

Your Ukraine ALWS Action QUADRUPLES!

Thursday 24 February:

The first Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine.

Monday 28 February:

ALWS pledges \$50,000 for refugees fleeing the invasion.

The response to this ALWS step of faith from people like you has been overwhelming. ALWS has been able to DOUBLE the initial \$50,000 commitment...

... PLUS this has DOUBLED again, with more than \$100,000 through the Emergency Action Alliance and the Ed Sheeran fundraising concert shown on ABC. A further \$70,000 came through Anglican Overseas Aid.

Your ALWS action goes to work through LWF (Lutheran World Federation), supporting volunteers from Lutheran Churches in Romania, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia.

LWF is setting up an operating base inside Ukraine. Josef Pfattner heads the LWF team, and reports:

"The church is stretched, but it is incredible to witness what the Spirit is doing through these people who are committed to helping those most in need."

"There is so much passion and positive energy as they provide shelter for refugees, food, transport and medical support."



Your help arrives!

Working with Polish Humanitarian Action, the LWF team you support delivered 3.5 tonnes of food for 50 households and 1.3 tonnes of Baby Comfort Kits for 1,500 children.

Thank you from Ukraine

Meanwhile, Bishop Pavlo Schvarts pastors a Lutheran congregation in Kharkiv. Despite heavy bombing, he provides worship services and care to people in need:

"... peace without freedom does not make sense from our Ukrainian perspective. We do not want to succumb to the Russian Federation just so that they stop dropping bombs on us, launching missiles or driving tanks across our territory."

We want to remain free, including free in our faith, because for us as Lutherans it is crucial.

With God's help, we try to use all the aid we receive as efficiently and wisely as possible. Thank you, time and again, for those prayers and for the support that Lutheran churches in Europe and beyond provide to refugees from Ukraine."



Meet the team you support

Through ALWS, you support front-line teams stationed at Dorohusk and Zosin on the Polish border with Ukraine.

Source: LWF, P. Hitchen

*Thank you for
opening your heart to the
victims of Russia's attempted
invasion of Ukraine. Your
kindness and compassion
are a blessing now
and ALWayS!*



Goodness grows!
Thanks to kind people like you, Jean Marie is now earning more income and growing more food to support his family.
You can see the joy you bring!

Your 5:1 kindness blesses Burundi

Jean Marie Ndikumana is 23 years old and lives in Cankuzo, Burundi. Before your help through ALWS, the family suffered from hunger.

No matter how hard Jean Marie worked as a contract farmer for other people, he was paid only a small daily wage. At home, his wife tried to grow food, but their tiny plot meant there was never enough. (FACT: 93% of families in Burundi farm only half a hectare.)

This is where you step in through ALWS.

Your generosity, matched with a 5:1 grant from the Australian Government provides training to farmers like Jean Marie in modern farming methods. The training is delivered by ALWS partner, LWF Burundi.

You focus on the most vulnerable people, those in danger of being forgotten.

Jean Marie's training had an immediate impact. His new farming skills enable him to get better jobs, at a higher wage. He and his wife saved enough money to buy a pig – an eco-friendly no-cost source of fertiliser that is already increasing harvest yield.

Jean Marie next joined a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA), set up by LWF. This has given him confidence he can send his children to school.

Looking ahead, this couple dream of having an iron roof for their current house, and one day hopefully a home that survives the rainy season.

Jean Marie also prays he could have his own land so that he can apply the new farming methods he has learned for his own family.

For now, Jean Marie told your LWF team the is very thankful for the help his family received. He hopes people like you in Australia can continue providing support to him and his community.

This year, ALWS aims to support 16,506 of Burundi's most vulnerable people like Jean Marie. This includes building 80 houses, and supporting 476 people in 7 VSLAs.

Our ALWS commitment continues to be matched 5:1 by a generous grant from the Australian Government*. Thank you!

Pig poo powers profit!

Jean Marie used the training you supported to earn enough money to invest in a pig. This supplies no-cost fertiliser, increasing farm yield and food for the family!



Photo: ALWS / LWF Burundi

* Every donation you make to this project will be combined with funding from the Australian Government to reach more people. ALWS has committed to contribute \$1 for every \$5 received from the Australian government. Your donation will allow us to extend our programs.



Business blooms!

Before your ALWS action, these ex-Kamaiya ladies in Nepal struggled to survive as daily labourers. Now they are successful vegetable farmers, growing their own businesses.

Thank you!



How does your garden *GROW*?

What are you doing this Sunday?

Thanks to you, in Purainatal in Nepal a group of 23 women will carry a notebook and spade to a Farmer Field School you support through ALWS.

People stop and stare.

These women are ex-Kamaiya – landless people who end up as ‘slaves’ to land-owners – and it’s rare to see them given a chance to build an independent better future for their families.

Your ALWS action for these women is vital because before your help they had to try to survive by doing unreliable daily labour.

While the Government has given them each 1/10th of a hectare, the land is poor and floods in the changing climate.

CUCUMBER COLLEGE

Now, over a 16-week course of 2-4 hours each Sunday, the women you support are learning new skills to grow not just vegetables, but their own thriving vegetable businesses.

Cucumber. Tomatoes. Bitter gourd. Long beans. Okra.

Your ALWS action through our ALWS partner LWF Nepal provides training from nursery to harvest, both practical

and theoretical. You also supply plastic tunnels to act as ‘hot houses’ and insect nets to protect from pests.

Chunki Devi Chaudhary is Chairperson of the ‘Sirjana Women Farmers Group’. She says:

Who are the Kamaiya?

Kamaiya and Haliya are people in Nepal who until recently were bonded-labourers, working as agricultural labourers for land owners in a type of slavery.

Former Haliya and Kamaiya communities remain some of the most vulnerable people in Nepal, their needs too often forgotten. That’s why they are a focus of your ALWS action.

“We used to plant few vegetables in our small front yard while the rest of the land was cultivated with paddy and wheat. Since we own very little land, the land’s production is not sufficient to meet our daily expenses and we have to work for daily wages.

“Now, with our new-found skill, we are making a good income out of our commercial vegetable farming. I myself

have earned NPR. 83,000 (\$1,000) to date by cultivating tomatoes for two seasons using the Insect Net.”

As the farmers increase income from their new businesses, they contribute 100 NPR (\$1) per month to a cooperative they have formed to grow their businesses together.

Your ALWS action in Nepal is also supported by a generous 5:1 Grant from the Australian Government. Thank you for your kindness in planting the seeds that are now growing into vegetables, businesses and independence!

Did you know... Australia’s Ambassador to Nepal, Ms Felicity Volk, is a graduate of Lutheran schools?

Australian Aid 



"Kindness is important!"

Your ALWS Community Action team last years presented more than 240 sessions to 20,000 students in 60 Lutheran schools across Australia.

The aim is to inspire young people to take action to help those who are suffering, just as you do. Presentations link to Year Level curriculum and bring Christian Studies to life.

Year 4 students at Living Faith Lutheran Primary School in Queensland were inspired by their teacher, David Folker, to consider making a personal sacrifice to help others. Chloe H reflected:

"I was motivated to give up my bed for five nights. People from Ukraine are sleeping on the floor for weeks and sometimes even months. They are feeling devastated in these shelters. They have nothing while we have everything. Which makes me think we can spare money for them because we have so much. I hope to raise \$500 in 4 weeks."

Meanwhile, Megan T shared:

"I am motivated to make a sacrifice for others because that shows we love everyone, even if we haven't met them yet. We can still show kindness and how we love others because kindness is important!"

May you feel encouraged and blessed that young people like Chloe and Megan share your compassion for people in need, and want to help just like you do!

Your new ALWS Executive Director



Photo: M. Stolz

The Board of ALWS is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Michael Stolz as new Executive Director.

Michael is the son of missionary parents and spent the first 15 years of his life in Papua New Guinea.

Michael has served the Lutheran Church in many roles across Australia – in school establishment committees, congregation

evangelism and stewardship teams, District and Churchwide committees, and General Church Board.

The work of ALWS will be blessed by Michael's high-level experience and expertise in business, consulting, project management and governance, in the areas of transport, energy, defence, mining logistics and not-for-profit sectors. Michael says:

"I look forward to working with the team to deliver an even stronger, better organisation that delivers impactful development and aid outcomes for the forgotten people in our wider world."



You can keep touching the lives of people like those you have met in this Report Back by leaving a gift in your Will to ALWS. It's easy to do, and a special way of showing the people you love the values you hold precious.

Simply call **1300 763 407** or email Julie Krause at juliek@alws.org.au to receive your FREE booklet.