In October of 2016, Hurricane Matthew ripped through the Caribbean and southeastern U.S. coast, leaving hundreds of casualties, thousands of homes destroyed and millions of people displaced and without power.

In Haiti alone, there were hundreds reported casualties, thousands of injuries and millions of people impacted by the hurricane. Damage assessments reported massive loses in houses, schools, churches, crops, animals, human lives and infrastructure in Grand Anse and Northwest departments of Haiti. Over a year after the hurricane and after complications from a very active hurricane season in 2017, many families are still in need of assistance to repair their homes. In addition, communities remain vulnerable to potential flooding and mudslides brought on by strong hurricanes.

In 2016, Lutheran Disaster Response provided immediate support through multiple partners, including Church World Service (CWS). With CWS, we committed to walk with some of the most impacted communities to reconstruct 110 homes and three public schools. Just a month away from completing the project, Lutheran Disaster Response, Church World Service and other local partners are coming together to expand the project to help more families. Lutheran Disaster Response has provided further support to go towards the reconstruction of 16 additional homes and the addition of a soil conservation project for 600 farmers. Through this project, three local cooperatives in the Northwest department will conduct soil conservation and reforestation to help protect the environment and create natural barriers to be placed along riverbanks to avoid soil erosion and prevent water run offs.