

GLOBAL LINKS



September 2021

Reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality in Madagascar



In Madagascar, the current infant and maternal mortality rate is 353 per 100,000 live births. The Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC) is helping to work toward the country's goal of reducing that rate to 70 per 100,000. With support from ELCA World Hunger, MLC runs the Remafi program, which connects traditional birth attendants in rural areas with hospitals and clinics. Remafi offers trainings, facilitates collaboration and encourages traditional birth attendants to prepare mothers for hospital births. Dr. Rivosoa Nasoloniaina, a doctoral fellow of the VID Specialized University of Norway, is conducting a case study of Remafi's work. He hopes to understand how this ministry can help decrease the country's mortality rate and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of increasing "good health and well-being" for women. He wrote about his research for the Lutheran World Federation blog.

[Read more here.](#)

News Around the World



- A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Aug. 14. Over 2,000 people were killed, a number that is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. Learn more about the situation and how you can help [here](#).
- As U.S. troops withdraw from Afghanistan, conflict is escalating. Thousands of families have been displaced, and many of them are arriving in Kabul. Lutheran Disaster Reponse contributed to ACT Alliance's Rapid Response Fund. This fund will provide cash assistance to meet the needs of internally displaced people and lessen the burdens of their host communities.

Mission Personnel



SERVICE AND JUSTICE

2021 Virtual Summer Missionary Conference

Summer Missionary Conference

The Service and Justice home area of the ELCA gathered with staff and mission personnel virtually for a five-day online event. The program included updates for the unit-turned-home area and Future Church, theological sessions around justice, logistical and system trainings, a commissioning chapel for our new missionaries, and a celebration for our mission personnel who have ended service within the last year. The event's theme came from Isaiah 43:19 — "I am about to do a new thing; do you not perceive it?"

Get Involved

Looking for opportunities to serve around the world? Check out the [ELCA job board](#) for global positions. Openings for this upcoming season include:

- Country coordinator, Young Adults in Global Mission (in Mexico, Argentina/Uruguay, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Rwanda, Madagascar, Senegal and Cambodia)
- Regional representative, Southeast Asia, Thailand
- Co-directors and chaplains of the Baptismal Site, Jordan
- And more!

Please email globalserve@elca.org with any questions.

There is still time to attend Advocacy Summer School! The final sessions of this five-part series will take place on Sept. 1 and Sept. 8. Learn more and register [here](#).

ELCA partner Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is organizing support for Afghan allies who are being evacuated to the United States. Find out about the many ways you can contribute to that effort [here](#).

Give to the Young Adults in Global Mission endowment fund



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