



TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

Increases in the scale and intensity of production, as well as advances in markets and speed of exchange, have dramatically increased the overall global food supply over the last 30 years. However, despite this abundance, more than two billion people remain hungry and malnutrition has increased due to economic, political, social and environmental obstacles to food security. Agricultural development, including strong and stable local food production, robust and accessible food and commodities markets, strong farmers' organizations and free and fair exchange, is critical for increasing global food security and improving nutrition outcomes. However, decades of neglect and limited investment have left farmers and their communities marginalized and chronically vulnerable.

Lutheran World Relief works in communities around the world to sustainably improve food availability, diversity, access and utilization through a focus on strengthening rural economies and agricultural livelihoods. By focusing on climate resilient agriculture, we advance nutritional outcomes for farmers and their families that protect land and water resources for the

long-term. When smallholder farmers increase and diversify their production, have greater market access and improve their participation in their products' value chains, incomes rise and resilience grows.

Lutheran World Relief adopts a market systems approach to address the underlying causes of market failures that hurt agriculture-based livelihoods and hinder food security. We strive to influence behavior change among market players — public and private, formal and informal — so that they are better equipped and motivated to support farming families and rural communities.



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In Practice

Improving Health and Nutrition in Guatemala's Western Highlands

In collaboration with our local partner FundaSistemas, Lutheran World Relief works to improve nutritional outcomes and strengthen agricultural development in the department of San Marcos. Applying innovative behavior change methodologies, the project utilizes home visits, technical assistance and an arts-based community development (ABCD) curriculum to promote healthy food consumption, agricultural diversification, maternal and child health and WASH best practices. Through local partnerships, the project strives to reduce stunting among children while increasing the income, yield and availability of safe, nutritious food for rural communities.

Multisectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Health & Opportunities

The Starbucks Foundation-funded Multisectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Health & Opportunities for Women (MECIHO) project expands women's leadership and civic engagement and improves mechanisms and services that support the advancement of healthier homes and improved living conditions. Complementing the Indonesian government's nutrition and stunting interventions, the MECIHO project responds to significant needs in coffee-growing communities in Karo where one in four households lack clean water, sanitation challenges endanger public health and current systems of local governance regularly exclude women. Over 33,600 people benefit from nutrition-focused social and behavior change (SBC), and over 9,900 women and girls are engaged with innovations such as "garbage banks" that process community waste into fertilizer for sale.

Promotion of Favorable Environments for Food Security and Family Nutrition

Lutheran World Relief has been working with local partner CEDINCO (Center for Comprehensive Development of Communities) since 2011 to improve food security, strengthen livelihoods and support health and nutrition in Castrovirreyna, a remote Andean region of Peru. In collaboration with Growing Hope Globally, we work to increase yields of nutritious food by training Indigenous farmers on organic production methods, including seed banks, post-harvest storage and family greenhouses. By strengthening small livestock rearing and promoting natural iron supplements called sangrecita, the project promotes preparation and consumption of nutritious foods for children, decreasing anemia. Farmers are also trained to market their organic potato and vegetable crops — for example, selling to organic

potato chip markets in Europe — and manage their farm income. The project coordinates with educational institutions and health facilities to promote SBC that advances good nutrition and hygiene habits. Home visits raise awareness about anemia and parasites, teach children about the importance of hand washing and improve household WASH practices.



The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to Lutheran World Relief, the Corus family of organizations includes global public health agency IMA World Health, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing fund Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

With the support of our family's diverse set of partners and funding — from multi- and bilateral institutions and foundations to the private sector and individuals — we invest in solutions that are innovative, scalable, holistic and move the needle towards transformational change.



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