

Mennonite Central Committee update 2021

MCC enters 2021 with a fresh sense of hope and promise, knowing that “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1, NRSV). Over the past year, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and thanks to your support, MCC has continued to serve in the name of Christ. We are reminded that we follow a God who perseveres with us, no matter what.

Last year, the pandemic saw us scale up our work in health, disease prevention and emergency food distribution. Our focus was on helping the most vulnerable communities, such as displaced people in refugee camps and other locations.

As revenue sources appeared threatened by the pandemic, MCC also made the difficult decision to end programming in various countries – South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Vietnam and China – to ensure our core mission remains strong. Significant reductions were also made within MCC program in Canada. As we write this, we are deeply grateful to report that, throughout the year, our supporters and donors were once again highly generous. Thanks be to God.

Relief: On August 4, 2020, a large explosion of ammonium nitrate affected the entire city of Beirut, Lebanon. In response, MCC’s local partners distributed food to more than 1,300 families, provided psychosocial support for children and began housing rehabilitation projects. MCC also shipped two containers of emergency relief supplies, including comforters, relief kits and hygiene kits.

Development: Around the world, MCC is helping farmers who struggle with the effects of a changing climate. In places like Kenya, we’re supporting village savings and loans groups so farmers can access essential credit. Small-scale farmers can buy goats and other animals to help diversify

their income. And technology is playing an important role in these remote areas. Partners now use cell phones to connect with farmers when situations like COVID-19 restrict personal contact.

Peace: Last year, MCC Canada committed to doing more to address racial injustice, both within MCC as a workplace and through our advocacy work. You may find this [list of resources](#) helpful in your own journey.

Part of MCC’s peacebuilding and anti-racism work happens through relationship-building in our young adult volunteer programs. While many short-term assignments looked different due to COVID-19, MCC is grateful for the youth who served with MCC last year – and for the 22 who are currently serving. As Clare Maier, a SALT participant from Waterloo MB Church who served in Bolivia, reflects, “I have seen the hope that faith in Christ gives those I work with and the ways it is integrated into daily life. It has challenged me to decide how strong a faith I want to settle for and how I want to express that faith daily.”

As you meet virtually with Mennonite Brethren brothers and sisters, we pray that you will be reminded of God’s abiding presence – and that you will join us in sharing God’s love and compassion for all. We couldn’t do this work without you!



RICK COBER BAUMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA
RICKCOBERBAUMAN@MCCCANADA.CA



Jacques Safari Lukwebo washes the hands of his wife Floride Murhimanya M’nkwaile with water collected by the rooftop rainwater catchment system the family received through a project in DR Congo. The project was implemented in partnership with the Community of MB Churches in Congo to help reduce disease. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)



Justus Wambua Mang’oka feeds goats at his home in Makueni County in Kenya. Using funds received from an MCC-supported farmers association, Justus bought goats which have multiplied. He plans to sell them at the local market to help supplement his income from other farming activities. (MCC photo/Mwangi Kirubi)

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