



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Annual Report

**Central America
Regional Program**

2021

#WeAdvanceWithHopeCentralAmerica



Honduran migrants going through River Suchiate which shares the borders of Guatemala and Mexico.
Photography LWF/WS/CA/Sean Hawkey

Credits

Lutheran World Federation / World Service Central America

Martin Ruppenthal

Regional Representative

Paola Salazar

Regional Program Coordinator

Francisco Pérez

Regional Finance Coordinator

Text and edition:

Paola Salazar

Regional Program Coordinator

Zoraya Urbina

Regional Advocacy and Communications Officer

Regional Office

Phone:: +503 25201100

Colonia Las Mercedes, Calle Los Duraznos #349, San Salvador, El Salvador

<https://centralamerica.lutheranworld.org>

Social Networks:

Twitter: @FLMSMCA

<https://facebook.com/federacionluteranacentroamerica/>

Front page photo:

There is still hope. Photography LWF/WS CA Karen Claribel Puentes Aquino



Migrant woman returned to Honduras, beneficiary of the reintegration communitary programs of the LWF/WS.
Photography LWF/WS CA/ Sean Hawkey.

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2021: A year aimed at the reconstruction of life plans and hope projects for many families in Central America, after the impact of natural disasters, the pandemic of COVID-19, and the increase of social violence and irregular migration of our countries.

Martin Ruppenthal, Regional Representative of the LWF/WS of the Central America Regional Program.
Photography LWF/WS/CA/ Zoraya Urbina.

Dear friends:

We present our 2021 Annual Report, which includes a summary of all the actions implemented by the Central America Program, of the Lutheran World Federation/World Service (LWF/WS).

In this document you will see the implementation of recovery and reconstruction actions after the impacts generated by COVID-19 and hurricanes Eta and Iota, which caused flooding and destruction in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and other Central American countries, affecting 3.5 million children, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); at least 1.5 million people were displaced in Central America as a result of climate-related disasters, including hurricanes Eta and Iota: 937,000 in Honduras, 339,000 in Guatemala and 232,000 in Nicaragua, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Amidst the pandemic, communities that lost everything are challenged to rebuild their lives. (UNICEF 2021).

The LWF/World Service team in Central America adapted its way of working to continue providing a response to the most needy and vulnerable people. We learned

to work in an environment with great challenges; little by little, we resumed visits to the communities, which allowed us to get closer to the population with whom we work, who are the reason and the center of all the interventions of our partner organizations and of LWF.

During this period, we continue to promote and support the empowerment and participation of women in all our projects and programs, so that they know and defend their rights, and thus guarantee a life free of violence and discrimination.

The pandemic also exacerbated the socioeconomic conditions of the most vulnerable, which is the reason why many people migrated irregularly, exposing themselves to the dangers of the migratory route, returning to their countries empty-handed and on some occasions with lifelong injuries such as discrimination, violence, or abuse of power. The LWF has provided a response and accompaniment to young people who have returned to their communities, focusing efforts on the building and implementation of a life plan.

At a regional level, we have observed how the closure of democratic spaces has accelerated, also the violations of rights and the criminalization of poverty. Therefore, for our organization, strengthening and enhancing the capacities of civil society organizations is vital to be able to promote the defense of human rights.

We thank the related agencies, donors and key partners for supporting our work in the region, we show our commitment to partner organizations, churches and the communities we work with and we commend our work to God and ask for His guidance so that we can continue to serve those most in need.

Martin Ruppenthal

Regional Representative

LWF/World Service/Central America
Program



Martin Ruppenthal, Regional Representative of the LWF/WS, Bishop Medardo Gómez and Reverend Abelina de Gómez of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. Photography LWF/ WS/ CA/ Zoraya Urbina.

HOPE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

The Central America Program of the Lutheran World Federation celebrates the 38th Anniversary. I am a witness that LWF works efficiently and has saved lives, attending to emergencies, but above all supporting development.

Its work has been inspired by the word of God, in communion with the churches that have carried out diaconal services, with special attention to the most needy. In practice, the Central American region has been blessed, helping to maintain hope according to its slogan #WeAdvanceWith-HopeCentralAmerica.

Therefore, it is in this, which consists of attending to the pain that carries not only a response to material needs, but also spiritual ones. Hope is a spiritual phenomenon that when giving, it will be given to you (Luke 6:38).

In history, it is worthy to thank all the Regional Representatives of the Lutheran World Federation, for the commitment assumed, all of them have been excellent coordinators and the program has be-

come much stronger now in collaboration with ACT Alliance.

Finally, I consider it important to remember two magnificent workers, who are in God's presence now: they are Alois Müller and Felipe Anderson. It is heartening to remember them, to give thanks to God for these servants who gave their lives having dedicated themselves to a service faithful to the task of the work of God.

The current Representative, Martin Ruppenthal, and all the staff, deserve congratulations and thank you for the work of a great Christian testimony of hope for Central America.

Fraternally,

Bishop Medardo E. Gómez Soto

Salvadoran Lutheran Church.



Mercedes Palacios, Regional Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change with children and adolescents during a workshop. Photo LWF/WS CA/Courtesy

About us

Lutheran World Federation / World Service (LWF/ WS) is an international organization based on faith, with experience in humanitarian and development response, with priorities in focusing work in relation to migration, justice of gender, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

LWF/WS is a global communion of churches in the Lutheran tradition, founded in 1947. It has 149 member churches in 99 countries, representing approximately 77 million Christians worldwide.

The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest, such as ecumenical and interreligious relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, international and human rights affairs, communication, and mission and development work. The LWF General Secretariat is located at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, Switzerland.

LWF World Service is the development cooperation and humanitarian assistance arm of the LWF. The work of the LWF World Service is guided by the LWF vision of a just, peaceful and reconciled world,

freed by the grace of God. The Central America Program is part of this in its strategic alignment.

LWF World Service works in regions and countries with high vulnerability to disasters and with a concentration of poverty, focusing work on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response; sustainable livelihoods and targeted action for justice and peace.

The LWF responds when disaster strikes, working through established programs with other humanitarian partners. The LWF World Service serves without regard to race, gender, creed, nationality, or political belief.

It has been present in the region for 38 years, through the Central America Program, with presence in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, through the 'Jotay' Joint program. Our motto is #WeAdvanceWithFaithCentral-America.

Joint Action of Churches ACT Alliance

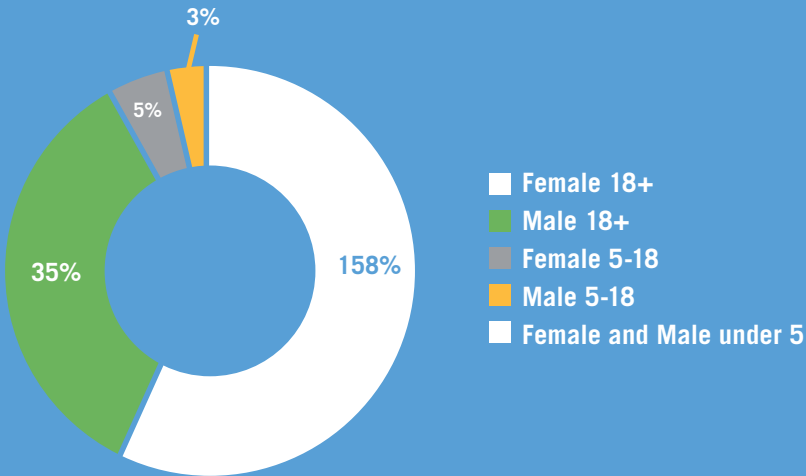
The LWF is a founding member of ACT Alliance, a global faith-based coalition organized in national and regional forums operating in more than 120 countries, with actually 168 members.



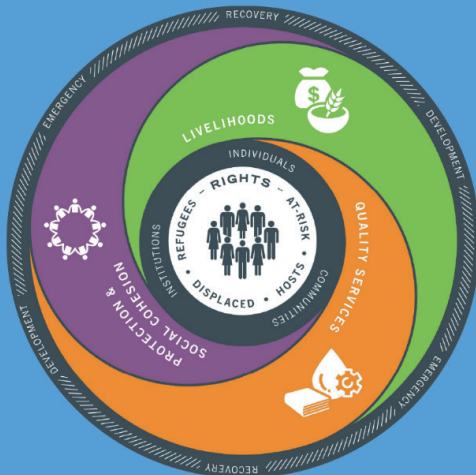
Young men and women participate in the Healthy Food Fair implemented by LWF/ WS through its partner UNES (Unidad Ecologica Salvadoreña), where collective workshops were held using popular education methodologies. Photography LWF/WS/CA

People we serve

2021



Our strategy



Our work is centered on the rights of the highly vulnerable people, such as migrants, displaced people, women survivors of gender-based violence, among others.

We work in three programmatic areas: livelihoods, quality services and social protection and cohesion. Our approach is based in working with the people, with their communities and with the institutions.

We connect with the emergency contexts by implementing recovery actions, but also with development work.

The Region we work for



Central America is a region with many resources, but it also has large inequality gaps, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL for its initials in Spanish). The region has an upward trend of irregular migration and displacement because of violence, gender-based violence, violation of human rights and climate change.



Child resident of the Bola de Monte community, El Salvador, draws a map of risk and resources of his community. Photo LWF/WS CA/Eduardo Barahona



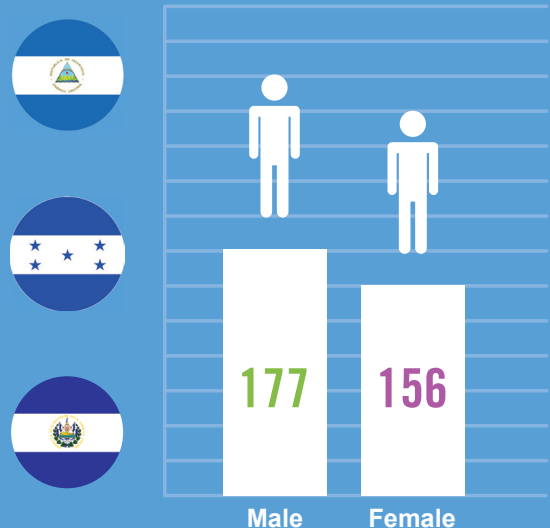
Girls and boys living in rural areas of Ahuachapán, El Salvador. They apply their knowledge on washing their hands as a preventive to COVID-19. Photography LWF/WS CA/Courtesy

Recovery in emergency contexts

Based on our experience, as well as on our significant background of work in the humanitarian sector, the LWF contributed with the countries of the region in urgently and effectively responding to COVID-19, and recovering from the impact caused by the Hurricanes Eta and Iota, as part of our mandate to provide humanitarian aid and build resilience to crisis and disaster, benefiting a total of 1,837 people.

During 2021, actions related to the prevention of the pandemic were developed through raising awareness of COVID-19 and the delivery of hygiene and biosecurity materials to members of the LWF staff and partner organizations in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Results of 333 people from Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador.

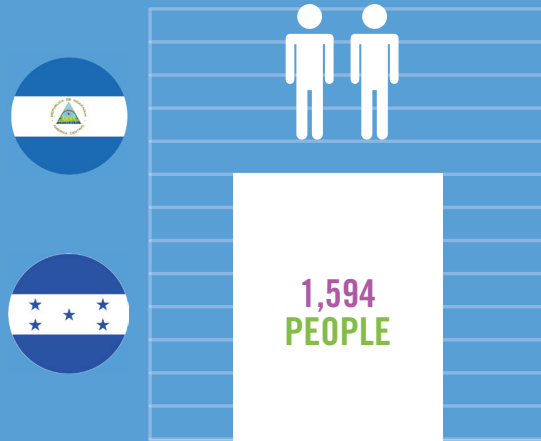




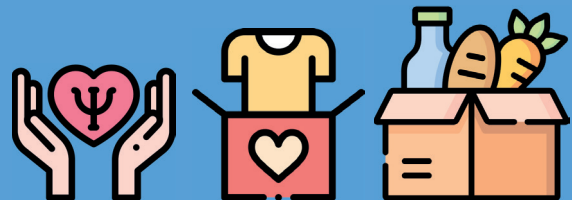
One of the partner organizations of the LWF/WS receives biosecurity and hygiene resources for the protection of COVID-19 in their communities. Photography LWF/ WS CA/ Courtesy

In emergency contexts it is necessary to act immediately to respond and recover.

The LWF is an organization that links emergency aid with support for rehabilitation and sustainable development. Therefore, after the impact of hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2021, it developed actions for the recovery of communities in Honduras and Nicaragua, aimed to overcoming the losses caused by the hurricanes through humanitarian aid, psychosocial support, preparation and prevention processes with a gender perspective and housing rehabilitation. This initiative was coordinated with the ACT Alliance Nicaraguan Forum and with the Lutheran Church of Honduras.



Intervention: psycho-emotional support, humanitarian assistance, food kits, clothing, seeds and tools, water sanitation and hygiene actions, actions for disaster risks reduction, prevention of gender-based violence.





Delivery of tool kits for women in the municipality of San Dionisio, Nicaragua as part of the actions of recovery supported by the LWF/WS. Photography LWF/WS CA/Courtesy

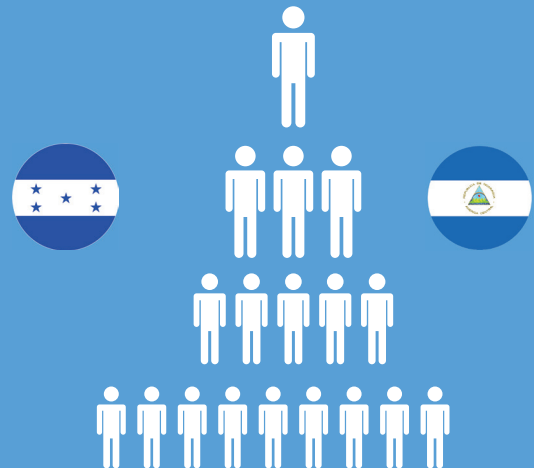
Emergency response meeting international standards.

The LWF, in order to guarantee resilience processes using participatory methodologies and complying with international protocols and standards, implemented a program aimed at generating protective spaces for girls and boys in communities impacted by emergencies with high rates of violence, poverty and unemployment.

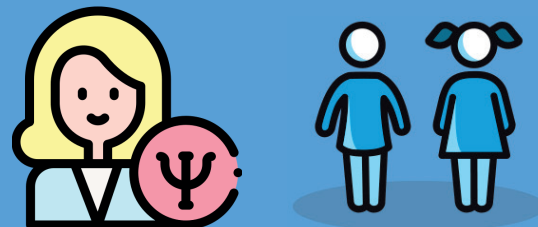
Psychosocial support and training processes were developed with faith communities for the development of child protection policies and protection committees that guarantee compliance.

Some of the intervened communities have been Cristo Rey, Georgino Andrade, René Polanco, 13 de mayo and Villa Austria (Department of Managua, Nicaragua) and Aldea de Mateo, Colonia Nueva Suyapa, Colonia Flor del Campo, Colonia Las Palmas, Aldea de Cofradía, Talanga (Central District Tegucigalpa, Honduras).

Intervention: psychosocial support and training in child protection.



25
Benefited
communities



Livelihood

46% (12) of the communities implemented agroecological practices to improve the quality of agricultural production.

101 families harvested vegetables and fruits of commercial and nutritional value for family consumption and marketing at the community level, giving way to economic autonomy.

40 families have improved their diet producing poultry and eggs on their backyards.

1 public policy proposal was delivered and is in the review process by the municipality of San Pedro Masahuat in the department of La Paz, El Salvador.

403 people/families sensitized and trained in climate change and adaptation measures.

1 parametric micro-insurance project piloting for climate change adaptation is being implemented in the region.





COVID-19 and natural disasters impacted the means of living of communities in the countries where we work. According to United Nations estimates, possibly up to 132 million people could go hungry in 2022 as a result of the economic recession triggered by the pandemic. This would add to the 690 million people who already suffer from hunger. At the same time, 135 million people are acutely food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Salvadoran family shows vegetables from the home and community vegetable gardens, during the Food Festival developed in Ahuachapán, El Salvador. Photography LWF/ WS CA/Eduardo Barahona.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PRACTICES AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Within the framework of the 'Life, dignity and justice for the peoples of Central America' project, producers and communities in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua have implemented management practices adapted to climate change, participating in public policy processes or advocacy actions to promote access to land and the participation of women in food sovereignty.

The communities have implemented agroecological practices using biofertilizers, such as supermagro, sulfo calcium, as well as crop diversification and soil preparation with Bokashi organic fertilizer. They have used climate change adaptation technologies, such as gray water filters and drip irrigation systems and have elaborated and incorporated liquid and solid organic fertilizers in orchards and small plots, among others.

At least 147 trained families are consuming or marketing at community level home harvested fruit and vegetables and eggs produced on their farms, improving their nutrition and food sovereignty, and increasing their capacity for climate resilience.

Likewise, as part of this initiative, various awareness-raising and advocacy actions have been developed aimed at incorporating climate justice into the public policy agenda of municipal governments. As a result, in 2021 the proposal for a public policy in the municipality of San Pedro Masahuat, in the department of La Paz, in El Salvador was completed. Other municipalities, such as Concepción de Maria, Honduras, are in the process of submitting proposals on food security and climate change and a declaration of no to mining.

These actions have been implemented by five partner organizations: Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (UNES), Asociación para la Diversificación y Desarrollo Agrícola Comunal (ADDAC), Asociación Cristiana de Educación y Desarrollo (ALFALIT), Redvolución El Salvador, Red de Comercialización Comunitaria Alternativa (Red Comal), Redvolución Honduras, VECINOS de Honduras, Asociación para la Diversificación y Desarrollo Agrícola Comunal (ADDAC), and Redvolución in Nicaragua.



Pilot project: Parametric Insurance in El Salvador

Farmers participate in awareness and training workshops using playful materials on parametric insurance prepared by the LWF/WS. Photography LWF/WS CA/Carlos Huezo

To be able to increase the resilience to the impacts related to climate, an initiative of harvests insurance is being piloted using a meteorological index in the dry corridor, known as parametric insurance. This initiative is oriented to small farmers of 8 selected municipalities in El Salvador (Santiago Nonualco, San Luis La Herradura, Tecoluca, Santa Elena, Usulután, Concepción Batres, Jiquilisco and San Rafael de Oriente), and has been implemented in cooperation with the Banco de Fomento Agropecuario of El Salvador.

During 2021, the first phase started raising awareness processes and training in topics such as climate change, green-

house effect, manlike actions that contribute to climate change, adjustment and mitigation of impacts and measures mainly in agriculture and risk transference. Approximately, 296 people (57% men, 42% women) participated in these training sessions.

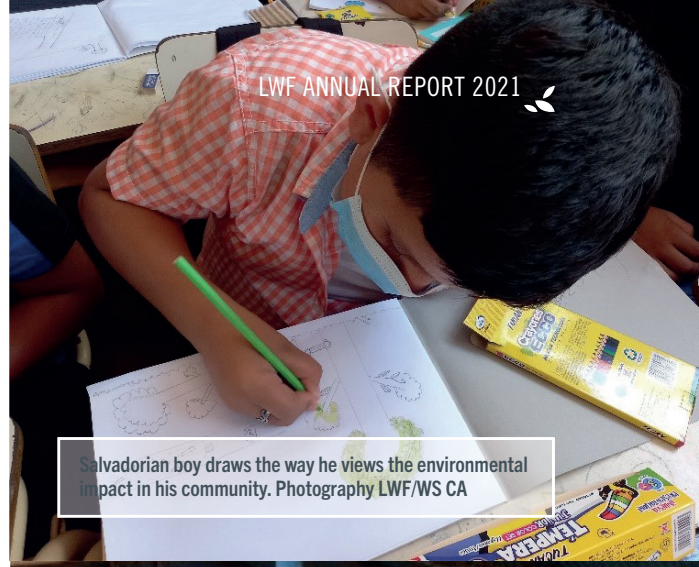
The second phase, which consisted in the loan concessions with insurance to climate, will start in 2022 and will hopefully benefit 345 agriculture workers; in the same way, to get the results of this pilot project will provide further recommendations to generate resilience to the impact of climate change.



Climate justice for everybody: Active participation of boys, girls and adolescents

The LWF implements initiatives for climate change adjustment with a family approach under the methodology of learning by doing, incorporating ludic activities that allow the development of emotional support and family integration.

Approximately 45 families from the coastal western zone of El Salvador participated in these processes, which also included training sessions on climate change and adjustment techniques, reduction of disaster risks, workshops for boys, girls, adolescents and young adults to build resilience to adapt to climate change and to respond to natural disasters effectively, installation of family gardens, campaigns, contests, and design of didactic materials about climate justice for children and adolescents.



Salvadorian boy draws the way he views the environmental impact in his community. Photography LWF/WS CA



Female teenager shows her photography in the contests of photos about Climate Justice. Photography LWF/WS CA



Among the adjustment practices that have been implemented for climate change are the following: hydric efficiency and saving through the use of water and artisan systems of trickle irrigation applied to vegetable gardens, techniques for the reproduction, classification and storage of seeds, to mention some.

Sowing the future. The picture is part of the photography contest 'Art for climate actions' and shows a mother and a daughter planting a tree. Photography LWF/WS/CA/Jesús Armando Chávez.

Social protection and cohesion

44 women know and activate the protocol of attention to cases of gender violence.

32 cases of gender violence denounced to the Ministry of Public Affairs in Nicaragua.

23 communities have been strengthened in their capacities to advocate for justice of gender, monitoring of violations of human rights, and attention as well as response to emergencies.

142 returned young migrants (112 men and 30 women) have been reinstated in their communities through an integral attention program.

10 civil society organizations have been strengthened in gender justice, political advocacy and human rights.





The LWF has implemented initiatives in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua to allow people in vulnerable conditions to succeed in freeing themselves from discrimination, abuse and exploitation.

Networks of women working in teams in the community workshops on political advocacy tools, carried out by the partner AMDV in Choluteca. Photography LWF/ WS CA

Justice of Gender: A priority for the region

The LWF develops either local or regional interventions, positioning and including the justice of gender as a priority of the Central America Program, assuring that men and women equally enjoy their rights to reach entire inclusion in society. We share some examples:

HONDURAS:

At a local level and through our partner Asociación de Mujeres Defensoras de la Vida (Women Defenders Association for Life), the capacity of women has been strengthened in Honduras, with the purpose of knowing and activating legal mechanisms in cases of gender-based violence (GBV). The network of women and of young adults of the municipality of Apacilagua have participated in this effort, and have also contributed in the formulation of a protocol to assist cases of GBV.

In the same way, with our partner Movimiento Ambientalista Social del Sur por la Vida-MASSVIDA (Environmental Social Movement for Life of the South), there has been support to the organization of the Committee of Defense of the common property and human rights, of the community Costa Azul in Honduras, with the purpose of de-

signing strategies of self-defense and collective self-protection in case of violence towards defendants of human rights. Denounced cases have been presented to the Ministry of Public Affairs in coordination with the network of female lawyers, defenders of human rights, against 32 public officials, accused of corruption and fraud, and abuse of authority.

MASSVIDA has included early alert mechanisms to the infringement of Human Rights, example of which has been the initiative of communitary observers established in eight communities of Honduras.

Emergency preparedness

Measures to improve protection and social cohesion in their communities has been included in the preparation and response to emergencies to promptly answer to these situations and with the necessary tools to minimize risks, and focus on the attention of the most vulnerable ones like women, girls, boys, adolescents, people with special needs, the elderly, among others. All the actions are performed under an approach of justice of gender, inclusion, human rights and Do Not Harm principle.

As part of the results in this area, our partner MASSVIDA in Honduras has implemented initiatives at local level, having accomplished approximately 6 disaster risk reduction plans by organizing the Local Emergency Committees (for its initials in Spanish, CODEL) to give an answer to the risk of disaster in the small towns Suyapa, Pespire, Ojo de Agua, Masila, El Triunfo, Costa Azul, Prados 1, Namasigue, Guaniquiquil, El Corpul, to mention some. The strengthening of training processes to deal with emergencies has been added to this effort, including the delivery of kits of tools to assist emergencies at a communitary level.

In the region:

Regional plural intergender training processes have been developed and addressed members of our partner organizations in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador with the purpose of implementing programmes taking into account masculinity and transversality of gender for the prevention of gender based violence and the promotion of gender justice. This initiative has been implemented by our regional partner Fundación Centro Bartolomé de las Casas.

LWF/WS CA is committed to the principles of equality and equity to make gender justice come true. We look forward to reducing inequalities and imbalances, and eradicating of stereotypes. The team of the Central America Program is aware and has full knowledge of the Justice of Gender Policies of the LWF/World Service and of the ACT Alliance.



Gender Community of Practice, ACT Alliance

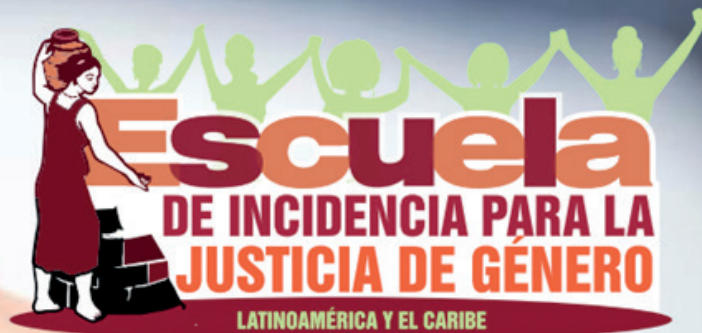
Gender Community of Practice (CoP), in Latin América and Caribbean, of ACT Alliance, was constituted in June 2017, after a call from the Regional Secretary of ACT Alliance, as well as from a network of gender specialists, and programs and projects representatives of member organizations of the ACT Alliance. This CoP is a space for reflection

from a perspective of faith, encourage and strengthen skills, knowledge and advocacy to contribute to gender justice in consonance with the Christian principles, the Gender Policy and the Global and Regional Strategy of the ACT Alliance. During 2021, the Central America Program led the CoP.

#ActuandoUnidas

**Actuando
Unidas**
por la justicia de género





Inscripciones:

Hasta marzo 5 de 2021

CUPOS LIMITADOS



sin costo



6 meses



4 horas
semanales

INFORMACIÓN GENERAL 

Cooperantes:

actalianza

Brot
für die Welt

Diakonia
La gente cambia el mundo

Sida

20 años de experiencia
creas

Informative illustration about the School for Advocacy for Gender Justice, implemented by the CoP during 2021. Photography LWF/ WS CA/ CREAS (Centro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio)



Women network participating in the commemoration of the International Day of NO Violence against Women, carried out in coordination with the Regional Network of Women from Choluteca, Honduras, on the 25th of November, 2021. This initiative was implemented by partner AMDV with the support of the LWF/WS/CA. Photography LWF/WS/CA/Courtesy.

To commemorate the International Day for the Erraditation of Violence against Women (November 25th), the LWF carried out a series of activities to develop processes of sensitization and advocacy of social networks of young female Lutherans that expressed their commitment to struggle to any form of violence against women; adherence to the ‘Black Thur-

sdays’ campaign, implemented by the World Council of Churches and the campaign ‘Paint a bench RED’, an initiative that promotes the Community of Practice for Gender Justice, supported by the ACT Alliance in Argentina (www.noscontamos.org.ar). This campaign, similar to that of Black Thursdays, lasts a year.

SEMBRANDO RESISTENCIA



Approach based on human rights and advocacy

Salvadorian girl participates in the elaboration of murals with incidence messages for the respect of human rights. Photography LWF/WS CA/Zoraya Urbina

The LWF embraces as values and principles the dignity, human rights and justice to be able to get out of poverty and enjoy a peaceful life and lasting prosperity.

With this approach, the LWF has led efforts to strengthen the regional work developed by civil society organizations. During 2021, the Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho-FESPAD (Foundation for Studies on the Implementation of Rights), a partner of the LWF developed regional training on political advocacy of organizations of human rights defenders. Based on the findings the report on Human Rights and Social Conflictivity in Central America 2020-2022 was

elaborated. Approximately 40 people from relevant organizations of the region participated in these encounters.

This report was prepared by the Regional Team for Monitoring and Analysis on Human Rights in Central America,, which exposes and denounces the advances and setbacks related to democracy, civil security, poverty, development and situation of COVID-19 in the region.

The report presents the main vulnerabilities of people's human rights: life, health, freedom of expression, association and information; and calls the States to respect rights and stick with the constitutional commands to benefit the whole population.

“I know how difficult it is to follow the migration route, I lost one of my arms there but thankfully God saved my life. I am happy now to be part of the entrepreneurship program, since I know I am going to move forward”.



Eduardo Mena from Siria, Francisco Morazán, Honduras, attended business training , received seed capital and launched his small grocery store where with the support of his wife commercializes basic goods in his community. Photography LWF/WS/CA/ Sean Hawkey.

Our program for young migrants

RETURN WITH HOPE AND DIGNITY: COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION FOR YOUNG MIGRANTS

The LWF as part of its mandate to respond to the most vulnerable population, is running a program for returned migrants that has been expanded and strengthened since 2015. It is aimed at generating processes of emotional resilience, development of life skills, vocational technical training and employability and entrepreneurship opportunities so that the young returned migrants can integrate into their communities.

In 2021, 142 young returned migrants (112 men and 30 women) from the municipalities of San Francisco Morazán Cedros, Guaimaca, El Porvenir, San Ignacio, Catamas and Juticalpa (from the Departments of Francisco Morazán and Olancho) participated in this process, receiving psychosocial support, through individual counseling, aimed at overcoming traumas and crises caused by the migration route; training in human rights, leadership, gender, self-esteem and values; vocational technical courses for welding

and motorcycle repair; and entrepreneurship and small business processes, which include training in the preparation of business plans, administration and marketing, and delivery of seed capital to start operations.

Entrepreneurship initiatives implemented by these young people include grocery stores, motorcycle and car workshops and sales, agricultural equipment, clothing and footwear sales, dairy products, cell phone accessories, among others.

This program is supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), allied organizations to strengthen and expand the migration program.



Young returned migrant women and men from Olancho, Honduras that form part of the program of migration “Return with Hope and Dignity”. Photography LWF/WS/CA. Santiago Vargas.

Quality Services





Carlos Rivera, National Coordinator for Honduras of the LWF/WS/CA, participates in a training workshop.
Photography LWF/WS/CA/ Zoraya Urbina.

Mobilization of resources and sustainable financing

The LWF/WS/CA is supported by strategic allies, several related faith based agencies, the United Nations and other donors that support the institution and mission. However, aware of the needs raised in the contexts of the countries in which we work, in 2021, a strategy for mobilizing funds has been included, in order to identify new areas of opportu-

nity, coordination and consortium formation, with the aim of providing an integral response to vulnerable populations that we intervene with. As part of this strategy, in the coming years, efforts will be made to incorporate mixed interventions, which allow the LWF staff to directly implement on the terrain together with the work carried out by partner organizations.

Participation in networks and advocacy spaces

The LWF/WS CA has participated in advocacy spaces and task force networks at the national, regional and global levels, which allows it to have a greater scope, impact and participation in the region.

Likewise, the LWF/WS/CA has advised and accompanied partner organizations in the countries of the region to follow up on the advocacy actions proposed in their programs.

GLOBAL AN REGIONAL:

- AMMPARO network (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).
- Gender Community Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Working groups of the Global Gender office from ACT Alliance.
- Community of Practice Psychosocial support based in the community.
- Latin American Coalition for Returned Migrants and Displaced (LAC RMD).





Quality and accountability

During 2021, we executed an amount of 4.4 million euros under our strategy 'Life, Dignity and Justice for the People of Central America', which includes the Joint Program JOTAY in Guatemala; bilateral, and emergency projects. Our projects were audited by an external firm that issued an opinion without observations about the financial statements.

We achieved significant improvements in the internal control of our partner organizations. We discussed with them governance issues and socialized the policies and procedures such as the complaints mechanism among others to be strengthened in their organizations and the communities we and our partners work with.



Knowledge management and learning

For the Lutheran World Federation, it is of utmost importance that the partner organizations at the program level have solid capacities in the development of the different interventions. This is why, year

after year, it proposes to carry out a capacity-building process facilitated by the regional team or consultants on various topics such as: Finance and Administration, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME), complaint mechanisms, communications, among others, in order to raise the capacity of the partner organizations to run and develop social development projects.

These training were carried out collectively and in some cases, such as PME and communications bilaterally with each partner organization to adapt to the identified needs. 16 persons from the organizations and the community were consulted for capacity building processes and an average of 25 participated in meetings and training processes.

On the other hand, as LWF/WS CA, we have also participated in initiatives facilitated by the Related Agencies to strengthen capacities in topics such as Harvest of Outcomes and Chain of Results.

Joint Actions: Guatemala

The ACTuando Juntas (Acting Together) Jotay Program is an expression of the 'Getting Our ACT Together' (GOAT) initiative, promoted by eight European members of the ACT Alliance (Joint Action of the Churches).

The GOAT initiative seeks to strengthen synergies between the European ecumenical organizations that are members of the ACT Global Alliance. The ACTuando Juntas Jotay Program is established in Guatemala with the active collaboration of four organizations: Norwegian Church Aid, ACT Church of Sweden, Bread for the World, and the Lutheran World Federation.

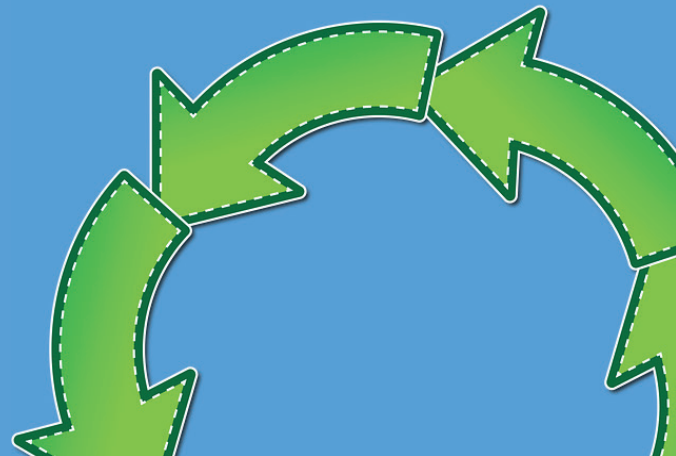
Their common foundation is the ecumenical identity. It aspires to mobilize and encourage civil leadership based on faith to promote human rights in Guatemala and challenge all causes of social injustice, especially gender violence.

The work is based on human rights, sensitive to gender equality. Its intervention seeks the ethical and political relevance of the actions to be promoted, in order to prevent conflicts and not to cause damage, ensuring ac-

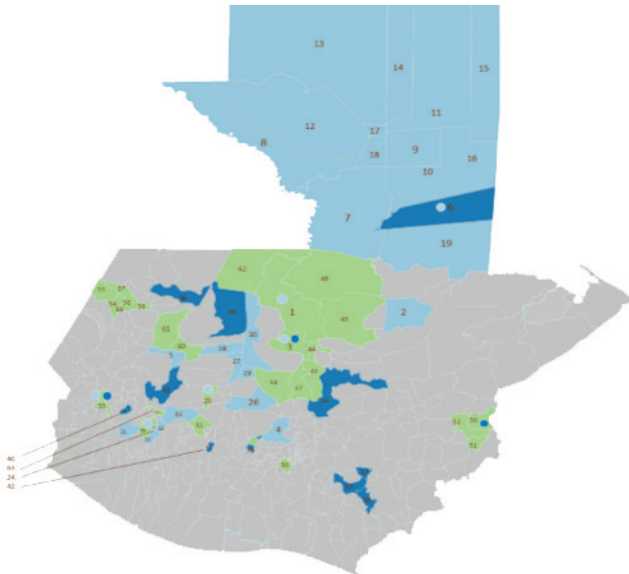
companiment that, in turn, guarantees quality and accountability.

The ACTuando Juntas Jotay Program has the following areas of work:



- **Gender justice focused on women's rights**
- **Sustainable management of natural resources**
- **Rule of law and citizen democratic security**
- **Disaster risk management and humanitarian response.**



During 2021, the JOTAY program worked with 34 partner organizations and impacted 26,766 people in 63 municipalities and 16 departments in Guatemala, 15,795 were women and 10,971 were men.



Coverage area for OE:

-  Strategic Objective 1
-  Strategic Objective 2
-  Strategic Objective 3





Photography LWS/WS CA/JOTAY

Always ahead, struggling against the violence of women

The partner organizations of the JOTAY Program in the area of gender justice focused on women's rights and developed various activities such as: ludic actions, fora, theatrical plays, communication campaigns, etc.

A relevant example was the launch of the campaign: 'Stop! Male sexism kills or tolerates violence against women', implemented by the Asociación Nuevos Horizontes from Quetzaltenango, which took place during November and included spot recordings, radio and television programs, a press conference, a discussion table with justice operators, a vigil 'For the life of women 0 tolerance to violence against women' and a festival 'For the life of women' on November 25th.

Another 6 partner organizations of the JOTAY Program carried out actions within the framework of the international day for the elimination of violence against women, which were the Grupo Integral Mujeres Sanjuaneras, (AGIMS) from San Juan Sacatepéquez, the Asociación Por Nosotras Ixmukané from El Quiché, the Centro de Paz Bárbara Ford from El Quiché, the Centro de Estudios Pastorales para Centroamérica, the Refugio de la Niñez en Guatemala and the Asociación de Servicios Comunitarios de Salud, from Petén.



Commemoration Event, from left to right: Bishop Emérita Abelina de Gómez, Vice President of El Salvador Félix Ulloa, Regional Representative of the LWF/WS Martin Ruppenthal, and Bishop Medardo Gómez. Photography LWF/WS CA/ Lutheran Synode El Salvador Rafael Menjivar.

Commemoration of the diocese in San Salvador, El Salvador

The Central America Program of the LWF/WS paid tribute to Bishop Medardo Gómez and Bishop Abelina de Gómez to honor 50 years of their pastoral ministry of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, and for their commitment with the Salvadoran population.

The event was presided by the Regional Representative of the LWF/WS CA, Martin Ruppenthal. Among the guests of honor were Félix Ulloa, Vice President of El Salvador, and representatives of different churches in the country.

Both pastors have worked in favor of the most vulnerable communities in the country, with an inclusive vision and su-

pport of the marginalized sectors. Bishop Medardo Gómez, who during the armed conflict in the country suffered political persecution, attacks to his integrity and criticism from the conservative sectors, was an unyielding defender and promoter of the peace process.

Bishop Abelina de Gómez has always worked in favor of women in the parishes of the Lutheran Church where she has served as director of the Pastoral of Women and promoter of the Pastoral of Gender and Family. Currently, she is the Regional Coordinator for Central America of the Women en Church and Society (Mujeres en la Iglesia y Sociedad, MEIS).

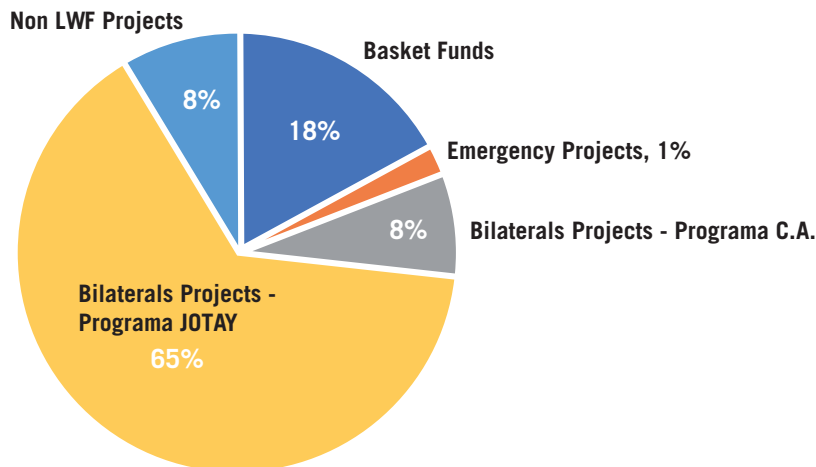
Finance

During the year 2021, the Central America Program of the LWF reported revenues of 4.4 millions of euros, 65% of which correspond to executed projects in the contexts of the Joint Program JOTAY.

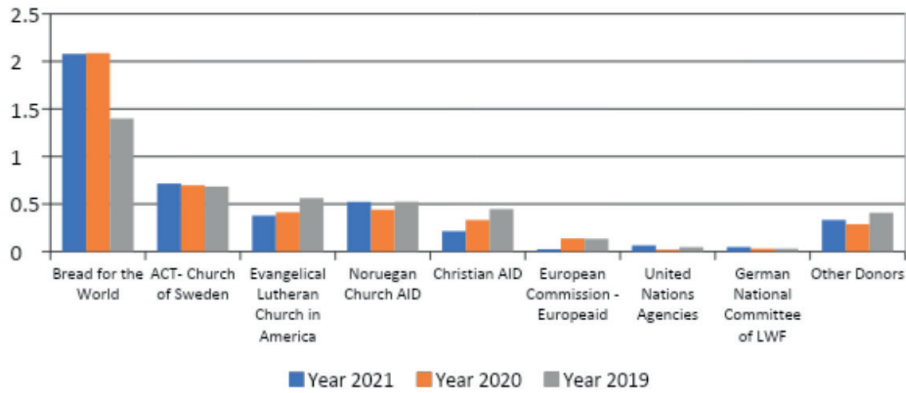
The revenues compared to the previous years remained constant, despite the effects of COVID- 19. From the received revenues during 2021, the related agencies provided 90% of the funds reported in the Central America Program.

We appreciate especially the support of our related agencies and church's members, who despite the challenges and economic difficulties in the last 2 years mainly due to the Pandemic COVID-19, continue with the commitment to support the work, following the Strategy of our Program named 'Life, Dignity and Justice for the Central American peoples 2019-2024'.

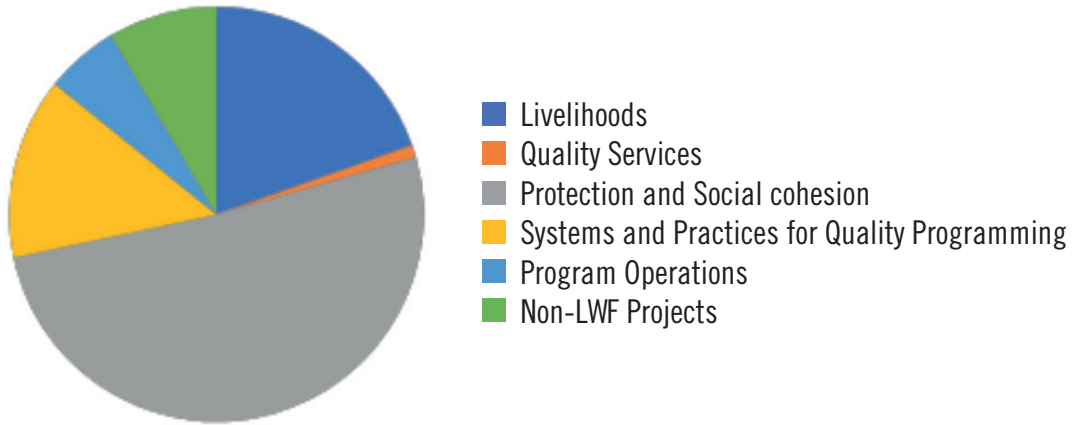
Revenues of the implemented projects (2021)



Income by donors (2019-2021)



Revenues per programmed area



Main donors



Our partner organizations





A salvadoran child sows in the vegetable garden of his family, a project carried out in Ahuachapán, El Salvador. Photography LWF/WS CA



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