



# Department for Mission and Development



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Annual Report 2013

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# Introduction

I am privileged to bring you the LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD) Annual Report 2013 with summary overviews of the main areas of our work during the past year. This year we took accompaniment very seriously and acknowledged how important it is in our work with the member churches. We accompany member churches in very diverse contexts through programs, projects, initiatives, times of celebration and times of challenge.

Accompaniment with member churches through project work has been an important dimension of our work. This year we were involved with project work in 108 member churches in 45 countries. While each project has a unique flavor, the continuous thread of focused accompaniment can be clearly seen. One of the reports notes that: "Projects...are like lights that will shine in the midst of dark realities and contexts..." What a joy it is to participate



LWF DMD Team. Photo: LWF/ C.Kaestner

alongside member church leaders as together we work to strengthen the mission and development work in the churches.

Once again many of our member churches witnessed life-challenging crises with war, violence, loss of life, displacement, hunger, disease, natural disasters and ethnic and religious

violence. Addressing difficult times such as these with solidarity visits has strengthened our unity within the LWF. During the year staff from DMD participated in solidarity visits, bringing the assurance of our presence as we walk with one another in difficult times. It is a gift of our life together in the Communion.

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Technology continues to be both gift and challenge for us. We have more and more online communication possible, and yet significant diversity exists in available technological resources from church to church. A virtual conference on Diakonia was hosted by DMD, and we convened an online international resource group representing all LWF regions to develop guidelines for the establishment of a Lutheran Theological Education Network. The DMD Youth Desk is leading the way in use of social media and state of the art technology as it works to develop networks of young leaders. These are exciting times.

Our Geneva staff has been involved in training on gender main-

streaming. We expect that the training will assist staff in implementing gender commitments in project and program work within the churches.

During the year we bid farewell to Director Rev. Dr. Musa Filibus as he left LWF at the end of July to become bishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. Ms. Simangaliso Hove served as Interim Director in August and I took office in the beginning of September. Sylvia Raulo also started in September as Secretary for Comprehensive Capacity Development for DMD.

Times of transition are both a challenge and an opportunity, and this was true for DMD and for me personally. I am thankful for the

opportunity to serve the member churches through my work in the Communion Office and I express my acknowledgement to my colleagues in DMD for the dedicated work they do on behalf of the Lutheran Communion. I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our related partners for all the support and different forms of collaboration within our work. May God continue to bless LWF/DMD in our task of supporting the member churches to grow in capacity for holistic mission and to deepen relationships with one another.

Dr. Carlos Gilberto Bock  
Director

# Capacity for Diakonia Program

The main thrust of this program is to accompany member churches toward increased understanding and engagement in diakonia, promoting development and effective utilization of capacities and resources.

A Virtual Conference for Diakonia was conducted in June, connecting over 400 congregational leaders, pastors and diaconal workers from all regions. Under the theme: “Stand Up and Walk” Mark 2, participants reflected on several topics including “Faith & Action,” “Diakonia in Context,” and “Learning & Sharing in Diakonia.” Some 600 comments were gathered including: *“Our congregants have a mentality that diakonia is for certain individuals...”* (South Africa) and *“Many ...often approached countries struggling with poverty with a ‘let’s show you the right way’ ...mentality.”* (CLWR-Canada)

A key question asked immediately after the conference was whether



Group of participants from the HKBP in Indonesia, at the end of the LWF Virtual Conference for Diakonia. Photo: LWF/Bihelman Sidabutar

participants learned something meaningful about diakonia. 76% of the respondents considered the conference helpful for their work. The summary of responses was:

Through training support (scholarships), efforts continued to increase professional capacities for diakonia. 85% of the candidates (60)

approved for 2013 were enrolled for training; and about 41 professionals completed their training in various fields of diakonia. Completing trainees were 61% female and 39% male.

In disaster preparedness 7 pilot churches from Colombia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Myanmar and Nigeria became engaged in develop-

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ing their capacity in humanitarian principles and action, and working on their preparedness plans. Churches also discussed their input on theology and biblical insights, stories of disasters, community action and ways of recovery to give meaning to events and help work through

them. One global consultation and two country-level workshops were held with 56 participants.

Follow-up on Standards for Diakonia and Communities of Practice concentrated on assessing existing initiatives in view of systematizing and developing them in 2014.

Focused accompaniment, including visits and specific training in 21 small and struggling LWF Member churches in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, enabled churches to increase their capacity to meet the project planning, monitoring and reporting requirements.



Group of participants from the HKBP in Indonesia, attending the LWF Virtual Conference for Diakonia. Photo: LWF/Bihelman Sidabutar

# Capacity for Advocacy

“Start to Commit” training empowered 16 youth in LAC to advocate for climate justice through biblical interpretation, methodologies of advocacy and networking. “One must remember that we are co-partners with God in our garden which is the world today” affirmed a participant from Suriname. Successful participation was embraced by church leaders supporting contributions by youth in the Leadership Conference platform.

“Conviviality,” an art and practice of living together, was developed by the European\_Diaconal Process resource group. Addressing the financial crisis on marginalized communities (Odessa – Ukraine), the publication “Seeking Conviviality. Re-forming Community Diakonia in Europe” promotes approaches, methods and tools to engage conviviality into local and national levels.

The LWF Europe Desk and the Churches’ Commission for Migrants



Photo: Torstein Ihle, Oslo City Mission

in Europe (CCME) focused on migration, equal citizenship, discrimination and marginalization across the continent for Roma. The call to churches to enhance knowledge about the culture and history of the Roma communities invites the churches to promote service and advocacy rooted in inclusive and

justice-oriented theology for and with Roma people.

The understanding of illegitimate debt was deepened through workshops contextually developed in Colombia, Paraguay, Honduras, El Salvador, and Argentina. It reached a high level of engagement with issues of ecological justice in the context of the humanitarian crisis in El Salva-

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dor. The 2009-2011 tropical storms significantly increased the debt. Debt is linked to the humanitarian crisis and seriously affects the economic, cultural and environmental rights of the vulnerable populations.

Poverty and Economic Justice in Africa is developed through the Task Force for “Poverty and Mission of the Church in Africa.” It identified new trends of injustice affecting marginalized communities. Member churches decided to focus on land,

water, and good use of governments’ budgets. The holistic approach to transform communities will be developed through programmatic plans on food security, environmental stewardship, institutional sustainability, and good governance.



Caring for children's rights, Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Castillo Fuerte  
Photo: LWF/P.Cuyatti



# Theological Education and Formation

DMD works with diverse regional, national and local endeavours to strengthen theological education in order to support member churches in their commitment to competently respond to challenges in their context.

The Sustainability Institute in Brazil developed a curriculum to contribute to the academia, member churches, and to serve as advisor to other theological institutions, from the perspectives of theology, sustainability and spirituality. It was inaugurated in November under the leadership of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil. The Institute operates in the Superior School of Theology (Faculdades EST) in São Leopoldo.

Two international seminars at the LWF Wittenberg Center, offered opportunities for 38 pastors to study Lutheran theology and experience the communion of the LWF at the cradle of the Reformation. The seminars combined studying Luther



Working group on the terms of reference -Sustainability Program LAC.  
Photo: LWF/Edwin Mendivelso

texts with visiting historical sites and intercultural sharing of experiences.

Training support was designated for pastors and theological teachers in selected churches globally. Thirty candidates were enrolled for higher training in 2013, and about 41 theologians completed their training during the year. In Asia, Europe,

and Latin America & the Caribbean, selected pastoral workers and theological institutions benefitted from literature support, enhancing the quality of church service and research. Faculty exchanges in contextual studies were supported in 2 seminaries in Asia. Staff training in contextual Lutheran theology and

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Biblical studies was achieved in 12 Asian seminaries. Academics and church leadership in the Conference on Asia Lutheranism identified core contextual perspectives for defining Lutheran identity. These will be further developed and reflected on.

A Lutheran Theological Education Network is developing and strengthening connectivity among churches, theological institutions and networks. A related Network in Africa was formed to address current identified contextual issues.

Mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS prevention in theological curricula was facilitated in seminaries in Tanzania and Namibia. In Asia, a training of trainers was delivered in 12 churches, and a national evaluation was conducted in Indonesia.

# Transformative Leadership and Good Governance

The LWF Council approved a document to guide the work around **Good Governance and Comprehensive Capacity Development**. It shared criteria for good governance in member churches and emphasized the importance of grounding criteria in theology and practice with mutual engagement of member churches. DMD gave limited support to churches needing accompaniment in organisational and administrative renewal processes in Africa and Middle East, but most activities were on hold due to a staff vacancy.



African Lutheran Church Leadership Conference 2013  
Photo: LWF/F. Nzwilli

## Strategic Leadership

Workshops focused on leadership, human resource management, succession planning, Human and Institutional Capacity Development policy, and conflict transformation. 106 persons from 19 member

churches benefited from workshops in Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria and South Africa.

### Insights :

“...we do not see planning as a difficult or remote format; ...we do it as a team...” (Honduras)

“A few days in Siantar busy, happy, met many new people. It was an experience that cannot be forgotten.” (Indonesia)

“Training institutions need to be jointly owned, and use and exchange of seminary teachers has to be strengthened.” (Nigeria)

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“...majority of congregants are women and yet they elect only men into leadership positions...”  
(South Africa)

A regional seminar and a workshop planned in CEE and ELC-PNG were cancelled due to contextual factors.

## Enhanced Sustainability: Models of being church

Grounded in theology, management, gifts and resources, this program assisted churches in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador in developing PME strategies, mapping and assessment human and institutional capacity, planning round tables, and dialogues on good governance.

Three member churches have Institutional Strategies, three are reviewing their strategies, two are starting to build strategies, and two understand the relevance of the

process. The program endorses participatory processes and improving ownership at different levels. Two churches are developing a manual of procedures for administration and pastoral ministries.

## Youth Leadership Development

The Youth Desk carried out its first extensive “Mapping Youth Participation and Leadership in LWF Member Churches.” The results offer an overview of youth participation and reflect answers of 448 respondents from 81 LWF member churches and all regions. Youth participation is:

- **Being and Belonging:** “Where youth have a place in church activities, to contribute and to receive.” (Lutheran Church in Singapore); It gives “A chance to feel that one is a valued member and a person who has a chance

to do something at the community.” (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland)

- **Active participation and decision making:** “Youth should have a chair at the decision making table of the church. For me that’s the key idea behind youth participation.” (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone)
- **Having a voice and speaking out,** because “Youth participation is involving young people to participate in and access information relating to the decision making throughout their communities. It’s a process where youths exercise their rights.” (Kenyan Evangelical Lutheran Church)

The mapping also shows challenges for Youth Participation and Leadership that need to be discussed further to empower churches and improve the accompaniment of DMD.

# Inclusive Communion

Working on the inclusiveness and equal participation of women and youth in LWF communion activities continue to be one of the core tasks of the LWF.

During the intergenerational sessions at the LWF Council in June, the different generations of participants experienced profound reflection and interaction on the question of “Envisioning a sustainable LWF.”

In December a group 15 women from the LWF regions came together under the theme “Women Mentorship.” Three main areas of focus were leadership, on-going reformation and project work. The workshop was done in collaboration with Department for Theology and Public Witness and brought together women theologians, church leaders and those working in projects facilitated by LWF. The major outcome of the workshop was sharing knowledge and experience with one another other which strengthened



Gender Justice and Mainstreaming Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2013.  
Photo: LWF/I. Dorji

each other’s skills and gifts. The second outcome was the creation of a network of mentors and mentees who will continue to support one another across the communion. Through mentorship, specific needs for empowerment and training will be jointly identified. There is a possibility that training support and facilitation

will be offered through the program. Through this experience it became clear that there is a strong intergenerational community of women leaders in the communion who need to nurture and share their gifts for communion building.

The LWF principles of inclusiveness were promoted during the

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Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting capacity building trainings in 21 member churches in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. During the trainings, member churches understood the value of gender analysis in their work and gained capacity to mainstream and integrate gender into projects supported by various partners.

The WICAS desk organized a staff training workshop for DMD program staff on gender mainstreaming and analysis to improve the level of competence of DMD staff to implement gender commitments in its project and program work, and to increase understanding on different concepts related to gender. The training pre-

pared staff to be better equipped to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the initiatives submitted by the member churches in terms of gender justice and to actively promote and incorporate gender justice principles into the programs and projects carried out and supported by the department.

# Relationship and Identity

## Regional Meetings

Regional leadership meetings were convened in all four regions, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for holistic mission (proclamation, diakonia and advocacy) in changing contexts of the societies. Key issues were: poverty, sustainability, violence, proclamation, church development, and influence of Pentecostalism and secularism.

Changing social and theological landscapes and the ensuing struggle with pertinent issues have affected the self-understanding and work of the churches. In view of the 2017 Reformation Anniversary, churches are taking the opportunity to rethink their identity and role in society. Churches have planned conferences and dialogues to deepen understanding through theological reflection and formation, with the aim of being more engaged, inclusive and visible in society.



Bishop Jenny Chan (Asia Council Member) praying for the General Secretary, Rev Martin Junge, at the Asia Church Leadership Conference in April, 2013—a regional expression of ownership & leadership, communicating solidarity with LWF. Photo: LWF/W. Chang

## Communication

Challenges have heightened the need to be more closely linked to share and learn from each other. Attempts had been made to strengthen links and communication between regional councils and LWF in order

to be mutually informed of each other's thematic activities and processes. Regional communication networks have played a strategic role in bringing the member churches together and also connecting with the LWF, strengthening regional and global communal relationship. Com-

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munication networks are undergoing changes to become more effective in facing new changes and development in the regions and LWF. Latin America and the Caribbean is in the process of developing an LWF-linked website in Spanish, while Asia has trained a new generation of news liaisons who are technically savvy. Africa Lutheran Communication and Information Network (ALCI-

NET) in Africa has been working on strengthening inter-regional links in programmatic activities.

## Regional Expression

Challenges have motivated member churches to take ownership and leadership of regional issues and processes. Contextual studies and

backgrounds have been emphasized as a backdrop for all processes and analysis of issues. Several sub-processes were initiated to increase participation and inclusiveness from the grass roots to facilitate strong and sustainable outcomes. Relationship and identity are the two key interplaying factors undergirding the communion life of the LWF global communion.



# Youth

## Programmatic approaches

Youth participation as a crosscutting priority includes strengthening the representation of youth in leadership positions within churches, regional expressions and at the various levels of LWF decision making. This was achieved through youth leadership development, youth advocacy training and youth participation programs.

The LWF Strategy for 2012-17 highlights deliberate cultivation of present and future young leaders to ensure sustainability of the communion. In response to the strategy, seven specific youth programs were implemented in 2013. With a youth leadership mapping project, the level of youth participation in the LWF member churches was analysed. The full report and recommendations will be published in May 2014 to identify further steps and develop a



Christina Figueres, director of UNFCCC speaks with Martin Kopp, delegate of the Lutheran World Federation, during the UN conference on climate change in Warsaw. Photo: LWF/Sean Hawkey

strategic plan for youth participation as a crosscutting priority.

New ways of interacting and capacity development were developed in the Youth Desk. Included were the first social online game “Journey to Climate Justice,” an E-Mentorship program for young advocacy delegates, creative competition on Reformation, online

voting for creative advisers, and inter-faith campaigning for climate justice.

## Facts and Figures

- In 2013 the LWF Youth Desk directly reached 729 participants in 7 program activities

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- An estimated 30,000 young people were reached through Social Media and the LWF Youth Blog
  - More than 80 member churches from all LWF regions were directly involved in Youth Desk Activities
  - Through individual communication it is estimated that 50 youth leaders were beneficiaries of online consultation
  - Three Youth Interns in the Communion Office were accompanied by the Youth Secretary
  - The Youth Facebook site had 4100 views on November 18, 2013 when the young LWF Delegation reported from the UN conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP19)
  - The LWF Youth Blog had 25,879 views in 2013, an increase of 59% compared to 2012 (16,219 total views). Highlights were the “Creative competition on reforming ideas” and the LWF Delegation to COP19
  - 221 participants from 42 countries in all 7 LWF regions participated in the “LWF Journey to Climate Justice” on October 26.
  - With the “Mapping of Youth Participation and Leadership in the LWF Member Churches” a total of 448 survey responses from 80 LWF Member Churches were collected.

# Human Resources Development (HRD) and Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD)

## Strategic Support for Theological Education

Member churches and theological institutions consider networking critical for strengthening their mutual endeavors in theological education, reflection and formation. In 2013, an international resource group representing all LWF regions, was convened online and developed guidelines for establishing a Lutheran Theological Education Network. Committee for Mission and Development (CMD) endorsed the guidelines in June which were translated into LWF working languages for wider ownership and follow-up.

**Training supports (scholarships)** were designated for select member churches



Human and Institutional Capacity Development Strategic Leadership Workshop.  
Photo: LWF/Indonesia National Committee

for upgrading pastors and theological seminary/faculty instructors. 30 candidates (91%), approved for churches in Africa, Asia and LAC, were enrolled for higher training; 3 candidates were

cancelled due to elapsed timeframe. 41 theologians (41% female and 59% male) completed training during the year. Their reports reflect spiritual and professional satisfaction.

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“...the major subject was systematic theology...it really enriched the way I understand the faith doctrinally...” (Ngai – Hong Kong)

“...the theme of my thesis was Women and Leadership. It gives me joy and courage to share these experiences and knowledge with women who are still frustrated under masculine power...” (Jeanne – Cameroun)

## Diakonia/Development Capacity

The LWF has several resources highlighting the implications of diakonia. In order to share these rich resources, a virtual conference for Diakonia was held, with over 400

congregational leaders, pastors and diaconal workers from all LWF regions participating. 76% considered the conference helpful for their work; and 97% indicated interests in further online learning opportunities.

## Diakonia Training Support (scholarships)

In view of increasing churches' professional capacities for diakonia, 60 candidates from Africa, Asia and LAC were approved for training support and 85% were enrolled. 41 professionals (61% female and 39% male) completed training in various fields of diakonia. Returning professionals affirmed strong satisfaction and good motivation for engagement.

“My perspective for the future is to be a good teacher ...especially helping girls to understand the subject...” (Mbuponeroo – Zimbabwe)

“The resources ...will enable the accomplishment of a relevant study while discussing issues of gender discrimination and violence against women...” (Eloisa – Brazil)

## Strategic Leadership Workshops

4 workshops were facilitated in Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria and South Africa, responding to specific needs. 106 persons from 19 churches participated.

# Capacity Development

In the area of capacity for disaster preparedness, 7 churches in Colombia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Myanmar and Nigeria were identified through an organizational assessment, and started a process to strengthen their participation in humanitarian work. One global consultation and 2 country level consultations in Liberia (including Nigerian participants) and in Madagascar gathered 22 women and 44 men to more clearly understand humanitarian principles, strategies and ways of working, especially issues of psycho-social support and protection. Churches started to develop their own preparedness plans including elements on how to relate to national contingency plans and ACT Alliance.

In addition, the program concentrated on the added value of churches. Churches reflected on their theological and biblical resources, such as biblical narratives



Preparing for an exercise on protection issues in Monrovia, 1.11.2013  
Photo: LWF/S. Raulo

of disasters but also the action of communities to recover. The aim is for churches to be confident and intentional in their role of helping communities to give meaning to events, learning from them and challenging the church communities to become more actively involved in responding to disasters, each in their own way,

depending on their size and general context.

Efforts in developing Standards for Diaconia and Communities of Practice were concentrated in the last trimester to analyze existing initiatives and spaces where the programs could develop further in 2014.

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A guiding document for developing the work in Good Governance Standards, was approved by the Council. This reflected the shift from developing “standards” to processing common criteria, promoting

responsible leadership, and sustainable organizational and governing structures, grounded on theological reflection and practice.

Through comprehensive capacity development, member churches

in the Middle East and Africa were assisted in particular situations addressing administrative and organizational challenges.

# Project Monitoring and Implementation (PIM)

The DMD PIM desk worked with 108 member church projects in 45 countries in 2013. Project work involved member churches from all 7 regions, either as project holders or as supporting organizations. The focus of member churches' project work was on diakonia, theological education, sustainable development, capacity building, HIV and AIDS, women empowerment and church institutional development.



"Now we are S.M.A.R.T." regional project management training in Bolivia, La Paz. Photo: IELB

## Building capacity to successfully manage LWF funded projects

While there is an increased demand for results-based project management and better quality reporting, many member churches are struggling to meet basic project implementation requirements set by the communion. They turn to LWF for closer accompaniment on sustain-

able project planning, implementation and monitoring.

## Regional capacity building trainings through focused accompaniment

The DMD/PIM desk conducted 4 capacity building trainings for 21 member churches in Asia, Africa,

Latin America and Europe. The trainings targeted various levels, from church leadership over parish pastors, to project field workers, and increased the churches' capacity to meet project, monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements.

## E-learning videos for sustainable learning

All member churches should be given an opportunity to build their capacity on project management. Since the Communion office does not have the capacity to provide needed accompaniment individually to all churches, DMD/PIM has started to develop e-learning video-modules on project management (planning, implementation, reporting and monitoring).

The purpose of the videos is to help churches self-study, learn in their own time, provide more sustainable approaches to project implementation and increase institutional project management memory, especially if staff turnover is high and the knowledge transfer is low.

## Introducing new reporting formats building capacity to successfully manage LWF funded projects

The desk revised the DMD Narrative Project Reporting form in order to:

- move away from ‘activity-oriented’ reporting, towards ‘result-oriented’ reporting
- make content reporting stronger
- simplify reporting
- streamline required information with other agencies
- 190 project narrative reports
- 190 project financial reports
- 130 audit reports
- 10 Evaluation reports

## The Desk in Figures

### Day-to-day project accompaniment

The desk processed approximately 250 funding disbursements to member church projects and commented on approximately:

**Focused accompaniment:** The PIM desk:

- Conducted 4 capacity building trainings on project management with 21 member churches
- Made 8 project monitoring visits
- Provided technical advice for 10 project evaluations in Bolivia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India (5)



More innovative products needs to be developed says Ms. Teodora while presenting the local womens group handicraft work in Agua Blanca. Photo: Ilona Dorji



# Program and Project Coordination and Administration

In 2013 DMD's mission continued to be carried out through its two main pillars of Programs and Projects. Programs relate to programmatic activities (in line with LWF Strategy) that work jointly with more than one LWF member church, and are initiated, coordinated and facilitated by the regional and global desks. Conversely, projects relate to initiatives prioritized and implemented by individual member churches with the approval of the Subcommittee for Mission and Development (SMD). DMD coordinates a system of multilateral and international resource sharing to financially support and accompany the member churches' projects. Several years of discussion and strategic thinking have seen these two pillars of work come closer and closer with the intention of integrating both pillars into comprehensive programs that hold them both together. This results in strengthened communion- learning

and a more pronounced strategic accompaniment of churches by DMD.

2013 was the first year that DMD tried this integration through its six thematic programmatic areas:

- Capacity for Diakonia
- Capacity for Advocacy
- Theological Education and Formation
- Transformative Leadership and Good Governance
- Inclusive Communion
- Relationships and Identity

Within each of these six broad thematic Programs, DMD developed sub-programs and selected projects from the member churches that would contribute to the successful achievement of its goals and objectives.

While discussing and reflecting together with staff and related organizations on these six strategic priorities at its first meeting in May

2013, the Subcommittee for Mission and Development affirmed the relevance of the six themes as crucial and central to the unique role DMD has within the communion.

## Financial Performance

Our income in 2013 was €8.5 million compared to €8.7 in 2012. This was a real achievement considering the tough economic environment. The key mainstays for our support continued to be organizations related to LWF member churches in Germany, the Nordic countries and North America. During the year we spent €8.2m to carry out our mission, compared to €8.6m in 2012. Of this, €3.8m was transferred to member churches to support their individuals initiatives (Projects), and €463,112 was spent on scholarships to enhance human resource

capacity in LWF member churches for their theological, administrative and diakonia work. We invested €1.7 m and €2.2m respectively for other programmatic activities and Geneva coordination. The department's financial performance closed the year with a balanced situation. This is the result of measures taken at the beginning of the year to carefully plan and negotiate with member churches on budgets for programs and projects that are within the limit of available finances. This has a down side of considerably affecting the capacity of our member churches to carry out their mission and development work. It becomes very important that through pro-

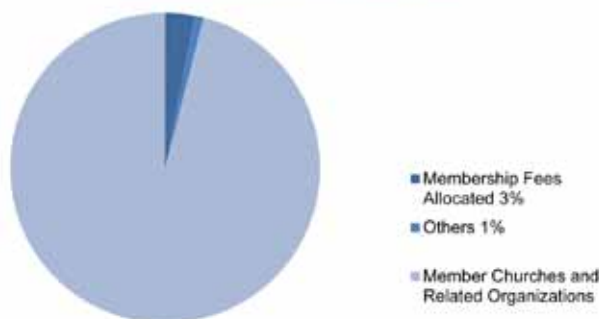
grammatic work and other accompaniment, DMD begins processes of reflection in the member churches on how the future sustainability of the churches can be enhanced.

### From Project Committee to Subcommittee for Mission and Development (SMD)

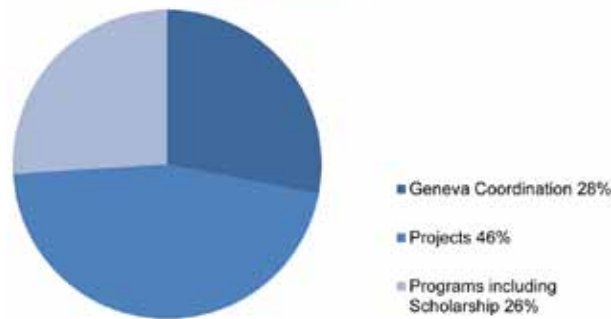
The establishment of the SMD following a decision of the LWF Council in Bogota in 2012 brings a major change in how we interact with governance and related organizations. Whereas with the former Project Committee the discussions were fo-

cused mainly on member churches' projects, the first meeting of the SMD saw very positive and rich interactions between the subcommittee, representatives of funding partner organizations, representatives of project implementing partners and staff on programmatic activities and project work. Presentations on new Programs highlighted how both the projects and programmatic work would create useful learning spaces in the communion, and at regional and global levels. We were able to harvest significant input on how to improve and move forward with the proposed new areas of work.

**LWF DMD Income 2013 - Euros 8.5m**  
Where our income came from: (unaudited results)



**DMD Unaudited Expenditures 2013 - Euros 8.2m**  
How we spent the money



# Regional Desks

## Africa

The LWF accompanies thirty-one member churches in Africa through programs, projects and initiatives, responding to challenges in diverse contexts. For coordination facilitation, the region is structured in three sub-regional expressions which are empowered to facilitate links with churches and the global communion. These sub-regions are: the Lutheran Communion in Central and Eastern Africa (LUCCEA), Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) and Lutheran Communion in Central and West Africa (LUCCWA). The three structures are forums and spaces for dialogue, and empowerment for leadership and diaconal actors to foster unity and strengthen both the regional expression and the communion.

In 2013 the LWF accompanied several member churches as they dealt with challenges of conflict and



African Lutheran Church Leadership Conference 2013  
Photo: LWF/F. Nzwili

other difficult situations in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic, Tanzania, Angola and Namibia. The conflicts, wars and other crises have caused suffering for many, including violence, displacement, loss of life and property, hunger and disease. Accompaniment was accomplished through solidarity visits,

prayers, letters, material and financial support. The member churches in Africa have set one Sunday each month for prayers of solidarity with those experiencing difficulties. Information is shared and updated through the sub-regions.

The Joint Mission Board (JMB) along with partners was another

way of offering mutual accompaniment to strengthen relationships and collaboration in holistic mission and diakonia. The JMBs in Congo DR, Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi were facilitated in 2013.

In 2013 the LWF supported projects in six member churches. Two projects from Central Africa Republic and Congo DR are focusing on food security, agriculture and sustainable livelihood. Two projects from Madagascar focus on enhancement of the diaconal capacity of the church.

One project from Tanzania focuses on HIV/AIDS and Malaria, and finally, one from Zimbabwe has a focus on evangelism, church management and self-reliance. These are powerful ways to be with the churches as they struggle with multiple challenges in their local contexts.

## Asia

Accompaniment was strong and engaging through LWF projects, and ad-

ressing needs through programmatic themes of solidarity visits, strengthening unity, strategizing key processes and developing China mission.

In 2013, Asia had 32 LWF projects: Bangladesh (2), India (19), Indonesia (3), Palestine (5), Philippines (2) and Sri Lanka (1). The project locations and programmatic themes reflected the diversity and imbalance of the region. The LWF Asia region is comprised of member churches from developing countries and those in the developed countries. Projects in capacity for diakonia and inclusive community make up more than half the projects. This is due to the economic and cultural factors of West Asia.

Recently some areas in the South East Asia region have been affected by increased natural disasters such as floods, typhoons and earthquakes. The Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar are most affected. The Asia Desk assisted in fund-raising and coordination of the relief work by connecting member churches to Department for World Service (DWS) and other local partners. Visits were made to some affected areas to as-



Workshop and Assessment on Diakonia, Bangladesh  
Photo: LWF/W. Chang

sure affected member churches of our accompaniment.

Ethnic and religious violence are on the rise in India and in the Mekong region, especially in Myanmar. This has affected inter-faith relationships and the overall unity of the religious community. Asia Desk facilitated initial inter-faith dialogues to create greater awareness and involvement of member churches. The aim is to protect the churches by promoting religious harmony.

In July an LWF delegation led by the General Secretary, visited China and met with representatives of the church and government in anticipation of a renewed LWF engagement with the church in China. Asia Desk is providing accompaniment to the church in preparation for a round table meeting in 2014.

Bangladesh Lutheran Church was founded in 1968 by Lutherans from North East India. In 1979 it became an independent Bengali congregation known as Bangladesh Lutheran Church. It began with 40 members and today has 150 congregations and a membership of



Children from the Castillo Fuerte congregation ready to perform. Photo: LWF/P. Cuyatti

6000. The church is set in an economically challenged environment and has struggled to meet needs of its members, such as sustainable livelihood and education. Capacity building in diakonia has become the priority of the church. The church has received scholarships through DMD but the capacity built has not met the needs, and it has been dependent on NGOs. The church lacks the capacity to move forward. In consultation with the Asia Secretary and PCA Secretary, the church will

train its leaders in diakonia through a first-ever project with DMD. The project will train 40 leaders, half of whom are young people and women.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

The DMD/LAC Desk accompanied member churches who were experiencing critical situations and seeking church ecclesiological transformation. This is the case of the Peruvian

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Evangelical Lutheran Church (ILEP). While in crisis, the IELP continued its mission through a Transitional Commission for Transformation. The process intended to restore relationships within the church and review relevant documents for good governance. With the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELKS), there were stimulating processes for church governance, and DMD was motivational in the election of the church's Executive Council and Board. Today the ELKS is focusing on redefining its mission. Dialogues with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) and the United Evangelical Church (IELU) in Argentina are enriching ways to support inclusive ministries within the LWF communion.

In the platform of the LAC – HIV Network, exchanges between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO) and the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (ICLH), the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope took place in 2013. The exchanges aimed at reciprocal learning, growing, and enriching one another's work. Plans for future visits are be-

ing developed between the United Evangelical Church and the Lutheran Costa Rican Church (ILCO). In addition, theologians, people living with HIV, volunteers, and program managers have developed articles for the publication of a book. It will serve as a resource, drawing or harvesting from on-going praxis for mutual learning.

DMD has accompanied the Lutheran Church in Chile (ILCH) in its commitment to accomplish processes towards the ordination of the first female pastor. The candidate passed her ministerial exams in December 2013 and will be ordained in 2014. With this accomplishment, all the LAC member churches in the LWF now support and ordain female pastors in ministry.

The member churches' projects, classified alongside programmatic themes are like lights that will shine in the midst of dark realities and contexts, with the support of partners.

## Europe

The unification of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches of France into

the new United Protestant Church of France, was celebrated in Lyon, France in May. Festive worship and information stands about the church's missionary and outreach work celebrated affirmed the new church as a creative, open and hospitable communion.

In the light of the LWF Council themes and decisions, the 2013 region's meeting's six delegates from the 3 European regions assessed the challenges and issues pertinent in Europe: resourcing the communion, church and state relationships within secularization and globalization, and Reformation Anniversary preparations. For broadening communion building in Europe, regional platforms shall open space for sharing from European thematic initiatives coordinated through member churches.

The board of the LWF Center Wittenberg met to discuss the yearly report, plans and strategies for the next year. Feedback from around the world confirms the Center's role in promoting the sense of belonging to a global communion. The Ger-



man National Committee's Program Committee offered space for sharing from LWF member churches' commitment in mission and diakonia, and discussed strengthened collaboration and resource sharing in the communion.

A visit was paid to the Protestant Church in the Netherlands with discussions on membership concerns and strengthening relationships and future collaboration.

In 2013, individual visitors and groups from member churches in Germany, Austria, France, Es-

tonia, Finland, and Kazakhstan were welcomed and accompanied. Deepening insight into the work of the Communion Office, the broader ecumenical context, partnership relations and collaboration were focal issues. The encounters revealed strong interest from local members and leadership to share in LWF's thematic work.

Projects from member churches in Czech Republic and Latvia plan to strengthen service with vulnerable young people, offer students from marginalized Central Eastern Euro-

pean regions innovative contextual formation for diakonia, and renew the concept of prophetic communication into society.

## North America Region

The LWF/DMD accompanies the North America Region through close dialogue and collaboration in the frame of regional expressions and initiatives.

In July 2013 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)



A young man interviews Archbishop Fred and Presiding Bishop Susan at the event on the hill.  
Photo: Simon Chambers

held a Joint Assembly with the Anglican Church of Canada, with the theme “Together for the love of the world.” The LWF General Secretary participated in the Assembly. Both churches committed to working together in the areas of Homelessness and Affordable Housing, and Responsible Resource Extraction.

The ELCIC continues to place strong emphasis on Spiritual Renewal, inviting people to take on a more focused discipleship as they pray, read, worship, study, serve, give and tell.

On August 2013, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly elected Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as Presiding Bishop. Bishop Eaton has sent a letter to US Secretary of State John Kerry in support of Augusta Victoria Hospital. The ELCA has requested the US government to engage the Palestinian Authority regarding payment to the hospital for services provided to Palestinian citizens. The ELCA has also expressed support to the Council of Churches of Malaysia and two ELCA companion Lutheran churches there regarding the confis-

cation of Bibles that use “Allah” in reference to God.

With the goal of learning together with other churches around the world, the ELCA submitted a project “South West Detroit Co-operative Ventures” to the LWF/DMD. The project engages work and capacity building with youth and women.

For their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and looking toward the next 25 years, the ELCA launched a campaign “Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.” With a goal of raising \$198 million over the next five years, the ELCA hopes to increase the church’s capacity to support congregational renewal and planting of new congregations; form and support new lay, ordained and global leaders for mission; encourage and form lay youth and young adult leaders; support the church’s disability ministry; bolster ELCA’s commitment to walk with global companion churches in shared witness; and expand efforts to address poverty and hunger.



# Semper Reformanda

## Youth Participation from Theory to Practice

*Ms. Caroline Richter, LWF Youth Secretary - Introductory Remark and Feature Story DMD Annual Report*

A young woman gets off the train, somewhere in a big city in India. She is welcomed by a large crowd of people and media teams. People greet her and surround her. Some offer her flowers and sing cheerful songs. They want to know everything...everything about what happened during her long travel abroad. Everything on how she made her people and her church known in such a big conference, among politicians and faith leaders of the world. How did this all happen?

When I met this young woman two months earlier in a small town in the state of Orissa, she was helping organize a youth conference on Ecological and Social Justice. More than 500 young people, Lutherans and youth from other faith background had arrived. She spoke to



LWF Delegate for Asia: Ms Pranita Biswasi at the 19th UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change  
Photo: LWF/Sean Hawkey

the workshop groups and moderated sessions in her very calm, humble, and yet determined way. This surprised me as I had not seen many young Indian women in leadership.

The young people met, celebrated, worshiped, sang, and seriously engaged in discussions

about climate change and how it can be addressed. They negotiated a statement to deliver to their church leaders, talked about action points and discussed how the church can best engage for more climate justice.

Then super Typhoon Phailin arrived.

Theory changed to practice in one day. Storm and rain, fear of losing houses and belongings, anxiousness in not reaching home safely suddenly mixed up the gathering. The organizers quickly concluded the conference and sent everyone home to be with their families. Climate change had changed the Climate Change conference. One million people lost everything and became homeless because of Phailin.

Just one month later this young woman travelled to Europe. She was invited to attend the UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change in Warsaw. The LWF decided to send an entirely young delegation to negotiate, advocate and liaise with other faith organizations to demand more climate justice.

The visibility of the LWF became enormous as the young delegation decided to “Fast for the Climate” during the Conference. They inspired other faith representatives to join in an “Interfaith Call to Fast for Climate Justice.” They organized two press conferences at the UN Climate summit to speak about the effects of extreme water on



Polish LWF delegate Mr Piotrek S Sztwiernia explains “Fast for the Climate” in the Interfaith Session at COP19. Photo: LWF/Sean Hawkey

people of their churches and communities. The young woman spoke about super Thypoan Phailin that had just hit her people so hard. She contacted an official Indian delegation and asked to speak with them about climate politics, and she contacted local media in India to report on the conference and LWF’s engagement. She met with LWF partners who supported this program.

She made visible what effective youth participation means for the LWF:

“Youth participation is allowing young people to take leading and decision making positions and let their voices be heard. Young people show interest in programs and activities when their fellow youths are leading or if they took part in the planning and preparation of the program.” (Respondent from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi)

“Youth Participation means active sharing of ideas, resources,

participation and time, so that participants feel that they belong to the community, the congregation and the church. A chance to feel that one is a valued member and a person who has a chance to do something in the community.” (Respondent from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland)

The LWF delegation to the UN Conference on Climate change did not stop there. They gave interviews to 40 different national and interna-

tional media. They used the chance to meet the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Ms Christina Figueres to hand over the “Interfaith Call to Fast for the Climate” they had initiated. They discussed with her the engagement of faith communities for climate justice which led to the LWF’s delegation being invited into the “International Faith-based Liaison Committee to the UNFCCC Secretariat,” to represent the LWF and the young generation. The delegates are continuing their engagement locally and globally

by forming the LWF Working Group on Climate Justice in 2014.

Let us hear more voices:

Ms Raquel Kleber, 24, LWF advocacy intern from Brazil: *“I can translate the experience at COP 19 as engaging in high-level advocacy with national governments and political leaders through the fasting campaign, while gaining awareness on climate justice.”*

Martin Kopp, 26, France: *“This conference has taught me that advocacy is not only a matter of knowing the issue and speaking out loud, it is about talking to the right person at the right moment; making a difference is a question of good strategy.”*

Ms Iwona Baraniec, 29, an LWF Council member from Poland who coordinated the ecumenical and interfaith cooperation during the conference: *“COP 19 offered the churches of Poland an opportunity to reflect on climate justice. I think we should all realize how important*



LWF Council Member Elijah A.Zina from Liberia with the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Ms Christina Figueres. Photo: LWF/Sean Hawkey

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*our role and responsibility for God's creation is."*

Ms Matilda Mattson, 21, from Sweden: *"We have succeeded to build something that is bigger than us and hopefully it will continue to grow and grow and actually lead somewhere."*

The young woman from India, Ms Pranita Biswasi, 24 years old, has now gone further with her engagement. Her church and their partner church offered her a scholarship to study an additional year in environmental science in a German university, following the goal to become an excellent leader for a church that was hit hard by effects of extreme weather events and needs young Lutherans to speak out, be listened to and act.

## Current engagement of youth participation

The Youth Desk carried out "Mapping of Youth Participation" in 2013 with more than 60% of the LWF

member churches responding to the questionnaire. We received responses telling that this level of involvement is not always the case.

Some responses described the challenges of being a young church member:

"I feel that youth are always provided a "token" role in leadership and very seldom are actually valued for their opinions and abilities. Overall, with my experiences I have had within the ELCIC and the LWF, I find that people take me seriously for what I have to say as a delegate, and not a youth delegate. Making this distinction is important, as I think that many youth get discouraged when the Church says "We value youth and your ideas" but then don't give us full clout when we provide it. In my case, people take me seriously because I have had a large number of opportunities with the LWF, but I would say I am an exception, not the rule." (Respondent from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada)

Where is the current engagement on youth participation grounded? It comes from the youth delegates themselves, expressing their wishes and vision. In the 2010 Pre-Assembly Youth Message they expressed 3 priorities that were then presented to the 11th Assembly in Stuttgart and now lead our work in DMD: Sustainability, Gender Justice, Visibility of the LWF and Role of the Youth

The LWF has committed to the goal that young people have a place and a voice in all aspects of church and communion life, including decision making and leadership.

The LWF delegations to UN Climate conferences is one example on how to empower, enrich and benefit from the manifold gifts of our young communion members. It shows that by seriously engaging young leaders within the LWF in topics that challenge the entire LWF communion, much progress can be made. This has provided them capacity building, capacity for advocacy and has brought back to the LWF communion the energy and hope in contemporary challenges, spiritual reflection



The LWF Delegation invited the Interfaith Youth Network to discuss Advocacy for Climate Justice at COP19. Photo: LWF/Sean Hawkey

and powerful advocacy work for the poor and vulnerable.

The LWF Youth Desk carries on the responsibility and accountably to more and more involve those young talents in the development and on-going reformation of our churches.

How can the LWF increase opportunities and improve its mandate to uplift youth participation as a crosscutting priority in all its programs and governing bodies as stated in the LWF strategy 2012-2017?

Three dimensions of participation that need to consideration:

- Spiritual participation – Youth are taking part in the spiritual and theological development of the church
- Social participation – being in relationship with others, other generations, other peers, and being in and forming the communion
- Political participation – being part of decision making bodies and church governance, having a voice to speak out and being listened to

Only with these three together can we achieve better youth participation and make it part of all aspects of the church's life.

### Next Step

The next step to full inclusion will be the “Global Young Reformers Network.” This program aims at empowering young leaders in all LWF member churches to rethink Lutheran Identity in their various contexts, discuss contemporary challenges of the LWF communion

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and be a global citizen in dealing with societal and political injustices.

The 7 young steering committee members from all LWF regions describe this network “Freed by Gods love- to change the world” in this way:

**Who are we?** The Global Young Reformers Network is a group of young Lutherans gathered from all parts of the world to build a strong network created by young people for young people.

**What does this mean?** We seek to grow participation of young Lutherans as strong leaders in their churches and communities:

- to reflect on what it means to be “Lutheran” and “Christian” today
- to create space to share their hopes and dreams for a better world
- to empower and equip young people to address challenges and

to act boldly in faith grounded in Scripture

Please join us in supporting, trusting and giving space to these young reformers of our communion that are not only the leaders of tomorrow but already leaders of today.

# Partners

We appreciate and acknowledge the support of our funding partners



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