

Lifelines

For supporters of
**ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND
LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**
ELCA.org/hunger • ELCA.org/disaster

Fall 2021



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Juliana Glassco

Director, ELCA World Hunger-Domestic



The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund

How to give

Online

ELCA.org/hunger/donate
ELCA.org/disaster/donate

Phone

800-638-3522

Mail

Make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" or "Lutheran Disaster Response" and mail to:
ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Contact us

Email

hunger@elca.org

Phone

800-638-3522, ext. 2616

View this issue online

ELCA.org/hunger/resources

© 2021 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. ELCA congregations may reproduce this newsletter in part or in its entirety.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"Let us not grow weary in doing what is right"
(Galatians 6:9a).

Dear friend,

I write with immeasurable gratitude for you and all the ways you show up to support the mission of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. Through your generosity we are able to journey alongside our neighbors here in the United States and around the world as we confront the effects of disease, conflict, disaster and more.

I also write with a now-familiar sense of peering into an unknown future. Here in the United States we may have dared to hope for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, but persistent inequities in access to vaccines and adequate medical care remind us that our fates are bound up in one another and that we cannot rest until everyone in our global family is healed. At times God's promise of abundant life (John 10:10) feels far off. I am weary, and I suspect you are too.

Inside these pages you will find stories of resilient people from around the world. As with the generations before them, they are vulnerable to hunger and poverty when exposed to injustice or disaster, but your support helps to break the cycle for good. Your generosity enables them to be fed, to provide for their families and to build social and economic stability. You'll read about the birth of Lucia's healthy new baby in Malawi, Amadou's safe and stable new home in Serbia, the 250 families finding support in Pennsylvania after being impacted by Tropical Storm Isaias and so much more.

These stories have met me in my own weariness; the unflagging energy and courage of these beloved people is a witness to God's promised abundance. They inspire me to lean more deeply and urgently into our shared calling to work creatively and courageously toward a just world where all are fed.

"Let us not grow weary in doing what is right," Paul wrote to the Galatians. I pray that these stories from people around the world will meet and inspire you as they have me. May our neighbors and their families reveal to you God's promise in the face of the unknown. May you not grow weary, and may you experience your own call anew to support the work of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response as we journey together toward God's promise of abundant life.

Until all are fed,

Juliana Glassco
Director, ELCA World Hunger-Domestic



ELCA WORLD HUNGER

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

4 | *"I must not tire of practicing values in life, knowing ... that God has a purpose for me."*

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

5 | *Asylum-seeker and trafficking survivor from Mali finds stability and support in Serbia*

HEALTH

6 | *Door-to-door visit project improves maternal and child health*

COVID-19 RESPONSE

8 | *Tennessee congregation helps refugee children succeed in virtual classrooms*



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

10 | *Long-term flood recovery after Tropical Storm Isaias*

“I must not tire of practicing values in life, knowing ... that God has a purpose for me.”

Just adjacent to La Paz, Bolivia, is El Alto, the second-largest and fastest-growing urban center in Bolivia. Twelve-year-old Lorena lives in El Alto with her mother and two younger sisters. They are a migrant Aymara family, and Lorena’s mother works long hours. Like many other migrants in the region, Lorena’s mother didn’t have time to help Lorena or her sisters with their schoolwork if they struggled to complete it. Lorena needed help.

Lorena found out about Mi Esperanza School Support Center, a project of the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bolivia), by chance. Passing by it one day, she and her mom saw a poster on the door, offering children help with their schoolwork.

Supported in part by ELCA World Hunger, the center is dedicated to serving migrant Aymara families such as Lorena’s by responding to the children’s social

and educational needs. Ensuring students receive sufficient education is a key way communities can equip them for security against hunger and poverty in the long term.

The center offers support in math, spelling, language and other subjects in which students may be falling behind. It also offers workshops for mothers, giving them the tools to develop their skills and improve their families’ living conditions.

Lorena found help at the center: help with her schoolwork, school supplies and spiritual guidance. Lorena says, “I must not tire of practicing the values I have learned in my life, knowing that I must love my neighbor as myself and that God has a purpose for me.”



THE AYMARA PEOPLE ARE INDIGENOUS TO THE ALTIPLANO (“HIGH PLATEAU”) REGION OF WESTERN BOLIVIA AND SOUTHEASTERN PERU.



*Bolivia
Paul Jeffrey, Life on Earth*



Asylum-seeker and trafficking survivor from Mali finds stability and support in Serbia

*Serbia
Albin Hillert, Life on Earth*

When Amadou, a native of Mali, reached the Asylum Protection Center (APC) in Belgrade, Serbia, he had just turned 18, but he had already been through a lot. He had just fled and survived human trafficking and was feeling lost. Most urgently, he knew he was going to need help figuring out how to legally reside in Serbia.

Amadou sought help from the APC, a project funded in part by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, to start the process of seeking asylum. He found the support he needed at the APC. A lawyer with APC helped him with his legal needs, and a psychologist with the APC provided care for Amadou’s mental and emotional health. Together the lawyer and the psychologist helped Amadou submit his first application for asylum and report his case to the national Center for Protection of Trafficking Victims.

In September 2020, Amadou was granted asylum with partial protection, but he needed to be recognized as a refugee to receive the full protection of the law. APC’s lawyers got to work appealing the decision. During meetings, the APC lawyer noticed that Amadou

was tense and nervous. The psychologist continued working with him, and eventually Amadou felt safe enough to start opening up. Amadou said he felt lost, unsure what his next steps in life might or should be.

“I was afraid of being rejected and returned to my country and to my fears,” Amadou said. “Now I am afraid of what seemed almost impossible to me – freedom and integration that will follow in my new home country, Serbia.”

Up until that moment, Amadou had been focused on the outcome of the asylum procedure, but with that in the past, he feared the possibilities of a wide-open future. In the next couple sessions with Amadou, the APC staff focused on mentoring, helping him transition safely into independence with confidence in his skills.

Now APC social staff are supporting Amadou as he looks for a job. Assisted by APC staff, Amadou is building confidence and persistently pursuing the legal rights he needs to thrive in safety in his new country. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger enable partners such as the Asylum Protection Center to provide holistic support for neighbors like Amadou seeking stability, safety and a brighter future.



You support programs, including education and vocational training, that help people facing hunger, homelessness and other challenges to get jobs, increase their earning potential and break the cycle of poverty for good.



Around the world, millions of people have been driven from their homes by hunger, poverty, conflict and human trafficking. Thanks to your generosity, ELCA World Hunger assists people on the move and as they resettle.

A woman in Malawi (right) is visited by a local volunteer (left) as part of the ELCA World Hunger-supported Maternal Child Health door-to-door project, which educates expectant parents about prenatal care and safe childbirth.

Door-to-door visit project improves maternal and child health

Lucia, from Mtathila village in central Malawi, is mother to two boys. She delivered her firstborn, Patulani (now 10), with the help of a traditional birth attendant from a neighboring village. She experienced significant complications during birth, some of which were life-threatening.

In the part of Malawi where Lucia lives, mothers practice home delivery. This practice and information surrounding pregnancy and delivery are passed down from generation to generation, and women such as Lucia may not receive prenatal care from a clinic or hospital.

Nine years after giving birth to her first child, Lucia became pregnant again. She and her husband received a knock on the door from a local health care worker of Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS), whose Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Improvement Project is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Through door-to-door conversations, health workers and volunteers encourage families to seek prenatal care and emphasize the benefits of delivering babies at the nearest hospital.

After talking with the local health care worker who came to their door, Lucia's family decided to attend prenatal care sessions at a local clinic and deliver the baby at Chimoto Health Centre. Lucia gave birth to a healthy, 7-pound baby boy, King. She was able to access all necessary vitamins and medication during pregnancy, and King received the care he needed from day one. His growth was monitored at the clinic near their home, and Lucia and her husband continued to receive information relating to child health through door-to-door visits and clinic sessions, which have helped King to become a healthy, happy young boy.

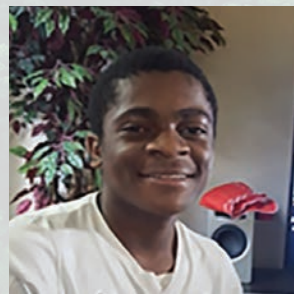
Maternal and Child Health workers also provide information on good nutrition and healthy diets as part of pre- and postnatal education. With the knowledge they have gained, Lucia and her husband are able to ensure that their whole household, including their new baby, is getting the nutrition they need for long-term health.

Lucia and her family so appreciated the care they received that they now share the advantages of pre- and postnatal services and health education with their neighbors, so they too can ensure that their children are safer and healthier.

ELCA World Hunger supports health programs around the world, where your gifts fund clinical care, maternal and child health, education of health professionals, and community health care workers as they provide early screenings and education in disease prevention.



Tennessee congregation helps refugee children succeed in virtual classrooms



Christ Kiswahili Lutheran Mission supported new refugees in Nashville, Tenn., as they transitioned to distance learning in 2020. They include the first high school graduates in their community.

Since 2012, Christ Kiswahili Lutheran Mission (CKLM) in Nashville, Tenn., has served the growing population of Kiswahili-speaking refugees resettling in middle Tennessee from countries primarily in eastern Africa. As the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools and colleges everywhere, CKLM had to shift how they served their community, especially new refugees.

Shifting to remote learning was hard for many families. In CKLM's community, parents and caregivers were unfamiliar with how to use computers or how to care for tech equipment if something went wrong. They wanted to provide the support the children needed, but the virtual learning experience was new, stressful and intimidating for many of them.

Teachers also struggled with students who might show up to class tired and hungry. Supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, CKLM bridged that gap; as the pandemic reminded us, it takes a village to raise a child.

CKLM held meetings with parents and students to ensure that home would be a conducive environment for learning. They trained students to use a computer: how to start it, how to log in and join classes, access homework assignments, submit their completed work and so on. There was confusion at the beginning, but with the support of CKLM and through their own hard work, students were able to succeed in their distance-learning endeavors throughout the pandemic.

“WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH MANY, MANY THINGS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS FROM OVERSEAS, SO WHEN WE [CAME] HERE TO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SYSTEM, WE NEEDED SOME GUIDANCE TO FIND OUR WAY.”
— SAFI

“We have been through many, many things in the refugee camps from overseas,” explains Safi, a student participating in CKLM’s programs. “So when we [came] here to a completely different system, we needed some guidance to find our way.”

As a welcoming ministry, CKLM is not limited to congregation members. CKLM has opened its doors to the immigrant and refugee community across the Nashville area, offering much-needed support for the integration of the whole family by addressing the socio-emotional, physical and educational needs of each resettled neighbor.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, you’ve supported critical responses that meet immediate needs and work toward long-term solutions. Thanks to your support, children and their families can stay safe and keep learning.

Long-term flood recovery after Tropical Storm Isaias

Tropical Storm Isaias poured 7 inches of rain on parts of eastern Pennsylvania on Aug. 4, 2020. Wind damage and tornadoes left hundreds of thousands of people without power, and widespread, severe flooding killed one and injured others. Damage in eastern Pennsylvania was spread across several communities, but the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia was hit especially hard. With several feet of water causing immense damage to homes, the community faced troubling challenges related to heat, hot water and mold.

Eastwick is a majority African American community disproportionately affected by flooding. Located near the intersection of two creeks, it sits upon sinking silt. For decades local officials have promised to mitigate the situation, yet Eastwick residents are still waiting for this work to start.

Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS), a ministry of Liberty Lutheran and an affiliate of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), has been actively accompanying survivors in Eastwick in collaboration with local volunteers and national disaster response partners. They have provided support to the Eastwick Unmet Needs Roundtable and assisted those affected by flooding with disaster case management and other services.

Initial assessments showed that 120 families needed urgent relief, but over the last year 250 families reported that they had suffered major damage and needed assistance in recovering from the storm. LCS led a team of local volunteers to contact them.

One of those 250 families, Joe Small and his wife, has been flooded three times during their 41 years in Eastwick. The most recent flood destroyed everything on their first floor, including their washer, dryer, heater and furniture. The Smalls replaced all that with their own money, but they couldn't afford to replace the damaged walls, ceiling or flooring, so they turned to the volunteers and an LCS case manager for help.

"The assistance means everything, everything to us," Joe said. "I can't say how much this means to me and my wife. We lost everything, for the third time."

LCS continues to serve the Eastwick community and families such as Joe's, responding to challenges from the 2020 flooding. It accompanies families who need help with general construction, long-term building projects and replacing heating, cooling or plumbing systems in their homes. Long after storms have passed and the national news media have moved on, LDR supporters empower partners such as LCS to accompany disaster survivors in Pennsylvania and around the world.



Volunteers from Lutheran Congregational Services



"THE ASSISTANCE MEANS EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING TO US. I CAN'T SAY HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME AND MY WIFE. WE LOST EVERYTHING, FOR THE THIRD TIME."
— JOE

Joe Small, longtime Eastwick resident, stands outside his house, which was damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Isaias. Joe receives support from Lutheran Congregational Services, a ministry of Liberty Lutheran in eastern Pennsylvania.



Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people in the United States and around the world whose lives have been disrupted by disasters. Your gifts support survivors of disasters as they work to rebuild.

LifeLines

ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101
ELCA.org/hunger

Fall 2021

For supporters of

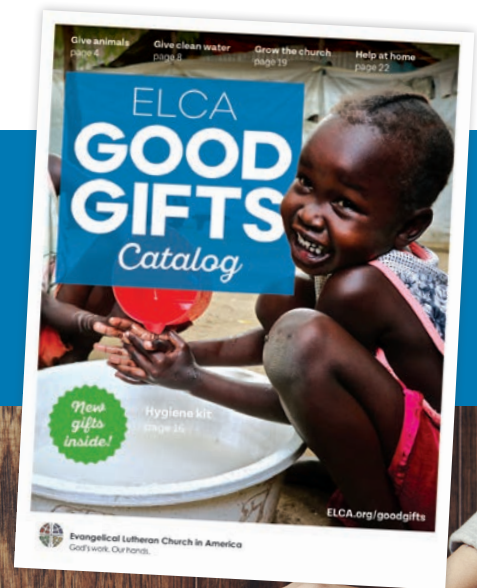
ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

FSC
FPO

ELCADV1445

Shop the NEW ELCA Good Gifts Catalog this Christmas for more than 50 gifts that grow the church, work to end hunger and transform lives.

ELCA.org/goodgifts



Popular!

Warm meals at a soup kitchen

\$20

feeds 10



New!

Housing for vulnerable youth

\$50

for one night



New!

Counseling and care after a disaster

\$160

for one week