



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

Geneva, 15.10.2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Peace be with you! This year we hear this reminder of God's presence in our lives in the midst of COVID-19 waves and their impact on our lives, churches and communities, and in so many other situations of injustices and conflicts. We also hear this as a reminder of our mutual solidarity when we stand with each other in the uncertainties and challenges of this world and encourage each other to create hope and share courage and compassion.

I am pleased to share with you this year's call for applications for short-term projects (the second round of the COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund) and for a limited number of new long-term projects starting in 2022. I would also like to use this opportunity to update you on key points of the new Policy for Member Church Projects and point you to our new IT platform Zengine.

I. Call for proposals – 2nd round of COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund

The LWF with the generous support of partners has launched a Rapid Response Fund (RRF) for COVID-19 in April 2020. During the first application round 65 RRF member church projects were approved. It has been enriching to see the meaningful difference churches made in their communities.

We are now opening a second round to address the continued social, spiritual and economic impact of COVID-19 on LWF member churches and the communities they serve.

Deadline for applications: 15 November 2020

Please refer to the attached **annex** for eligibility criteria and further details.

All applications for short-term projects will be reviewed during the second half of November. Feedback will be provided shortly after with project starts possible from December onwards.

II. Call for proposals – long-term projects

During the year 2021 there will be about 60 on-going long-term member church projects. Additionally we are calling for **four new** projects (one for Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean) starting in 2022. The overall budget for these four long-term projects together will be capped at around EUR 100,000 for the first year (2022).

Deadline for applications: 03 January 2021

Please refer to the attached **annex** for eligibility criteria and further details.

All applications for long-term projects will be reviewed during January and February 2021. Initial feedback will be provided shortly after. Shortlisted projects will be invited to submit further details to support their application. The final approval of the projects will be given by the Committee for Member Church Projects in May 2021.

III. How to apply

Member churches can apply for both COVID-19 and long-term grants.

We have moved project administration to our recently developed IT platform Zengine which will facilitate a more professional project administration. Please use the following link for applications: https://webportalapp.com/sp/lwf_pcmprogram_en. User guidelines are attached. Please send an e-mail to dtmjprojects@lutheranworld.org if you have any issues with the platform and need support. The member church project coordination team is there to answer your questions and to help.

IV. Policy on Member Church Projects

I would like to thank the Committee for Member Church Projects for their governance and oversight. In April the committee approved the new Policy on Member Church Projects. The policy affirms the important role that member church projects play in the communion.

One key change is the focus on the sustainability of projects limiting long-term projects to a project cycle of three years with maximum one renewal. Another is the introduction of short-term grants (max 6 months) to address urgent needs.

The policy also strengthens the commitment to empowerment, learning and capacity building and foresees deepening the sharing of resources, knowledge, learning and good practices across member church projects and the Communion Office. Please note that we are planning to have a stronger focus on mutual learning in the future.

And last but not least, we have plans to up-date the member church projects website and will share more details about the policy and other developments there in the future.

May God continue to bless you in your ministry.

Yours in Christ,



Eva Christina Nilsson

Director

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