May God continue to bless LWF/DMD in our role of supporting member churches in witnessing the gospel in words and deeds, and strengthening our relationships with one another.

Rev. Silvio Schneider  
DMD Interim Director

# Promoting Inclusiveness in the Communion

Strengthening the fair and equal participation of women, men and youth at all levels of decision-making in the LWF communion activities continues to be a core principle of the LWF. DMD supported the commitment to foster inclusivity by utilizing regional forums, networks, training workshops and ongoing mentorship to nurture and promote equal relationships in leadership, project management and theological reflection. DMD also works with the Department for Theology and Public Witness (DTPW)—particularly the Women in Church and Society (WICAS) program and its regional networks—on initiatives that encourage women’s empowerment and increase awareness about gender justice. In 2014, focus continued on building participants’ leadership skills through training support.

## Lessons learned

- A youth leadership-mapping project analyzed the level of youth



Rev. Tseganesh Ayele, director of the women’s department at the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, makes a presentation on women’s empowerment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Photo: LWF/I. Dorji

participation in LWF member churches. The report published in four languages in June 2014 shows that young communion members stress the importance of being actively engaged in decision-making and want to be acknowledged as an “integral part of church today.” It shows that survey respondents acknowledge gender justice to be an important cross-cutting

priority. In addition, the survey indicates that young members of the communion participate more frequently in decision-making and leadership in congregations than at a national / synod level.

- The intergenerational and interdisciplinary approach in which women from different age groups and regions shared their experiences in leadership, theology and project

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management through mentorships led to improved learning.

- Training in project management and gender issues should be well integrated in member churches as an essential part of institutional development in order to improve capacities and produce sustainable results.
- Combining project management and church leadership skills strengthened learning built on accompaniment and capacity development. Ensuring the equal representation of women and youth in training is crucial in focusing on their specific needs for empowerment.
- A regional strategy with leadership platforms needs to be developed to ensure structural changes and help women who have undergone training improve their skills and connect with ex-

isting networks in order to share their experiences.

### Key results:

- Youth participation as a cross-cutting priority includes strengthening the representation of young people in leadership positions within churches, regional expressions and in governance structures such as the LWF Council. This was achieved through youth leadership development and youth participation programs. Young people under the age of 30 make up at least 20% of LWF governing bodies. One fifth of participants at LWF events are youth.
- Gender justice as a theological cross-cutting priority was developed taking into account regional contexts.

- Through a mentorship program, 10 women from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, were offered training support in leadership and management skills.
- Lay women and theologians from the three regions mentioned above and from Europe and North America contributed to defining a theological approach based on their experiences and Lutheran identity in the LWF communion.
- In collaboration with DTPW–WICAS, regional networks of women theologians were strengthened.
- Regional measures for implementing the LWF Gender Justice Policy (GJP) were discussed and defined.
- Small-scale initiatives aimed at encouraging youth participation in member churches were funded, with six more projects in the process of completion. These local efforts resulted in the production of a media article, which reached a wider audience outside of the communion.

Ebise Dibisa Ayana teaches theology at the EECMY Mekane Yesus theological seminary. Thanks to LWF's encouragement and support, she now takes part in the women theologians' network in the African region. "We are doing God's will in forming a community, in networking and supporting each other, and in promoting gender justice," she said. "As a teacher at the theological seminary, I promote the issue of sharing in the community, networking and gender justice also."

## Putting gender justice on Zimbabwe's church map

In many traditional communities in Zimbabwe, gender equality is a sensitive issue, which is often considered as contrary to established norms and practices. A DMD-supported project run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ) is helping to empower women, girls and men to share responsibilities in leadership and decision-making processes in both church and society. Initiated in 2012, the ELCZ gender justice project is also aimed at reducing the level of gender-based violence and other forms of discrimination against women and girls in congregations and society as a whole.

In 2014, the ELCZ held several workshops and awareness campaigns aimed at eradicating gender stereotypes and prejudices, inequality in education and violence against women. As a result, a community in Chikombedzi in the southeast initiated the building of a local boarding secondary school. The goal is to reduce the risk of gender-based violence associated with girls traveling long journeys daily to attend schools. An increase in reporting incidents of violence against women also suggests that attitudes within the community are changing.

In Kwekwe town, central region, 70 women formed a group to discuss women's empowerment and leadership issues, and encourage others to speak out against injustices caused by cultural taboos and behavioral practices. A capacity building workshop on community and church leadership in nearby Chamaware was also a starting point for an open discussion on gender equality. The ELCZ plans to incorporate future gender activities in parishes and congregational programs.

The project coordinator, Rev. Elitha Moyo, said several gender awareness-training workshops for pastors and deacons



Thanks to the ELCZ gender justice project, Parmelar Chadya can now speak out in the community on discrimination against girls and women.  
Photo: Elitha Moyo

have also been held at diocesan level. "Ordained female pastors have been posted to big and challenging parishes," Moyo said. "One female pastor contested the post of bishop. Although she wasn't successful the fact that she reached the finals was a major achievement for us."

### ELCZ Gender Justice Project

- LWF Contribution to the Project: EUR 20,375
- People reached: 8,700





A youth group discussion on gender justice in Harare, Zimbabwe. Photo: ELCZ



## Relationships and Identity

A significant part of the growing self-understanding about being a communion is the commitment to nurture relationships by sharing experiences and ministering together through diverse actions. The Relationship and Identity program aims at helping member churches in all the seven LWF regions to develop a sense of greater ownership of and involvement in the LWF. This happens by getting church leaders in the regions more engaged with one another through LWF's communication, planning and leadership events. The program provides opportunities for church leaders, including women and youth, to meet regularly. Newsletters and regional communication networks also bring member churches closer and keep them informed of each other's activities.

In 2014, leadership meetings were convened in four regions. Europe focused on the church's changing role in society; Africa continued to develop the agenda for the 60<sup>th</sup>



Youth from the LCP Church of Christ congregation in Tacloban city, at the dedication service for the new church building, replacing one destroyed in Typhoon Haiyan. Photo: LWF/W. Chang

anniversary of the first Marangu conference and strengthen Lutheran identity in the region ahead of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. In addition, the Africa region issued a press release condemning the abduction of 200 school girls by the Boko Haram extremist group in Nigeria. The Lutheran Council in Africa also endorsed an advocacy program for land rights and

recommended the establishment of advocacy fora in churches. Asia reflected on the preliminary outcome of the contextual Lutheran identity and self-understanding process and deepened dialogue among member churches on theological formation and contextual diakonia. Asia's contribution to the Reformation anniversary was decided, while the LAC region continued to deliberate

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on its identity and theological formation process. Strategies were put in place to engage member churches and their congregations.

Through the mutual accompaniment sub-program, regional desks were able to respond in a timely manner to urgent needs such as emergency relief following natural disasters, and church conflicts. Regular visits to regional and sub-regional offices and member churches were facilitated. DMD also played a key role in assisting LWF churches in the Philippines and Namibia, which were severely affected by the Typhoon Haiyan and prolonged drought respectively. Churches in Africa offered prayers of solidarity as well as financial support to churches impacted by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

## Activities

- Accompaniment of member churches as they meet challenges concerning mission, conflict mediation, and leadership training.

- Strengthening communication through workshops and setting up websites.
- Training and retraining regional communicators in new communications tools.
- New regional sub-sites have been set up to further improve links between regions and within regions.
- Promotion and coordination in sharing human resources among member churches.

## Collaboration

DMD works with the DTPW on leadership conferences and programs related to theology.

Regional offices assist in the coordination of activities and programs in the region, and can respond more swiftly to crises and other regional needs. The African region has three sub-regional offices, namely the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA), the Lutheran Communion in Central and Eastern Africa (LUCCEA), and the Lutheran Communion in Central and Western

Africa (LUCCWA). Asia has one regional office.

In addition, regional communication networks have played an important strategic role in bringing member churches together and also connecting with the LWF, strengthening both regional and global communal relationships.

The churches in North America were very strong in ecumenical cooperation and collaboration. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) held a national worship conference, and a Lutheran-Anglican youth gathering. The presiding bishops of the ELCIC, ELCA, ACC and The Episcopal Church met in July 2014, in Ontario, Canada, for dialogue on doctrines, sharing or resources and climate change. Member churches are working towards commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation anniversary with Anglicans and Roman Catholics. The region has strong diaconal commitment towards LWF member church emergency response to natural disasters such as flooding and drought, and to health crises.

## Lessons learned

It is essential and strategic that leaders of all levels are given the space to engage in dialogue. This helps to provide a more holistic view of the situation in the churches and the region. It also creates learning spaces where good ideas can be shared and practical solutions thought out.

Networking is very important for achieving success and sustainability. Through networking, member churches are strengthened in the resources they need to grow the church and capacity is passed on via mutual learning and sharing. The affirmation of unity as a body of Christ also helps build communion and a stronger sense of identity.

The communion comes alive through active communication coordinated regularly by the regional desks. Engaging young people in communication networks is also strategically important because they are more likely to be tech-savvy and responsive.



Introducing the Global Young Reformers' Network during an April 2014 visit to the Lutheran Campus Ministry group in Minneapolis, USA. Photo: LWF/C. Richter

## Taking the gospel beyond the airwaves in Cameroon

The *Sawtu Linjiila* radio project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon (EELC) brings the gospel to the airwaves through programs in Fulani, one of the most widely dispersed languages in Western and Central Africa. Based in Ngaoundéré in Cameroon, *Sawtu Linjiila's* broadcasts, since 1966, have no national boundaries, creating a sense of community between originally nomadic and pastoral people across territories from Senegal to South Sudan.

Radio programs play a critical role in building a sense of identity among speakers of a common language. They also spread information and promote dialogue on matters as diverse as theology, health, agriculture, and economic and socio-cultural development, with potentially life-saving consequences.

In 2014, the radio station produced 816 programs—249 on religion, 567 exploring wider sociocultural themes—and a total of 2,976 hours of Fulani-language broadcasts. Its programs were relayed by shortwave transmission, as well as over 15 local FM stations, three radio stations in Chad and by media in Germany.

The program schedules include topical interviews involving listeners themselves. In 2014, there were 301 Fulani-speakers—men, women and youth—who participated in the interactive broadcasts. Another 203 people were involved in productions through the Gbaya Communication Center, targeting listeners in Gbaya communities.

### Project: Sawtu Linjiila Fulfulde Multimedia Radio Program

- LWF contribution to the project: EUR 85,000 annually
- People reached: 24.5 million Fulani speakers



Fabric traders Sou'ada (in white) and Bébbé Fadimatou being interviewed at Sawtu Linjiila studios in Ngaoundéré. Photo: Youssoufa Aboubakar Bassir

The advancement of women and girls' rights is also a key focus. In 2014, the listeners of the 'Among Us Women' program learned about the challenges faced by two budding businesswomen—Bebbe Fadimatou and Sou'ada—due to lack of schooling. Support from their husbands and the Fulani community was essential in securing their financial independence, as was support from the country's learning and literacy centers and the Ministry of Medium and Small Enterprises. This story encouraged other women to pursue initiatives that help them escape poverty and bring Fulani women into modern life.

The *Sawtu Linjiila's* broadcasts have increased awareness about vaccination schemes, antenatal visits and sound sanitary practices. More people have found the Christian faith, while coexistence between people of different religions has become more peaceful. The program content is translated into successful agricultural and livestock management ventures.



# Supporting Transformative Leadership

By sharing our experiences, we can develop resources and create learning opportunities. The Transformative Leadership and Good Governance program has helped churches train effective leaders and develop participatory systems of governance—critical ingredients as churches participate in God’s mission today. Our member churches benefit from hearing how others tackle the challenge of defining standards of good governance. We strengthen the representation of women and youth in leadership positions within churches and the LWF. The program recognizes the importance of all generations working together in transformative processes.

## Lessons learned

- Combining the themes of leadership development (strategic leadership) together with other programs proved to be a fruitful



European Leadership Conference delegates gather for a reception prior to evening meal hosted by Trondheim Mayor Rita Ottervik at the Bishop’s Palace, Norway. Photo: LWF/Ryan Rodrick Beiler

interaction. In the area of capacity for disaster preparedness in Myanmar, it enhanced the need to develop crisis management and decisive leadership in the curriculum of that program. The combination with planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting issues in Rwanda supported the holistic approach to leadership and management issues.

- Workshops are spaces where churches within a certain region or country come together, sometimes for the first time. Mutual learning and relationship building help to ensure sustainability and on-going development.
- Supporting individual church processes in organizational development has shown the need for close interaction between issues

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of theological self-understanding and leadership training. Organizational development processes are by nature long term and should be done preferably together with other churches. Peer support is clearly an element that can enhance sustainability.

- The expertise and success of the LWF in establishing networks and running global online initiatives such as the Global Young Reformers' Network (GYRN) has generated great interest in other international organizations.
- Challenges remain among the member churches in achieving a meaningful participation of young people in the planning phase of events and other activities and ensuring their active, recognized and valued participation.

## Key results

- The 100 leaders who participated in the strategic leadership workshops in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Myanmar and Rwanda

comprised of 50 % adult men, 28 % adult women and 22 % youth). Issues covered included operational plans, project management, conflict resolution and resource management. Human resource issues, power-sharing and accountability have been identified as issues in all regions.

- Since its launching, the GYRN program is engaging young people in LWF member churches, with a goal to empower them in all aspects of church and communion life. The group's website invites youth from the Lutheran communion worldwide to connect and engage in discussions and projects. It also provides information on the activities leading up to the 2017 Reformation anniversary. Some 150 young people from over 80 LWF member churches took part in a virtual conference.
- As part of the Enhanced Sustainability Program, 12 member churches in LAC were assessed in several areas. These included strategic planning processes,

revision of constitutions and statutes, rethinking mission, renewing the terms of reference for ordination, and accompanying member churches in situations of need such as internal review, financial misuse, leadership changes or internal conflict.

- 23 liaison persons from 14 LAC member churches were trained in leadership and management within the context of sustainable churches. Another 15 people are following an online training course run by the Sustainability Institute in Brazil.



## Nurturing a volunteering culture in Estonia

A project run by the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELC), with support from the DMD since 2009, is encouraging young people to be actively engaged in the church. They can become part of the Lutheran community in which the proclamation of the gospel and confessional identity are passed on from generation to generation.

Estonia is one of the least religious countries in the world, with more than 75 percent of the population claiming to be irreligious. Lutherans are still the largest religious group with about 160,000 believers. The majority of new members in EELC, who join the church through confirmation, are aged 27 and under.

In 2014, a lively and varied calendar of activities coordinated by the Association for Work with Children and Youth (AWCY) was at the forefront of the church's youth work. More than 300 young people took part in 10 events, including a four-day Christian Youth Festival in Rakvere, children's days, a Sunday school teachers' course, family and young volunteers' camps, and seminars for youth workers.

Maarja-Eliisabt Mäe, 26, an AWCY board member and volunteer coordinator, has been involved in the festival and other events for years.

"Being in the festival organizing team gives me the confidence to decide what to do and when. I now have the confidence to perform and explain things to a bigger crowd," Mäe said.



A group gathering at the July 2014 Christian Youth Festival JäPe in Estonia. Photo: Madis Kask

"My knowledge of how to talk to people and motivate them is also getting better year by year. The experience has given me more confidence in my regular work, too, and I can more easily speak my mind and give my opinion," she explained.

"In 2014, I had a special young volunteer working by my side, who will be taking over my job in 2016. She acted as my right hand and was in charge of many things, like setting up the staff room and the information and registration desks for participants," Mäe added. "She was eager to learn and had new ideas. In 2015, she will continue in the same role and learn some more about the planning of the volunteers' camp. It is important to train the next generation. That's how I learned."

### Project: Young People Become Decision Makers

- LWF contribution to the project: EUR 17,000
- People reached: 310

# Reflecting and Acting Together for Diakonia

Diakonia is central to the mission and vocation of LWF member churches. Through mutual accompaniment, churches are engaged in developing better understanding and capacity for effective diakonia, which responds to contextual and cross-contextual needs.

During 2014, the Capacity for Diakonia program focused on deepening theological perspectives on diakonia across the different contexts of member churches, strengthening the participation of diaconal professionals and practitioners in communities of practice, and increasing access to mutual learning spaces and resources, especially for new and struggling churches.



One of the Virtual Conference on Diakonia groups organized by the LWF National Committee in Indonesia (NCI). Photo: LWF/NCI

## Lessons learned

- A virtual platform is providing an important space for mutual reflection on diakonia, enabling Lutherans worldwide to be con-

nected and reflect together on contextual and cross-contextual diaconal themes

- Mutual follow-up on the content and outcome of the virtual conferences and further contextualizing them in programmatic work at different levels is critical.
- The improved database and application of online reporting tools for training support (scholar-

ships) has increased efficiency in program implementation, monitoring and follow-up

- High turnover of project staff is posing serious challenges, in view of which, an e-learning program is being designed to help churches keep up their project management capacities.
- Deepening theological understanding on disaster preparedness and

contextualizing basic humanitarian principles is vital in equipping local churches and communities for collaborative responses to natural disasters in their areas.

## Key results

- The second virtual conference on diakonia in 2014 connected 312 church leaders, pastors and diaconal actors from 60 countries. They shared experiences cross-contextually and gained new insights and skills for improved engagement locally. Feedback assessment carried out after the conference affirmed that 77% of the respondents were satisfied or highly satisfied with its content and delivery.
- 58 candidates (38 women and 20 men) from 18 member churches (Africa 7, Asia 10, and LAC 1) were approved for further training and research in various fields of diakonia/ development.
- 26 people (6 women, 8 youth and 12 men) from 4 member churches in Myanmar took part in a training workshop, which combined two essential topics—strategic leadership and disaster preparedness. Addressing issues of governance, decision-making, human resource management and contingency planning, the workshop also contributed to strengthening collaboration among the churches in the sub-region.
- The 114 people (32 women, 27 youth and 45 adult men) who participated in disaster preparedness workshops in Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, Madagascar and Malaysia, showed considerable enthusiasm and willingness to continue working with the issues, especially in developing capacities for psychosocial support. The workshop in Madagascar was conducted as a joint venture between ACT, Church of Sweden and LWF/DMD.
- A joint workshop combining “project management” and “strategic leadership” was conducted in Rwanda, bringing together 24 participants from three neighboring churches (the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo–Democratic Republic and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (Brazzaville). The workshop cast more light on the thematic integration of project management with strategic leadership, particularly in strategic planning, human resources and financial management.
- Several leaders and development practitioners from 43 member churches in various regions of the LWF gained important insights and skills through a series of training workshops, which addressed project management, women’s participation, gender justice, institutional capacity, communication, youth participation, advocacy, inclusiveness, and other subjects.
- enrolled during the academic year and reported that their studies were progressing well.

## Learning through diaconal networks in Brazil

Networking is one of the traits of vital ministry. The Diakonia Network, supported by the Lutheran Foundation of Diakonia (FLD) and the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (IECLB), aims to serve Brazilian society through a system of support, monitoring, evaluation and systematization of diaconal projects. Currently counting over 50 organizations and institutions, the network reaches beyond Lutheran confessional boundaries to addresses issues such as human rights, domestic and community violence, indigenous rights and food security and sovereignty.

In 2014, many positive results were achieved including seven training workshops in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, each bringing together 15 representatives of diaconal institutions.

Nilson Vanderlei Weirich, coordinator of the “Morro do Meio” mission project, emphasizes the value of sharing expertise and resources. The mission project is linked to the Lutheran Congregation of Joinville, in the state of Santa Catarina, Southern Brazil, and is part of the Diakonia Network, in partnership with other IECLB projects. The work centers on children’s music education workshops, Scouting, and empowering organizations within the community.

“The interaction between projects dealing with different realities, realized through the Diakonia Network, has resulted in new possibilities and a new vision to operate locally. In terms of challenges, we want to expand the network and seek to strengthen existing contacts,” Weirich said.

Karina Nunes, director of the Lupicínio Rodrigues Welfare and Children’s Education Institution, or Cepa, also holds the network in high regard. Cepa, an institution dedicated to helping one to six-year-old children, was established in the 1980s by a women’s group in the Lutheran Parish of Porto



An FLD workshop on food production. Photo credit: FLD

Alegre. Currently, the institution welcomes 96 children and has a multidisciplinary team of 18 professionals.

“We became involved in the Diakonia Network from the first meeting. It is great to know that we are not alone in the work and that our daily challenges are similar to other institutions, even though we operate in diverse places and realities,” Nunes said. “The result is the strengthening of our work and the creation of a link between institutions that have a common identity. The network is a space where we can expose our skills and weaknesses in management and implementation of projects and policies. We believe it is also a caring space for caregivers. I feel that in this journey, this care renews us at every meeting.”

### Project: FLD Diakonia, Brazil

- LWF contribution to the project: EUR 20,000
- People reached: 60

# Advocating for Justice in God's Mission

The Capacity for Advocacy program supports LWF member churches in advocacy and human rights work aimed at promoting economic, social and ecological justice. The program, grounded in the faithful relationship with Jesus Christ that translates into works of love for the sake of the neighbor, aims to help marginalized communities and church members advocate to their own civil authorities on issues such as poverty, environmental care, food security, land rights, and access to education, water and health services.

It includes activities developed to enhance youth advocacy and the European Diaconal Process, which focuses on financial crises and solidarity with marginalized communities. The program also seeks to deepen understanding of illegitimate debt and ecological justice in LAC by addressing the responsible use of public funds through workshops. Efforts to eradicate poverty and nurture economic justice in Africa are



Africa Lutheran Youth Network on Ecological Justice gathered for training in Accra, Ghana.  
Photo: ALCINET

developed through the Task Force on "Poverty and the Mission of the Church in Africa." The Task Force works in various communities, to advocate for access to water, land rights, and HIV and AIDS prevention. It also offers resources and develops workshops for care and affirmation of life through the active participation of people living with HIV.

## Lessons learned

- The LWF has gained significant political, ecumenical, and campaigning expertise in the field of climate justice advocacy. Member churches are more committed to advocating for climate justice.
- The LWF has learned through co-operation with faith and non-faith actors how to advocate together

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for common causes beyond confessional limitations.

- There is awareness that member churches needed time to put into action the recommendations to work with Roma people. This includes acknowledging limitations of staff to manage online resources to promote learning on convivial diakonia and agreement to resume action in 2015.
- Learning, in a practical way, through the “hands-on” methodology in the poverty and economic justice network in Africa. The Matsimbe water project by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) includes the participation of chiefs, teachers, community members, ELCM officials, the LWF regional coordinator, staff from LUCSA and the Geneva Communion office in collaborative advocacy for gender and child rights, accountable leadership, environmental care and food security.

## Key results

- The LWF has become a key actor, among ecumenical and interfaith organizations, in advocating in the process of the UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change.
- The LWF is a key coordinator of the Interfaith Campaign “Fast for the Climate,” which reached 10,000 participants in 90 countries.
- The African Lutheran Youth Network on ecological justice was established.
- The European Diaconal Process defined three sub-themes: 2014 – Platform Conviviality; 2015 – Convivial Economy; and 2016 – Convivial Theology. It also uses a Facebook page to communicate with diaconal actors and share good practices.
- The *Seeking Conviviality. Reforming Community Diakonia in Europe* report was published in German, Norwegian and Russian.
- The DMD/LAC Illegitimate Debt and Ecological Justice Program transitioned to the “Economic

and Ecological Justice” global program led by DTPW and its Office for International Affairs and Human Rights. The program, which includes the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), contributed to discussions on debt and peace issues in a civil society platform with the Argentine Senate. This was part of a UN consultative process analyzing Argentina’s external debt. Talks were also held on justice issues with government leaders in Paraguay, and on capacity building to deal with external debt issues and climate change in Central America.

- The network on “Poverty and the Mission for the Church in Africa is part of the working group of an Africa Coalition Against Land Grabs. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania led the establishment of a National Land Forum in Tanzania.
- The “HIV: Space for Change” book was published and will be launched at the LAC Leadership Conference.



## Argentina: Ecumenical solidarity against human trafficking

A central mission of LWF member churches is to preserve human dignity by affirming life. The Evangelical Church of the River Plate (IERP) in Argentina channels that action through advocacy work.

Through CAREF, the Buenos Aires-based support committee for refugees and migrants, the IERP develops ecumenical initiatives to support people facing increasing poverty, exclusion and marginalization. Several Argentinian evangelical churches sponsor CAREF, which was founded in 1973. Its mission is to promote the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers through social practices that strengthen their integration based on justice and equality.

Since 2009, with support from the LWF, CAREF has conducted training sessions for churches and ecumenical organizations. It has set up an internet-based training site: <http://caref.org.ar/campus> and held several workshops with churches also in Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Through the workshops, approximately 150 participants have enriched their knowledge and exchanged resources on protecting migrants, legal aspects in applying for work, and increased awareness on forced labor and trafficking. Attended and accessed by pastors, women and youth delegates and many church members, the workshops and the virtual campus provided information and comprehensive ecumenical perspectives on the links between poverty, vulnerability, gender, migration and trafficking.

Some comments from the 115 registered campus users:

- “The big question I have asked myself is: How can I become an agent of change and help others?”



Ecumenical networking for support to vulnerable people. Photo: CAREF

- “Before reading the campus materials I thought trafficking referred mostly to drug smuggling or prostitution. Now I can see it also encompasses many different forms of sexual and labor exploitation.”

Self-reflection is often an important stepping-stone towards achieving greater change. In a 2014 workshop held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, more than 30 participants from different churches developed guiding principles for raising awareness on trafficking issues.

### Project: CAREF Human Trafficking and Commercial Exploitation of Human Beings

- LWF contribution to the project: EUR 15,100

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# Theological Education and Formation for Holistic Mission

In today's globalized world, many of our churches are confronted with the widening gap between the rich and poor, post-modernism, and individualism. They seek to engage in theological dialogue with new spiritual movements in multicultural and religious neighborhoods. At the same time, they strive to deepen their Lutheran identity and

values as gifts for sustainable communities in diverse contexts. The role of theological education and formation is thus critical in the life of LWF member churches.

As a cross-cutting theme, theological education and formation is now led by DTPW, with implementation in DMD. DMD provides

platforms for member churches to rearticulate their theological identity in holistic mission in the spirit of the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation anniversary. This includes promoting networks among Lutheran theological institutions at the regional and global levels, and facilitating mutual sharing of experiences and resources for curriculum development. Through access to relevant research material and teaching resources, the program aims to improve and maintain high quality education. The main target groups for this work are churches, theological institutions and theological education networks.

## Lessons learned

- In all regions, stronger focus and coordination of regional and inter-regional networks of theological education have been recognized.



Sunday School children during an LWF Youth visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea. Photo: LWF/Marie Renaux

- The theological networks in the region continue to develop further contextual Lutheran identity, including analysis and curricula development for contextual theological studies. Asia became aware of the many contextual facets within the diverse region. The defining identity factor is theological and contextual. Africa reconnected to the history of African Lutheranism as a unifying and forward leading perspective.
- A consultation of European minority churches revealed the importance of platforms for exchange and joint learning. They discovered similar challenges and special resources for being church in society.
- The Sustainability Institute for LAC learned to work through tutoring processes at grassroots' networks, which informs the development of tools and accompaniment among churches, sharing concerns and systematizing local practices.
- Strategically based scholarship applications for further training and research indicated the importance of diaconal and theological

studies in maintaining adequate standards of professional capacity within member churches.

## Key results

- From the 140 scholarship applications received, the LWF human institutional capacity development committee approved 81 (26 in theological education and 55 in diakonia and development studies). By the end of the year, all but one of the approved scholarship candidates had enrolled for training.
- Through literature support, 15 theological institutions, around 30 member churches and their pastoral staff received 70 subscriptions for theological journals and over 1,500 books.
- Four Asian theological institutions have been engaged in faculty exchange to ensure comprehensive curricula in areas of need.
- Faculty members from diverse seminaries in all regions have participated in relevant international

discussions and developed their own specific contextual themes.

- At Wittenberg, Germany, the cradle of the Reformation, 40 theologians participated in two international seminars focusing on the understanding of ministry, and the relationship between church and state from a Lutheran perspective.
- Curricula development on HIV and AIDS has been deepened through local training on the SAVE TOOLKIT in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Myanmar, especially for local village leaders and thematic coordinators. An advocacy team on the pandemic was set up.
- In Africa, the Ebola outbreak became a priority over plans to develop HIV and AIDS related curricula. Intense pastoral accompaniment was given to churches affected by the disease.

## Training lay leaders in Myanmar

A new three-year DMD project in Myanmar is training 120 lay leaders from LWF member churches in Myanmar and other ecumenical denominations to equip them to work as volunteer pastors in small rural village congregations. Subjects studied during the eight-month course include Lutheran perspectives and Reformation history, biblical doctrine, sustainable livelihood and organic farming, counseling and ministry skills. The project, which started last year and is run by the Myanmar Lutheran Church (MLC), aims to provide young people with training in both theological matters and agricultural development skills so that they can support their congregations and ensure their own livelihoods once they return to their home villages.

“In Myanmar, we have no volunteer lay pastors in the church. The participants are hungry to know the deeper meaning of the word of God and its implications in their daily lives,” said Rev. James San Aung, MLC Mission Director in Yangon, and a volunteer lecturer on the training course. “They are so eager to know about the Lutheran Reformation, history and Luther’s understanding of the law and gospel.”

The first training course from 5 March to 31 December 2014 was held at the Lay Training Center in Yangon, with the students celebrating their graduation in early 2015. Forty young participants —23 men and 17 women—from seven different churches took part in the course, 21 of them from the MLC. Most participants came from rural villages in Pal-etwa, one of the westernmost townships in Myanmar, close to the border with Bangladesh.

### Project: Training of Lay Leaders in Myanmar

- LWF contribution to the project: EUR 20,000
- People reached (2014): 40



Ma Hnan Be being conferred with the Certificate of Mission Studies at the graduation ceremony on 4 January 2015. Photo: Abraham

Ma Hnan Be, from the village of Theinletwa and a member of the Assembly of God, described the course as life changing. “Before coming to study the Word of God in the lay leadership training course, I didn’t really know what the real value of Bible studies and reflecting on it was. At school, poverty prevented me from getting an education, and I was very weak in my Bible reading skills,” she said. “I learned to understand the importance of a cooperative spirit and how to build good friendships and communion among the ecumenical churches.”

The lay leaders training course is one of two projects being implemented in the country, and is the result of an initiative taken by the LWF to involve churches in the Mekong Region of Southeast Asia through project management workshops held in Myanmar in 2012 and 2013.

In 2014, the project was supported by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) and the Evangelisches Missionswerk (EMW) in Germany.

# Youth Participation

As a communion of churches, the LWF is also a communion of different generations. Youth participation as a cross-cutting priority includes strengthening the representation of young people in leadership positions within churches, regional expressions and at the various levels of LWF decision-making. It also means giving young people opportunities to promote practices and policies that have a positive impact on the lives of other people.

In 2014, the LWF Youth Desk continued to work on raising awareness about youth participation and best practices.

*“Youth participation means presence as young church members because of what they are now.” (Respondent from the Holy Land)*

## Strategic planning

- In 2014, a more strategic approach was taken on agree-



Session on youth participation and intergenerational sharing in the LWF during Council 2014 in Medan, Indonesia, 11-17 June. Photo: LWF/M. Renaux

ing the objectives, indicators and strategies for implementing “Youth participation as a cross-cutting priority.” Making youth participation a priority throughout the LWF has become more visible in the Communion Office Operational Plan 2015-2016 and is now in use

- In addition, a specific training course on the principles of youth

participation as a cross-cutting priority was held for all LWF staff. It encouraged them to apply these principles in their planning and daily work

*“Youth participation is a process where youth exercise their rights.” (Respondent from Kenya)*



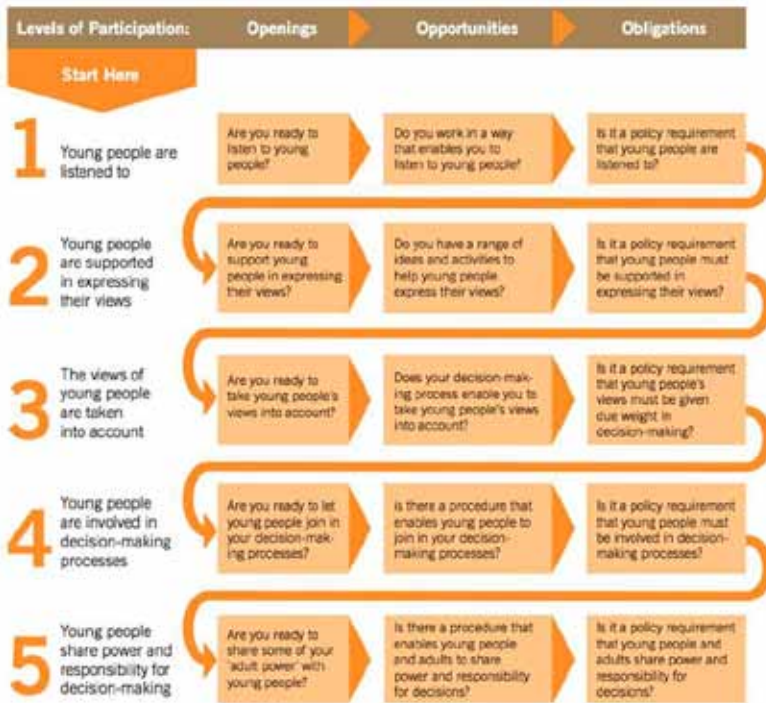


Figure 12: Harry Shier (2001): Pathways to participation: Openings, Opportunities and Obligations.

## Active contribution in governance

At the LWF Council 2014 meeting in Indonesia, youth delegates contributed to discussions in a highly qualitative, engaging and cooperative manner. Their inclusion in meetings was also supported by a special session on youth participation and

an opportunity for intergenerational dialogue. Young council members formally launched the “Mapping of Youth Participation and Leadership in the LWF Member Churches” and the “Intergenerational Toolkit.” The session included a panel discussion with keynote speakers of different ages and an exchange in small intergenerational working groups.

It is evident that young Council members have increased their activities at the LWF Council through active discussion, voting and raising topics of concern to them.

*“Youth leadership means to lead by good example, and offer other young people orientation and help, where I myself have needed it, too.”  
(Respondent from Germany)*

## Tools to support youth participation

Through the translation and dissemination of the “Mapping of Youth Participation and Leadership,” dialogue concerning the involvement of young people and a subsequent rethink of policies has increased. Many youth leaders have already started to use the questionnaire and results for planning their own programs.

Another publication, the “Intergenerational Toolkit,” offers a methodology for dialogue between people of all ages to all LWF member churches.



## Encouraging new initiatives

2014 saw a new way of supporting youth in the communion of churches. Five initiatives by young Lutherans that increased youth participation in their church were funded. The initiators shared their experience via a Blog post with hundreds of Lutheran youth around the globe.

## Youth specific programs

In 2014, some 80 LWF member churches endorsed 120 young reformer dele-

gates. They have started to network and work on themes they identified in their first virtual gathering. The Website **www.youngreformers.net** was developed and launched in August 2014.

The Virtual Conference “Global Young Reformers Network” took place on Reformation Day 2014. The main goals were to: a) strengthen the community of the network, and, b) discuss Lutheran identity and diversity. More than 150 youth from all seven LWF regions participated.

As a result, young people are becoming increasingly trained and

experienced in youth leadership and taking responsibility for others.

## Reporting & documentation

The LWF Youth Desk has continuously gathered, shared and published information on activities and programs for youth leaders from different member churches.

## Communication & social media

- Out of the 100 LWI stories and blog posts published on DMD in 2014, 30 were related to youth leadership and youth activities.
- The LWF Youth Blog published 38 blog posts and had 12,715 views in total.
- The GYRN website **www.youngreformer.net** published 15 blog posts and had thousands of views.

LWF Youth Facebook Page: Average of 2,500 views per week, about 130,000 views in total; 3,800 people following the page.



Young Council members preparing a video on Youth Participation at the 2014 LWF Council in Medan.  
Photo: LWF/C. Richter

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# Organization

## Committee for Mission and Development

### Members

**Bishop Niels Henrik Arendt**, Chairperson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

**Ms Colleen Elizabeth Cunningham**, Moravian Church in South Africa

**Ms Daniëlle Dokman**, Chairperson of Subcommittee for Mission and Development, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname

**Bishop Jaharianson Saragih**, Simalungun Protestant Christian Church

**Ms Eva Bithi Kisku**, Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Bishop Dr Alex G. Malasusa**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

**Ms Mami Brunah Aro Sandaniaina**, Malagasy Lutheran Church, Madagascar

**Ms Magnea Sverrisdottir**, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland

**Pröbstin Astrid Kleist**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany

**Ms Christina Soren**, Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (India)

**Ms Eun-hae Kwon**, Lutheran Church in Korea

### Committee Advisors

**Mr Francis Chan (Cheong Mun)**, Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (China)

**Rev. Alan Eldrid**, United Evangelical Lutheran Church (Argentina)

**Rev. Dr Malpica-Padilla**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Bishop em. Dr Ambrose Moyo**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe

**Ms Anastasiya Piddubska**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (Ukraine)

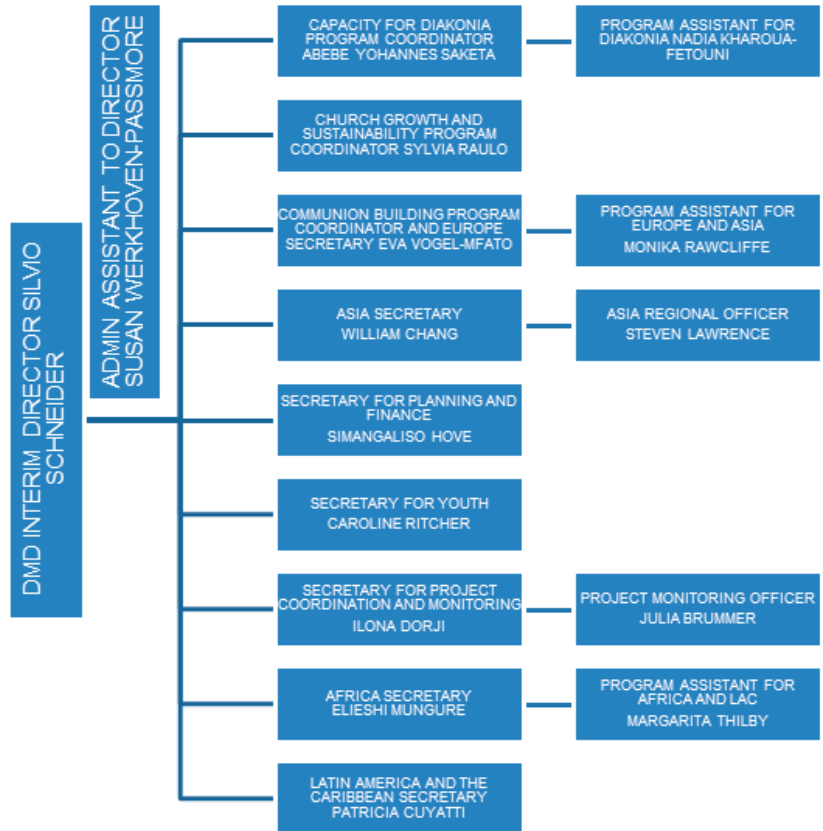
**Bishop Dr Matti T. A. Repo**, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

**Ms Johanna Van Der Sluis-Reuvers**, Protestant Church in the Netherlands

**Mr J. Joseph Villalon**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Department for Mission and Development Organizational Chart

effective 01.01.2015



## DMD Says Goodbye and Thank You for Excellent Service

Ms Marlise Egli leaves LWF DMD after 38 years of service.

Dr Carlos Bock leaves LWF DMD after 1.5 years of service



# Finances

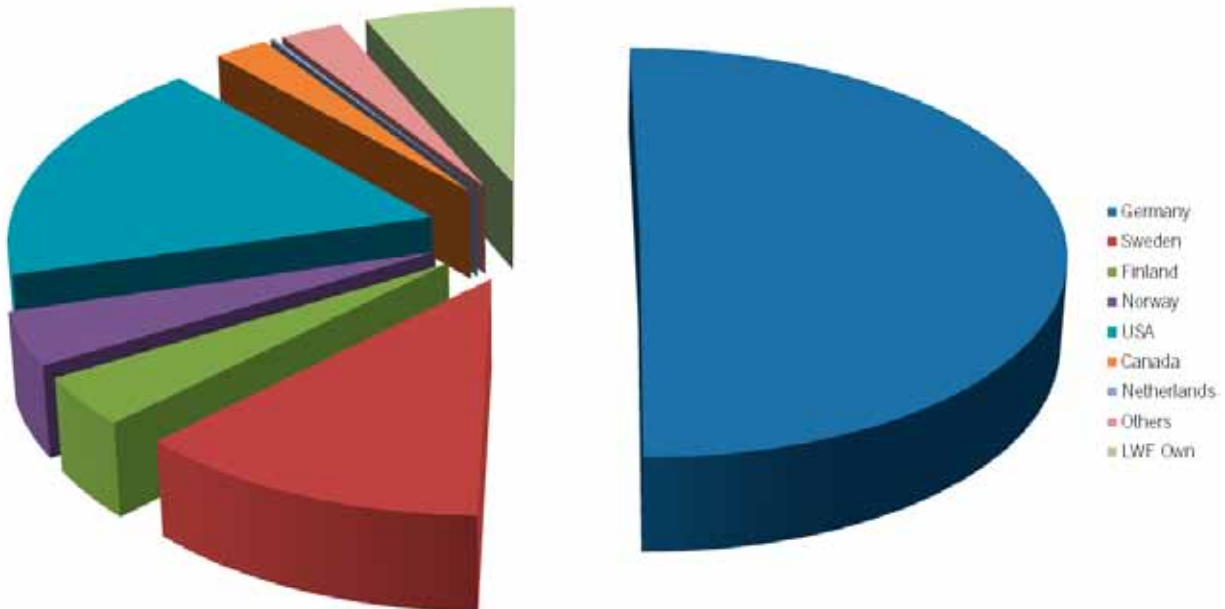
In 2014, DMD income totaled EUR 7,690,855 compared with EUR 8,568,856 in the previous year. The 2014 total expenditure amounted to EUR 7,581,488 compared with EUR 8,418,081 in 2013. At the end of 2014, DMD had a positive net result of EUR 110,367 compared with

EUR 150,775 in the previous year. We would like to thank our member churches and related organizations for the generous and continued support, and staff, who helped to realize the net result.

The income received consisted of EUR 483,622 from membership

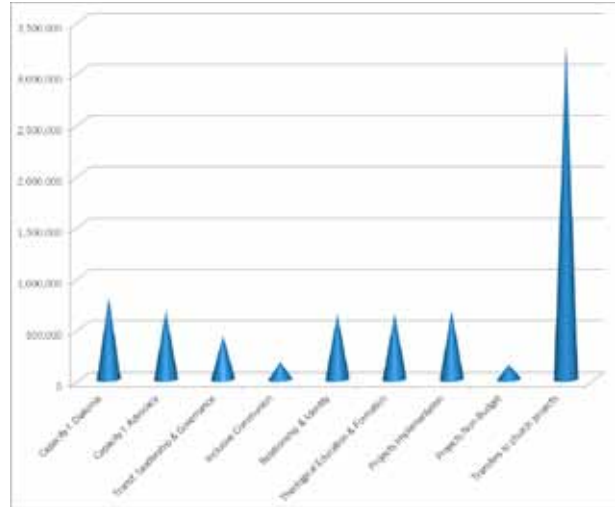
fee allocation, the LWF Endowment Fund and investment income. EUR 7,207,233 was contributed by member churches and related organizations largely in 7 countries, amounting to about 90% of the total income in 2014.

## 2014 DMD Income by Source and Countries



## How we spent the funds

2014 DMD Summary Income and Expenditure (EUR)		
	2013	2014
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Allocation – unrestricted	278,500	254,727
Other Income – unrestricted	57,588	228,895
Member churches and Related Organizations – restricted	8,232,769	7,207,233
Total Income recognized	8,568,856	7,690,855
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Geneva Coordination expenses	2,492,279	2,346,230
Programs and Projects	5,925,802	5,234,258
Total expenses	8,418,081	7,580,485
<b>Net Results</b>	<b>150,775</b>	<b>110,370</b>



## Partners

We appreciate and acknowledge the support of our funding partners



LUTHERISCHER  
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Programmschuss



Evangelisches Missionswerk  
in Deutschland  
Association of Protestant Churches  
and Missions in Germany



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID



THE FINNISH  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN MISSION



VELKD



Diaconie  
Evangelisch-Lutheranische  
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