

# LifeLines

For supporters of

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND  
LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

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Spring 2024

**2023  
Year in Review**

**50**  
years



ELCA  
World Hunger



**The Rev. Daniel Rift**

Director, ELCA Service and Justice Giving



**Marie Anne Sliwinski**

Senior Director, Building Resilient Communities



ELCA World Hunger

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”

-1 John 3:18

### How to give

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**Mail**

Make checks payable to “ELCA World Hunger” or “Lutheran Disaster Response” and mail to:

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Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

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### Contact us

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### View this issue online

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Fifty years ago hunger was rising at an alarming rate around the world, driven by drought, rising costs and other crises. Lutherans in the United States responded by launching the World Hunger Appeals. They were our church’s way of standing alongside our millions of siblings in Christ who were experiencing food insecurity around the world. **Half a century later you are still standing alongside them through your generosity.** Across decades you have answered God’s call to love our neighbors in deed and truth.

ELCA World Hunger has become a core ministry of our church, working to address the root causes of poverty in **66 countries** around the world. That’s because of you. Whether you’ve supported ELCA World Hunger through generous donations, prayers for our shared mission, fundraisers, volunteer hours or advocacy efforts, you are part of the transformative story of this ministry.

This 50th-anniversary edition of “LifeLines” recognizes the long legacy of ELCA World Hunger. It also celebrates the ways your generosity is at work right now. **In 2023 combined support for ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response approached \$34 million. Thank you!**

The stories in this newsletter come from communities our church has accompanied for many years and, in some cases, generations. Through your generosity you are continuing the journey alongside them – improving health and nutrition in Chile, fostering the growth of young adults in Ohio, strengthening community for people with disabilities in the Holy Land, rebuilding homes after disaster in Maryland and more. The future is growing stronger because of you.

Thank you for being part of ELCA World Hunger’s first 50 years. Because of you, I look forward in hope to our next half century together, as we boldly pursue God’s promise of a just world where all are fed.

With thanks for your ministry and partnership,

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA Service and Justice Giving  
ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response



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GENERATION  
ZERO-HUNGER

Together,  
we can be  
the generation  
that ends  
hunger.



2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING • NEW ORLEANS • JULY 16–20, 2024

We all have a role to play in ending hunger, just as generations of Lutherans have done before us.  
Do you believe that hunger has no place in our world?

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Join **ELCA World Hunger** at the gathering and commit to being part of

**GENERATION ZERO-HUNGER, TAKING ACTION TO USHER IN A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER AND FUTURES FILLED WITH HOPE.**

Learn more at [ELCA.org/GenZeroHunger](https://ELCA.org/GenZeroHunger)



Amajudisa Community Garden

## Health for the soul

A few years ago, in September 2019, a house behind a community center in the El Bosque subdivision of Santiago, Chile, was consumed by a deadly fire. The frame of the gutted house still stands, a stark reminder of the neglect suffered by this low-income area.

But today new life is springing up among the ruins. On a strip of patio extending alongside the premises, peas, carrots, celery, lettuce, parsley, eggplants, Swiss chard and other vegetables sprout from five elevated planters, attached to metal structures that were built from tables salvaged after the fire. This is the work of the Amajudisa Community Gardening Group, led by Educación Popular en Salud (EPES) health monitors and supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.



Feeding ministries and meal programs provide immediate support to those in need. Community gardens and agricultural programs help communities grow food to nourish themselves and build stronger futures.

EPES was founded in 1982 by ELCA missionary Karen Anderson as a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile. The organization has one of the longest-standing partnerships with ELCA World Hunger. Dixa Contreras and Anita Navarro, the EPES health monitors who lead the Amajudisa garden, have been with the organization almost since it began. They started their training in 1984, in first aid and preventative health. Back then they were living under a dictatorship, largely confined to their homes. They learned about EPES from a meeting at their church. They say, “EPES gave us the confidence to gather courage and step out.” EPES is now an independent organization, but it has maintained close ties with the church. Through community events EPES health promoters share information on topics such as nutrition, breast cancer prevention, HIV and AIDS, and violence against women. EPES-led community gardens increase people’s access to nutritious food in urban areas.

Dixa and Anita are now encouraging other women in the neighborhood to venture beyond their homes and enrich their lives — as they themselves once did when they began training with EPES. They help coordinate 12 gardeners from Amajudisa. With encouragement from EPES, the municipal government of Santiago donated 20 sacks of composted soil to get the gardens started. EPES provided much of the soil, seeds, seedlings and technical knowledge, the last of these in an ongoing series of workshops on organic farming and healthy eating.

Many adults living in El Bosque come from rural areas of Chile. Dixa’s mother grew up in the rural area Chochol, in southern Chile. She once grew her own vegetables, but she stopped when she moved to the city. The community garden is helping her reclaim this lost tradition. “Some neighbors had no idea how to grow vegetables,” says Dixa. “Now they come here and have learned to eat healthy, nutritious food. Neighbors are surprised when we invite them in and tell them to take what they need. We have also shown them how to make their own gardens.”

Through your generosity to ELCA World Hunger you are increasing access to healthy food in the Amajudisa community and empowering women who live there. “Many women were not used to doing things with other people or learning new things,” Anita says. “This has changed their lives. They have learned to be more independent. It has opened new doors for them. What we are doing here is health.” Dixa adds, “It’s health for the soul.”



**“Many women were not used to doing things with other people or learning new things. This has changed their lives.”**

DIXA



# Strengthening futures for young adults in Ohio

*Young adult Malaysia helps prepare a community meal at Salem Lutheran church in Toledo, Ohio. She participates in a number of programs at Salem that have rooted her in community and helped her grow as a leader.*



**A**t Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio, your gifts are building a brighter future for young adults and the community that surrounds them.

Salem is the oldest Lutheran congregation in Toledo, located in a diverse neighborhood with a high concentration of poverty. The church's partnership with ELCA World Hunger began almost 20 years ago, when it received a \$4,000 grant for a job training program that prepares junior and senior high school students for long-term employment as adults. Soon afterward the program expanded to include adult mentors.

These days, participants in Salem's summer job training program work in the church's community garden. They have helped transform a nearby vacant lot into an urban farm, full of fresh produce that is harvested for community meals. They have also installed rain gardens and beehives, and visited local farmers markets to sell produce and their own artwork. This year, program participants expanded the garden by 25% by building raised beds and planting fruit trees.

Malaysia, a young adult at Salem Lutheran, has been participating in its youth programs since 2015. In addition to the job training program, she has been part of the teen program and volunteers with Salem's food-related ministries. Now the church is walking alongside Malaysia through vocational discernment and exploration. Along with three other women from the neighborhood, she is being trained as a home health aide for aging residents. For Malaysia, Salem is much more than a congregation. "Salem is a family," she says, "for me and many other people."

As the program participants grow in leadership, they give back to the Salem community. The church aims to have at least one local teenager or young adult on staff year-round. A few years ago, a program participant became Salem's administrative assistant and worked on a grant to improve infant and maternal mortality rates.

Your generosity reinforces a cycle of growth in communities such as Salem, making an impact now that will deepen in years to come.



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

**“We are not a problem for society — we are part of it.”**

**R**anda, a 35-year-old woman in the West Bank, has always loved expressing herself through art. She enjoyed painting and handicrafts as a child. But Randa has progressive hearing loss. Because her culture — like many — wasn't built to support those without hearing, she couldn't find a way to nurture her artistic skills.

Now, thanks in part to donors such as you, Randa has reignited her passion for art. Several years ago she joined the Deaf Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. This ministry gives deaf people in the Holy Land space to connect and build community. It also coordinates day trips, spiritual counseling and skill training for its members.

As Randa participated in the group, she learned how to adapt to her environment. Last year she participated in a workshop on how to make crafts out of resin, and she began her own business using those skills. Randa is one of a very small number of Deaf business owners in the Holy Land. She joined a larger community of makers and business owners by selling her art and custom crafts at Christmas and Easter bazaars.

In recent months Israel's widespread military response to the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, 2023, has led to a humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land. Lutheran Disaster Response is walking alongside our partners there with support from donors such as you. In the West Bank, where Randa lives, small businesses such as hers have been impacted by restrictive checkpoint closures and a near-total lack



PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**“Art is a powerful tool that brings people together no matter their backgrounds.”**

RANDA

of international tourism. Both at Christmas and at Easter, the heads of all Christian churches in the Holy Land agreed that celebrating as they usually do would be impossible, so most festive events, such as the holiday bazaars, were canceled.

Randa would like to earn a degree in fine arts. She also wants to strengthen the Deaf Ministry community. She has led the group in many art projects over the years. This year she designed a mural for the Deaf Ministry meeting space, and she invited the other members to contribute. She says, “Art is a powerful tool that brings people together no matter their backgrounds.”

Your generosity helps people such as Randa learn useful skills that will strengthen their livelihoods. It also helps them realize the full scope of their worth. Randa is determined to participate fully in the society she once felt excluded from. Deaf people aren't a problem for society, she says: “We are part of it.”



You support programs that seek to build peace, protect human rights and promote gender justice, empowering our most vulnerable neighbors to participate fully in society.

# Your gifts at work: 2023

**Pennsylvania** | Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger have helped build the Family Promise House in Brackenridge, Penn. The facility provides shelter, case management and support for families experiencing homelessness in the area.



**Nepal** | Ashok is a freed bonded laborer. With support from donors such as you, he has been able to open his own barbershop.



**Egypt** | Your generosity to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response has helped over 47,000 refugees in Cairo access the resources they need to thrive in a new country. The program “changed my life,” says Ayaat, a Sudanese refugee. “They made me feel that I am not alone, that I am part of a community that cares.”

**Bolivia** | Since she was in second grade, Luz has been visiting an education center near her home in Bolivia. The center, which is supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, provides children with the resources they need to learn, grow and flourish.



**Zimbabwe** | Gifts to ELCA World Hunger have strengthened the futures of vulnerable youth in many ways. Last year 11 youth received the capital, training and resources they needed to raise 26 goats. The herd has increased to over 40, and it's still growing.



## ELCA World Hunger

66 countries  
41 states and territories

### INTERNATIONAL

Angola	Kenya
Argentina	Kyrgyzstan
Bangladesh	Lebanon
Bolivia	Liberia
Brazil	Madagascar
Burkina Faso	Malawi
Burundi	Malaysia
Cambodia	Mexico
Cameroon	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Myanmar
Chile	Nepal
China	Nicaragua
Colombia	Nigeria
Czech Republic	Papua New Guinea
Egypt	Peru
El Salvador	Romania
Ethiopia	Russia
Gambia	Rwanda
Germany	Senegal
Ghana	Serbia
Guatemala	Sierra Leone
Guinea	South Africa
Haiti	South Sudan
Honduras	Sudan
Hungary	Tanzania
India	Thailand
Indonesia	Timor-Leste
Iraq	Uganda
Italy	Uruguay
Japan	Venezuela
Jerusalem	Vietnam
Jordan	Yemen
	Zimbabwe

### UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN

Alabama	Missouri
Alaska	Montana
Arizona	Nebraska
Arkansas	New Jersey
California	New Mexico
Colorado	New York
Connecticut	North Carolina
District of Columbia	North Dakota
Florida	Ohio
Georgia	Oklahoma
Illinois	Oregon
Iowa	Pennsylvania
Kansas	Puerto Rico
Kentucky	South Carolina
Louisiana	South Dakota
Maine	Tennessee
Maryland	Texas
Massachusetts	Virginia
Michigan	Washington
Minnesota	Wisconsin
Mississippi	

## Lutheran Disaster Response

51 countries  
34 states and territories

### INTERNATIONAL

Afghanistan	Moldova
<i>Earthquake</i>	<i>Refugees</i>
Angola	Morocco
<i>Drought</i>	<i>Earthquake</i>
Bangladesh	Mozambique
<i>Fire</i>	<i>Flood, health crisis</i>
Belarus	Myanmar
<i>Refugees</i>	<i>Conflict, cyclone</i>
Brazil	Namibia
<i>Drought</i>	<i>Flood</i>
Cameroon	Nepal
<i>Risk reduction</i>	<i>Earthquake, flood</i>
Central African Republic	Nicaragua
<i>Conflict, risk reduction, drought, health crisis</i>	<i>Cyclone</i>
Chad	Nigeria
<i>Conflict, risk reduction</i>	<i>Conflict</i>
Chile	Peru
<i>Migration</i>	<i>Cyclone, flood, migration</i>
Colombia	Poland
<i>Conflict, migration</i>	<i>Conflict</i>
Egypt	Romania
<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Conflict</i>
Ethiopia	Rwanda
<i>Conflict, drought, refugees</i>	<i>Conflict, drought</i>
Gambia	Senegal
<i>Flood</i>	<i>Flood, health crisis</i>
Guatemala	Serbia
<i>Cyclone</i>	<i>Refugees</i>
Haiti	Slovakia
<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Refugees</i>
Hungary	Slovenia
<i>Refugees</i>	<i>Flood</i>
India	Somalia
<i>Conflict, emergency preparedness, flood</i>	<i>Flood</i>
Jerusalem	South Africa
<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Health crisis</i>
Jordan	South Sudan
<i>Migration, refugees</i>	<i>Conflict, health crisis</i>
Kenya	Syria
<i>Conflict, flood</i>	<i>Earthquake</i>
Lebanon	Tanzania
<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Drought, flood</i>
Liberia	Turkey
<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Earthquake</i>
Madagascar	Ukraine
<i>Conflict, drought</i>	<i>Conflict</i>
Malawi	Venezuela
<i>Flood, health crisis</i>	<i>Conflict</i>
Mexico	Zimbabwe
<i>Cyclone, migration</i>	<i>Conflict, health crisis</i>

### UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN

Alabama	New Mexico
<i>Tornadoes</i>	<i>Wildfires</i>
Alaska	New York
<i>Typhoon Merbok</i>	<i>Disaster preparedness, winter storm, Buffalo mass shooting, migration</i>
California	North Carolina
<i>Capacity building, wildfires, migration</i>	<i>Hurricanes Ian and Florence, tornadoes, disaster preparedness, capacity building, migration</i>
Colorado	Ohio
<i>Wildfires, migration</i>	<i>Tornadoes</i>
District of Columbia	Oklahoma
<i>Core support for Lutheran Services in America</i>	<i>Migration</i>
Florida	Oregon
<i>Hurricanes Ian, Sally and Michael, disaster preparedness</i>	<i>Wildfires, winter storm, disaster preparedness and climate resiliency</i>
Georgia	Pennsylvania
<i>Tornadoes, disaster preparedness</i>	<i>Hurricane Ida, flooding</i>
Hawaii	Puerto Rico
<i>Wildfires, volcanoes</i>	<i>Hurricanes Maria and Fiona, disaster preparedness, migration</i>
Illinois	South Carolina
<i>Capacity building, migration</i>	<i>Hurricanes Ian and Florence, disaster preparedness</i>
Indiana	South Dakota
<i>Disaster preparedness, migration</i>	<i>Extreme cold and homelessness, hazard mitigation</i>
Kentucky	Tennessee
<i>Flooding, tornadoes, disaster preparedness</i>	<i>Tornadoes, flooding, gun violence, capacity building</i>
Louisiana	Texas
<i>Disaster preparedness and climate resiliency, housing</i>	<i>Disaster preparedness, migration</i>
Maryland	Vermont
<i>Tidal storm flooding</i>	<i>Flooding</i>
Michigan	Washington
<i>Migration</i>	<i>Migration</i>
Minnesota	Wisconsin
<i>Tornadoes, migration</i>	<i>Migration</i>
Mississippi	
<i>Tornadoes, water crisis</i>	
Montana	
<i>Extreme cold</i>	
New Hampshire	
<i>Migration</i>	
New Jersey	
<i>Hurricane Ida</i>	

## FINANCIALS



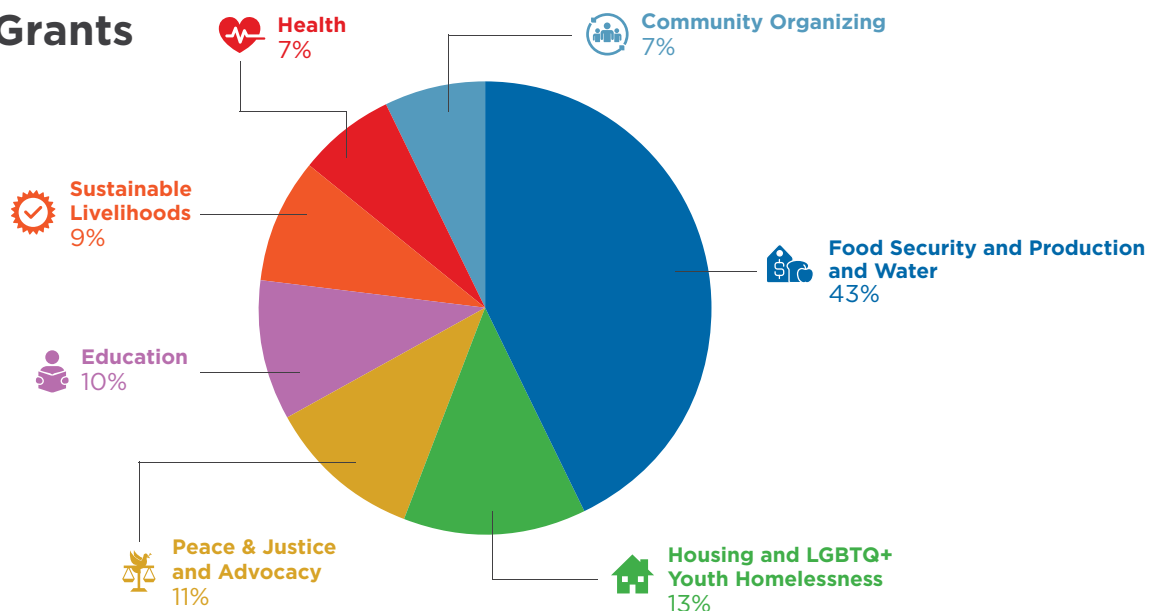
In 2023 your gifts helped our partners here in the United States to train 1,755 individuals in community organizing from coast to coast. Over 300 neighborhood organizers, faith leaders, union members and people from community groups walked alongside construction workers in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., in a mile-long march for dignity and respect, organized by Centro De Trabajadores Unidos En La Lucha.



In Cary, N.C., your gifts are enabling Christ the King Lutheran Church to work with the Farmers of Color Network to educate congregation and community members about systemic discrimination against Black farmers and to support them directly. The ministry also coordinates farmers' donations of produce to local nonprofits that serve both older adults and people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

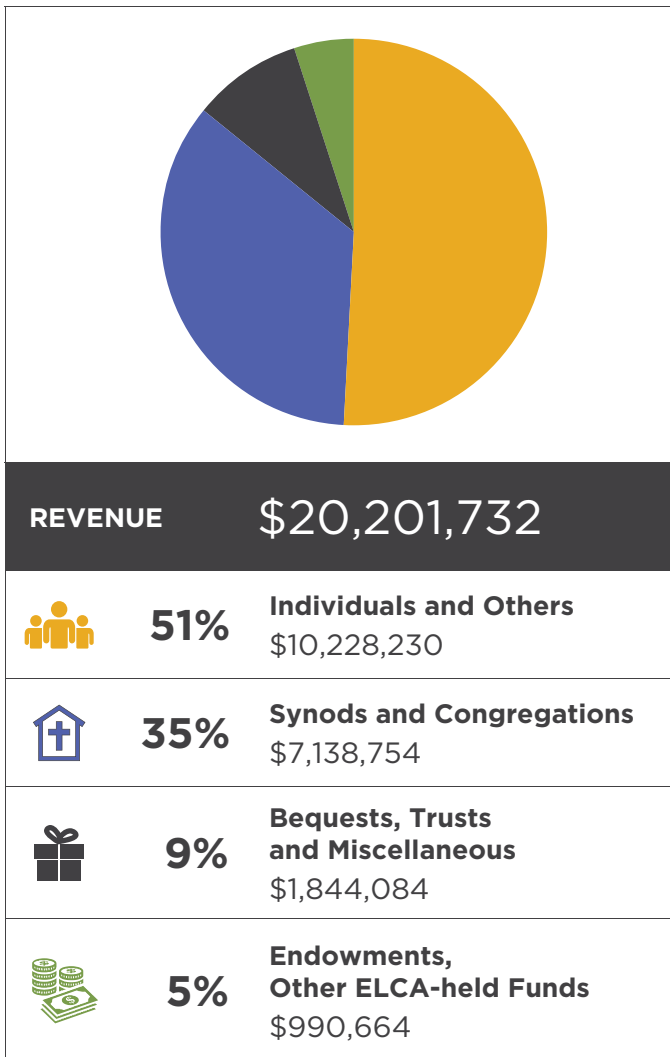


## Domestic Grants by Sector

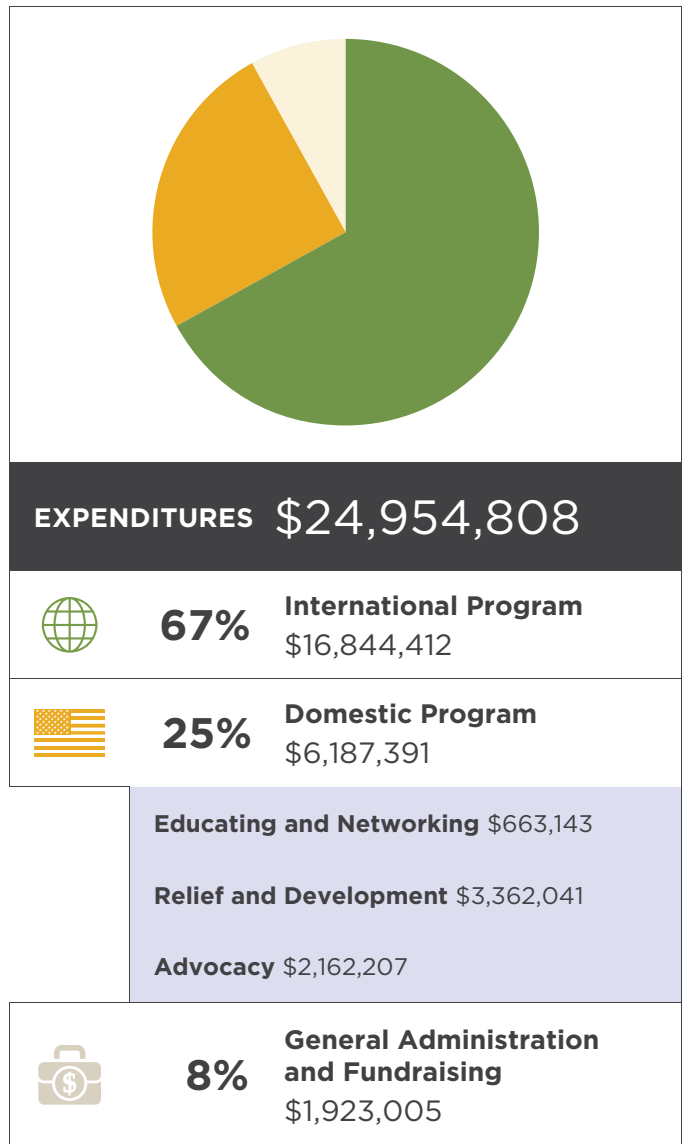


Single grants may be represented on this chart more than once because domestic partners of ELCA World Hunger work across sectors.

# 2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



**REVENUE** \$20,201,732

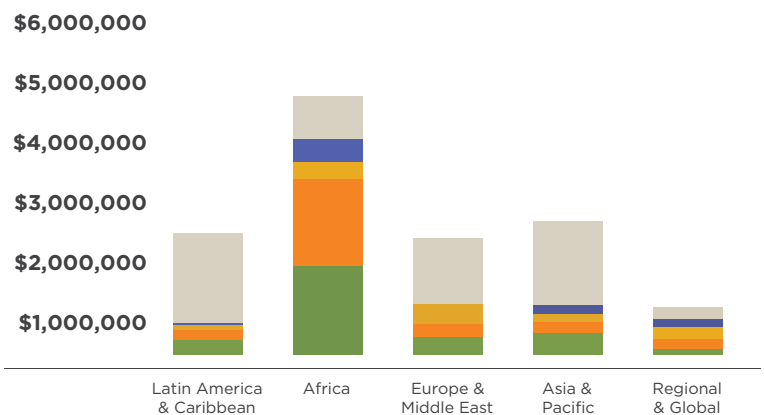


**EXPENDITURES** \$24,954,808

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER**  
International Grants by Sector



**ELCA WORLD HUNGER**  
Grant Expenditures by Region



*Note: Expenditures that exceed income are made possible by generosity in previous years.*












When an earthquake hit Nepal in November 2023, Suvasna Agri's house collapsed. Afterward she was living in a tarp shelter with her newborn child and her parents. She received relief items, including blankets, mattresses and cold-weather clothing, from the Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN). With your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, CDWN was able to distribute these items to earthquake survivors, prioritizing Dalit, Indigenous and marginalized families in rural areas.















# Lutheran Disaster Response

# 2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE		\$13,698,753
BY SOURCE		
	60%	<b>Individuals and Others</b> \$8,210,536
	40%	<b>Synods and Congregations</b> \$5,488,217
BY DESIGNATION		
	54%	<b>General Undesignated Support</b> \$7,395,318
	46%	<b>Specific Designated Support</b> \$6,303,435

EXPENDITURES		\$18,325,596
BY TYPE		
	62%	<b>International</b> \$11,503,633
	33%	<b>United States</b> \$6,008,478
	5%	<b>Fundraising and Administration</b> \$813,485
BY FUND		
	52%	<b>Specific Designated Support</b> \$9,537,810
	48%	<b>General Undesignated Support</b> \$8,787,786

HIGHLIGHTED EXPENDITURES	
UNITED STATES	
	38% <b>Hurricanes</b>
	18% <b>Capacity Building, Core Support, Emotional and Spiritual Care</b>
	18% <b>Wildfires</b>
	16% <b>Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Floods and Other Disasters</b>
	6% <b>Migration</b>
	4% <b>Operations</b>
INTERNATIONAL	
	50% <b>Europe and Middle East</b> <i>(war in Ukraine, refugee crisis)</i>
	18% <b>Africa</b> <i>(drought, conflict, health crisis, hurricane, refugee crisis)</i>
	9% <b>Latin America and Caribbean</b> <i>(earthquake, flood, COVID-19, drought, hurricane, migrants — including AMMPARO)</i>
	8% <b>Asia</b> <i>(flood, disaster preparedness, hurricane, refugee crisis)</i>
	8% <b>Global Grants</b>
	7% <b>Operations</b>

Percentages are approximate.

Note: Expenditures exceed income primarily due to disasters for which there is a multi-year response.

Unaudited financial highlights for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2024.

# Repairing homes and preparing for the future in Maryland

In the past, whenever her area was under a flood warning, Annette Morgan knew that it meant water would get into her home.

Annette lives in Crisfield, Md., one of the oldest communities and commercial fishing and seafood centers of Chesapeake Bay.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been accompanying the Crisfield community since Hurricane Sandy caused widespread flooding in 2012. At the time, Lutheran Disaster Response supported the rebuilding efforts of the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee (SCLTRC). Leaders designed the recovery committee with intention and sensitivity to the long history of racism and exclusion of Black people from decision-making.

While recovery from Hurricane Sandy had been largely completed by fall 2021, Crisfield and other nearby communities experienced extreme coastal flooding that October. Community leaders have determined that unless they raise homes more than eight feet aboveground, they will be constantly repairing flood damage to homes.

Because of the legacy of the SCLTRC, the community was ready to plan and work toward equitable recovery through an intentional, transformational process, and it quickly formed the Eastern Shore Long-Term Recovery Committee with the same emphasis on representing the community's diversity.

With funding from Lutheran Disaster Response, the local government and other partners, the long-term recovery committee has progressed to the second phase of the



rebuilding project, raising 108 homes — including Annette's — to lessen the impacts of inevitable future flooding.

"Now, in the middle of the night, when I get a flood warning notification, I don't need to worry anymore," Annette said. "I can roll over and go back to sleep."

This peace of mind enjoyed by Annette and others in the Crisfield community shows the importance of incorporating disaster mitigation into relief and recovery work.

"The uniqueness of this project is that it weds together long-term recovery and mitigation," said the Rev. Phil Huber, an ELCA pastor and the coordinator of agencies for the Eastern Shore LTRC. The goals, he explains, are "to prevent repetitive loss, to be good stewards of the funding entrusted to us and, most importantly, to significantly improve the quality of life for the families we're working with."

The work in Crisfield is made possible by on-the-ground leaders, ecumenical partnerships, an equitable recovery group that reflects the racial composition of the community, and your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response. Together we can take steps toward a more just, climate-resilient world.



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

“Now, in the middle of the night, when I get a flood warning notification, I don’t need to worry anymore.”

ANNETTE

Members of the Eastern Shore Long-Term Recovery Committee are raising homes more than eight feet aboveground to lessen the impacts of flooding.

# LifeLines

## ELCA World Hunger

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101  
ELCA.org/hunger  
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Spring 2024

For supporters of

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

You are making an impact around the world. *Thank you!*



POSTER  
TWO-SIDED



ACTION GUIDE  
FOR CONGREGATIONS



BROCHURE  
& ENVELOPE



WINDOW CLING

New resources are available for the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger!



Learn how you and your congregation can get involved at [ELCA.org/WH50](https://ELCA.org/WH50)

## How to give

### GIVE ONLINE

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[ELCA.org/disaster/donate](https://ELCA.org/disaster/donate)

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