



Australian
Lutheran
World Service

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Vision, Mission, Passion

Our Mandate

We love because God first loved us.

Jesus said, *"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me... Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers or sisters of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me."* (Matthew 25:35,36,40).

Our Mission

ALWS reaches out in love, for justice. We bring together people willing to work in service to help end suffering. As partners, we work openly and accountably, supporting programs which welcome, respect and bring hope through care to those fleeing from, or hurt by, disaster, conflict, poverty or oppression. We add our voice to the voices of those unheard and excluded, together crying out for justice so that we can all live in just and sustainable communities.

Our Vision

ALWS envisages a world where love comes to life (see 1 John 4:9-12); a world where all people live in just societies, where we are all empowered to achieve our full potential; uphold our rights and the rights of others for a life with peace and dignity; and where we are all inspired to remember, welcome and support those who suffer from poverty and injustice (see Galatians 2:10 and Leviticus 25:35).

Our Approach

We work in partnership with international Christian aid agencies to maximise our impact for the most vulnerable. This approach enables us to deliver efficient and effective aid and development, with priority care for the most vulnerable in the community – children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and socially marginalised groups. We invest in community education in Australia, to grow understanding of poverty and international justice and to inspire Australians to respond with compassion for vulnerable people and communities around the world.





2023 Highlights!

YOU helped 50,267 people ... to thrive through livelihood support. Farming skills, small business support ... chickens, pigs and goats. Thank you!



YOU did not forget 47,531 of the most vulnerable people ... and gave them a chance with education, disability support, human rights knowledge and hope for the future.



Through YOU 248,696 people ... received so many things that we take for granted every day ... nutritious food, clean water, health care, education, shelter.



YOU provided 93,253 people ... suffering from conflict and natural disasters with emergency lifesaving support.



YOU inspired 22,231 students ... in 57 Lutheran schools in Australia to grow in understanding and compassion for the most vulnerable.



AND you joined with 6,619 supporters to give 19,689 gifts through ALWS ... to bless 412,847 people!

Thank you!

Five dollars of hope ...



Jodie Hoff enjoying her pancakes on the LORDS PANCAKE DAY.

“We raised \$723 to support the work of ALWS in the Ukraine! Your kindness and generosity will help families rebuild their homes, keep children safe at school, and provide food and mental health support.”

I recently visited a congregation in Queensland to promote Walk My Way Ukraine in Brisbane. It was wonderful to meet with generous donors and hear how they feel connected to the work of ALWS. I met Max who shared with me his story of wanting to learn the violin when he was younger but was unable to. He then pulled a harmonica out of his pocket and played *Amazing Grace* for me. I said, “Max, you have made my day”. He then put five dollars in my hand and replied, “Here’s five dollars of hope”. There are so many more stories like these of generous donors giving what they can to make a difference to people around the world.

It is a privilege to serve on the Board of ALWS as Chair. The Board is blessed to have experienced governors who are committed to the work of ALWS. I give thanks to board members Peter Renner (Vice-chair), Morgan Brookes, Thomas Brennan, Pastor Mark Schultz, Andrew Kotzur and Alice Caldwell for the expertise, time and commitment they voluntarily give to ALWS.

In 2023, the full complement of our governance sub-committees were introduced with the inclusion of the Fundraising and Marketing Committee adding to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Programs Committee. These sub-committees give further strength and expertise to the ALWS Board and organisation, focusing on strategy, finance, risk and vision.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to acknowledge and give thanks to the staff and leadership team of ALWS for the passion and professionalism that they bring to ensure that the poorest of people around the world are empowered to live lives full of hope and dignity.

Finally, I would like to thank every donor for generously sharing hope (just like my friend Max) with the most vulnerable in our world. Thank you for trusting us to act on your behalf in this important work of the church.

We are all led by the calling of Micah 6:8;
***And what does the Lord require of you?
Act Justly
Love mercy
Walk humbly with our Lord.***

Jodie Hoff
Chairperson

Humanity in every person

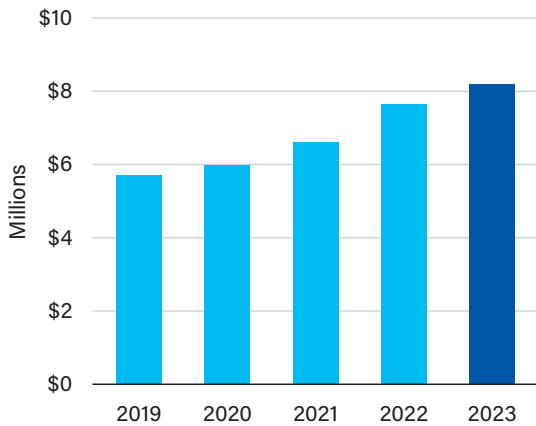
Luba opened her hands in supplication and implored me ... **“Please say thank you to the people in Australia. Thank you for helping us in our time of need!”**

These heartfelt words echo the gratitude of many Ukrainian women that I met at Miechowice Lutheran Parish in Poland, the very land from which my great-great-grandfather migrated to Australia in 1849. This Lutheran community, in collaboration with our partners Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has aided 8,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine over the past two years.

These words have stayed with me all year ... I carried them home and I’ve honoured them by sharing them with as many supporters as I can.

These words continue to remind me of the importance of our church’s work through ALWS.

International Programs Expenditure



In 2023, **the world confronted challenges** not experienced in generations. The war in Ukraine was compounded by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, as well as the conflict in Gaza. Poverty and environmental degradation are escalating.

In the face of these challenges, **ALWS has remained steadfast** to our mission. Our resolve to alleviate suffering, empower communities and foster sustainable development has only grown stronger. This dedication is evident in our record financial contributions to international programs in 2023.

Throughout this report, you will find a comprehensive



Photo: ALWS

overview of the impact you have made through ALWS in **16 countries**. From **life-saving humanitarian assistance** in times of crisis or prolonged crisis, to **long-term development projects** that promote self-reliance and resilience. Each initiative represents a step forward in our ongoing pursuit of positive change.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, donors, staff and volunteers, whose unwavering dedication and support have been instrumental in our work. Together we continue to demonstrate the transformative power of collective action for the lives of those in most need.

Pastor Paul Smith, Churchwide Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) recently led our annual thanksgiving service in Albury. He preached about **“humanity in every person”**, reminding our team that we are all created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with respect and compassion. This humanity underpins the way we serve and the people we serve in communities in Australia and across the world.

Thank you for your humanity. Thank you for continuing to trust us to express your care to those in need around the world.

Michael Stolz
Executive Director



Photo: Anthony Bothe

Your 2023 ALWS Action



412,847*
lives impacted



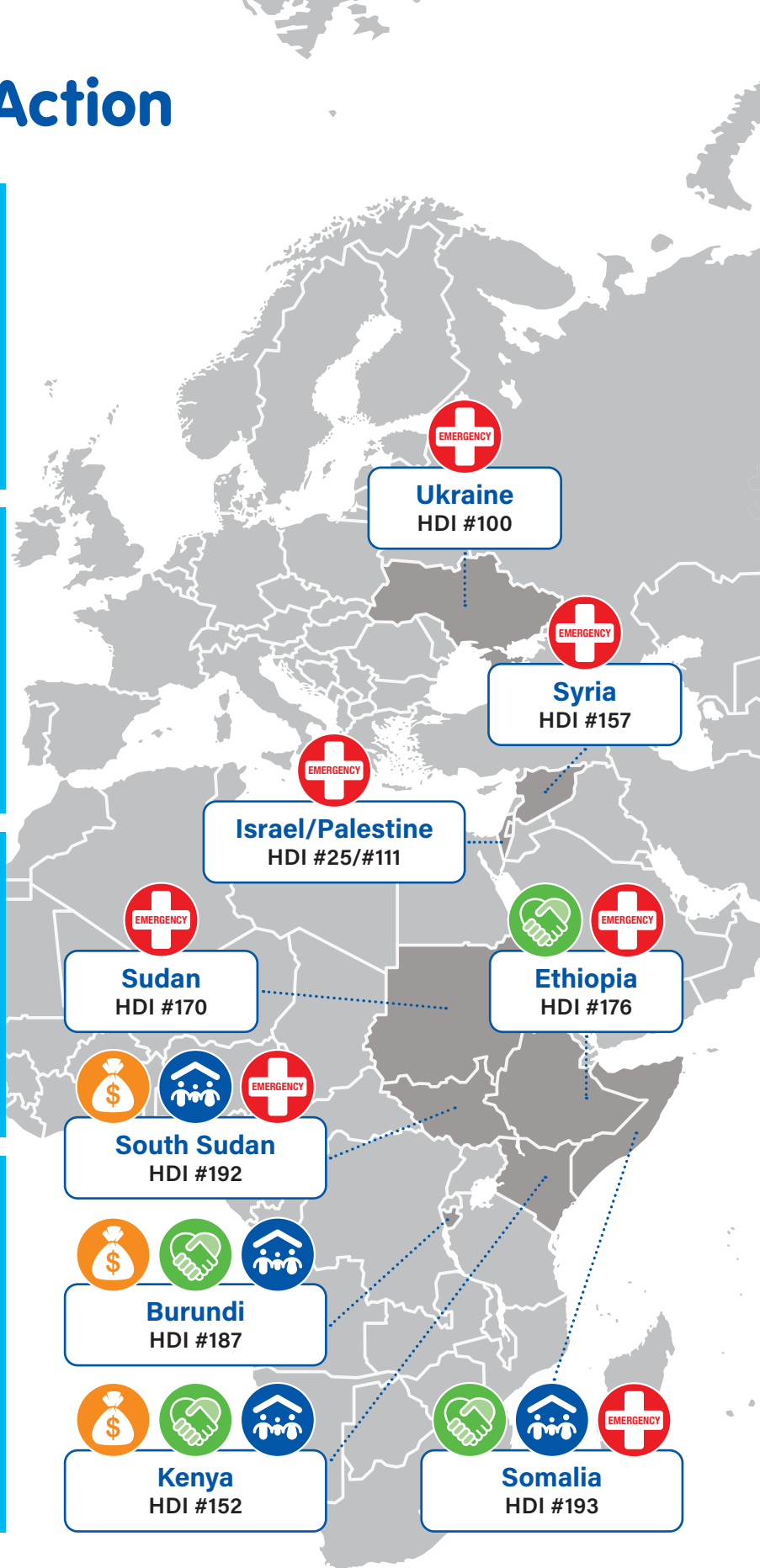
6,619
supporters



\$10,134,782
contributed



85 cents
from every dollar
supported projects that
help and educate people



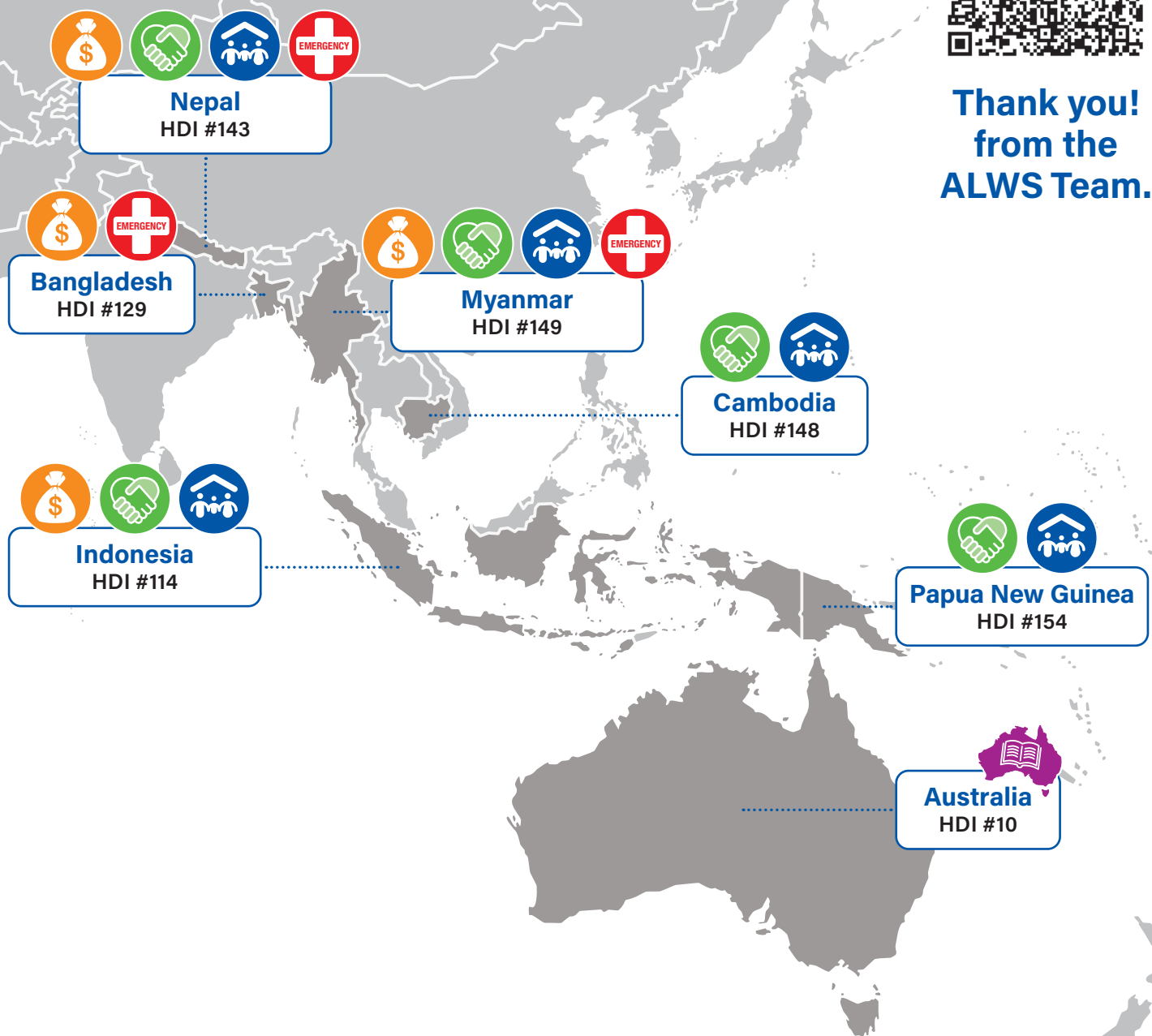
* This is the total number of lives impacted by ALWS action in 2023. Some of these individuals received multiple supports from intersecting projects focused on Livelihoods, Inclusion and Essential Services.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a measure that compares countries on three key human development dimensions: health standards, education levels and the standard of living. Australia is ranked 10th on the HDI out of 193 countries & territories.

In 2023 ... your ALWS action blessed 47 people every hour ... Thank you!



Thank you!
from the
ALWS Team.



-  Livelihoods
-  Inclusion
-  Essential Services
-  Disaster
-  Inspire



Independent & Thriving

You break the cycle of poverty through ALWS by giving individuals the ability to earn a sustainable income that provides for their family's daily needs; enhancing their sense of self-worth and dignity, and giving them control over their future.

We serve through our local partners alongside individuals and families to develop sustainable livelihoods. Tailoring our activities to the opportunities in each country, we create job opportunities through skills training (e.g. farming skills, business skills), the provision of equipment and mentoring support.

Why your help is needed

ALWS serves in some of the poorest countries in the world. The people we serve live in extreme poverty and are trapped in circumstances that perpetuate a cycle of poverty. Breaking this cycle improves future outcomes for children, families and the wider community.



50,267
people served

Where we are working

Country	Local Partner	Focus Areas	People Impacted
Somalia	LWF Kenya/Somalia	Small business development	180
South Sudan	LWF South Sudan	Improving farming practice Small business development	2,388
Burundi	LWF Burundi	Farming cooperatives Small business development Improved shelter & stoves	1,664
Kenya	LWF Kenya/Somalia	Climate-smart agriculture School kitchen gardens (Kakuma)	340
Myanmar	LWF Myanmar	Small business development Livestock raising Climate-smart agriculture	396
Cambodia	Lutheran Hope Cambodia Organization	Small business development Improving farming practice	3,396
Nepal	LWF Nepal	Improving farming practice Small business development Grain banks	10,678
Bangladesh	RDRS Bangladesh	Small business development	26,528
Indonesia	CDRM&CDS <i>An agency of Indonesian Lutheran Churches</i>	Small business development Family gardens Household finance management	4,697



Row by Row ...

In 2023, your ALWS action trained 1,078 people in Burundi in modern agricultural techniques so they could improve their yields and provide for their families.

Pontien and his family of ten (eight children) were recipients of your support.

"I am a farmer. We have beans, sweet potatoes, peanuts, vegetables, and maize. Because of the lack of manure, we don't harvest much, so we have to rely on the market to buy food for the children. We don't have access to selected seeds because we are too poor."

Pontien was able to attend the Farmer Field School that you make possible through our local partner Lutheran World Federation Burundi. He also received a kit with seeds, tools and fertiliser.

"The training helped me a lot. We were trained on how to farm in rows and how to space seedlings. We were shown the spacing for growing corn and we were told that if we do the spacing well, we can put beans between the corn plants. When you take care of the corn, you can take care of the beans at the same time."

We were trained on how to apply fertiliser and the different kinds of fertiliser we can use. I have already planted maize according to what we have been taught [and] I've started preparing the field to put manure."

Pontien is already seeing the benefits of the training and he is filled with hope for the future, *"I think the project has a very positive impact on my work. Before we cultivated in an archaic way. Now, I'm separating the crops and it's more efficient. In the future, we hope to harvest a lot and have more money to be able to buy livestock to produce organic manure. **We will have more food for the family and we will be able to ensure that children can continue their education to university.**"*



Photo: LWF Burundi/ Lea Gillibert



Thank you from Tiurma Pohan, Director CDRM&CDS, your ALWS partner in Indonesia.



Our action together

Equipped Farmers

Your ALWS action has equipped farmers by supplying start-up farming equipment and breeding livestock and training them in modern agricultural techniques, such as sowing in rows, field maintenance, climate-smart practices, organic fertiliser and enhanced breeding techniques. For example, generous Australians are supporting farming communities in Burundi through our Farm Partnership Program.

We have supported families through community groups to start kitchen gardens and we have helped communities build grain banks to stock wheat and rice.

How we are impacting

Our development projects were independently reviewed in 2023 to confirm progress and outcomes and identify learnings. Additionally, ALWS staff completed a monitoring visit to every project. The following impact summaries are taken from recent independent evaluation reports of our Livelihood projects.

Empowered Small Business

Together we have empowered small business through the formation of 'savings and loans' groups that support micro-loans to start and expand businesses. 'Savings and loans' groups formed for women and people with disabilities have been an effective way to empower sustainable livelihoods and provide support networks of care.

In 2023 we saw funds used by members to support tailoring businesses, start grocery shops, snack shops and banana chip making businesses and more!



Photo: LWF Kenya/Somalia

Country	Impact Summary
South Sudan	Our agricultural initiatives delivered by LWF South Sudan improved livelihoods through enhanced farming practices, with evaluators noting the project's <i>"harmonious mix of self-reliance and economic progress."</i>
Burundi	Our community empowerment program delivered by LWF Burundi was a resounding success with marginalised individuals developing sustainable livelihoods.
Nepal	The agro-digital service project we support through LWF Nepal has been instrumental in empowering farmers by helping them to predict weather conditions and track market prices so they can optimise farming outcomes.
Bangladesh	The livelihoods project delivered through RDRS/RDS developed the skills and support networks for participants, despite the constraints of operating within the refugee camp.
Indonesia	Our work through CDRM&CDS significantly improved local livelihoods, with savings and loans groups particularly effective in supporting the poorest households.



"I felt happy to take my first loan, but also bit nervous. It took me two months to pay back and I felt happy and relief."

From Little things Big things Grow!

Remaja's family were struggling when she joined a Savings and Loans Group supported by ALWS' Indonesian partner CDRM&CDS in 2019.

"My husband is a farmer. But our income from the farm was not enough to cover our daily needs", says Remaja.

The Savings and Loans groups, that you support in Indonesia, allow members to take loans to start or expand small businesses, so that they can afford education and health expenses for their family.

Six months after joining the group, Remaja took her first loan for an amount of IDR.1,000,000 (AUD100). She used this loan to buy plastic moulds to make ice lollies and ice cubes and also for her child's college education. *"I felt happy to take my first loan, but also bit nervous. It took me two months to pay back and I felt happy and relief," says Remaja.*

Remaja's business grew and she took out two more loans to expand her business and support her children to attend school.

With support and a lot of hard work, Remaja's business has continued to grow and she now operates a large kiosk that her husband has built at the front of their house. She has also taken on the extra responsibility of being treasurer of the Savings and Loans group.

Remaja shares her joy: *"I feel happy because the kiosk has helped me to supply my daily needs, pay for my daughter's tuition to go to university, install electricity and even extra savings. When my daughter graduated from university, I felt very happy and proud ... Thank you for supporting our group!"*

Australian Aid 



Found, not Forgotten

Just as Jesus would, your development work through ALWS prioritises the rights of the most vulnerable in the community – children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and socially marginalised groups.

We work through our partners to increase awareness of human rights and support communities to claim their rights. We also ensure that vulnerable children have equal access to education, provide assistive devices and counselling support for children with disabilities and grow community capacity to address gender issues. We also work with community leaders to create more inclusive communities.

Where we are working

Country	Local Partner	Focus Areas	People Impacted
Somalia	LWF Kenya/Somalia	GBV* protection Inclusive education for children	886
South Sudan	LWF South Sudan	Human rights & social cohesion Psychosocial support	10,178
Burundi	LWF Burundi	Children & human rights Gender & disability equity	587
Ethiopia	LWF Ethiopia	Inclusive education Gender equity Improved & climate-smart agriculture	250
Papua New Guinea	Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG	Gender & disability equity GBV* awareness	3,205
Kenya	LWF Kenya/Somalia	Inclusive education Psychosocial support for children Youth vocational training	3,754
Myanmar	LWF Myanmar	Gender equity & GBV* awareness Inclusive education for children	12,690
Cambodia	Lutheran Hope Cambodia Organization	Gender & disability equity	4,751
Nepal	LWF Nepal	Gender & disability equity Psychosocial support Disaster preparedness	7,298
Indonesia	CDRM&CDS <i>An agency of Indonesian Lutheran Churches</i>	Disaster preparedness Gender & disability equity Climate-smart adaptations	3,694
Global		Gender responsive programming	238

47,531
people served

Why your help is needed

Women, children, people with disabilities and socially marginalised groups are disproportionately impacted by poverty and injustice, and they need additional support to ensure they are not left behind.

Education for All

Rechu and her family were forced to flee with only the possessions they could carry when the Myanmar cleansing operation occurred in 2017. They found safety at an Internally Displaced Persons camp in the Rakhine State but life in the camp is difficult, particularly for Rechu's eight-year-old daughter with disability.

Thankfully, Rechu and her family have benefited from your ALWS action, participating in an inclusive education program provided through our partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF), with funding support from the Australian Government (ANCP).

"Before LWF ANCP team started safe and inclusive education service in our camp, my child with disability is out of school, no service available in the camp for her education.

She is very lonely and has no friends. She fears speaking to others and has a lot of difficulties in



Photo: LWF Myanmar/Soe Win

"Now she is in school, in a safe and protected learning environment, teachers are very kind to my child, school children are really helping my child."



Photo: LWF Myanmar/Soe Win



Photo: LWF Myanmar/Soe Win

learning. As parents we do not know how to care for my child with disability."

Your support enabled Rechu and her family to receive training in disability inclusion and care. You also provided Rechu's daughter with an education scholarship and disability support equipment so that she could attend school.

"Now she is in school, in a safe and protected learning environment, teachers are very kind to my child, school children are really helping my child.

I as a mother of my child with disability feel very happy ... I want all children including children with disability in the camp to be educated and build a peaceful social environment.

I would like to specially thank the donors for your good support for us."

Note: You might notice that the images we share from Myanmar are typically lower in resolution. This is because of the very difficult conditions on the ground. Your LWF team can only access limited electricity and low bandwidth internet for one hour per day. Images are captured on phones and sent in low resolution due to the poor internet connection.





Our action together

Women Protected and Empowered

Your ALWS action has prioritised the support and empowerment of women within our development projects in Myanmar, Nepal, Ethiopia, Burundi and Papua New Guinea.

We have worked with local leaders to raise community awareness regarding gender rights and to enhance capacity to respond to gender-based violence. We have also worked through our partners to provide protection, counselling support and practical care for victims.

We have used community-based support groups to equip and empower women to achieve financial independence and autonomy. This has resulted in women sharing power at home in making decisions on education, livelihoods, skills and rights training, health and social activities.

How we are impacting

Our development projects were independently reviewed in 2023 to confirm progress and outcomes and identify learnings. Additionally ALWS staff completed a monitoring visit to every project. The following impact summaries are taken from recent independent evaluation reports of our Inclusion projects.

Inclusive Education

Together we have ensured that girls and children with disability, receive equal access to education in our projects in Kenya, Somalia and Myanmar. We have achieved this by training teachers in inclusive educational practice, improving disability access at schools and providing psychosocial support for children with disabilities.



Photo: LWF Somalia

Country	Impact Summary
Somalia	Through LWF Somalia, you implemented gender and disability initiatives that successfully addressed gender barriers affecting girl enrolment and dropout rates at school, and improved disability access in 95% of classrooms.
South Sudan	Through LWF South Sudan, you trained 143 teachers and 8 hygiene promoters in women's health management, which resulted in improved mentorship and hygiene awareness for 2,315 women and girls.
Nepal	The gender inclusive practices you made possible through LWF Nepal were found to increase women's participation in decision-making on boards and management teams.
Indonesia	Our community protection work delivered by CDRM&CDS earned the praise of the Indonesian Government's disaster response agency, BPBD, for its positive influence on community resilience and for bolstering the capabilities of BPBD itself.

Stitching together a new life

Married, with two young children, Tulsha's life changed forever when she was diagnosed with cancer. The costly treatment required Tulsha and her husband to sell their land and, when her right leg was amputated to stop the cancer's spread, her husband left.

Struggling with her new disability, Tulsha found it difficult to care for her children on her own. Although she was a skilled tailor, limited financial resources meant that Tulsha had to sell her tailoring machines and treasured family items so that she could feed her family and afford schooling.

Thankfully, this is when your practical ALWS action provided hope to Tulsha and her children.

Through our local partners, LWF Nepal, you provided Tulsha with specialised tailoring equipment and supplies of fabric so that she could restart her tailoring shop. You also provided winterisation assistance to help Tulsha and her family survive the cold Nepalese winters.

Now remarried, Tulsha reflects on the support you made possible ...

"Since the support that was provided to me, my husband and I have been able to run this shop together effortlessly. We are happy to have an income that supports the dream of my children and thus, mine. I am also relieved to at least be financially independent regardless of my status as a person with disability. I have been able to give my children education and that is my asset too."

Today, Tulsha operates a successful tailoring business and is known in the community for her ability to design and produce any type of clothing.

Tulsha says ... **"Thank you for helping me realise my ambitions."**

"I am also relieved to at least be financially independent regardless of my status as a person with disability."



Australian Aid 



Equipped & Empowered

Together we serve in countries and locations where access to basic human services such as education, water, health care and shelter are not always available. With your help, we take action through our local partners to provide these services to marginalised and vulnerable communities when these services break down due to prolonged crisis.

We work through our local partners to provide support to individuals and families who are forced to flee their homes seeking support and care. Through ALWS you reach out in love to welcome them at refugee reception centres and provide them with water, health care, shelter and education.

Your Essential Services support particularly focuses on improving children's access to education so that they can reach their God-given potential and build strong social connections. Attending school also keeps children safe, protecting them from physical dangers such as abuse, exploitation and recruitment into armed groups.



Why your help is needed

Sadly, conflict and political instability has resulted in growing numbers of displaced people in the world. Your work through ALWS supports children and families in countries like Myanmar, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia, where political instability and conflict has weakened social service infrastructure. We also work in neighbouring countries, such as Kenya and Bangladesh, where refugees flee, seeking assistance.

Where we are working

Country	Local Partner	Focus Areas	People Impacted
Somalia	LWF Kenya/Somalia	Education – quality & engagement Inclusive education	15,803
South Sudan	LWF South Sudan	Education – quality & engagement	33,337
Burundi	LWF Burundi	Community harmony & cohesion	210
Papua New Guinea	Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG	Adult literacy Counselling skills for teachers Health worker training	148
Kenya	LWF Kenya/Somalia	Children enrolled in school	184,595
Myanmar	LWF Myanmar	Education – quality & engagement Inclusive education Improved sanitation & health	67
Cambodia	Lutheran Hope Cambodia Organization	Improved nutrition Improved sanitation & health Education – quality & engagement	1,626
Nepal	LWF Nepal	Human rights	5,184
Bangladesh	RDRS Bangladesh	Water, sanitation & hygiene Tree planting	6,089
Indonesia	CDRM&CDS <i>An agency of Indonesian Lutheran Churches</i>	Water, sanitation & hygiene Human rights Community health	1,637



Photos: ALWS

Refugee to ... Architect!

Rahma is one of the first project participants of an innovative Ambitious Youth Program that you helped launch in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya in 2023.

The Ambitious Youth Program has been developed in response to the lack of job opportunities available to young people in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The project teaches young people in-demand IT skills and provides them with a gateway to digital employment in global markets.

After only a few months of instruction in 3D modelling software, Rahma proudly shares the house design she has created and says, *"I feel that I'm very special because of this course ... many people need these skills and we as a team have got it."*

Rahma's new 3D-modelling software skills can be used in construction design, animation and computer game creation, but her plan is to work in architecture.

"My plan is to get a digital platform where I can market my designs as an individual, specialising in architecture."

I hope when I finish this course, that each of us will get some jobs, that is the wish for all of us ... a job where we can earn at the end of the day."

Rahma is very thankful for the opportunity that generous Australians have made possible through ALWS ... ***"I will first start with my appreciation; I thank them as it has really helped us as a team ... may God help them to get more support to help other people."***



A heartfelt thank you from Mary Obara, Program Manager of the LWF Kenya Somalia Program, who oversees our work at Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee Camps.



Our action together

Education for Displaced Children

Your ALWS action provided education for children in refugee camps in Kenya (Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee Camps) and South Sudan, and Internally Displaced Persons camps in Somalia and Myanmar.

You take purposeful action through ALWS to ensure that girls and children with disabilities have equitable access to this life-changing opportunity.

In 2023, you trained special needs teachers, provided disability friendly desks and upgraded school facilities to provide disability access. You also incentivised school attendance for girls and children with disabilities by providing free uniforms, school resources and a daily serving of porridge.

How we are impacting

Our development projects were independently reviewed in 2023 to confirm progress and outcomes and identify learnings. Additionally, ALWS staff completed a monitoring visit to every project. The following impact summaries are taken from recent independent evaluation reports of our Essential Services projects.

Improved Community Health

Through ALWS you have served alongside communities to improve the quality and accessibility of health services and sanitation. For example, in Indonesia you trained volunteer health workers and strengthened community health networks that provide local perinatal support to mothers, and in Myanmar you upgraded household toilet and handwashing facilities.



Photo: ALWS

Country	Impact Summary
Somalia	The inclusive education initiatives that our partner LWF Somalia delivered significantly bolstered the administrative and managerial capabilities of the educational institutions resulting in more effective education practices.
South Sudan	Our education work through LWF South Sudan has significantly enhanced educational opportunities for children in Twic East, Duk and Bor South counties, resulting in increased enrolments.
Burundi	The adult literacy program you made possible through LWF Burundi led to a marked reduction in illiteracy. This empowered community members to start businesses and fostered a deeper appreciation for education among parents.
Nepal	Our empowerment work through LWF Nepal informed participants of their rights and entitlements. The establishment of a Water Supply and Sanitation User Committee was identified as a future project enhancement.
Bangladesh	The essential services program led by our partner RDRS/RDS at Cox's Bazar has improved water, sanitation, hygiene, education, health services and livelihood opportunities for the Rohingya community, improving safety and wellbeing.
Indonesia	Our partner CDRM&CDS facilitated community empowerment that supported communities to advocate for their rights to local government. This led to the improvement of basic government health services.



“We water the vegetables every morning at 6.00am ... in the evening we water them mostly after dinner.”

Photo: LWF Kenya/Somalia



Photo: LWF Kenya/Somalia

Seeds of Success

Otieno, a teacher in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, knows the value of the Kitchen Gardens that you have made possible for students.

“Kitchen gardening is a general exercise that is done by the pupils under the guidance of the agriculture teacher. It is part of class work. It helps to enhance learning by the pupils, it encourages a farming culture among the pupils and it makes vegetables available to supplement their meals and meet their nutrition needs.”

Your ALWS action, through our local partner Lutheran World Federation Kenya, has helped to provide Kitchen Gardens in more than 16 schools within Kakuma Refugee Camp. The gardens help students to learn modern agricultural techniques, so they are job-ready when they graduate and have a means to provide for their family.

Students are involved in every stage of the Kitchen Garden project, preparing the seed beds, sowing the vegetables, watering and harvesting.

Tereza, a student involved in the Kitchen Garden project says,

“We water the vegetables every morning at 6.00am after we shower and dress but before we take breakfast. In the evening we water them mostly after dinner. We use a hose pipe connected to a water tap and some of us use buckets and watering cans.”

The vegetables are harvested and enjoyed by the students, providing a valuable source of iron and teaching students the importance of vegetables within a nutritious diet.



Safe and Supported

Through ALWS you reach out in love to support individuals facing urgent and critical emergencies caused by natural disasters or conflict.

We take action, through our partners, on your behalf to respond quickly, providing food, clean drinking water, safe latrines, medical supplies and shelter. This support is critical to maximise survival and recovery. ALWS can respond quickly when disaster strikes because of our trusted partnerships with Lutheran World Federation, Act Alliance and local Lutheran churches.

Why your help is needed

Unfortunately, 2023 was another challenging year for the world. The year began with devastating earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye. In April, conflict erupted in Sudan, plunging millions of people into disaster and despair. Then in October, war broke out in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territories. Alongside these events, unresolved conflicts, instability, climate impacts and disease have kept millions of people in a state of protracted crisis in Ukraine, Myanmar and the Horn of Africa.



93,253
people served

Where we are working

Country	Local Partner	Focus Areas	People Impacted
Somalia	LWF Kenya/Somalia	Food vouchers & rations Education	3,025
Sudan	LWF Sudan	Safe drinking water Health services	9,500
Ethiopia	LWF Ethiopia	Food & medicines Farming tools Access to safe water	2,379
Syria	LWF Jordan	Health services	558
Myanmar	LWF Myanmar	Shelter & hygiene Disaster management Education	1,337
Nepal	LWF Nepal	Shelter Disability Psychosocial services	1,124
Ukraine	LWF Poland	Psychosocial services Lifesaving essential services	74,764
Israel/ Palestine	LWF Jordan	Medical treatment Hospital accommodation	566

Welcome for Ukrainian 'Guests'

Saturday 24 February 2024 marked the second anniversary of the conflict in Ukraine. Sadly, the devastation of war continues to impact Ukrainian children and families and it is estimated that more than one in three Ukrainians are displaced. Through ALWS you provide support to displaced Ukrainians within Ukraine and in neighboring countries.

In Poland, you are working through our partners LWF and the UNHCR to support Lutheran churches as they care for Ukrainian refugees. Here the church welcomes Ukrainian families as 'guests', providing food, water and shelter, and helping them settle into the local community. The local Lutheran vicar explains: *"The word refugee creates a distance. There is no distance in the word guests."*

This welcome has made a world of difference for Ukrainians like Nataliia, and her son Antin, who had to flee their hometown of Chernihiv, close to the Russian border. *"At first, I was not sure it was the right decision to leave, but when we arrived here, my son said: 'Mama, I can look outside the window. It is no longer dangerous.'*

Then I knew I had done the right thing. My son is safe here."

In Ukraine you are helping to rebuild apartments so that families can return home.

85-year-old Nadiia Filchakova's apartment in Kharkiv was bombed on the first day of the invasion, *"People rushed to get out of their apartments that day. Those who could, ran to a nearby school or to the underground. Those who couldn't, stayed at home."*

Nadiia's water supply and heating were cut off, so she went to live with her godson. When she finally returned home, the windows were barred with plywood, and water was leaking.

Nadiia has no money for repairs, so the apartment which will be renovated by LWF **with the support of ALWS donors, will be a real blessing.**



Photos: LWF/Albin Hillert

"Those who could, ran to a nearby school or to the underground. Those who couldn't, stayed at home."





Our action together

Lifesaving Help

In 2023, your ALWS action provided lifesaving assistance to individuals and families impacted by conflict and natural disasters in Myanmar, Nepal, Syria, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Bangladesh and South Sudan. This included emergency food, water, shelter, sanitation and hygiene. This support was critical to meet the immediate emergency needs and reduce loss of life.

You responded rapidly in Myanmar following the devastation of Cyclone Mocha and generously contributed to providing emergency food, hygiene kits, tarps, blankets, solar lamps, reconstruction of shelters and renovation of temporary learning spaces.

How we are impacting

Our disaster response projects were independently reviewed and assessed in 2023. Additionally our local partners also completed monitoring assessments. The following impact summaries are taken from recent partner field reports.

Resilient Communities

Together we improved the disaster resilience and response capacity of local communities through training and disaster management preparation. Through training we equipped local leaders in disaster response, growing awareness of gender equality issues in disasters and the importance of mental health supports.

In some locations (Myanmar and Bangladesh), we also improved local infrastructure; rebuilding classrooms so children can return to school, planting trees to improve environmental protection and drain cleaning to improve hygiene.

Equipped Project Partners

Your support through ALWS has trained our project partners in the field to grow their disaster response capabilities. For example, in Ukraine we equipped our partners in best-practice aid delivery, child safeguarding and project monitoring, and in Syria we equipped specialised and non-specialised staff in protection and mental health.

Country	Impact Summary
Somalia – Hunger crisis	3,025 drought-affected people provided with food vouchers for four months. Improved education access for displaced children by training and equipping 25 teachers.
South Sudan – Sudan crisis	9,500 people received psychosocial support, hygiene kits and non-food items (e.g. soap). Triage processes at medical facilities was improved. Safe locations were established for the provision of humanitarian services.
Ethiopia – Hunger crisis	2,379 people received lifesaving assistance; multipurpose cash support, clean water supply, farmer training and community leader development. The multi-purpose cash support allowed families to meet their food & medical needs.
Syria – Earthquake	558 people supported with medical treatment including lifesaving surgeries and psychosocial support. Local medical staff equipped with mental health training.
Myanmar – Cyclone	1,337 people received lifesaving assistance; two shelters reconstructed benefiting 88 households (489 individuals) and 9 temporary learning spaces reconstructed benefiting 848 children.
Nepal – Earthquake	6,809 individuals in the Doti district received essential relief materials. Specific assistance was given to 96 people with disabilities, 434 pregnant and lactating mothers, 134 senior citizens and 64 single women.
Ukraine – Conflict	74,764 people supported with lifesaving assistance. Safe spaces provided to 11,500 women, girls and boys. Mental health support provided to 6,082 people.

Hope Amidst Conflict

Ongoing conflict across Ethiopia continues to devastate families. Takele and his family were forced to flee when their house was burned down, and their family farm destroyed.

Takele says: *"It was a nightmarish scene of screaming, and crying of children ... my youngest still suffers from trauma."*

What is most painful is that my children do not have access to education because of lack of materials ... I can't afford to keep sending my two children to school."

Your ALWS action through our partner, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Ethiopia, is supporting families, like Takele's, fleeing conflict. You provided Takele's family with emergency food, schooling for the children, rental assistance and support to grow a vegetable garden.

Takele shares his renewed hope for the future,

"Currently we are receiving aid ... what we really wish is to get additional support so we can work on a small business and garden farming, so we can rebuild our shattered lives. Despite everything, as Christians we forgive what was done to us."



"Currently we are receiving aid ... despite everything, as Christians we forgive what was done to us."



Help when needed most

On Sunday 14 May 2023, Rakhine State in western Myanmar bore the brunt of Cyclone Mocha with 10-metre waves washing huts and whole villages out to sea.

A member of our local project team described the impact,

"It was as if our home had been hit by a nuclear bomb. Except for the foundation and a few posts, my entire house was destroyed. I was so relieved to find that my sister was still alive."

Through ALWS you responded rapidly and with generosity to provide kitchen sets, tarps, blankets, solar lamps, emergency food and hygiene kits to 16,843 households.

You also took action to help children return to school. In the eight Displaced Persons camps where you provide schooling for 13,773 Rohingya children, you helped to rebuild temporary learning spaces and replaced textbooks, exercise books, pens and paper, and learning materials that were either damaged or washed away during the cyclone.





Little steps making a mark

Hattie's little legs are making a big difference for refugee children in East Africa.

Hattie's mum says, "Last year [2022] when we 'walked our own way' we walked 26km throughout the month of October to make sure her 5 year old legs could cope.

This year [2023] we upped the challenge and walked 26km throughout the first week of October in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges. Our major goal was St Mary peak/Ngarri Mudlanha. We knew it was a challenging hike but we can do hard things together!"

\$26 sends a refugee child to school for a year in East Africa ... that's why we walked 26km.

Hattie and her family completed the 26km challenge across three walks, creating treasured family memories along the way. Importantly, they also raised nearly \$2,000 to provide a year of education for 76 refugee children in East Africa.



Photo: Michelle Jones

Stepping out to Bring Love to Life

In 2023, **2,675 people**, including Hattie and her family, stepped out through **Walk My Way** events to help refugee children access education and to provide lifesaving assistance in Syria and Myanmar. Thank you!

WHO	WHY
<p>2,675 Walkers 11 Lutheran Schools 4 Lutheran Churches</p>	<p>3,531 refugee children supported to go to school, lifesaving assistance for Syria and 1 school building rebuilt in Myanmar</p>



Photo: ALWS

Make your mark(et)!

When St John's Lutheran Church in Perth decided to hold a Christmas market for their community and to help people through ALWS, it was a team effort. Multiple Lutheran congregations joined in – cooking food, donating ingredients and making craft items. **Together, they raised \$8,363.61 for ALWS action!**

"As I came to faith in Jesus, the kindness, hospitality and generosity of Lutherans who used their time, energy and effort to support and spiritually nourish me, completely transformed my life. I am passionate to share the life-changing hope and grace of Jesus with others, so the Christmas market was a great way to sow the gospel seed in the wider local community. It was also a way to help many people in need by supporting ALWS at the same time!" **Maria**, Coordinator

Gifts of Kindness

Jess was inspired when ALWS facilitated an awareness workshop at her Lutheran school in Queensland. She decided it was time for action and her Christmas kindness raised \$500 to help through **Gifts of Grace**.



*"Mum and Dad had often said that Christmas is a time for giving. When it came close to Christmas, they asked me what I wanted. I said straightaway that I didn't want anything for myself ... **I wanted to raise money for ALWS Gifts of Grace.** I made up a note to send to my extended family and godparents telling them what I wanted to do. I was very keen to make one of the gifts the 'All Set for School' pack as I love books and learning and going to school. It made me sad to think that some children don't have that opportunity, so I was very glad I could help them!" Jess, Grade 6*



Photo: Celia Auckland

School Awareness Activity	Number
School workshops & chapel presentations	222
Lutheran schools engaged	57
Number of students engaged	22,231



Photo: ALWS

How joy grows

For more than 20 years, Paul has grown plants to sell at weekend markets and country Shows, to help people through ALWS. With the support of friends Rex and Claire, Paul's garden has grown to **provide \$550,000 of ALWS aid!** Their gardening and philanthropy efforts were recognised recently on the ABC TV Show 'Gardening Australia'! **Scan the QR code to watch the segment!**



Australian Lutheran World Service

Very Valuable Volunteers

In 2023, volunteers donated 415 hours of their time, which represents a **saving of \$13,049!** This means more of your donation gets to those who need it most. **Thank you, volunteers!**

*Dalise packing the **Gifts of Grace** envelopes in the ALWS office in Albury, NSW.*



Photo: ALWS

You can keep blessing others

A gift in your Will to help others through ALWS is a wonderful way to show the people you care about the values you hold most dear.

You can talk to your family about your plans now, so they can see why your work through ALWS is important to you.

ALWS understands this is a sensitive subject, but you can be reassured that planning your Will carefully and clearly, with professional guidance, will relieve your family of worry, and free them to celebrate your life in the way you'd wish them to.

You are welcome to request a FREE booklet that explains the blessing a gift in your Will, to help people through ALWS, will be. Call ALWS on 1300 763 407.

Ready to take next step? It's simple:

1. Consult a legal practitioner about your Will, and leaving a gift in your Will to help others through ALWS, after you have taken care of your family.
2. Talk to your family about your plans, so they can share the joy with you in what you will do to help others.
3. Your legal practitioner can then use the wording that follows to express your wishes:

"I hereby bequeath to the Lutheran World Service – Overseas Aid Fund of the Australian Lutheran World Service of Somerset Drive, Albury New South Wales (insert your bequest here - the whole of my estate / the residue of my estate / % of my estate / sum of \$... / description of property) to be used by ALWS in its mission of mercy to people who are the most vulnerable, and in danger of being forgotten, in the world's developing countries."

4. Tell us you have decided to leave a gift in your Will to ALWS. This means we can thank you properly and update you on what your future gift will do for the people you help.
5. When the time comes, ALWS will prepare a Commemorative Book for your family so they can see the life-transforming work your gift in Will carries on, and share in the joy as they honour your memory.



If you have any questions ... or would like help to do a FREE online Will ... simply contact ALWS on: 1300 763 407 • alws@alws.org.au



Photo: ALWS

It's 'prayer in action' stuff - not just expecting God to fix it, it's His Spirit empowering us to be a part of his work. We are God's hands and feet.

Blessed to bless

"We came from fairly ordinary Lutheran families and neither of our families had any money.

Dorothy's mum very much had the spirit of helping others. Robin was one of 11, so things were more family focused. We can't really remember when we started supporting ALWS, which I guess means that it just became part of our lifestyle.

ALWS feels personal, and not a big corporation.

We knew ALWS was a worthwhile charity. Part of it was knowing that lots of money wasn't being 'sucked up' in administration. We know our help gets to the people who need it.

With ALWS we love seeing that this little community here is supporting a community over where we are needed.

We like that ALWS responds to disasters in our world, and supports women who are widowed, or alone, to start a small business of their own.

It's important to us that all are supported, and not just tied to people being religious. We are passionate about education for girls, including the Muslim girls and the refugees who might be forgotten.

We made Wills ages ago when the kids were teenagers and included ALWS then.

A couple of years ago we re-did parts of our Will to make it more specific. We had help from our solicitor. We have this house, and our super, and realised our children don't need that much money, as we had them young and they are well established.

So now we are leaving a third of our Will to ALWS. We know ALWS does great work and we are happy we can help that work continue.

We've been blessed and so we hope that our money can bless others."

Robin and Dorothy Mann have for 50 years blessed both the Lutheran Church, and the wider Christian community across Australia and Asia, with their music ministry. Robin and Dorothy are Ambassadors for the ALWS Lives you touch program after visiting ALWS projects in Indonesia.

Financial Summary

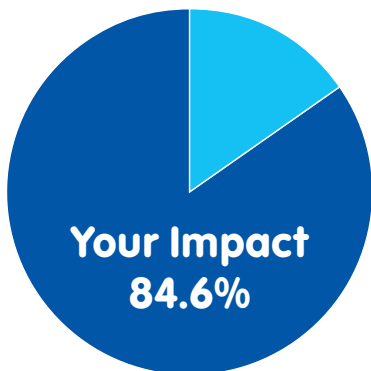
For the year ended 31 December 2023

ALWS was blessed in 2023 to be entrusted with \$10.1 million to bring love to life. This strong revenue result reflects the generosity of ALWS supporters and our strong partnership with the Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Thank you!

The 2023 calendar year ended with total expenditure of \$10.5 million, creating a deficit of \$300,880. This planned deficit was the result of increased support for our partners in the field. Global inflationary pressures are making it harder for our partners to maintain the reach of their programs. To counter this impact, ALWS used cash reserves to increase support and maintain program outcomes.

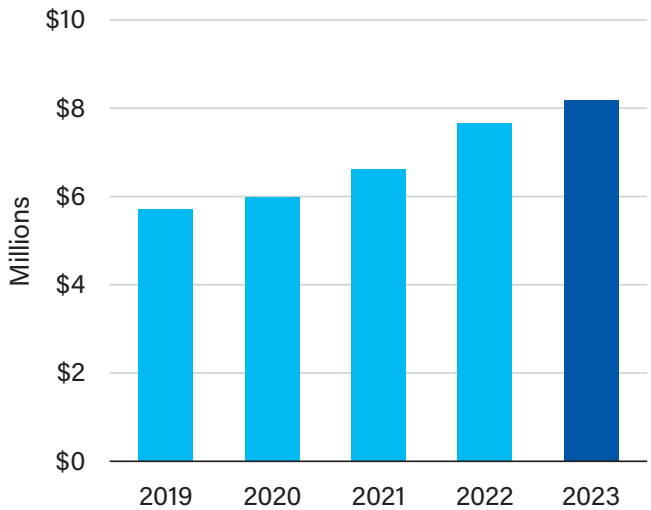
ALWS is committed to growing our support for the most vulnerable. This is evident in the year on year growth of International Programs Expenditure, with a record \$8.2M invested in international project support in 2023.

ALWS continues to operate efficiently and, despite inflationary pressures in Australia, we were able to maintain our 'overhead' ratio at 15.4%. 'Overheads' are fundraising, accountability and administration costs, as defined by the ACFID Code of Conduct. The 2023 result means that our five-year 'overhead' average is 15.8%.

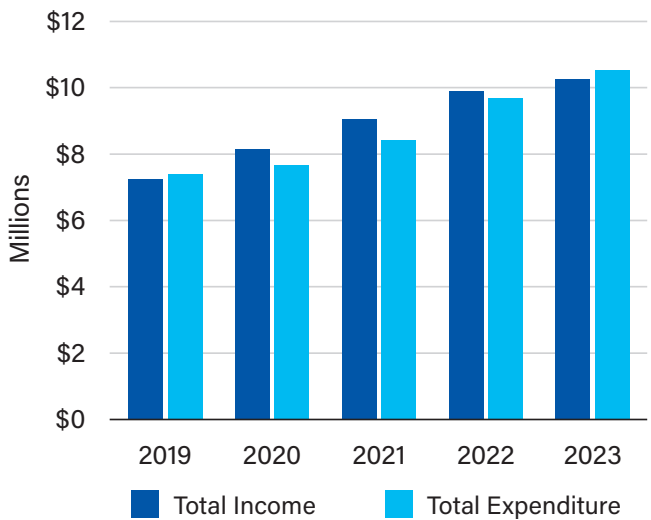


ALWS regards 'overhead' costs as an essential part of effective ministry. They ensure that funds entrusted to ALWS are used transparently and effectively, meeting all legal and accreditation standards, while also maximising efficiency.

International Programs Expenditure



Revenue & Expenditure



The good news is that 84.6% of ALWS expenditure in 2023 supported projects that help and educate people!

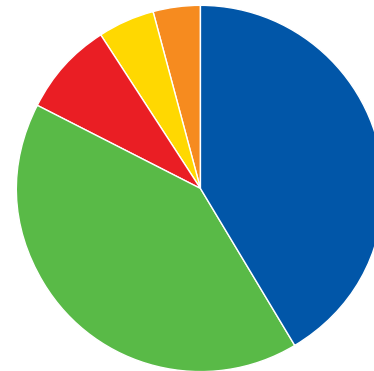
ALWS maintains a sound financial position as at 31 December 2023, with the financial capacity to meet all its obligations as and when they fall due.

Thank you!

Financial Highlights For the year ended 31 December 2023

Where You Helped

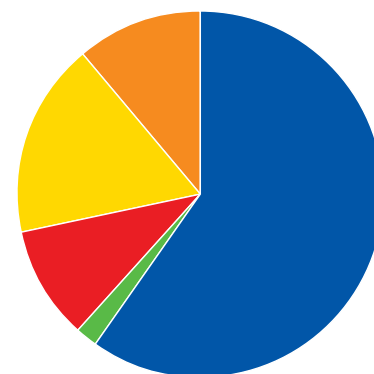
Program Expenditure	Amount	Percentage
Sub-Saharan Africa	\$3,388,454	41.4%
Asia Region	\$3,384,772	41.3%
Pacific	\$685,022	8.4%
Middle East & Eastern Europe	\$400,928	4.9%
Common Projects (All regions)	\$332,672	4.0%
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURE	\$8,191,847	100%



Note: The ratios are program expenses expressed as a percentage of total expenditure less fundraising, accountability and administration costs, as reported in the audited Comprehensive Income Statement.

Support You Provided

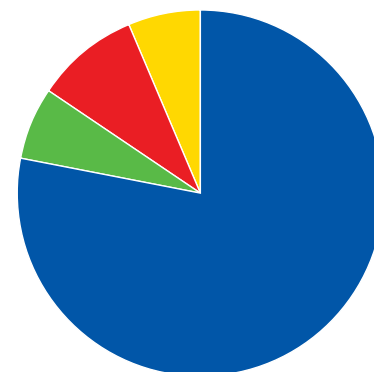
Program Expenditure	Amount	Percentage
Development Programs	\$4,907,874	59.9%
Global Partner Support	\$151,583	1.9%
Humanitarian Response	\$823,167	10.0%
Protracted Crisis	\$1,397,846	17.1%
Program Quality & Support	\$911,377	11.1%
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURE	\$8,191,847	100%



Note: The ratios are program expenses expressed as a percentage of total expenditure less fundraising, accountability and administration costs, as reported in the audited Comprehensive Income Statement.

Use of Funds

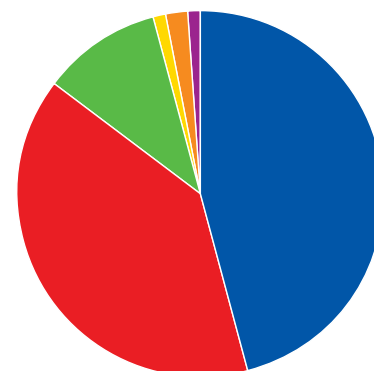
Expenditure	Amount	Percentage
International Programs	\$8,191,847	78.1%
Community Education	\$679,547	6.5%
Fundraising	\$962,563	9.2%
Accountability & Administration	\$656,606	6.2%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$10,490,563	100%



Note: The ratios are expense items expressed as a percentage of total expenditure reported in the audited Comprehensive Income Statement.

How We Are Supported

Revenue	Amount	Percentage
Donations & gifts	\$4,658,157	46.0%
Bequests & legacies	\$1,056,351	10.4%
Grants - DFAT	\$4,004,883	39.5%
Grants - Other	\$137,693	1.3%
Investment Income	\$169,037	1.7%
Other Income	\$108,661	1.1%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,134,782	100%



Note: The ratios are revenue items expressed as a percentage of total revenue reported in the audited Comprehensive Income Statement.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

REVENUE	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Donations & gifts	\$4,658,157	\$4,924,306
Bequests & legacies	\$1,056,351	\$1,031,729
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	\$4,004,883	\$3,520,434
Other Australian	\$137,693	\$321,262
Investment income	\$169,037	\$56,704
Other income	\$108,661	\$51,782
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,134,782	\$9,906,217

EXPENDITURE	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
International programs		
Funds to international programs	\$7,280,470	\$7,069,350
Program support costs	\$911,377	\$561,330
Community education	\$679,547	\$521,071
Fundraising costs		
Public	\$962,563	\$821,341
Government, multilateral & private	-	\$24,959
Accountability & administration	\$656,606	\$641,531
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$10,490,563	\$9,639,582

(DEFICIT) SURPLUS	(\$355,781)	\$266,635
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Other Comprehensive Income		
Profit (Loss) on revaluation of financial assets	\$54,901	(\$54,901)

TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(\$300,880)	\$211,734
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These summary financial statements have been taken from the Australian Lutheran World Service's audited Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023. The full audited report is available with a digital version of this Annual Report on the ALWS website at www.alws.org.au/policies-reports/



These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID website at www.acfid.asn.au

 **Scan to see full audited report**

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2023

ASSETS	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Current Assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$7,566,654	\$8,087,398
Trade & other receivables	\$184,374	\$40,797
Other financial assets	\$913,854	\$720,050
Total Current Assets	\$8,664,882	\$8,848,245
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	\$18,373	\$32,660
Right-of-use assets	\$15,180	\$41,202
Total Non-Current Assets	\$33,553	\$73,862
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,698,435	\$8,922,107

LIABILITIES	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Current Liabilities		
Trade & other payables	\$165,814	\$69,692
Tax liabilities	\$109,270	\$80,877
Lease liabilities	\$15,124	\$26,664
Provisions	\$291,493	\$242,445
Total Current Liabilities	\$581,701	\$419,678
Non-Current Liabilities		
Lease liabilities	-	\$16,015
Provisions	\$126,117	\$209,503
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$126,117	\$225,518
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$707,818	\$645,196
NET ASSETS	\$7,990,617	\$8,276,911

EQUITY		
Retained earnings	\$7,976,031	\$8,276,911
Investment revaluations reserve	\$14,586	-
TOTAL EQUITY	\$7,990,617	\$8,276,911

Statement of Changes in Equity

As at 31 December 2023

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	TOTAL
Balance as at 1 Jan 2023	\$8,276,911	0	\$8,276,911
(Deficit)	(\$300,880)	0	(\$300,880)
Transfers to/from reserves	0	\$14,586	14,586
Balance as at 31 December 2023	\$7,976,031	\$14,586	\$7,990,617

Our Positive Partnerships



Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ)

The LCANZ seeks to bring love to life and has tasked ALWS to implement this as the church's humanitarian aid and development agency.



Lutheran Laypeople's League (LLL)

The LLL provides generous support for ALWS' work, in the areas of community education, community action and administration (including interest on funds held in perpetuity). ALWS gratefully acknowledges LLL's generous support.



Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service (LWF World Service)

LWF World Service is the main implementer of overseas aid for ALWS. It has a global program embracing developing countries in Africa, Central America, South-East Asia and the Middle East. It is certified by the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and is the world's seventh largest partner to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



Action by Churches Together (ACT Alliance)

ACT Alliance is a network of 140 churches and affiliated organisations that work together in over 120 countries to provide humanitarian assistance and development. ALWS is a member of the ACT Alliance and its Pacific, Australia and New Zealand Forum.



Church Agency Network (CAN)

The CAN is a network of 12 Australian church-based aid and development agencies, including ALWS, who collaborate to leverage experience, resources and capability. Collectively, the CAN provides disaster response and risk reduction in over 200 countries and territories.



National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA) – Act for Peace

The NCCA has its own overseas aid agency, Act for Peace, now separately incorporated.



Emergency Action Alliance (EAA)

ALWS is a founding member of the EAA. The EAA is made up of 15 Australian-based member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialise in different areas of disaster response. This combined expertise allows the EAA to offer Australian donors a coordinated, targeted response to international emergencies.



Micah Australia

Micah is a coalition of Australia's leading Christian international development agencies that advocates to government on the most urgent global justice issues facing our world. ALWS is a member of Micah and contributes to shaping and resourcing Micah's strategy.

ALWS' Complaints Policy can be found at www.alws.org.au. Complaints, including complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct, can be made by emailing our Complaints Officer at complaints@alws.org.au or 02 6021 5329. If the complaint is against the Executive Director, contact Board Chair Ms Jodie Hoff chair@alws.org.au or 07 5540 8888.



Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

ACFID is the peak body for Australian overseas aid and development agencies. ACFID requires members to maintain high standards of governance, accountability and financial management. ALWS is a member of ACFID and is committed to full adherence with the ACFID Code of Conduct.



Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

The ACNC is the independent national regulator of all Australian charities. ALWS is registered with ACNC and adheres to all requirements of an Australian not-for-profit organisation.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

ALWS is accredited by DFAT to deliver Australia's aid program. To maintain accreditation, ALWS' systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed every five years.

In 2023, ALWS received support through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) for programs in Burundi, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Somalia, along with a regional project in Gender. Through the PNGAusPartnership, the Australian Government also supported the Church Partnership Program in Papua New Guinea. Through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership and the CAN DO Consortium, the Australian Government also supported our work in Bangladesh and Myanmar. ALWS gratefully acknowledges DFAT's support for these programs. Below is an example of the great work that your ALWS action has achieved in partnership with the Australian Government.



Photo: LWF Somalia

Mathematics of Hope

From a very young age, Jamilah longed to go to school, but her family circumstances meant that she had to work to help support the family.

Sadly, her situation deteriorated further when at the age of 14, a devastating drought forced Jamilah's family to move to the Internally Displaced Persons camp in Kismayo, Somalia. Thankfully, it was here that your work through ALWS helped Jamilah realise her dream.

Through ALWS, and in partnership with the Australian Government, you make it possible for children like Jamilah to access education in the Internally Displaced Persons camp by providing school uniforms, desks, exercise books, pencils and sharpeners.

Now aged 16, Jamilah is inspired by her schooling experience to make a difference for other children just like her.

"I enjoyed maths so much that I feel an inner sense of belonging and attachment to this subject. My dream is to attend university and become a mathematics teacher to help eradicate illiteracy among my people, particularly those who are from poor backgrounds."

ALWS Board of Directors



Ms Jodie Hoff – Chair

B Teach, BEd, GradDipEd, MEd Leadership

Jodie is Principal of LORDS (Lutheran Ormeau Rivers District School) in Pimpama, Qld. She has served as a board director for Lutheran Education and Lutheran Youth in Queensland and joined the ALWS Board in 2019.



Mr Peter Renner – Vice-chair

Peter is a retired bank executive with human resources expertise. He is the Chair of Ringwood Lutheran Church, Vic, and serves on the LCA Victoria-Tasmania District audit, risk and finance subcommittee. Peter joined the Board in 2017.



Ms Morgan Brookes – Board Member

BA, BEd, Grad Cert Bus

Morgan is Head of Senior School at Cornerstone College, SA, and was the former Wellbeing Director. She serves on the Board for Lobethal Lutheran School, SA and joined the ALWS Board in 2010.



Mr Thomas Brennen – Board Member

MEd, Grad Cert Ed Lead, BMus, BEd, BA

Thomas is Principal of Cornerstone College, SA, and has previous experience as the Acting Director for the African Hope Learning Centre, Egypt. He is a member at Strathalbyn Lutheran Church, SA, and joined the ALWS Board in 2020.



Mr Andrew Kotzur – Board Member

BBus

Andrew is Managing Director of an engineering and manufacturing group of companies and the Co-chair of the Murray Taskforce – Growing Regions of Welcome. He is Chair of Zion Lutheran Congregation, NSW, and joined the ALWS Board in 2020.



Rev Mark Schultz – Board Member

BTh, Grad Dip Min

Mark is Lead Pastor of LifeWay Lutheran Church, a multi-ethnic, multi-site church in NSW and Cambodia. He is Chair of the Vertical Villages Project and the Together for Ryde Network. Mark joined the Board in 2022.



Ms Alice Caldwell – Board Member

LLB, BIR, GradDipLegPrac

Alice is a senior legal officer in the Australian Public Service in Canberra, with international Embassy and Consulate-General experience. She is a member of the Immanuel Woden Valley Lutheran Church and joined the ALWS Board in 2023.

ALWS Leadership Team



Mr Michael Stolz - Executive Director
EMBA, BEng

Michael is an accomplished leader and business developer with corporate experience in the transport, energy and defence industries. He has served as a board director for the LCAZ (8 years) and ALWS (2 years). Michael commenced as Executive Director in 2022.



Mrs Leah Odongo - Programs Director, Deputy Executive Director
MBA, LL.B, BAL

Leah has 16 years of experience in international aid, development programs and partnerships. She has previously served as a human rights lawyer in Kenya and has also worked in refugee camps in Eastern Africa. Leah joined ALWS in 2015.



Mr Aaron Glover - Community Engagement Manager
MBA, BBus

Aaron is an experienced non-profit leader with a track record of growing organisational impact and empowering teams. He has expertise in school and church partnership and ecumenical collaboration. Aaron joined ALWS as Community Engagement Manager in February 2023.



Mr Jonathan Krause - Community Action Manager
BA

Jonathan is a strategic fundraising expert with over 30 years' experience, raising more than \$1 billion for charitable works through 50+ aid agencies across Europe, Asia, the United States and Australia. Jonathan has served at ALWS since 2006.



Mr Shane Buckland - Chief Financial Officer
CA, B Comm

Shane is a chartered accountant with 30 years' experience across private enterprise, government, public accounting and multi-national corporations. He has previously served in governance roles within the LCAZ. Shane joined ALWS as Chief Financial Officer in January 2024.

All photos on pages 34 / 35: Anthony Bothe

The ALWS Board met on 31 March, 28 June, 29 September & 13 December 2023.

The Finance Audit and Risk Committee (FAR) met on 8 March, 31 May, 6 September & 30 November 2023. The FAR Committee members are Peter Renner (Chair), Jodie Hoff, Michael Stolz, Ron Asquith and Kerry Simpfordorfer.

The Program Advisory Committee (PAC) met on 17 March, 8 June, 7 September & 30 November 2023. The PAC members are Tom Brennan (Chair), Anthony Sell, Rebecca Robinson, Geoff Robinson and Michael Stolz.

The Fundraising and Marketing Committee (FAM) met on 9 March, 31 May, 4 October & 5 December 2023. The FAM members are Mark Schultz (Chair), Jonathan Krause, Aaron Glover, Lorelei Baum, Tony Smith, Michael Stolz and Leo Orland.



Thank you!

Photo: ALWS

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ALWayS for those forgotten!

Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) is the Overseas Aid and Development Agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia. ABN 36 660 551 871

