LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

BREAKING THE CYCLE *THROUGH INNOVATION*



Photo by Jjumba Martin for LWR

YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION 2026

How your prayerful compassion is leveraging creative ideas and innovative technologies to overcome poverty

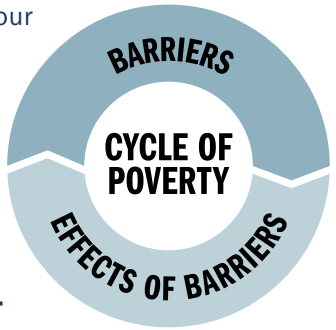
LEVERAGING INNOVATION TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

We live in a rapidly changing world. Technology evolves from one day to the next, revolutionizing how we work, travel and communicate.

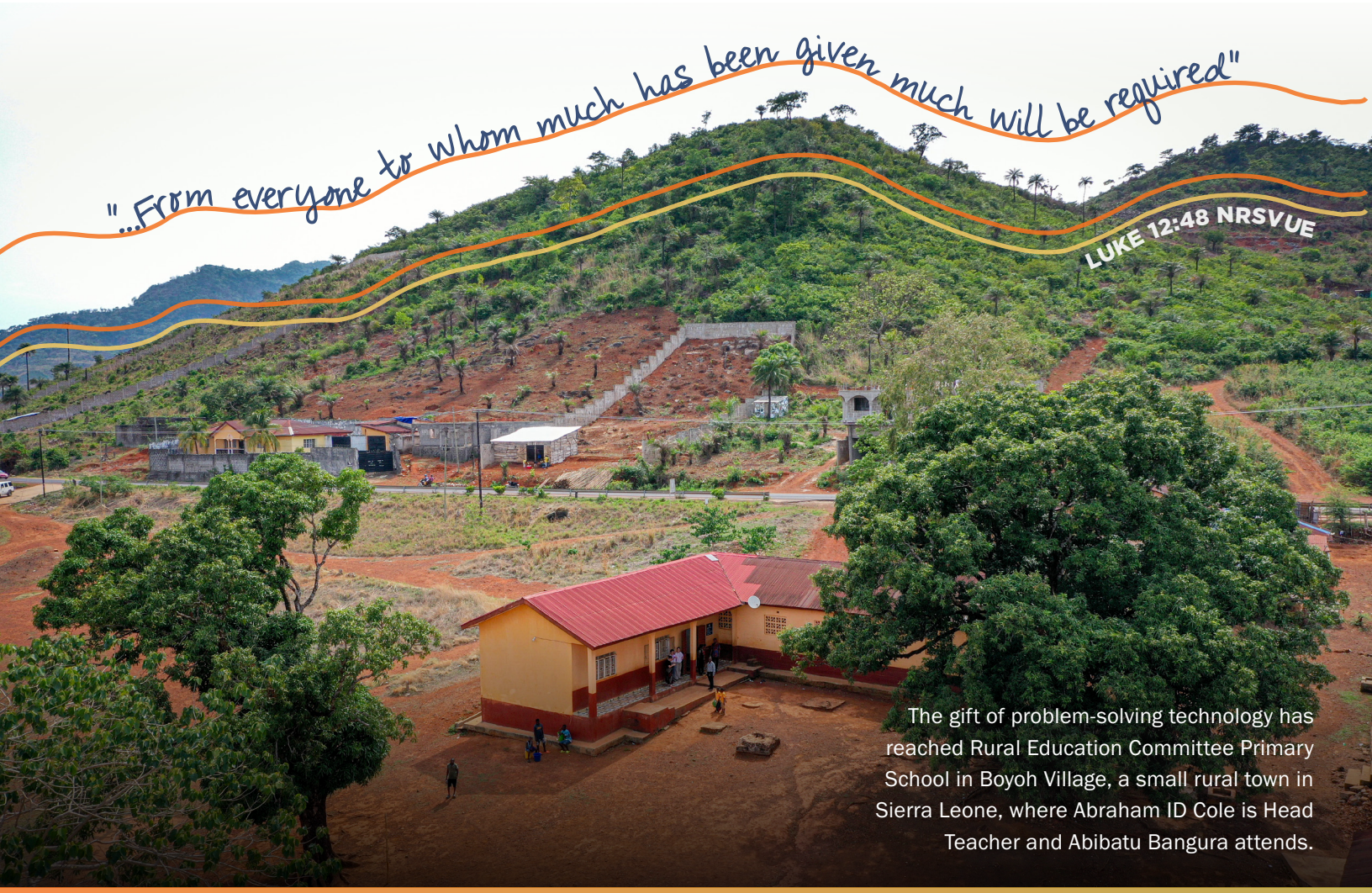
Meanwhile, extreme poverty persists. In an age of self-driving cars, about 10% of the world's population survives on less than $3 a day. And while AI tools can create a recipe from a list of ingredients in your pantry, 266 million people globally are experiencing life-threatening hunger.

Yet God is faithful. No matter how the world changes around us, our identity in Christ remains the same.

The founder of every tech startup dreams of becoming a "disruptor" in their field. But as committed people of faith, we have a higher calling: to use our abundant tools and resources to **disrupt the cycle of poverty** and ensure our neighbors don't get left behind.



This year, your faith-filled compassion was the catalyst for many life-changing and life-saving advancements. Read on to learn how you — through your generous partnership with Lutheran World Relief — are leveraging creative ideas and innovative technologies to help our neighbors rise out of poverty and thrive.



The gift of problem-solving technology has reached Rural Education Committee Primary School in Boyoh Village, a small rural town in Sierra Leone, where Abraham ID Cole is Head Teacher and Abibatu Bangura attends.

YOU'RE EXPANDING YOUR REACH

SIERRA LEONE

In June, we completed the second year of the ***Girls In School*** program, which helps young girls access life-changing education in the face of poverty. The foundation of this program is our innovative *Wi De Ya* ("We Are Here") attendance monitoring software, which modernizes how schools track essential data.

Why is attendance data so important?

Identification: Schools use it to identify girls who are frequently absent and at risk of dropping out.

Analysis: It helps us determine which girls would benefit most from cash support, without teacher bias or favoritism.

Accountability: Data shows us which of our program participants continue to miss school and require follow-up and additional support services.

Your impact is growing!

This year, your faithful partnership enrolled **2,114 girls** across **78 schools** — more than double the number of students and triple the number of schools from year 1.

We also introduced a **Positive Parenting course** to help parents understand the importance of education and navigate the complexities of puberty, healthy discipline and other parenting challenges.



"In the past, my children missed school for about two weeks because there was no money. But now **the money has made it possible for my children to always attend school.** I use the money very wisely. From the money I buy what Abibatu needs, I give her lunch and use it to help her siblings."

- Zainab Koroma, Abibatu's mother

To date:



15,000 total monthly cash transfers paid out

Each icon represents 1,000 transfers.



43,000 students' attendance monitored

Each icon represents 1,000 students.



"With the coming of the Wi De Ya app, we see the attendance is coming up. **We are having more and more children coming to school per day.** It is really helping the system ... Also, with the coming of this cash program, it is helping the parents out. Parents are really urging their children to come to school."

- Abraham ID Cole, head teacher

YOU'RE HELPING US THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

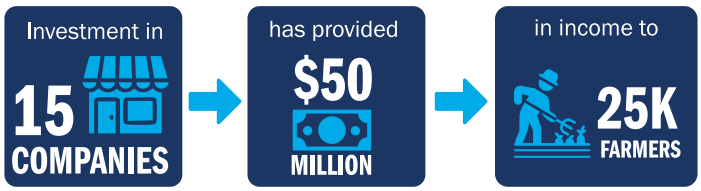
AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

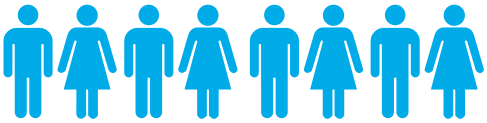
Traditional grant-funded programs, usually lasting one to five years, are the standard approach for addressing the challenges of poverty. But sometimes an outside-the-box solution is needed to produce the best results.

In 2017, LWR established **Ground Up Investing** — an investment fund that finances small businesses that help poor farming families increase their incomes.

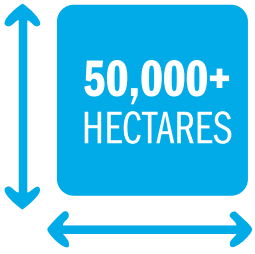
Your support enables us to invest in and offer expert guidance to hand-picked companies that are dedicated to solving social or environmental challenges in their communities. As these businesses become profitable, their social missions also become sustainable — **strengthening farmer incomes and promoting healthier agricultural practices.**

Since 2017:





800+ people are employed locally



of farmland have been improved

Your partnership builds resilience

Mountain Harvest, a coffee company in Uganda, became our first investment 2017. Coffee farmers were facing significant challenges, including depleted soil, pests and diseases, and unpredictable incomes.

Thanks to your investment, coffee farmer Buchendich Fred has received training and personal visits from Mountain Harvest experts for several years. Following their recommendations has led to healthier soil, reduced costs, and stronger coffee trees. Increasing his income and financial resilience has also led to new opportunities.



Photo by Jjumba Martin for LWR

ABOVE: Amutuhaire Emma, a quality officer for Mountain Harvest, conducting a coffee sample quality analysis.

For thousands of farmers like Fred, what was once survival farming is now productive, profitable, and resilient agriculture — benefiting both families and the wider community.



> **Before, I had no house,** but now I own a permanent structure in my own compound ... **The increased income from coffee** additionally allowed me to acquire an acre plot in Mbale town and build rentals, an alternative income stream."
> **- Buchendich Fred, Mountain Harvest farmer**

YOU'RE MAKING LIFESAVING PIVOTS POSSIBLE

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Congo has some of the highest rates of maternal and child death in the world. Our current health programs focus on saving precious lives by ensuring mothers and children have the care they need at the most critical times: pregnancy, delivery and the child's earliest years.

But this spring, an **Ebola** outbreak began spreading quickly through the country's northeastern provinces. This disease kills about 50% of the people it infects, putting our experts in the middle of a serious public health emergency.

Trusted relationships save lives



"In outbreaks like this, the value of our approach is the combination of long-term systems strengthening and immediate response capability. [We have] worked in the DRC for more than 25 years ... Outbreaks move quickly. Trusted relationships cannot be built overnight."

- Tamara Demuria, Chief Humanitarian Officer

Your generosity enables flexibility

Fortunately, Lutheran World Relief has a longstanding relationships with government and community leaders, health officials and trusted faith networks in this region. Our experts have also helped to contain four other Ebola outbreaks across our 25 years of working in the Congo.

Your faithful support made it possible to pivot quickly into Ebola response mode.

This looks like:

- Helping **125+ high-risk health facilities** improve patient and staff safety.
- Training **630 health workers** on infection prevention and control.
- Educating more than **200,000 people** on symptoms, prevention and when to seek care.
- **Partnering with popular TikTok creators** reaching more than four million viewers, meeting people where they already get their news.
- Setting up **triage and isolation** facilities.
- Distributing **personal protective equipment** and supplies within the first week.
- Conducting **contact tracing** to identify suspected cases quickly.
- Providing **mental health support** for healthcare workers, affected families and quarantined individuals.



Leonida Nzigire Amani welcomes two community health workers to her home in Beni, a city in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo that was the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak that began in 2018. The health workers make sure the children in the home understand **proper handwashing hygiene, educate residents in preventative health measures and do contact tracing.**

Photo by Paul Jeffrey for LWR



MDIRBTC-750-1026

YOU’RE EQUIPPING US TO TEST NEW APPROACHES

LEBANON

Since March 2026, airstrikes in Lebanon have displaced over 831,000 people. This has created an **urgent humanitarian crisis amid the country’s ongoing economic collapse.**

As always, the people who suffer most are the most vulnerable among us: **elderly adults, people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, pregnant women and children.** For many of these neighbors, even when a hospital is nearby, healthcare is out of reach because of mobility, transportation and financial barriers.

You’re bringing healthcare to those who need it most



ABOVE: Local physician Dr. Abdallah Harisi treats displaced families in a camp in Beirut.

Your generosity is deploying **mobile home-care teams** to homes and shelters where identified patients are staying.

Home-based care is a new approach for Lutheran World Relief, and this service also does not currently exist in our target communities. This work includes medical consultations, chronic disease management and dispensing medications.

You’re also helping to distribute:

- Assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers and other mobility aids
- Adult and child diapers
- Hygiene and dignity supplies such as menstrual products.
- Your efforts are targeting **2,500 people** in Lebanon with caring medical support during a time of immense stress and hardship.

THANK YOU!

“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.”
– Ephesians 2:10 NRSVUE

Thank you for following Christ to disrupt the cycle of poverty through faith and creativity.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

LWR.ORG