



# PWRDF Development Team Report

April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021



## PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief  
and Development Fund

*The Anglican Church of Canada*

# Report Context

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was a pandemic. Since then and throughout this reporting period (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021), people around the world have been impacted by COVID-19 by varying degrees depending on where they live, their socio-economic status, livelihood strategy, access to health services and measures put in place by governments to contain and limit the spread of the virus. In addition, governments in developing countries have fewer financial resources available especially during the pandemic for social security, purchasing vaccinations and adequately equipping health facilities to treat and prevent COVID-19.

Unfortunately, gains made over the past decades in health, education, food security, livelihood security, nutrition, immunizations for children under five years and other development sectors have been eroded by COVID-19. The consequences are especially more challenging for women and girls as they are at greater risk of gender-based violence and exploitation. In addition, girls are more vulnerable to child marriages to alleviate economic burdens on their families.

Throughout the pandemic, the Development Team has been liaising with partner staff and project team members to find out what impact COVID-19 is having on partner organizations, partner staff, projects and community members. Modifications have been made to project budgets, timelines and work plans to enable partners to respond to the pandemic in their operational areas as well as to pause project activities that may no longer be feasible during the interim period due to public health measures. Partners have adapted to the situation as well by using phones, apps, social media and meeting virtually to stay engaged with community members and provide information and trainings.

# Global Affairs Canada Funded Project: All Mothers and Children Count (AMCC) COVID-19 Extension

- **Rwanda: Partners In Health (PIH), \$453,469**

PIH accompanied the Ministry of Health and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre in the overall COVID-19 response through technical advisory inputs, testing support, care follow up in facilities and homebased care, facilitating vaccination campaigns, training health providers including non-clinical workers, and providing supplies for infection, prevention and control in three rural districts (Kirehe, Kayanza and Burera). PIH strengthened health systems through assembling oxygen piping at Rwinkwavu District Hospital, installing water purification systems at three district hospitals and installing a screening thermal imaging system at the national blood transfusion centre. In



*Health workers in full PPE at the Nyarugenge Hospital treatment centre in Kigali where critical COVID-19 cases are treated*

addition, PIH upgraded and equipped district hospital isolation sections to adequately care for 8 to 10 moderately ill COVID-19 patients at each of the three supported hospitals. Items provided in isolation spaces included personal protective equipment and infection control supplies such as decontamination solutions, gowns, gloves, alcohol, N95 masks and surgical masks. Furthermore, PIH availed nurses and laboratory technicians to support district hospitals stretched for personnel due to the pandemic response in the districts, in addition to the more than 40 PIH staff who were deployed at different command posts.

PIH emphasized the need for testing in understanding surveillance and the spread of the virus using the latest technologies. PIH procured and distributed 30,768 antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDTs) to test high risk patient populations such as pregnant women, cancer patients, health providers and staff in the field. Ag-RDTs are economical compared to PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and they have a very short turnaround time of approximately 15 minutes to provide results. The RDTs funded by the project this year proved to be very effective to test those with symptoms and contacts. PIH trained more than 800 health and non-health professionals in health facilities who care for COVID-19 patients on topics ranging from prevention to management and follow up.

Public health restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 affected health service delivery and demand for other types of health care especially by women and children. A survey by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre revealed fewer women are attending their prenatal care sessions due to lockdowns. Community health workers reported they were not able to visit all pregnant women as planned due to limitations on their movements within communities. Though community health worker (CHW) visits to women and their



newborns for postnatal care continued, there was a trend toward declining visits because community health workers were not permitted to circulate as much. There has also been a decrease in new women and men of reproductive age seeking modern contraception. Other areas of health care that are negatively affected by COVID-19 restrictions include growth and development monitoring of children under five and activities associated with the prevention of non-communicable diseases. Despite lockdowns, all public and private health clinics remained operational since the pandemic and community members seeking health care are almost always permitted. PIH worked directly with the government to restart community health workers nutrition activities in 2021 by providing masks, infection prevention control materials, decontamination kits, locally produced sanitizers, and combining nutrition activities with home-based care. In person mentoring has also suffered due to travel restrictions between Kigali and the districts and between districts from the outset of the pandemic in March 2020. PIH mitigated this as much as possible by availing clinicians on site when possible and communicating more by telephone and forming WhatsApp groups. Zoom meetings have also been conducted to communicate and share experiences.

- **Burundi: Village Health Works (VHW), \$681,412**

Village Health Works (VHW) was proactive and well prepared from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic for the increase in infections that began in 2021. Masks are distributed to every visitor above 10 years of age that enters the campus where the health facility is located. Handwashing is required at the new taps installed at automatic handwashing stations by the main entrance of the campus. Visitors have their temperature taken. Physical distancing continues and on-campus activities remain limited. Hygiene supplies are always readily available. As patients wait to see physicians, staff ensure that physical distancing is respected and that masks are worn properly. VHW organized distribution points in the communities for patients not needing medical appointments to pick up filled prescriptions to reduce unnecessary visits to the campus. Similarly, VHW organized distribution points for malnourished patients requiring nutritional supplementation. Despite intentional efforts to reduce people visiting the campus, community members continue to seek health care when they need it due to effective communication supported by the project. VHW no longer limits ultrasounds to specific weekdays. Women arrive at the campus for prenatal visits through their own means rather than being provided transportation by VHW. Group training was organized in smaller group sizes and in well ventilated spaces whenever possible. Though the need remains, community supervision was reduced to limit staff exposure. All community health workers received masks and soap for hand washing. A key success was VHW's continued partnership with Medic Mobile to develop a remote COVID-19 training tool on community health worker mobile phones. The tool continued to track community efforts on the ground and empowered community health workers with COVID-19 knowledge. The Medic Mobile training tool encouraged community health workers to learn about the pandemic and to share that information with community members. The tool considerably reduced the number of visits community health workers make to the campus. The tool has the capacity to include other services such as contact tracing and surveillance provided the Ministry of Health permits community health workers to provide these services in the future.

Procuring PPE, hygiene and medical equipment continued to present difficulties. Procurement in Burundi is challenging at the best of times, but these challenges were compounded by ongoing disruptions in global supply chains. Both the local and international procurement teams experienced stockouts and there were difficulties in effective communication with vendors. Several times vendors would confirm purchases and then inform the team items were missing. When these hurdles were overcome, shipping became a challenge. Shipping to Burundi has never been a straightforward task, however, with the global transportation routes being overcrowded, it was difficult to find cargo containers for the delivery of goods. Oftentimes vendors had to outsource their delivery to shipping companies due to overbookings or shipping cancellations. This resulted in increased prices for goods and transport. The VHW procurement team was diligent in its procurement processes and vendor selections. Though many of the goods arrived later than expected, the medical teams

were satisfied with the procurement efforts and the quality of the goods distributed. The hygiene team scaled up its efforts on campus with the procurement of additional cleaning supplies. The hygiene team works with the management team to assess the effectiveness of its efforts. The daily washing of visitors' masks has been questioned since staff do not wash their masks daily and they do not understand the difference in transmission risk between the two groups (health staff and patients). The expected arrival of industrial washers and dryers for the hospital will hopefully result in less reluctance to wash reusable masks.

Although testing is slowly increasing in Burundi, it remains very limited in most provinces and is restricted to rapid testing. While VHW has both the PCR and GeneXpert machines to test for COVID-19, the government still has not granted the permission required to allow VHW to be a testing centre. As a result, every case must be referred to the National Institute of Public Health testing centre, making it difficult to determine whether patients have gone for testing and/or require follow up and contact tracing. Vaccination is still not part of the Burundian health agenda. These factors have been particularly frustrating for the health professionals who receive significant insight and perspective from abroad.

COVID-19 skepticism remains high among community members living in the project operational area. When the pandemic started, VHW required all its staff and community-based workers to wear masks. This was misunderstood at times and community members thought these individuals were COVID-19 positive. With the change in government and an increase in reported cases, there is a slightly better understanding of COVID-19 among community members. Nonetheless, with few testing centres and screenings taking place, it remains difficult for communities to understand the potential severity of the situation. Masks are worn to respect mandates and to avoid enforcement by the authorities, however, most people now carry a mask but do not necessarily wear it. On campus, staff continue to wear masks and respect physical distancing as much as possible. Most staff share rooms on campus, hence, transmission risks continue to remain. Though staff meals are eaten outdoors, they are still shared in covered dining areas. Wearing masks throughout the day is uncomfortable and with so few COVID-19 cases being reported in the area, some staff do not always understand the need for ongoing precautions. The medical team did learn that a staff member had contracted COVID-19 but only one month later. Though this came as a surprise, the health facility did not experience an increase in symptoms on campus. Senior management regularly reminds staff of the health protocols to follow and measures to take should they experience symptoms. During consultations at the health facility, patients often try to remove their masks to speak and doctors find themselves constantly requesting them to properly cover their nose and mouth.

- **Tanzania: Anglican Church of Tanzania, Diocese of Masasi, \$324,712**

Project implementation was challenging because it remained difficult to know the status of COVID-19 in the country since the government had not released any statistics since May 2020. As a result, borders remained open since May 2020 and people largely continued to go about their normal activities prior to COVID-19. This included engaging in business, livelihoods and attending auctions, parties, religious services, funerals, weddings, meetings, political rallies and sports events sometimes with and sometimes without PPE. The passing away of President John Magafuli on March 17, 2021 and the swearing in of Samia Suluhu Hassan two days later as the new President marked a watershed moment in that it created an opportunity for the leadership and the population to acknowledge the presence of COVID-19 within its borders and to take action to prevent further spread. The evaluation committee mandated by the new President delivered its evaluation and recommendations concerning the situational analysis of COVID-19 in Tanzania. The committee acknowledged Tanzania experienced two waves of COVID-19 and was at risk of a third wave. The committee recommended that the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare resume regular reporting of COVID-19 cases to the WHO and to submit documentation to join COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX). The director of prevention from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare issued instructions for people to wear masks, use

sanitizers and wash hands in response to this threat. Travel restrictions hampered village visits and in person interactions between the project team, health providers, community health workers and community members. Consequently, the Diocese of Masasi focused on developing educational programs and materials to sensitize community members on the risks and effects of COVID-19 through a variety of media that included community radio, WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook groups. Public address systems, which were distributed to villages by the project team, were fully utilized to disseminate COVID-19 messages and amplify related information provided by health officials from the district and region health departments and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.



*Masasi District Director receiving oxygen concentrators, protective gear, infrared thermometers, medical masks and gloves*

Awareness was raised and capacities of community health workers and health providers further developed for prevention and treatment of COVID-19. 93.33% (28/30) of health providers interviewed during focus group discussions confirmed they were wearing medical masks, washing hands regularly and using sanitizers on the job because of the knowledge gained from coaching, supervision, protocols and the availability of PPE at health facilities. They also confirmed they took precautions in other public places such as offices, banks, schools, markets and bus terminals. Community health workers collaborated with health providers to organize and carry out education sessions at health facilities and during community meetings in their respected villages. The sessions raised awareness among women, girls, men and boys on the risks of COVID-19 and what must be done to curb its spread. 42,839 (22,592F/20,247M) community members were reached with COVID-19 sensitization. 35 (4F/31M) religious leaders participated in the education sessions in all 73 project villages to better understand the risks, effects and preventive measures for COVID-19.

The project team organized and established an information sharing system with community health workers to learn about the effects of COVID-19 from project villages and to provide support. The system helped create an informal network that worked in collaboration with the District COVID-19 Response Committee. The project team conducted monitoring visits to health facilities supported by the project with the District COVID-19 Response Committee members. The visits helped to prioritize PPE, medical equipment, supplies and drugs most in need. The District COVID-19 Response Committees worked diligently this reporting period to ensure

that information on COVID-19 was properly recorded and on file at district and regional health facilities. Related medical equipment and supplies and PPE were procured and distributed to two district hospitals, three health centres and 26 dispensaries, which assisted 110 (47F/63M) health providers and 86 (47F/39M) community health workers in the delivery of health services. Project inputs included infrared thermometers, oxygen concentrators, examination gloves, protective gear and an assortment of medical drugs. All inputs were produced by domestic manufacturers approved by the government.

Similar to Burundi, the challenge at community level is to increase awareness and address misconceptions on the potential severity of COVID-19, which to date has only inspired a lacklustre adherence to taking precautions. Most community members applied preventive measures that included wearing masks, washing hands with soap frequently and using hand sanitizers during the first wave. People relaxed taking precautions when the Magafuli administration announced COVID-19 no longer existed in Tanzania soon after the virus was declared a pandemic. The challenge moving forward will be to clarify mixed messages from the past. Time has been lost for the Ministry of Health to test, track and treat on a greater scale, share the results, implement a vaccination program and to monitor variants going forward.

- **Mozambique: EHALE, \$627,118**

In the project operational area in Nampula province, 4,790 women and 7,432 men with two or more symptoms of COVID-19 were registered. Of these, 3,182 women and 3,410 men were referred to a health facility. Fortunately, none of the people referred to health facilities had COVID-19 and the symptoms were due to other respiratory illnesses that included tuberculosis. In terms of awareness raising in communities, 3,439 women and 4,275 men were sensitized on COVID-19 transmission and prevention. 282 posters were distributed to health facilities with basic and specific information about COVID-19 prevention. 3,117 women and 2,913 men were educated on transmission and prevention of diarrhea and cholera, respiratory infections, malaria, tuberculosis and conjunctivitis. Sensitization was done through loudspeakers, fliers, awareness sessions and debates in small groups and meetings and radio programs that included music and drama.

Safe motherhood promoters featured information on women and children's health care during a pandemic in their educational sessions with community members. Consequently, educational sessions broached comprehensive care of pregnant women and children with particular emphasis on the importance to deliver babies at health facilities by a trained birth attendant, to attend prenatal and postnatal consultations and to practice family planning. Safe motherhood promoters referred 13,158 pregnant women for prenatal consultations. Safe motherhood promoters delivered 159 babies for pregnant women who did not make it in time to deliver at health facilities. Of the 12,065 women that received postnatal and family planning services, 7,361 were women who had just given birth within 48 hours. Four women and eight newborns died in childbirth out of 14,139 reported deliveries.

Procuring and delivering medical supplies was another important activity carried out. 700 aprons were distributed and priority was given to health facilities where there were recurrent outbreaks of cholera. Supplies were distributed to nine district health centres, 30 health centres and three integrated MNCH dispensaries. Fluctuations in the supply of protective gear for standard consumables such as masks, examination and surgical masks in health facilities recurred throughout the reporting period. It was reported that there were instances where trained birth attendants delivered babies without plastic gloves or even those normally only used for cleaning. Other health facilities struggled with the challenge of not having access to a continuous supply of clean water.

The COVID-19 pandemic in Mozambique has mobilized health personnel from rural and remote areas to district and provincial health centres, which limited some basic health services in rural areas. Consequently,

the challenges of allocating material and human resources to control the spread of the virus has worsened regional inequalities, especially the care of COVID-19 patients. Care for the chronically ill, prenatal consultations, growth and development monitoring, vaccinations and family planning services decreased in demand by community members due to their concerns of COVID-19 in buildings constructed several decades ago that did not take into account airborne disease prevention. The space inside most health buildings does not allow for full compliance of COVID-19 protocols. Consequently, adjustments were made to avoid congestion in health facilities. Depending on the stage of disease and degree of compliance, HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure and diabetes patients now have drug prescriptions filled for at least three months. Health messaging has again targeted parents to bring their children under five for regular appointments. It is increasingly understood that the health sector needs to be strengthened in many aspects that include health messaging and capacity building for health professionals, community health workers and safe motherhood promoters. Response to rising domestic violence during the pandemic also requires a better response from the health sector and other key stakeholders.



# PWRDF Funded Projects

- **Canada: Pikangikum First Nation, \$300,000**

The Chief and Band Council appointed six (four female, two male) young people from Pikangikum to retrofit 16 homes with water and wastewater systems for the Pikangikum Water and Wastewater Systems Project Phase 4. The youth were previously involved in retrofitting 10 homes in Phase 2. The youth are being led by two crew bosses who have experience building houses and installing electrical systems and plumbing. One of the crew bosses was trained in Phase 1 and was a crew boss for Phase 2. The Chief and Council members updated the homes to be retrofitted with water and wastewater systems from 15 to 16 because one family in need already had the necessary materials. When the ice road opened in January 2021, materials were shipped to Pikangikum and all the materials that were ordered and purchased have been delivered and stored in the community. Retrofitting work began once the ground was no longer frozen and it was feasible to start digging. Pikangikum First Nation obtained additional funding for Phase 4 from the government when the outdoor project work commenced.

- **Canada: Water First Education and Training Inc., \$60,836**

One of the most fundamental challenges for Indigenous Peoples is the lack of sustainable access to safe, clean drinking water. In 40% of Indigenous communities in Ontario, water is not safe to drink. To help resolve this dilemma, PWRDF in collaboration with individuals and churches engaged in the Pimatisiwin Nipi (Living Waters Group), who support safe water and sanitation in First Nations communities, joined efforts to fundraise for Water First through a national Advent campaign in November and December 2020. The funds raised will go to the Water First Internship Program to train young Indigenous adults to become certified water treatment operators. Over a 15 month period, interns will be involved in more than 2,000 hours of training and experience in the classroom, at local water treatment facilities and out on the land. This paid Internship provides hands-on skills training and supports interns to obtain four provincially recognized certifications. The internship also will support interns in other areas such as resume writing, employment coaching and networking opportunities.

- **Canada: Diocese of Edmonton, \$10,000**

The Birth Support Worker Program (Indigenous Ministries Initiative) supports Indigenous people including many at-risk youth and adults, as-well as low-income families during pregnancy, birth, postpartum and into early parenting. The program supports families on Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Territories from urban, rural, reserve and Métis settlement communities. Most supported families encounter numerous barriers and have complex needs arising from the multi-generational impacts of colonial trauma and history including Residential School experiences, the 60's Scoop and the foster care system. This program provides trauma-informed, inclusive, culturally safe care including physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, cultural and practical support.

Indigenous families experience many barriers to care that do not exist in the same way for non-Indigenous families. These barriers include assumptions, biases, judgements, the privileging of settler colonial worldviews and practices, inadequate culturally safe care (power imbalances and racism), and a lack of trauma-informed care. Hence, the program continues to include advocacy, reproductive justice and anti-racism work in the health care and social services systems. The ongoing outcomes and impact of this work is a decrease in the number and frequency of harmful interactions and barriers experienced by Indigenous families in navigating health care and social services systems, as well as policy and practice improvements. The long-term vision of this program is for meaningful intergenerational healing and the full restoration of birth knowledge and

practices disrupted by colonialism to Indigenous communities so this specialized role will no longer be necessary.

- **Canada: Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Centre (KORLCC), \$25,000**

KORLCC develops and implements language and culturally based projects/programs and activities that meet the needs and benefit Kahnawà:ke's children, youth, adult learners and the wider community, as well as externally to the community, in accordance with the intent of the Kahnawà:ke Language Law, the Kaianerenhserón:ni Ne Onkwawenna'ón:we Aónston ne Kahnawà:ke. KORLCC is contributing to the community's shared vision statement that Onkwewonwehnéha (Kanien'kéha) will be the main language of communication in the home and community by 2029. The UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032) will mobilize efforts and resources to support and promote Indigenous languages and increase awareness.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, KORLCC found new and innovative ways to carry out programs and provide services to community members. COVID-19 has provided opportunities for KORLCC staff to think outside of the box, embrace technology and tailor its curriculum and learning resources to fit the present environment and needs for community members, many of whom are home and participating in home learning and/or online learning with their children or for themselves. The resources being developed as a result of the challenges presented by COVID-19 are indicative of growth, progression, and adaptability within the organization and will continue to be used post-pandemic.

Activities supported by PWRDF through the Kanien'kéha Language and Cultural Initiatives included the resource "One Book Baby Book" is being illustrated for the Total tánon Ohkwári Puppet show and two radio programs were written and translated; two scripts were written for TV and YouTube channel broadcasting. For the Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahnírats Adult Immersion Program, 17 stories were completed, which were recorded with a first language Elder speaker and transcribed and the Oherókon Rites of Passage program has conducted their fasting speaker series and moon ceremony teachings.

- **Canada: HelpAge Canada, \$40,000**

The mission of HelpAge Canada is to work in partnership with others to improve and maintain the quality of life of vulnerable older persons and their communities. In this vein, HelpAge Canada provided grants to community organizations to help support older community members during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included providing food, hygiene products, PPE, social support, personal care, digital literacy and tablets to older community members. The following are a few examples of services provided to seniors through HelpAge Canada grants:

- Innovation Jeunes in Montreal distributed 190 baskets including fresh fruit and vegetables (cabbages, potatoes, onions, asparagus, lettuce, bananas, apples, bell peppers and carrots) and non-perishable items (pasta, canned tomatoes, lentils, couscous, tuna, etc.) to seniors. In addition, they collaborated with two agencies whose specialty is intervention and counselling to seniors who made weekly phone calls to the seniors who received food baskets.
- Central Neighbourhoods in Winnipeg provided hygiene items like soap and sanitizer, art kits provided by local art depot Arts Junktion, poetry books and recorded CDs of local poets by Artbeat Studios, activity booklets, and library books. These items were welcomed by seniors living in isolation and improved their wellbeing during this unprecedented time.

- Life Unlimited for Older Adults in Springdale, Newfoundland purchased 310 homemade face masks, of which 100 masks were sent to Jimmy Pratt Centre in St. John's. Seniors were glad they received face masks as they were hard to find initially. The face masks gave them a sense of security to be able to connect with the outside environment.
- Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre in Winnipeg provided more than 300 free healthy meals per week to isolated seniors.
- Little Mountain Neighbourhood House in Vancouver worked with a grocer to order, package and deliver customized food boxes to vulnerable seniors who were primarily of Chinese and Filipino ancestry. These seniors, some of whom were in their 90s, found it challenging to shop for groceries, and experienced financial challenges. In addition, staff and volunteers worked with the seniors to help them place their customized orders for nutritious fresh food.
- **Haiti: Partners In Health Canada and Partners In Health Haiti / Zanmi Lasante (ZL), \$60,000**

PWRDF contributed to PIH's global appeal to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and these funds were directed to Haiti and used by Zanmi Lasante to provide social support to patients who contracted covid-19 and their families.

Social support included:

- Providing sanitation and hygiene kits to COVID outpatients who were isolating and people awaiting results and quarantining at the border with the Dominican Republic to help people stay healthy and limit the spread of disease within households. The kits included items like soap, masks, sanitary pads and water filtration tablets.
- Food assistance was given to COVID patients including patients quarantining at the Haiti-Dominican Republic border.
- COVID patients received visits from psychosocial support team members to ensure they and their families were coping with the diagnosis and illness. Funds from PWRDF were used to cover the monthly stipends received by psychosocial team members.
- **Cuba: Episcopal Church of Cuba (ECC), \$82,140**

The Integral Development Program has been implemented since 2013. Presently, the aim of the program is to manage integrating processes of Asset Based Community Development in sectors such as nutrition, creating economic opportunities (Savings with Education), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and disasters management and resilience. The program is supporting 1,600 families comprising 2,828 women, 5,252 men and 4,848 children from 50 communities. Local capacities have been developed that serve as a basis for change processes in communities towards a better quality of life. There are 135 (90 female, 45 male) community promoters who were trained in Asset-Based Community Development with a focus on climate change.

Since the pandemic was declared, program staff work from home, they keep regular communication with community members and support the communities they serve through telephone and internet. Most program activities were carried out as scheduled by the community promoters with assistance from their community Disaster Management Committees. The community promoters continued visiting families and vulnerable persons in their communities. The promoters in collaboration with program staff facilitated workshops on disaster management and 26 new disaster management community promoters graduated from the program.

The program will continue its efforts in capacity building towards self-sufficiency and empowerment of communities in rural communities.

- **El Salvador: Cristosal Foundation (CF), \$13,801**

The Models for the Relocation and Integration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) is a Connections project funded by St. Mary's Kerrisdale Anglican Church in British Columbia. Cristosal Foundation applies a human rights-based approach in accompanying internally displaced persons, many who may have experienced natural disasters, human rights violations, identify as LGBTI or who may have been deported or returned to the country and have protection needs. During the reporting period, Cristosal Foundation has supported 117 women, 106 men, 128 children and 91 families while applying appropriate health protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As part of its consolidated model of durable solutions, Cristosal Foundation applies a differentiated approach to the population made up of women within the framework of its gender policy. Among the most important aspects of this approach are empowerment within the family group and in the community, as well as prevention and/or attention to situations of any type of violence against women and girls. Advocacy efforts by community actors for the protection of IDP rights were carried out in five municipalities including San Juan Opico, San Salvador, Zacatecoluca, San Esteban Catarina and San Francisco Gotera to achieve better national systems for the protection of internally displaced persons rights in El Salvador and in the region.

- **El Salvador: Asociación Comité Contra el SIDA Cabañas (CoCoSI), \$31,940**

CoCoSI's main objective is to defend the human rights of vulnerable populations and prevent HIV infection through sexual and reproductive health and rights education based on the non-binary gender concept. The Gender Based Violence, Bullying, Hate Crimes, HIV Prevention Program integrates sexual health education and gender non-binary concepts in rural schools and communities. The aim is to provide tools for children, adolescents, parents and adults to recognize and change sexist attitudes, reduce bullying in schools and homes, reduce irresponsible sexual behaviours and prevent teen pregnancies. Another key objective is to eliminate hateful and harmful discrimination of women, girls, non-binary persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS. This project empowers people living with HIV with knowledge of how to care for themselves and assuring their access to antiretroviral medications and dignified health care.

The program supported 311 women, 362 men and 985 children from 470 families and reached 5,880 persons indirectly. CoCoSI delivered 41 workshops, 35 radio programs, 23 radio spots, published 49 news reports, produced 3 videos, carried out 132 home visits, facilitated 15 family to family mental healthcare sessions, and delivered 98 ARV medications. Workshop topics included non-binary gender, child sexual abuse, bullying prevention, self-esteem, impact of Covid-19 on adolescence, sexuality and social networks, teen pregnancies, self-care for women, gender identity and homophobia. Women continue to participate more than men in self-empowerment workshops even though they represent fewer community leaders and they comprise most of the defenders for human rights in urban and rural settings. Women and gender non-conforming persons living with HIV tend to be doubly discriminated by society and even more affected in power relationships with their male partners and families. Boys and men are learning what it means to be a boy and to be a man. This project teaches them that their strong sense of masculine pride defined by society shapes an inviolable behavioural pattern. This project provides early education for children, adolescents and teens to grow up understanding an authentic concept of gender and minimizing early school bullying for non-binary children.

The pandemic has highlighted the poorly integrated health system in El Salvador and made more evident the most affected populations are people living with HIV/AIDS, non-binary, people deprived of their liberties, women, children and adolescents. Quarantine measures increased violation of human rights for vulnerable



populations living in a patriarchal and sexist culture. The COVID-19 pandemic did reduce the number of activities CoCoSI facilitated in schools and communities because of social distancing restrictions and limitations on gatherings. However, the pandemic had a positive effect because CoCoSI was challenged to develop virtual content and integrate online platforms to carry out project activities while keeping staff and community members safe.

- **Guatemala: Women's Association Madre Tierra, \$41,957**



*Families received food packages in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to address food insecurity*

The Indigenous and Rural Women's Leadership, and Sustainability projects build and implement a strategy to access other financial resources and to secure a more stable operation of Madre Tierra's program while strengthening women's technical, financial, administrative and academic capacities.

Following their participation in natural medicine workshops approximately 25 women and young women know the main medicinal plants and how they strengthen the body's defenses and prevent common diseases. In addition, 50 female headed households have improved their home gardens and are planting and processing medicinal plants, which are improving conditions for approximately 300 family members. The workshops included information on medicinal plants, processing and packaging of herbs, seeds and other plants suitable to strengthen defenses and prevent diseases.

Study grants were provided to help overcome limitations women encounter to pursue formal studies and supporting education is part of the strategic plan to form new leadership cadres that have formal education to improve their leadership capabilities. Study grants contributed to transportation costs or internet access for virtual classes for ten women attending junior high school, five women attending high school and four women

leaders attending university studies, which enabled them to finish the school year.

As part of the humanitarian response to the pandemic, Madre Tierra distributed 250 food packages consisting of corn, beans, sugar, oil, corn, pasta and rice to feed six people per family for approximately one month. Training and organizing local coordinators on disaster risk reduction strengthened their capacities and coordination with local authorities for the prevention of disasters due to disease, social or anthropogenic causes. There were 477 training participants including 437 women, 3 men, 25 female youth and 12 male youth.

- **Guatemala: Asociacion de Mujeres Guatemaltecas Ixmucane (National Women’s Association), \$41,735**

The Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for Women in Development project contributes to promoting, strengthening and consolidating Ixmucane as well as the participation of rural women by developing their skills in order for them to have an impact in development locally and regionally. Women exercise their rights and their organizational and political advocacy capacities to overcome exclusion and discrimination and to actively, purposefully and consciously participate in their community development to improve lives.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the work concentrated on developing skills and organizational capacity as well as addressing the impact of COVID-19. The replication by four young women taught previously on Project Monitoring and Evaluation was not carried out due to bans on gatherings and lack of transportation. However, a limited virtual modality was used to facilitate training on Zoom. Resources budgeted to activities that were not executed were used to address the impact of COVID-19 and the storms Eta and Iota. 200 women and 50 young women were direct participants in the project and there were 1,000 indirect beneficiaries (250 women, 300 men, 50 young men and 400 boys and girls).

Computer training and leadership and management workshops for six board members and three young leaders were completed resulting in greater knowledge about their rights and the understanding that leadership is a strategy to enforce these rights. In addition, the women were no longer apprehensive about using cell phones and computers and they had more confidence to write reports, and use WhatsApp, Zoom and Facebook for messaging and meetings.

At the institutional level, five coordination meetings, five community consultations and the annual general assembly contributed to new directors’ clarity on functions such as monitoring of financial situation and less dependency from staff on the project implementation. Continued inter-institutional coordination and networking was particularly beneficial in addressing the impact of COVID-19. Building on institutional capacity an internal audit of the last two years of operation was necessary for fundraising. The audit was completed, fundraising efforts continued by contacting the Equality Fund, and a computer for the office was purchased.

- **Colombia: Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF) Colombia, \$43,679**

The Empowering Small-Scale Farmers and Micro Entrepreneurs project supports small-scale farmers through best agricultural practices to engage in organic farming and financial literacy for better manage loans or credits granted. The project facilitated 36 theoretical and practical workshops through individual training at clients’ homes and in groups as well as personalized follow ups, and technical assistance on financial literacy, good agricultural, livestock and organic farming practices, climate mitigation, environmental damage reduction, and clean water and sanitation. Approximately 720 rural families benefited from training on finance, administration and organic farming and technical support to transition toward sustainable agriculture by minimizing the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

COVID-19 affected the implementation of this project as gatherings and mobilization between communities were suspended for a while. Group training had to be suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a mandatory quarantine that lasted six months. However, since most community members are engaged in the informal economy to generate daily income, the social and economic effects of the pandemic on community members were considerable as farmers’ capital base decreased significantly creating further economic instability, which will be addressed in the new project year.

With group training cancelled ECLOF provided individual training and technical assistance to 605 clients during the pandemic, while 1,307 people benefited from group training on financial services, crop rotation, organic fertilizers, good agricultural and livestock practices, nutrition blocks and silage, organic hydroponic cultivation and home gardens. ECLOF also rearranged and introduced a necessary plan for selfcare and prevention which was carried out to generate a culture of protection from COVID-19 for the clients, their families, the community, and the environment by designing and distributing brochures containing the basic public health protocols.



*Farmer Esthela Palacios, participating in the poultry project, counting her eggs*

- **Colombia and Ecuador (Andean Region), MiningWatch Canada (MWC), \$22,430**

MiningWatch Canada coordinates efforts in Colombia and Ecuador for a regional response to economic development alternatives and moorland protection (El Cajas National Park and Kimsakocha in Ecuador, and Colombia's Santurbán Páramo). The organization partners with the Committee for the Defense of Water and the Santurbán Páramo in Colombia and Fundacion Savia Roja in Ecuador to strengthen rural development through sustainable agricultural practices while protecting the moorlands. The Protecting Water Sources in the Andes from Mining Impact project promotes sustainable economic development particularly for women's livelihood initiatives. In addition, the project increases local science-based knowledge and data for communities affected by mining to support decisions on projects, policies and regulations related to water access, and preserving the moorlands.

The project facilitated building community capacity, technical development and strengthening regional collaboration and knowledge transfer. Despite the pandemic, MiningWatch Canada and the partners were able to complete all project work although some activities were delayed due to public health restrictions and



some of the budget was reallocated to adhere to COVID-19 protocols. The various activities led to increased knowledge for 195 women of the agroecology schools, 55 (29 females and 26 males) project team members and 35,000 persons in the communities participating in the project. Active local networks such as YASunidos Guapondélig in Ecuador and the Committee for the Defense of Santurbán Páramo in Colombia initiated discussions on a regional advocacy action plan. The Agroecology schools of Savia Roja, Kimsakocha and San Lucas, and Urco-Sayta Indigenous community organized two public forums: Threats to water in Kimsakocha and Mining Risks to Fierro Urco Páramo.

Coordinated community field visits with technical experts in hydrology and hydrogeology took place in the moorlands in Kimsakocha and Fierro Urco. Water sampling in rivers near the moorlands provided baseline data for communities to identify and assess potential risks and impacts to these important and fragile ecosystems from mining activities. Similarly, with MiningWatch Canada research support, experts presented the findings of the Lomalarga feasibility study, which were also shared on public forums and press conferences. Field observations and technical analyses have exposed the risks of mining resulting in greater awareness of the irreversible impacts of mining in the moorlands and led to community referendums banning mining for metal. Unfortunately, the environmental impact study for INV Metals was not completed, hence, a public response or report was not possible. It is expected that this Canadian company will provide the study soon.

- **Colombia: World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) and Grupo Comunicarte, \$43,192**

One of Colombia's greatest environmental concerns is the protection of the paramo, a high plateau moorland ecosystems in the Upper Andes, between the tree line and the permanent snow line (Colombia contains 50% of the world moorlands). This ecosystem provides the country with 70% of its water source and it is a significant source of water for the Amazon River. The Voices of the Andean Moorlands: Network of Environmental Citizen Reporters project is contributing to generating, fostering and deepening a culture of knowledge and care of the paramo among community members, visitors and tourists.

The key project component is expanding and strengthening the radio network of community environmental reporters, improving their knowledge and developing and implementing a plan for radio education and environmental protection that generates care practices in small towns. The estimated total audience is from 5,000 to 10,000 people in rural communities. Due to the pandemic, the project adapted, however, technical assessments and in person training were feasible with only two radio stations. Most training was done virtually, although participants are requesting in person studio training.

Comunicarte selected 10 journalists and one communicator (six females and one male) for one school radio station. Currently 11 radio stations in provinces in addition to four neighbouring radio stations are engaged in this project. A virtual radio network launch meeting took place on Zoom with all radio representatives, journalists and directors participating.

Through WhatsApp, internet and telephone, a coordinator together with an editorial team, and in collaboration with the radio stations, 33 radio bulletins were designed and aired weekly. Virtual weekly meetings took place to assemble and edit the “Voices and Whispers of the Moorlands” bulletin, a tool for learning about the ecological impact and protection of the moorlands, which was distributed to the stations in the radio network. Each reporter/journalist works in each community and week by week, each one adapts and enriches the radio bulletin with community knowledge. They also produced 330 sound series (on average 30 per radio station). Comunicarte promotes learning sessions and maintains a blog for training for use by all participants and the public, which is accessible at:

<https://comunicaparamos.wixsite.com/comunicarte/capacitacion>





*Comunicarte/WACC Radio Broadcaster Colombia National Network Paramos*

- **Colombia: Instituto Latinoamericano para una Sociedad y un Derecho Alternativos (ILSA), \$46,384**

At the core of the Building Up Alternatives for the Wellbeing with Rural Women of the Pisba's Páramo project is the protection of the moorland ecosystem and water sources. Pisba highland municipalities are located to the eastern cordillera mountain range in Boyacá department and reaches up to 5,300 meters above sea level. The moorlands are threatened by human activity including mining, crop production and livestock grazing. Rural women from nine municipalities in the Páramo de Pisba are working towards empowerment by seeking alternative ways of good living, engaging in equitable projects, enforceability of environmental and women's rights and political participation. Women participating in the project are working to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and territory, and to increase their influence from a gender lens in public policy initiatives to protect and preserve their ecosystem.

Women from nine communities exchanged experiences in empowerment and development and conducted participatory research workshops where they mapped their territorial resources, needs and challenges. A regional session led to the identification of common challenges, advocacy issues, a public agenda for the communities and the creation of the Defence of Land and Autonomy Network. Women leaders organized and successfully hosted four municipal forums (seven were originally planned) engaged with 870 people and municipal electoral candidates, which improved relations with authorities. Women led the planting of 1,000 native plants in Tasco community. Women leaders attended a public forum in Bogota and 168 women attended the Mongua forum on non-violence against women. In addition, the women developed and launched the campaign "Women for Participatory Budget" supporting participatory budget consultations with a gender focus.

Women participating in the project and ILSA staff members increased their capacity and knowledge on social media and information technology, which resulted in improved communication, virtual education and operations during COVID-19. ILSA developed three teaching modules to deliver some of the training virtually.

They also produced and launched online the video and the campaign “To resist for a good living” on women living in Pisba building alternatives for wellbeing. To ILSA, COVID-19 was “without a doubt the most difficult risk and challenge they encounter; the bad internet and communication services forced us to reinvent ourselves (staff and community members) and to learn to manage the online world”.

- **Burundi: Village Health Works (VHW), \$60,0000**

Village Health Works (VHW) serves as the primary healthcare provider for approximately 200,000 women, girls, men and boys in a rural area that spans two provinces in southwestern Burundi. When the first cases of COVID-19 began appearing in the country, the organization knew that the government’s limited ability to respond meant health providers and staff would need to act quickly to safeguard the health and safety of people living in the surrounding area. It was determined substantially greater amounts of PPE would be required to appropriately protect patients and staff, while thermometers for temperature checks suddenly gained new importance. An intensification of overall hygiene (from hand sanitizer to increased and more thorough cleaning of facilities) became the standard practice. Should any cases be identified, treatments such as oxygen would be needed for patients as they recovered. Funds from PWRDF were used to procure cleaning supplies, hand sanitizers, N95 masks, gloves, gowns and other PPE items as well as thermometers and oxygen cylinders. These materials have helped keep staff and patients safe during the uncertainty. Thermometers helped expand temperature checks at the health facility and additional hygiene was supported through additional cleaning supplies that included sprayers and hand sanitizers. Critically, oxygen cylinders and the associated masks and other supplies were acquired to provide relief to any patients who may require higher level care. Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the continent, VHW is better prepared to protect the lives of patients and staff through preventing spread, identifying potential cases and providing treatment.

- **Zimbabwe: Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organization (TSURO), \$60,000**

The project is building community resilience after the disastrous effects of Cyclone Idai and COVID-19, which created an economic collapse in Chimanimani district. The project strengthened food and seed security for 192 needy households, where an average family in Chimanimani district is comprised of one adult male, two adult women, two boys and two girls. TSURO distributed the following quantities of open-pollinated variety seeds: 252 kg of sorghum, 200 kg of pearl millet, 243 kg of finger millet, 135 kg of corn, 45 kg of sunflower, 72 kg of peanuts, 18 kg of Bambara nuts, 54 kg of cowpeas, 22 kg of mung beans, 90 kg of sesame and 306 kg of beans. Seeds were purchased from farmers at the ChimaniMbeu seed market day in Chimanimani. 200 goats were purchased from local farmers and distributed to 100 vulnerable households (71 female headed, 21 male headed, 8 other headed), two does per family. 88 (67 female, 21 male) goat recipients benefitted from training in goat production, compost making, community herding and passing on the gift methodology to foster sustainability. Another 100 households (78 female headed, 22 male headed) who lost structures that housed their chickens during Cyclone Idai each received a building material package to rebuild consisting of four bags of cement, two metres of chicken mesh wire, 1 kg of nails and 3 corrugated iron sheets. This resulted in 400 bags of cement, 200 metres of chicken mesh wire, 300 iron sheets and 100 kg of roofing nails being distributed to poultry keepers. COVID-19 lockdowns delayed building material distributions. In addition, 50 (32 female, 18 male) farmers in two wards attended a peacebuilding, gender and inclusion workshop facilitated by two Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust facilitators and one facilitator from the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development.

- **Uganda: Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE), \$60,000**

The project prioritizes gender-based violence prevention and response services in two sub-counties in Wakiso district. A gender-based violence shelter was established, and it provided a safe place and psychosocial services for 55 sexual and gender-based violence survivors. Services included counselling, medical care, legal services and referrals. Four cases are currently being handled by a legal team on issues related to sexual violence, property disputes, economic violence and child custody. Regular follow up on resettled survivors was carried out. 57 front line gender-based violence service providers and focal persons were trained in gender-based violence prevention, response, documenting gender-based violence cases and follow up. 33 champions were identified among community leaders to raise awareness on gender-based violence in their communities. Media engagements on gender-based violence were arranged and broadcast over mainstream and community radio. Support messages and a month-long sensitization were broadcast on CBS radio, which has the highest listenership in Uganda. 46 household members attended training on conflict management and communication. The project assisted in developing a network of other gender-based violence players that include district service providers, NGOs (Forum for Women in Democracy, Uganda Aids network, Uganda Child Helpline/Sauti, Talitha Koum, Action Aid and others), private providers and police stations. The network provides a wider platform response to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Surges in COVID-19 and lockdowns periodically postponed project activities. The second lockdown halted project activities due to a ban on public transportation. School outreach, community gatherings and shelter services suffered the most. Sexual and gender-based violence survivors could not access the shelter and the shelter itself later closed when shelter staff all contracted COVID-19. It is anticipated the shelter will reopen because all shelter staff responded well to treatment.

- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Panzi Foundation, \$44,010**

Panzi Foundation's Maison Dorcas continued to improve the standard of life of sexual and gender-based violence survivors with its focus on income generating activities. In the second half of 2020, 23 women were trained in basketry, 11 women were trained in soap making and 12 women were trained in carpentry. 33 sexual and gender-based violence survivors trained in 2020 were successfully reintegrated into their families and communities. 18 of these survivors started income generating projects with the skills they gained and reintegration kits they were provided with. They produce, display and sell their products at covered structures known as Nobela centres. Survivors continue to strengthen social ties through mutual aid and joint sales under shelter. 73 women are participating in training in the following trades: 10 in basketry, 13 in soap making, 25 in level 1 sewing, 13 in level 2 sewing and 12 in carpentry. 14 solidarity groups were created with PWRDF funding out of the 57 that now exist with each group averaging 25 members. Members continue to contribute money that they redistribute for credit and assistance at social events. 17 business plans developed by the solidarity groups were financed with PWRDF funding. The three farmer field schools established in 2019 continued to be operational involving 86 sexual and gender-based violence survivors in Katana, Kabare territory, 80 in Bwegera, Uvira territory, and 100 in Kaziba, Walungu territory. The women used their seeds from the previous harvest in their fields, which total 27 hectares in area (8 hectares in Katana, 5 hectares in Kaziba and 14 hectares in Bwegera). The women learned how to establish compost pits for soil fertilization. They also learned about row planting and spacing plants such as eggplant, cabbage, beans, corn and plum seedlings.

- **Uganda: St. Jude Family Projects, \$123,219**



*Josephine Kizza Aliddeki is pictured in the Toyota Land Cruiser purchased by PWRDF.*

The Community Poverty Reduction Through Food Security Improvement and Adaptation to Climate Change project is a practical primer on how to mitigate hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. The project ended its first year with 40% of participants families consuming three nutritious meals per day, an achievement attributed to crop diversification and improved production. Participants embraced a resilient nutrition campaign model which has encouraged them to grow, prepare and eat healthy meals. A 39% increase in farm

productivity was realized because farmers adopted agro-ecological practices that improved nutrient and water cycles. Practices included making fertilizers such as Bokashi, establishing swales on contours and growing of cover crops (mostly legumes as well as trees). St. Jude Family Projects advocates for farmers to use new and improved crop varieties that resist disease, mature fast and withstand challenging climatic conditions. In addition, 35,000 Moringa tree seedlings were distributed to farmers as a long-term strategy and preventive measure for COVID-19 because Moringa is thought to contain a lot of nutrients and medicinal properties to boost the immune system. Eight community bio-fertilizer centres were created to assist farmers' practical learning. Eight plant nurseries for vegetable and trees seedlings were established together with eight water harvesting pits close by for a continuous supply of water for irrigation. Although the pandemic caused some postponements, the Toyota Land Cruiser purchased with PWRDF funds made a significant difference during the ban on public transportation. More than 45% of project participants earned an equivalent of \$50 from their farm sales. Despite the challenges of markets being closed, farmers were innovative by selling door to door, calling buyers, delivering to homes and using the internet even when there was less surplus to sell due to family members returning to rural areas when jobs become scarce in the cities.



- **Tanzania: Anglican Church of Tanzania, Diocese of Masasi, \$104,916**

Funds from the Grille Foundation based in the United Kingdom for this project were channeled through PWRDF to the Diocese of Masasi to construct new buildings and renovate others to provide a conducive learning environment for students at two institutions. The funds were used to construct two buildings that will provide six classrooms and two dormitories for St Catherine's school at Namasakata for adolescent girls. Funds were also used to renovate three of the five buildings onsite to provide staff houses at the high school. In Rondo, the roof tiles of a conference hall were removed and replaced with versatile roofing sheets. Window closers were improved and metal grills were fabricated and installed to protect the stained glass windows. Landscaping outside has beautified the hall built in the 1960s.

Community members from nearby villages use the hall for community meetings, seminars, conferences and for prayer and worship on Sundays. The teaching staff, health staff, students and ordinands at St. Cyprian's College also organize meetings with government officials at the hall who visit the school or health dispensary as well as NGO staff involved in research or tourism activities. Houses, classrooms and a library were renovated to enable ordinands to stay and study in comfort. A Toyota Land Cruiser was purchased and has been pivotal to assist the school at Rondo to carry out various school activities over rough terrain that include transporting students to the hospital in times of medical emergency. As a result, community members in the area surrounding Rondo have benefitted from reliable transport and an improved conference hall. Great strides have been made to provide adolescent girls attending Namasakata with quality education and boarding accommodation.



*Two buildings with six classrooms (three classrooms per building) built at Namasakata*

- **Mozambique: Cooperativa de Crédito das Mulheres de Pemba (CCMP), SCRL, \$67,000**

There was a 36% increase in credit union members for this microfinance project based in Pemba. Members responded to a challenge between neighbourhoods organized by credit union personnel to realize the growth in membership which bodes well for sustainability in future. The increase in the line of credit from the previous year due to Cyclone Kenneth was rolled over for loans made in 2021. The credit union registered a 98% repayment of loans, down only 1% from the previous year despite increasingly unprecedented circumstances including the aftermath from the cyclone, the intensified Islamic insurgency further north, the arrival of internally displaced persons and ongoing COVID-19 measures and lockdowns. Women used the loans to sell a variety of products that included peanuts, corn, beans, dried cassava, bananas, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, fried and dried fish, chickens, cakes, construction materials, wraps, shoes and cosmetic products. Profits were re-invested to hire more staff, buy more stock, pay school fees and purchase construction materials for renovating members' dwellings and businesses. The CCMP continued to maintain good relations with the Supervision Unit at the Bank of Mozambique by providing 11 different prudential reports monthly. The sole exception on an otherwise unblemished record was the oversight to provide an active email address for the then-President of the CCMP, which resulted in a fine this year. The CCMP remained open throughout the year and continued to follow the Ministry of Health's protocol on COVID-19 through frequent handwashing, wearing masks and physical distancing two metres. No CCMP employees have contracted COVID-19 during the reporting period.

- **Kenya: Utooni Development Organization (UDO), \$63,767**

PWRDF supported the Shallow Water Wells project for a second year to continue to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to the impacts of climate change by constructing shallow water wells near sand dams built by community members in association with UDO in Makueni, Machakos and Kajiado counties. The project supported the construction of 10 shallow wells operated with hand pumps and five that function with solar powered, submersible water pumps. Solar powered wells helped mitigate the spread of COVID-19 more effectively than wells powered by hand pumps, although hand pumps still have their place in some locations. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions in communities identified water security as the highest priority in these rural, arid lands inhabited disproportionately by senior citizens with pre-existing health conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Mobilizing senior citizens, the backbone of self-help in rural areas, was not as easy to facilitate during the pandemic due to lockdowns and other public health measures. UDO and community members overcame these barriers by dividing themselves into work cohorts that alternated to dig wells, trenches and gather building materials such as rocks and sand to enable water development continuation. Safe water continues to be in high demand due to the ongoing importance of hygiene and sanitation during the pandemic. To facilitate water transportation to vulnerable groups, four donkeys were distributed to female-headed households. Upon receiving her donkey, Elizabeth Muendo said, "This donkey is going to help me ferry water without hurting my back, I have many children and every day I have to go to fetch water more than three times, it's quite labour intensive and takes a lot of my time and energy."

- **Kenya: National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), \$48,714**

The Upscaling Community Support Systems for Women and Girls Empowerment project is contributing to empowering people living in Kakuma Refugee Camp and the host community. It addresses the needs of both host community members and refugees for economic development and keeping the relationship between the two communities in balance in this isolated and deprived region. Since refugees are not allowed to work outside the camp in formal employment, NCCK's initiatives target the most vulnerable and seek to improve their livelihoods, health and nutrition. Access to livelihood opportunities and decent work contributes to self-

reliance and resilience, which may for young women and girls reduce their vulnerability to gender-based violence, early marriage, pregnancy and/or engaging in sex work.

The initiative builds on past progress and achievements to strengthen a poultry feed processing cooperative, using the local plant Mathenge, to foster local economic development. The group production currently has 12 members (6 youth and 6 women) who attended a two-day induction course at Kakuma where they learned about poultry feed production, explored marketing strategies, and discussed lessons learned. Procuring the assorted feed ingredients was done in two phases to avoid the possibility of ingredients spoiling due to long storage time and the hot climate. The coop produces three poultry feed products: chick, growers and layers mash. Each kilo of the poultry feed is sold between 55 and 60 KSH per kg. In a good month, the group can produce 2,400 kg of poultry feeds. The average monthly production is between 1,800 kg and 2,400 kg. Approximately 1,500 persons benefit from the project including the coop members families and the poultry farmers who purchase the feed.

Repairing and maintaining the machines including the threader machine for sewing and sealing the filled feed bags and the mixture machine were key activities carried out by the coop. The project facilitated focus group discussions and meetings to assist the group members to candidly discuss issues affecting the group such as marketing strategies, time management, production routine and bookkeeping. Marketing was done by the coop members and NCKK staff in the town area and a billboard was produced and placed at the gate to the poultry feed production unit.



*NCKK Kakuma youth involved in producing poultry feed*

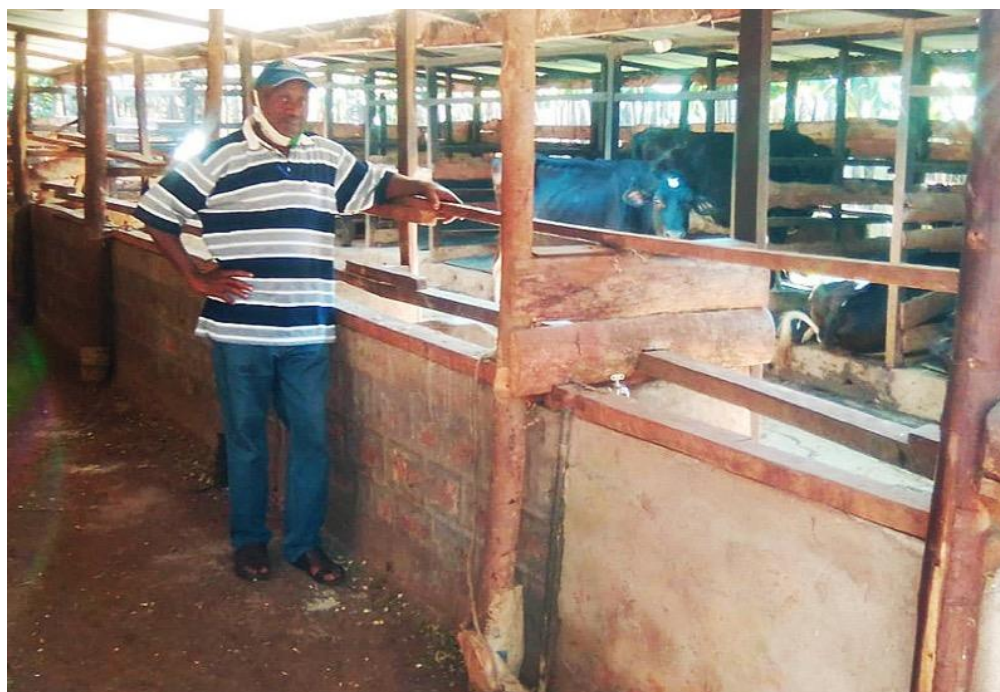
- **Kenya: Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF) Kenya, \$37,329**

ECLOF is a Christian microfinance organization providing loans, access to micro insurance for health and agriculture, and non-financial services and training to more than 40,000 poor and low-income entrepreneurs and farmers in Kenya, most of them women. The Capacity Building on Climate Smart Agriculture Dairy Farming project is building demonstration farms through local cooperative societies and exposing farmers to best dairy

farming practices through an exchange program where they learn about climate smart fodder, silage making and constructing climate smart cow sheds.

ECLOF is assisting with the construction and renovation of nine demonstration farms in Embu and Nyandarua. Currently, two female and seven male farmers either built new dairy sheds or renovated their dairy sheds. 963 farmers attended training while the demonstration farms were being built and visited the completed demonstration farms to learn best dairy farm practises. This initiative indirectly supported 1,461 women and 1,796 men as well as the farmers' spouses and children who constructed/refurbished the climate smart cow sheds. In addition, cooperative board members and management (8 female, 27 males) increased their knowledge on better cooperative governance.

Dairy farmers who have adopted improved and climate smart agricultural practices reported increased milk production from an average of 15 litres to 18 litres per cow, which also represents an increase in their household income and additional cash flow. ECLOF noted dairy loan repayments were performing better compared to their other financial products. In addition, the climate smart cow sheds provide more hygienic conditions for the animals thus there were fewer cases of animal sickness. Other significant results include access to adequate and quality fodder, and greater bargaining power to gain access to better markets and higher prices for milk. Due to COVID-19, there were fewer trainings facilitated for farmers because gathering sizes were restricted to a maximum of 15 people meeting. Also, milk distribution was temporarily affected during the early onset of the pandemic resulting in reduced milk sales.



*Joseph, a dairy farmer, pictured in his climate smart cow shed*

- **Rwanda: Vunga Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) School, \$38,600**

The Vunga TVET School Development for Sustainability is a Connections Project with the goal to prepare at risk youth for future opportunities and to develop school capacity to become financially self-sustainable. When activities were suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic and the school was unable to operate and offer employment to community members and secure staff at the school, a brick factory was proposed. The profit



will help maintain school operations and reduce unemployment, aggravated by COVID-19, by increasing the number of community members earning an income.

The brick factory project commenced in the latter half of 2020. The site was secured, clay was acquired, workers were hired, a road to the factory was made and latrines for workers were built. However, the school encountered several challenges which delayed project implementation. Ongoing health restrictions and prevention measures due to the pandemic including lockdowns created unexpected activity delays as well as other external factors such as heavy rains, a permit delay for burning bricks and road construction to the brick factory. The project is now at the stage of molding and drying 130,000 bricks ready to be burnt.

The brick factory will provide wages for many people in the surrounding area and income to continue school operations as well as practical and applied learning experience for masonry students. Vunga TVET will be able to produce a reasonable amount of bricks to the community at low cost. Community members who were interviewed about the potential benefits of the brick factory shared this could contribute to reducing homelessness and securing shelter facilities for vulnerable community members.

- **Malawi: Partners In Health Canada and Partners In Health Malawi, \$79,945**

Goat management trainings were facilitated in two phases in November and December 2020 for the remaining 929 (638 female, 291 male) community health workers across nine catchment areas participating in the Goat Seed Project. The trainings were facilitated by government officials and the topics covered disease control, housing and general goat health management. After the training sessions, community health workers were encouraged to start constructing their goat shelters based on the goat shelter demonstration training by the assistant veterinary officers for Neno district. A quality goat shelter built from locally available materials is one of the pre-requirements for community health workers to receive their three female goats. During the reporting period, 732 female goats were distributed to 244 (161 female, 83 male) community health workers. 67 kids were born from the first batch of 306 female goats distributed in July 2020, which represents a 22% birth rate.

Six female and 46 male community health workers (one from each cluster) were selected to become animal health workers by their clusters and participated in training on various primary animal husbandry practices to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with livestock. Training topics included feeding and housing goats, breeding, record keeping, parasites, disease

control and treatment, pass on goat management techniques, village drug box management and drug box handling techniques. The trainers were officials from the District Agriculture Office including the District



*Community health workers who received their three female goats purchased at a community market*

Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer, assistant veterinary officers and Agriculture Extension Development Officers.

The short-term training objectives were to equip animal health workers with basic knowledge and skills in veterinary services, enable them to make a diagnosis and undertake animal disease treatment, keep animal treatment records, assist in animal disease control and treatment, and understand the concepts of disease surveillance and reporting. The long-term training objectives were to reduce the number of disease outbreaks, reduce goat morbidity and mortality, increase productivity, milk production and fertility of goats, secure income through the sale of goat products, improve food security and nutrition of the community health workers and their families and better management of animal health, animal welfare and safety/hygiene of animal-sourced food.

After the trainings, 52 drug boxes were distributed to the 52 animal health workers purchased by PIH Malawi's procurement department and left in the custody of the animal health workers to be used when they encounter manageable goat diseases within their communities. The drug boxes include a one-time supply of drugs. Each box includes the following veterinary drugs and supplies: Albendazole, wound powder, wound spray, LA 20% Oxytetracycline, Pen-Strep, Ivermectin, needles, syringes, super Epsom salt and the drug box. Clusters are mandated to create a drug box fund with contributions from each member so that they can replenish the supplies and drugs as needed. Animal health workers will refer cases of goats with more complex diseases to qualified assistant veterinary officers in their area.

- **Lesotho: Partners In Health Canada and Partners In Health Lesotho, \$60,000**

People living in Lesotho have poor health outcomes. Lesotho was one of the countries hit hardest by the HIV epidemic and although life expectancy has increased to 53 years, the adult HIV prevalence rate remains at 24%. Mountainous terrain, limited transportation infrastructure and a largely rural population make the delivery of health services extremely challenging, especially maternal and newborn care. While nationally 77% of births in Lesotho take place in health facilities, in rural Thaba-Tseka district, the rate is 68%. Lesotho's maternal mortality rate is 487 per 100,000 live births and women face a lifetime risk of 1 in 61 of dying during childbirth. While prenatal care rates are relatively high at 74%, it is essential that this reach be increased and that all women attend at least four prenatal care visits, especially given the high HIV prevalence rate and the importance of providing prevention of mother to child transmission care.

The Providing Quality Maternal Care at Bobete Health Centre project is providing maternal and newborn care in the catchment area of the Bobete health centre to prevent maternal and infant mortalities. Maternal and newborn care includes at least four prenatal care sessions for each pregnant woman and postnatal care for the women and their newborns. Pregnant women are encouraged to stay at the maternal waiting home in the lead up to their due date to ensure they safely deliver at the health centre. Pregnant women are tested for HIV and prevention of mother to child transmission is instigated for women who test positive. Newborns who test positive for HIV are placed on appropriate treatments. During the reporting period, 100 women delivered at the Bobete Health Centre. There were no maternal deaths and three infant deaths. Among the success stories, a baby born premature at only two pounds survived and is thriving. Infant starter packs were provided to 132 pregnant women who met the prenatal attendance requirements of at least four visits during their pregnancy. Since the starter packs have been offered, health providers have noted increased demand for prenatal care in the catchment area.



- **Zambia: Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Programs (ZACOP), \$19,000**

PWRDF initiated a new partnership with the Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Programs (ZACOP) by supporting the Ending Child Marriages project in the Eastern province, which started in October 2020. Zambia has one of the highest child marriage rates in the world with 31% of Zambian girls married before their 18th birthday and 6% married before the age of 15. Rates of child marriage are highest in the Eastern and Northern provinces, where 17.5 was the median age of first marriage among 20 to 49 year old women. Under traditional law, marriage can take place at puberty and it is common for girls to be married or have sexual relations before age 16. Child marriage is associated with high levels of poverty and is more common in rural Zambia. Poverty leads many parents to withdraw their daughters from school and offer them for marriage to older men in most cases in exchange for a dowry for the bride.

This project aims to contribute to ending child marriages by addressing children's rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights issues that make young people, especially girls, vulnerable to gender-based violence, teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, child marriages and inter-generational poverty. It is providing gender and child sensitive information and skills that influence positive behavioural change among adolescents including awareness raising through various sports and drama, and creation of safe spaces in schools, churches and communities where young people may access remedial services. In January, 20 (14 youth, 6 adults) peer educators participated in a comprehensive training session on early child marriages and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The peer educators are engaging with community members especially parents and youth to sensitize them on the negative impacts of early marriage and the importance of girls remaining in school to complete their education.

- **Myanmar (Thai-Burma border): Drug and Alcohol Recovery Education (DARE) Network, \$56,933**

The DARE Network's Prevention Education program is operational in refugee camps that have existed for more than 30 years along the Thai-Burma border. The collaboration between Burmese ethnic community leaders and a Canadian addiction recovery specialist began in 2000 in response to substance abuse problems in the camps. DARE is the only organization providing community based and culturally appropriate addiction prevention, education and treatment to five refugee camps and one migrant village. This community owned program is mainly staffed and serviced by community members and recovering addicts who are trainers/educators and addiction workers.

DARE's objectives are to help reduce drug and alcohol addictions through grassroots community efforts and increase security for women because of the effects addiction has on family members and community life. Women in refugee and village communities are integral to holding families together. If male partners are addicts, then women and their families are subject to more poverty, stress and domestic violence. The main project activities include prevention education, treatment, training for addiction workers, interinstitutional networking and furnishing and repairing the treatment centres.

A treatment cycle was completed in three camps for 97 clients, surpassing expectation of treating 54 in Mae La, Umpiem Mai, and Nu Poe. Of the 97 clients treated, 78 people recovered (a recovery percentage of 80%) and 19 people relapsed. The only change due to COVID-19 restrictions was the timing for treatment in Nu Poe camp, which is currently underway. The treatment centres Nu Poe, Umpiem and Mae La, were repaired and are in good condition. Coordination continued with the Coordination Committee for Displaced People and the district government. They attended 16 meetings, some were virtual, as well as the annual workshop. To reinforce participatory processes, DARE's evaluation tool was revised and sent to program participants who will use it within their communities to evaluate the program.



*Addiction treatment equipment*



*Acupuncture detox training*

- **Bangladesh: UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative), \$25,000**

UBINIG is working with farming communities to decrease climate vulnerabilities that are affecting high-risk farming areas while increasing food security support. Nine villages in four agro-ecological zones (Tangail, Pabna, Sirajganj and Cox's Bazar) are being managed at the community level with special attention given to small-scale farming families. Women are taking the lead in planning and implementing major activities. Three new bamboo-binding or chatkhas projects will take place in two villages to protect the land, prevent soil erosion and flooding, and redirect the river. Mangrove regeneration is being implemented in a 3 km area adding to a 2.5 km long mangrove plantation previously supported by PWRDF that has helped mitigate the impact of cyclones and soil erosion.

## Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Response Projects Funded by PWRDF

- **Cuba: Episcopal Church of Cuba (ECC), \$9,489**

The Humanitarian and Emergency Response related to Hurricanes Eta and Iota project implementation experienced delays due to COVID-19. This included limitations imposed by the existing health guidance situation in the country, which impeded transportation services between various localities. In six communities, construction materials were not easily accessible due to shortages and high prices. Despite these challenges, construction repairs were carried out in eleven communities to fix residential walls and roofs, rehabilitating vegetable gardens, purchasing water tanks and making repairs to churches damaged by the hurricanes.

All the Disaster Management Committees of the localities involved joined in the recovery work. The local coordinators and promoters participated in training on Disaster Risk Reduction and have disaster plans. The monitoring, evaluation and learning visits to the 11 communities participating in the project were carried out using the internet and cellphones for virtual meetings from the central office with community promoters as well as to gather photos. This project supported 266 (157 females, 109 males) people.

- **Kenya: National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK), \$70,010**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Kakuma refugee camp, NCCK procured the following items: 1,680 N95 surgical masks; 1,000 disposable gowns/aprons; 1,000 face shields; 10 pulse oximeters; 5 digital blood pressure machines; 5 electric suction machines; 5 oxygen cylinders with gauge, flow meter and humidifier; 2 oxygen concentrators and 40 infrared thermometers.

In partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), these items were procured and distributed to health service providers in Kakuma Refugee Camp including the Kakuma Mission Hospital, the Kakuma Sub County Hospital and the Health Ministries of the Africa Inland Church. The project encouraged health workers to stay safe and implement an effective response.

- **South Sudan: South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA), The Episcopal Church of South Sudan, \$15,000**

COVID-19 support was provided to internally displaced persons in Unity State, South Sudan. This project supported 522 households who were receiving monthly food distributions from PWRDF and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Community health promoters provided hygiene and sanitation awareness information to displaced community members through radio messages, health promotion materials and megaphones. The 522 households participating in the project received soap each month plus containers for water collection and storage, and a bucket with taps for hand washing. The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada provided an additional \$40,000 to this project.

- **Haiti: Rayjon Share Care of Sarnia Inc. and Rayjon Share Care Haiti, \$10,000**

Three women from the Haitian Women's Federation and the Barbe healthcare centre participated in a training workshop on COVID-19 prevention organized by Saint Nicolas Hospital. The workshop was followed by a series of conferences in churches and schools. When the Ministry of Public Health officially announced the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Artibonite region near Saint-Marc, the women changed strategy. Instead

of organizing conferences, they used a pickup truck with a sound system to raise awareness. Some of the women went around the town of Saint-Marc with the truck and the others went to remote areas with megaphones to tell people about the pandemic and how to prevent being infected.

After the education campaign, the federation and the healthcare centre distributed face masks in the communities, prioritizing high-risk individuals with widespread community contact (primarily motorcycle drivers), patients who were accessing the centre for treatment women who were breastfeeding and elderly persons. Funds were used to improve the Barbe dispensary/clinic building. One of the constraints of the healthcare centre in Saint-Laurent was rooms to welcome the patients, especially a maternity room for the pregnant women. Building improvements included adding a roof, stuccoing the walls, installing doors and constructing a fence around the alley.

- **Iraq: Lutheran World Federation (LWF), \$30,000**

In the city of Sinjar, displaced families returning to their homes were already encountering public health risks associated with disease outbreaks. The situation deteriorated with COVID-19. Lutheran World Federation provided hygiene equipment, improved access to clean water and raised awareness about COVID-19 prevention. 1,500 hygiene kits were distributed to families to protect them from COVID-19. The project also ensured that families had access to potable water. Boreholes in two communities that were destroyed by previous conflict were rehabilitated. The project staff shared COVID-19 health information with returnee families for taking protective measures in accordance with WHO guidelines and instructions. PWRDF's contribution was combined with funding from other partners.

- **Bangladesh: UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative), \$11,000**

The project supported 965 vulnerable families with soap, masks, food items and seeds. A volunteer group of farmers, women's organization members and Dai Mas distributed the equipment through UBINIG centres.

- **Uganda: Finn Church Aid (FCA), \$30,000**

Finn Church Aid (FCA) is operational in the education sector in Rwamwanja refugee settlement (Kamwenge district, southwest Uganda) and Palorinya settlement (Obongi district, West Nile region). Despite the closure of schools in March 2020 due to COVID-19, this project directly contributed to learning continuity for 4,473 students by providing them with home learning packages, radio sets and masks for protection for candidate classes to return to school in October 2020. The project was implemented through the existing education sector coordination mechanisms that sought to strengthen continuous learning through printing and distributing home learning packages produced by the National Curriculum Development Centre for groups and individuals as well as supporting radio learning lessons. FCA carried out activity implementation by following the settlement level COVID-19 service provision mapping for education partners from the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, District Education Office and the Ministry of Education and Sports at national and settlement level. Students benefitted from age-appropriate inclusive psychosocial support, which included counselling during home-based learning visits with the goal to improve general wellbeing of students in their home settings.

- **Lebanon: ACT Alliance, \$136,000**

ACT Alliance's appeal was launched in response to the Beirut Blast, which affected people from various nationalities including refugees seeking work opportunities and access to services. People in Beirut were ravaged by the blast that contributed to the already challenging situation they encountered with the economic and health crises. The appeal provided equal access to all people affected by the blast with specific focus on vulnerabilities and needs rather than nationalities, ethnic or religious backgrounds.

Implementing member agencies focused on providing the needed immediate response following the blast taking into consideration the level of destroyed shelters and people who needed basic assistance after they lost their assets. The appeal targeted 61,111 (36,069 females and 24,042 males) people with food and other relief items. Some early recovery activities were included with the objective to support small enterprises to recover, with priority given to women owned enterprises.

Protection and gender-based violence prevention were necessary because gender-based violence cases had increased dramatically since the start of Lebanon's economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic and finally the blast. Members and partners outreach processes included both direct support and referrals. Female staff were always in contact with female beneficiaries to inquire about any specific needs. In addition, case workers were available onsite to provide female beneficiaries with consultations in case any protection concerns were reported or communicated by the beneficiary. Moreover, members provided hotlines which enabled female beneficiaries to report and communicate protection issues and/or complaints.

A high number of psychological first aid counseling sessions were provided at the beginning of the intervention and child post-blast rehabilitation and protection were a core component of overall operations. Parents were informed, advised and oriented on the highest standards of child protection by members' therapists to ensure that post-blast domestic structures avoided abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence affecting children.

- **Myanmar (Thai-Burma border): Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education (DARE) Network, \$5,000**

In March, the Myanmar military launched air raids near its eastern border, including an internally displaced persons camp. The violence forced people from Myanmar's Karen state to head to neighbouring Thailand. The Karen people have endured severe conflict for more than seven decades, primarily due to ethnically based hostilities. Up to 10,000 people fled their villages and went into hiding in the jungle and forests near the border. An estimated 3,000 people crossed the Salween River into Thailand not far from Mae Sariang, where the office of long-time PWRDF partner DARE Network is located.

DARE provided relief food (rice, cooking oil, beans, fish paste, salt, noodles and chillies) to 75 displaced families who had fled and left everything behind. DARE coordinated with other community-based organizations such as the Karen Teachers Working Group, Karen Women's Organization and the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network to ensure that any gaps are filled and to reach as many people as possible. Relief locations were on the Thai side as well as a safe location on the Karen side for those forced to remain.

- **Ethiopia: ACT Alliance/Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Ethiopia, \$35,000**

ACT appeal implementation is ongoing and responding to the humanitarian crises of people displaced within the Tigray region in Ethiopia due to the conflict. LWF Ethiopia and other ACT members are responding with food and other relief items to the people affected by the conflict. LWF arranged water from a borehole to meet the needs of more than half of the 20,000 internally displaced people in Seba Care internally displaced persons' camp. LWF trained local staff and 50 community leaders in Tigray who will deliver psychosocial first aid in the displaced communities. LWF staff also work closely with camp management committees for community-based psychosocial care to the victims of rapes, torture and displacement. In addition, ACT member staff and volunteers work closely with community structures to prevent gender-based violence.

- **The Philippines: ACT Alliance/National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), \$20,000**

On November 1, 2020, Super Typhoon Goni (Rolly) slammed into the Philippines with catastrophic winds, torrential rainfall, severe flooding, mudslides and storm surges. It was the world's most powerful tropical cyclone at that point in time in 2020. Typhoon Molave (Quinta) hit the same region a week earlier. These disasters have occurred while the COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose a serious public health risk. The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) coordinated with member churches and volunteers for local responses. For example, hot meals were prepared by the Brotherhoods at The United Church of Christ in the Philippines Faith Bible Church for those who were evacuated. NCCP supported 8,000 households who were among the severely affected. Particular attention was given to people with special needs such as pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

- **Occupied Palestine Territories: Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem/Al Ahli Hospital (AAH), \$30,000**

Al Ahli Hospital, located in Gaza and administered by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, provides health care without discrimination on the basis of religion, gender, political affiliation or social class. The project assisted Al Ahli Hospital to purchase a microdebrider to equip their Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department to enhance the quality and speed of nasal and sinus surgeries. A microdebrider can be mounted on the hospital's monitor allowing for precision cutting, a reduction of blood loss, faster surgical times, fewer instrument changes and fewer complications during surgeries. Al Ahli Hospital's ENT department expects to be able to perform 400 such surgeries each year. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the hospital is doing its best to provide regular services. Yet the Ministry of Health has had to defer many services, including ENT procedures. There are more than 4,000 cases on the waiting list for ENT surgeries at the government hospital. At the time of writing this report, the hospital is waiting for the supplier to deliver this equipment to the hospital after a lengthy procurement process.

- **Bahamas: The Diocese of the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, \$187,756**

In 2019, the Diocese reached out to more than 3,000 hurricane Dorian affected households with immediate relief packages. In early 2020, the diocese reached out to 500 households relief support. The diocese provided cash assistance to 750 households to assist them to repair their damaged homes and conducted one training workshop on psychosocial care for the church leaders who in turn reached out to affected community members. The Diocese also renovated three parish halls that served as relief distribution centres in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane.



- **Bangladesh: ACT Alliance/Christian Aid, \$35,000**

Christian Aid supported an existing established health post in camp-15 where Rohingya communities displaced from Myanmar live in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. The health post provided primary health care services and infectious disease surveillance and referral for Rohingya refugees and surrounding host community members. Two medical doctors, two nurses, midwives, a health assistant, a pharmacist and support staff were involved to provide services to the patients. Staff were equipped with COVID-19 appropriate PPE and materials. Outreach interventions as appropriate and necessary were conducted to enhance access to the availability of user-centred, effective, affordable and accessible quality services for all members of the target communities.

- **Brazil: Diocese of Amazonia, \$25,000**

The Diocese of Amazonia is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic among the indigenous communities in Manaus and the Warao indigenous community members from Venezuela currently settled in Belem. This response comprises relief and recovery efforts and the project is currently ongoing at the time of reporting.

- **Nepal: Lutheran World Federation (LWF), \$41,000**

LWF Nepal partnered with the National Innovation Centre that produced or repaired COVID-19 relief products and distributed these items to various hospital and health centres in the country (PPE, Pneumasks, isolation hoods, body bags, half body isolation chambers, fully body isolation chambers, swab collection booths, aerosol boxes, ultraviolet-C disinfection boxes, ultraviolet-C trolleys and other items).

- **Tanzania: Diocese of Masasi Anglican Church of Tanzania, \$251,754 (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)**

The diocese of Masasi provided a 3-month flood response for 1,000 households (supporting approximately 5,000 people) in the Kilwa district of Lindi region in southeastern Tanzania from April to June 2020. Approximately 700 able-bodied households participated in food-for-work to clean up and rehabilitate damaged community infrastructure. These households also received a seed package of maize, cowpeas and pumpkin which helped them restart their agricultural livelihoods. They were also provided with training and technical accompaniment. 300 households unable to perform physical work received unconditional food rations.

- **Tanzania: Church World Service (CWS) Africa, \$523,170 (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)**

This food security and livelihoods project focuses on improving food and nutrition security for Congolese refugees living in Nyarugusu camp and increasing their income from the sale of surplus production grown through sustainable vegetable farming. Currently, refugees in Nyarugusu camp rely mainly on World Food Programme (WFP) food rations to access food. However, food rations contain only staple items and are regularly reduced due to WFP's limited resources. Vacant land around the refugee camp presents an opportunity to grow vegetables for food consumption, which some refugees have begun using. However, many refugees lack the necessary skills and resources to sustainably grow a diversity of crops. This project will work with 4,050 participants from 810 refugee households to provide necessary farm inputs and training to sustainably grow vegetables. The project will use a 'training of trainers' approach in which lead farmers will be trained in sustainable vegetable growing, integrated pest management, seed selection and storage, nutrition and gender equity. Lead farmers will then be responsible to train other refugees in the camps. The aim is for vegetable production to provide important nutritional diversity in the diets of refugees as well as opportunities to earn some income by selling surplus production. CWS aims to reach 300 households in the first year and a

further 510 households in the second year. By the third year, all 810 households will continue to be supported with follow up and monitoring.

- **Zimbabwe: DanChurchAid (DCA), \$843,948 (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)**

This 3-month food assistance project targeted 3,600 households in seven wards of Lupane district of Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe from January to April 2021. Food baskets contained maize meal, beans and oil. In addition, 1,450 of these households with land and available labour also received a one-time distribution of fast-maturing sorghum and cowpea seeds to help re-establish crop production for their livelihoods and ensure access to staple food when the food assistance ended. The most vulnerable households were prioritized for food assistance including households headed by children, elderly persons and women as well as households with special needs (e.g., differently abled people, chronically ill people and pregnant and breastfeeding women).

- **South Sudan: South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA/Episcopal Church of South Sudan) and Mennonite Central Committee, \$313,200 (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)**

This project distributed 170.7 MT of sorghum, 18.085 MT of beans, 11,831 litres of cooking oil and 2.7146 MT of salt over 7 distributions to 523 households between March 2020 to January 2021. The food assistance enhanced food consumption, nutrition and food security for 523 households in Rubkona and Bentiu counties in the former Unity state where famine was declared in 2017. Findings from the post-distribution monitoring revealed a substantial improvement in the food consumption score. The daily average food consumption per day per beneficiary significantly increased resulting in improved health and wellbeing for household members. The food assistance improved nutrition security and saved lives. However, it is important to recognize that more durable solutions are needed including a cessation of conflict and a continued growing capacity and role of humanitarian organizations such as SSUDRA to advocate for peace and hold the government accountable.

- **Kenya: Utooni Development Organization (UDO) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), \$175,662 (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)**

UDO implemented a CFGB/MCC funded food security project on Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture (SUCA) in three counties (Machakos, Makueni and Kajiado) and working in nine sub-locations over the past five years. This project was an extension of the 5-year SUCA project with additional funding from Global Affairs Canada for an extension to assist the targeted 2,200 households to adjust and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic from June 2020 to March 2021. UDO is a joint partner of MCC and PWRDF. PWRDF and MCC each contributed \$11,500 in equity as a matching fund to the Global Affairs Canada grant.

- **Afghanistan: Community World Service Asia (CWSA) and Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D), \$850,000 (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)**

CWSA provided food assistance to 1,100 households (including 420 female-headed households) in Bamyan province to ensure food security of the COVID-19 affected communities in the peak food insecure months. This project helped reduce economic migration during the peak food insecure months and increased hosting capabilities of households (i.e. to host returnee and internally displaced households). The project was implemented between November 2020 and April 2021. PWRDF contributed \$30,000 equity with PWS&D to implement this project.