

**Explore your local impact
in Alberta.**



2020/2021
Annual Impact Report
ALBERTA

During this difficult year, as we faced nearly unprecedented challenges, you chose to give to those in need. Your generosity had an impact in countries across the globe and here at home.

With this report we want to invite you to reflect and celebrate.

Explore your local impact in Alberta.

The stories you're holding in your hands were made possible by your compassion.

You learned from and advocated with Indigenous neighbours. You helped provide a warm welcome to refugees making Canada their new home. You helped work toward restorative justice and peace in our communities.

**This is work that you made possible.
Thank you.**

MCC ALBERTA BOARD MEMBERS

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There is a word that fully captures MCC's experience of 2020-21 – gratitude. The fiscal year began in the midst of a global pandemic. In Alberta, as in many other places, the provincial government declared a public health emergency and mandated the closing of all non-essential businesses. For both international and local programs, MCC took the difficult decision to reduce the budget by 25%. At the time, this was an optimistic best guess as to the impact of the world economic crisis on our supporters and our support.

As the year progressed, MCC – in Alberta and across Canada – found that donations were not as severely affected as we had feared. Generous donors continued to sustain the work of MCC. By the end of the year, we found that our supporters' resources were equal to their faithfulness. Similarly, the Alberta Thrift program is thriving – even when restricting the number of shoppers in accordance with changing public health directives.

I would like to thank my colleagues across the province for their courage and good-humour in the face of great uncertainty. They have pulled together as a team to serve the mission and ministry of MCC through a year of significant transition.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Taylor".



DALE TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC ALBERTA

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.

— PSALM 46 (NRSV)

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN ALBERTA

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. Mennonite congregations are found across the length and breadth of the province – from High Level to Pincher Creek and Two Hills to Grande Prairie.

Across this vast span, supporters join to pray, donate, pack relief buckets, stitch quilts and plant crops to support our local and international work.

Together, we envision communities province-wide and worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.



WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE

The MCC Alberta office in Calgary is located on Treaty Six Territory. The borders of Alberta include, additionally, Territories recognized in Treaties Four, Seven, Eight and Ten, as well as the homeland of the Metis Nation of Alberta. As MCC, we are grateful to live, work and serve God the Creator on this land. As a Christian organization committed to right relationships and to the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* Calls to Action, we also acknowledge the harm done to the Indigenous peoples of these lands.

MCC In Alberta

MCC in Alberta has experienced challenges, and significant change and loss in 2020-21. The new realities of COVID-19 meant working from home and shifting from in-person to online services. Staff held numerous calls and video meetings to keep connected with program participants and partners, in order to continue making a difference for those who trust us to help them. Staff and funding partners were resilient and flexible during this time, showing great commitment and patience amid uncertainty. With the exception of youth services, programs were able to maintain operations with some shifts to online rather than in-person connections.



Restorative Justice Facilitators Trish Elgersma and Darrel Heidebrecht

Peace and Justice in Alberta

The Peace and Justice team addresses the key domestic commitments of MCC in Canada: greater justice for Indigenous people and communities, migration and refugee resettlement, and Restorative Justice approaches to harm.

SERVICES FOR NEWCOMERS IN TABER

In the area of migration and resettlement, MCC's Service for Newcomers office in Taber builds trust and awareness between newcomers from the Low-German-speaking Mennonite communities and local service providers. Services include assisting employers to find workers and newcomers to find employment, as well as providing support with paperwork and translation. During the temporary office closure because of COVID-19 restrictions, services continued without pause, with extensive use of phone and social media connections.

CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CoSA accompanies men released from prison, helping to provide practical needs, community support and accountability. Volunteers commit to a supportive relationship with individuals who have been released after serving time as high risk offenders. The volunteers provide care to the core member and require accountability to the conditions of their release. Services through 2020-21 were modified to ensure continued support while observing restrictions on indoor gatherings.

INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

Through 2020-21, our services focused on connecting with local partners, notably through Blue Quills University in St. Paul – and connecting with Mennonite congregations to share the realities and the hopes of the findings and recommendations of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*. With the retirement of Jim Shantz at the end of the year, MCC will seek new staffing for this work in the new year.

REFUGEE SUPPORT

With the Canadian border closed because of COVID-19 restrictions, refugee arrivals have been suspended. Three families arrived in Alberta in 2020-21. Normally we would welcome more than 60 households. We anticipate that the program will return to full strength in the new year. We continue to receive new applications, and are grateful for the community sponsorship groups that form to assist people in dangerous situations. The need for refugee support continues to be huge, and our work in this area will return to full strength as soon as possible in the new year.

RESTORATIVE ACTION FOR TRANSFORMATION (RAFT)

For over 20 years, RAFT connected youth involved in a crime with victims affected by the event. This program provided restorative justice services for youth, victims, and their family supports in Calgary. With COVID-19 related restrictions, this program shifted online to continue creating connections and conversations with appropriate distancing.

This was a very successful partnership with the City of Calgary, which ended suddenly when the City was required to close their Youth Probation service because of a policy change by the provincial government. This forced pause in our youth restorative justice work coincides with the retirement of Darrel Heidebrecht, after a very successful career with MCC's Restorative Justice program.

COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

The 2020-21 year saw the closure of the Community Chaplaincy program with the retirement of Peter Worsley. This service provided ex-prisoners with spiritual and practical supports needed to transition to life in Calgary.



Peter Worsley supports a Community Chaplaincy Client

3,490 kilograms of relief, hygiene and school kits were shipped from the Calgary warehouse to MCC projects around the world.

MATERIAL RESOURCES

In the midst of extraordinary circumstances, 2021 was a banner year for Material Resources. Because of your generosity, people around the world receive comfort, warmth and a sense of hope from a stranger. We are grateful for the ongoing support, encouragement and prayers from the community groups, individuals, and churches who continue to sew, stuff bags and pack buckets. We look forward to welcoming volunteers back to the Calgary warehouse for fellowship and service.



Material resources shipped last year:



896
Hygiene kits



1,927
Comforters



1,771
School kits



167
Relief kits



MCC Thrift volunteers in Alberta contributed 59,000 hours of time over the past year.

MCC THRIFT

The Thrift Shops are the public face of MCC, welcoming everyone in our community. Through most of the pandemic of 2020-21, our doors were open to meet the needs of our neighbours. Heroically, staff and volunteers have maintained a safe and distanced environment to serve the donors and shoppers who rely on our Shops. Through a year of business restrictions, over 300 volunteers contributed more than 59,000 hours, working alongside 25 Thrift employees, together ensuring another hugely successful year for the Thrift program in Alberta.

 **35%**

Alberta's four MCC Thrift shops saw income increase by more than 35% - during a time of major challenges with respect to receiving and quarantining goods, distancing in the sorting rooms, and severe restrictions on the number of shoppers.



“My wife and I volunteer here for the fellowship, that’s why we are here six days a week...Of course, this is also for a very good cause, it is important to help the needy around the world.”

Abe Reimer, Lethbridge MCC Thrift Shop

GROW HOPE

Grow Hope connected MCC supporters to Alberta farmers and hungry people around the world. Donors sponsored an acre of farmland for \$300.00 to help farmers cover the input costs for their crop. Throughout the growing season, donors received updates on the crop and the growing process. Farmers donated their land, equipment, and skills to grow the crop. After harvest, they donated the proceeds to MCC's account with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Through CFGB, federal government matching funds were applied. These donations can be matched up to 4:1 for MCC projects that provide food relief and agricultural training where these are desperately needed.

In the 2020 growing season, farmers from the Fort Saskatchewan and Crossfield areas participated, and Grow Hope supporters fully sponsored 317 acres of cropland. Thank you to our farmers: Shaun Galloway, Todd Clark, Chris Allam, Keith Goutbeck, Colin Jackson, and Blaine Gatez.



CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Through Sunday morning visits (in-person or by video call), phone calls, and one-to-one visits complying with public health regulations, MCC connected with half of the 140+ Mennonite congregations in Alberta. Despite, or even because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to connect over 300 times, in various ways, with churches across the province. The Mennonite churches continue to support MCC with interest, prayer, Material Resource items, and donations from people in the pews.

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

2020 was the year to recognize the Centennial of MCC, with events and activities planned across the country. Then a global pandemic erupted, and many MCC events were cancelled.

The annual Alberta Relief Sale, scheduled for Sherwood Park in June, was also cancelled because of the public health emergency.

In the midst of this, MCC Alberta created GO!100, acknowledging 100 years of MCC by offering an activity-based opportunity to raise funds. GO!100 is a participation-based project that encourages people to engage in activities separately but together -- cycling or baking or doing one hundred push-ups in appropriate isolation, all aimed at a common goal. The needs in the countries where MCC works have continued or increased during the pandemic. This creative project replaced the loss of Relief Sale income by raising \$245,000 to support MCC's ministries.

Longtime MCC Champion and GO!100 participant Gordon Baergen celebrates a century of relief, development and peace.



100
years
of relief,
development
and peace.

These smiling faces show the MCC Alberta staff as of March 31, 2021.



Dale Taylor
Executive Director



Orlando Vasquez
Associate & Program Director



Iliana Friesen
HR Coordinator



Donita Wiebe-Neufeld
Development Coordinator



Daniel Christie
Development Assistant



Joyce Doran
Thrift Shop Coordinator



Linda Dickinson
Material Resources Coordinator



Ken Grahlman
CoSA Coordinator



Trish Elgersma
Restorative Justice Facilitator



Darrel Heidebrecht
Restorative Justice Facilitator



Peter Worsley
Reintegration Chaplain



Jim Shantz
Indigenous Neighbours Coordinator



Susie Klassen
Taber Services for Newcomers Coordinator



Agatha Neustaeter
Taber Services for Newcomers Assistant



Donna Ruparell
Executive Assistant



Renn von Riesen
Senior Accountant



April Hauck
Calgary Thrift Shop Manager



Linda Bartel
Edmonton Thrift Shop Manager



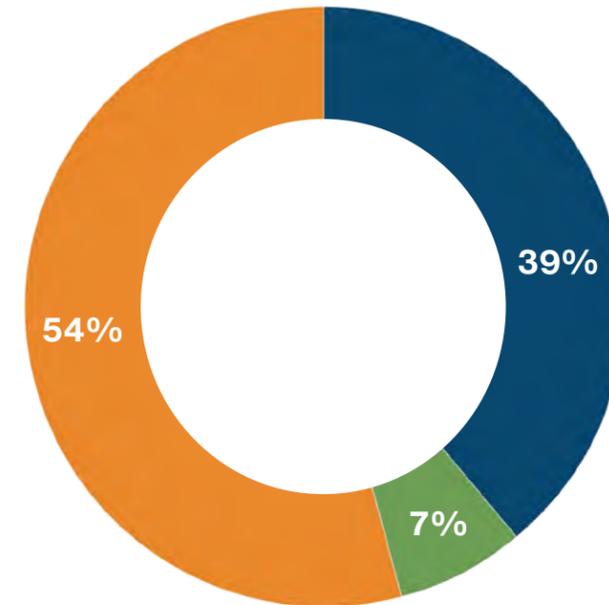
Ross Bruinsma
Lethbridge Thrift Shop Manager



Debra Potter
Taber Thrift Shop Manager

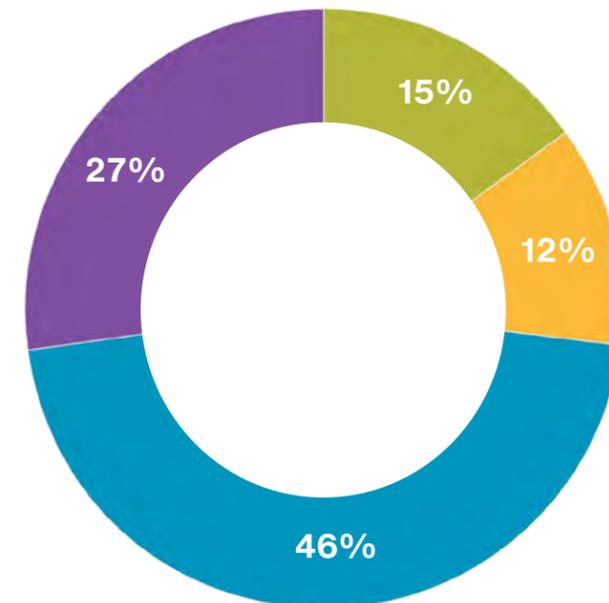
2020-2021: A remarkable year

TOTAL REVENUE:
\$7,541,935



- Thrift Shops**
\$2,944,238
- Grants/Contracts for Service**
\$546,379
- Donations/Other Income**
\$4,051,318

TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$6,749,292



- Administration/Fundraising**
\$990,845
- Alberta Program**
\$799,967
- International Program**
\$3,135,488
- MR/Thrift**
\$1,822,992

Explore your global impact.



2020/2021
Annual Impact Report
CANADA



Last year was a hard year. For all of us.
Through it all, you made a choice to help others.
We couldn't be more grateful.

Looking back over the last year, we want to invite you to take some time to stop and see the difference you've made. Take a moment to reflect.

Explore your global impact.

The stories you see in this report wouldn't have been possible without your generous support. Your gifts make a real impact around the world every day.

You brought relief to people who were hurting. You provided food and water to people who needed it. You gave the gift of education and a brighter future. You helped build peace for a better world. In the midst of a global pandemic, you responded.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.



Jessica Ana Maya Cabrera, pictured saying goodbye to her host grandmother, Dolores Pablo Mendoza, came from Mexico to serve in Guatemala through the Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN), a joint program of MCC and Mennonite World Conference. During her year of service, Cabrera found faith and dwelling in God's word provided a compass and guide. Every day she remembered the invitation of Matthew 22 to love God with all her heart, soul and mind and to love neighbours as herself. (MCC photo/Jardely Martínez)

In 2020, MCC celebrated the centennial of its ministry. As we enter a second century of service, we reaffirm our Christ-led commitment to serve and learn from vulnerable people around the world.

The MCC Canada and MCC U.S. boards identified these four strategic directions to guide our work from 2021–2025:

1. Increasing the capacity of our partners to help uprooted and vulnerable people
2. Improving communication with churches and constituents
3. Increasing peacebuilding and justice work
4. Caring for God's creation and supporting communities harmed by climate change

To read an online version of this report visit mcccanada.ca/annual-impact-report-2021

A THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking back at 2020, some of you may remember it as the year of MCC's 100th anniversary. But I expect many more will remember it as the year of COVID-19.

In March 2020 we prayerfully decided to lower our projected income and reduce our spending plan. Unable to gather for in-person centennial events, we turned our attention to what MCC does best—relief, development and peace in the name of Christ, with a focus on responding to COVID-vulnerable communities.

The pandemic enveloped us all in a global unknown, even as it exposed painful inequities. You could have turned inward, tending to your personal struggles. Instead, you turned **toward** your global neighbours and shared of your finances generously.

Your gifts allowed us to continue our relief, development and peace work in the name of Christ. Even relief sales and MCC Thrift shops, facing strict constraints and closures, contributed significantly through creative ventures previously never considered or attempted!

We had imagined 2020 was going to be memorable for our community. But instead of reflecting back on centennial festivities, I expect to recall how we responded—together—to a world in need, refusing to be overcome by fear and loss.

Thank you for participating in ministry with MCC over this past year. Thank you for sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. And thanks be to God.


RICK COBER BAUMAN
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA



*“God is our refuge and strength,
 a very present help in trouble.”*

— PSALM 46:1 (NRSV)

MCC CANADA 2020/2021 BOARD MEMBERS

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Lynn Rempel
 MCC Ontario

Dan Siebert
 MCC Saskatchewan

Peter Wolfe
 MCC British Columbia

*Appointed by Canadian Council
 of Anabaptist Leaders





Because of your gifts, Josephine can grow enough food to support herself all year.

“Diversifying farms with livestock production lessens farmers’ dependence on a single crop or harvest and gives them access to different markets.”

MICHAEL ADEOLA
MCC food security and livelihoods coordinator



Josephine Mwikali Mutinda shows off her maize harvest in a granary at her home in Kathonzweni, Kenya. (MCC photo/Mwangi Kirubi)

You can't help but smile when you see Josephine Mwikali Mutinda smile. And for her to be smiling after harvest season in rural Kenya is not something to take for granted. Climate change is negatively impacting farmers like Josephine, drastically affecting the rainy seasons that are vital to growing healthy crops.

Add to that a global pandemic that disrupted trade and economic stability in the area and many farmers have nothing to smile about.

But Josephine had some help this year—from you. Through MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, your donations equipped an MCC partner in Kenya to help Josephine diversify her farm and adapt to some of the environmental challenges she is facing.

She planted a wider variety of crops to increase her chances of good yields. This year, in addition to her successful maize harvest, she also brought in a bountiful mango crop. She also started raising chickens and rabbits, so she's less reliant on her crops and can supplement her income in the event of a poor harvest.

On average, it costs \$2.92 to provide farmers like Josephine with the seeds they need to plant crops for the year. Because of you, she, and hundreds of farmers like her, got the support they needed to provide for themselves this year while setting up for a more successful crop next year.

Sukhi Murmu, from Palashdanga village in West Bengal, India, holds a sheaf of rice. (MCC photo/Pabitra Paramanya)



Partner profile

MCC partners with 14 other agencies to fight global hunger through Canadian Foodgrains Bank. MCC has 42 projects in 19 countries funded through its account at the Foodgrains Bank. This year, more than \$11 million went to MCC food and agricultural projects through that account.

Food program highlights:

61,791

people attended training in improved agriculture and animal production methods

28,468

people received agricultural supplies including seeds and tools

26%

average increase in yearly income for a group of farmers in Nepal after learning new techniques

86.8%

of participants eat two or more meals a day (up from 40 per cent) thanks to an agriculture project in Ethiopia

The explosion came with almost no warning. The devastating blast wave in Beirut, Lebanon, ripped a huge portion of the city to shreds. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands more were injured. Nearly 300,000 people had nowhere to go—their homes reduced to rubble and shattered glass.

The city’s food supply was greatly diminished, and hospitals were overflowing with wounded, as a city already brought to the brink by the global pandemic desperately called for help.

A call you answered. You, and thousands of compassionate Canadians, came together to reach across the world and care for a hurt and grieving city. You contributed to MCC’s \$2.3 million emergency response in Beirut.

Your incredible generosity helped provide monthly food support to 1,300 families, give hygiene vouchers to 750 families, fix 75 homes and businesses and provide trauma care to 270 children and adults.

“Though the emergency stage has passed, many of those needs remain the same and are now worsened by the severe economic crisis Lebanon is witnessing,” says Tala Itani, peacebuilding advisor for MCC Lebanon. “We thank everyone who contributed to the emergency response.”

Your donations helped thousands recover from the explosion in Beirut.

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“We are now able to cook and make meals for our children.”

ALICE JOUBANIAN
Lebanon



Kate Mayhew, MCC representative for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, walks through the Beirut neighbourhood of Gemmayze following the massive explosion in the city’s port in August 2020. (MCC photo/Garry Mayhew)

Mark Siemens (second from right) and his family on a camping trip to Banff National Park in Alberta. The Siemens family left to right: Mattea, Julie, Alexi, Katrina, Mark and Annika. (Photo courtesy of Mark Siemens)



Donor profile

Mark Siemens’ family wanted their gifts to have real impact. They heard about Share Your Table, MCC’s monthly giving program, and thought it was a perfect fit. He says, “the combination of cooking as a family, trying new foods from around the world and reading about the lives of people throughout the world made this program both impactful and fun.”

Relief program highlights:

161,046

people received emergency food assistance

65,005

people received locally purchased emergency relief items, including clothing, kitchen items and bedding

1,231

households received home repairs or reconstruction

1,194

people received financial support or rent assistance



Your support enabled Sarothi to keep attending school

“MCC’s partners provide quality access to education for children who wouldn’t have that opportunity due to violence, poverty, gender, ethnicity or disability.”

LYNN LONGENECKER
MCC education coordinator



Sarothi Pahan studies with a notebook that she received along with an MCC school kit. (MCC photo/James Kisku)

Sarothi Pahan wanted to be a teacher. But after finishing her primary school education, that dream seemed impossible. Sarothi has polio. Even though Bangladesh was declared polio-free in 2014, many remote areas, like Sarothi’s home of Vutahara, struggled to access vaccines.

That infection caused a serious physical disability in Sarothi’s legs, greatly limiting how far she’s able to walk. And because there are no high schools near Vutahara, her dream of teaching others was being pulled out of her reach.

Now, thanks to your generosity, Sarothi’s dream is on track to become a reality. An MCC partner in the area connected her to a group home for children with disabilities in a nearby city. The cost to support one student here for a year is \$112—beyond the financial capacity of her family. **But because of you, Sarothi’s room and board, food and education costs are fully covered, allowing her to pursue her education at a nearby high school.**

You’ve given Sarothi the ability to make her own choices about her future. She’s now in Grade 10 and is one the top students in her class. Her dream of sharing a love of education with others is becoming more her reality every day because of you.

Ron Mathies and his wife Gudrun Mathies pack MCC school kits with their grandchildren every year on Christmas Eve. (Photo courtesy of Ron Mathies)



Volunteer profile

Ron Mathies and his wife, Gudrun Mathies, both worked in education and administration for their whole careers. Every Christmas Eve, they put together MCC school kits with their grandkids (in person or over a video call) while they share family stories. He says, “we wanted to build the habit that when we share gifts with family, we’re also remembering to share gifts with others.”

Education program highlights:

13,816
children and youth participated in K-12 education supported by MCC

2,238
children received scholarships or tuition support

87%
of children in an after-school tutoring program in Guatemala passed all their courses—a 71 per cent increase from the beginning of the project

88%
of students who received tuition support at a school in Syria finished with average grades above 75 per cent



When Ayalew Misgan was very young, there was no clean water at home. He lives in western Amhara, Ethiopia, where for much of his life, the water nearby wasn't safe to drink. The only water sources were shallow open-pit wells or small ponds that the local wildlife also drank from.

As a result, women had to walk hours in either direction to collect water that was only sometimes safer to drink. These long walks could be dangerous and exhausting. Often, young girls missed time at school to assist their mothers in water-gathering.

But your caring support has drawn clean, safe water up from the ground for Ayalew and his whole village. Your support allowed an MCC partner to dig wells deep enough to reach safe, clean water. For the cost of \$5,200, one of these pumps provides an easy-to-access supply of drinking water free from disease or bacteria.

"Our life in the past had made us vulnerable to many problems. Now, we are able to fetch and use safe water here from our village, near our homes. From this time onwards, we have no worry of [getting sick]," says WorkuAbebe Chinais, who lives in the same community as Ayalew.

Because of your support, Ayalew can drink clean water every day

.....

"Now we are able to fetch and use safe water here from our village, near our homes."

WORKUABEBE CHINAIS
Ethiopia



Ayalew Misgan drinks from the water pump that was built to bring clean water to his village in western Amhara, Ethiopia. (MCC photo/Daniel Stoltzfus)

Durga Bahadur Sunchiuri (left), MCC Nepal program coordinator, and PR Sharma, Shanti Nepal's program director, check on a recently built water tap in Dhola, Nepal. (MCC photo/Avash Karki)



Partner profile

Shanti Nepal is an MCC partner, founded in 2003. They're committed to demonstrating the loving actions of God and all creation through their efforts to ensure everyone has access to food and water. They were a major part of MCC's emergency response following the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

Water program highlights:

18,638

people now have access to an improved water source

9,660

people received access to a new or improved latrine or sanitation facility

294

drinking water systems constructed or repaired

92

water harvesting structures for irrigation constructed or repaired

Your gifts have kept Floride safe from disease.

For most of her life, the only option Floride Murhimanya M'nkware had to relieve herself was to use a hole in the ground. Her village, known as Mosho II, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) didn't have running water or bathroom facilities.

As she got older, it was a greater challenge for her to use these safely—two planks of wood don't make a very stable platform. Digging a hole more than a few metres deep is challenging, but a shallow pit will attract disease-spreading insects and fill up in a matter of months. It's an unhealthy and dangerous cycle.

But your compassion broke that cycle.

Thanks to you, an MCC partner in DR Congo has installed brand new latrines in Mosho II, including one at Floride's home. It costs \$252 to build a latrine like this. Now there's no smell, no risk of waste infecting water supplies and no danger of her falling and hurting herself. Floride also received a rain barrel in her home to collect rainwater that she can use for cooking and washing dishes or hands.

"We are old now," says Floride, 66. "We don't have strength to dig the toilet over and over again. But the water is helping us, especially when it rains. We are sure we'll have water all the time."

"This type of basic infrastructure for safe handwashing and waste disposal is essential for preventing the spread of new infectious diseases."

PAUL SHETLER FAST
MCC global health coordinator



Floride Murhimanya M'nkware (left) and her husband Jacques Safari Lukwebo stand beside their new latrine in the village of Mosho II in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

Paul Shetler Fast, MCC's global health coordinator, stands near a lava field after the May 2021 volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (MCC photo/Mulanda Jimmy Juma)



Staff profile

Paul Shetler Fast is MCC's global health coordinator. "Health is deeply personal for all of us," he says. "Even when I'm working with people across vastly different cultures, we can still connect on something shared but also personal. Celebrating with a mother whose child has recovered after serious illness is both as universal and personal as it gets."

Health program highlights:

37,450
people received direct clinical care

118,933
people received hygiene items, including menstrual supplies

88%
of participants in one mental health project in Palestine and Israel experienced significant reductions in stress and other symptoms

20x
more people washed their hands at community gathering sites in Zimbabwe's Mwenzezi district following a health-messaging project



Everyone needs a home. Somewhere to feel safe and secure where their basic needs are met. Somewhere to come and go freely where they can imagine a future. But that is not the reality for Palestinians—or even for some Israelis.

MCC Canada’s A Cry for Home campaign has been educating and advocating for action to end the illegal occupation of Palestine and create safe, just and peaceful communities for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Your faithful support has empowered MCC to raise the voices of our partners in Palestine and Israel to the highest levels of government in Canada.

Our advocates have been meeting with members of Parliament and citizens across Canada, carrying the stories of the people on the ground. You’ve enabled us to meet with government officials, rally Anabaptist and other faith groups together and equip all Canadians with tools to let their voices be heard to say we need a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

Your donations have lifted the needs of the people in Palestine and Israel to the halls of Parliament.

.....

“The advocacy offices have been meeting with partners on the ground—they’re hearing from people directly engaged in this work. These monthly exchanges give partners hope.”

JOAN ALTY
MCC representative for Jordan,
Palestine and Israel



Woroud Al-dibs, left, who attends music classes with an MCC partner in Palestine and Israel, plays a traditional instrument called the oud with Viviane Eyer who was visiting with an MCC learning tour to Palestine and Israel. (MCC photo/Naomi Enns)

Anna Vogt carries a sign that reads, “The moment has come to reconcile ourselves. Yes to peace, to forgiveness, to life,” during a peace march in Bogotá, Colombia, in 2016. (MCC photo/ Amy Eanes)



Staff profile

Anna Vogt started with MCC’s Seed program in Colombia and now serves as director of the new Peace & Justice Office in Ottawa. “A wise mentor once told me that advocacy means listening boldly,” she says. “You can’t advocate with someone if you’re not listening to them. I feel honoured to listen to the stories of our partners and boldly raise their voices up to a bigger platform.”

Peace & justice program highlights:

15,441

people trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding or mediation

162

Peace Clubs active this year

36

Peace Clubs and restorative justice units operating in prisons in Zambia

85%

of participants in a youth peacebuilding program in Cambodia say they’ve changed their behaviour toward “the other”

Shadi Alkhanous knows what it's like to land at an airport in Canada without knowing a single person. That's why he joins refugee sponsor groups as often as he can to greet newcomers who are walking out of the airport into Canada. He knows firsthand the comfort of hearing a familiar language.

Shadi arrived in Canada from Syria in October 2016. Along with his wife Sultana and his children Ghazal and Hussein, they escaped a dangerous conflict zone and made a new home in St. Catharines, Ont.

Shadi quickly found a job at a grocery store called Alnoor Halal Food Market. Last year, he opened a take-out and delivery counter in the store, offering meals like beef kabab and chicken shawarma. Even during the pandemic, when the food counter can be open safely, lines at the take-out window are a common sight.

And he wouldn't be here without you. **It's your support that has enabled MCC Canada to resettle more than 13,000 refugees in Canada over the last 42 years.**

Now that he's in Canada, Shadi and his wife have helped other newcomers find sponsors for family members still living as refugees. Shadi says it very simply—he likes to help people however he can. “When people call me, I'm happy to do what I can for them,” he says. “I do the same as people did for me when I came new.”

Your donations gave Shadi an opportunity for a new life in Canada.

“When people call me, I'm happy to do what I can for them I do the same as people did for me when I came new.”

SHADI ALKHANOUS
Former refugee from Syria



Shadi Alkhanous runs the take-out and delivery counter at the Alnoor Halal Food Market in St. Catharines, Ont., serving meals like shish tawook, chicken shawarma and beef kabab. He and his family have been living in Canada since they were resettled here in 2016. (Photo courtesy of Shadi Alkannous)

Terry Schulz and his wife, Sandi Schulz, have supported a number of refugees for resettlement. (Photo courtesy of Terry Schulz)



Volunteer profile

Terry Schulz is a refugee resettlement sponsor from Abbotsford, B.C. “We do it because we're grateful,” he says. “We've never had to worry about food or safety in our life, so we decided we'd try to help people who don't have all that. And God's really put people in our life that have made it possible.”

Migration program highlights:

80

refugees came to Canada through MCC's sponsorship program from:

Eritrea	12
Iraq	12
Syria	32
Palestine	9

Other countries:
DR Congo, Myanmar,
Ethiopia, Iran,
Sudan – 15

The global pandemic greatly reduced the number of people who could resettle in Canada this year. MCC included a number of safety measures and protocols for those who were able to enter the country to ensure their health.

MATERIAL RESOURCES



Abdel* lives in Homs, Syria, with his family in a temporary shelter. He's holding items from an MCC relief kit and enjoying the warmth of a comforter handmade by MCC volunteers. (Photo courtesy of FMEEC/Abuna Sergios)



Your support is a tangible sign of hope in times of crisis.

"Here the light of Christ shines through MCC. [The kits] we received today will paint a smile on my wife and children's faces."

LAITH BAJAJI, an Iraqi refugee in Jordan

Material resources shipped last year:



550,440
Canned meat (lbs)



51,549
School kits



77,240
Hygiene kits



45,787
Comforters



21,792
Relief kits



5,812
Infant care kits



1,600
Sewing kits

Abdel* and his family have had a very challenging few years. They've been forced to abandon two homes because of the constant threat of violence in Syria. They're living in Homs, Syria, now—Abdel, his parents and his five siblings—in a house that desperately needs repairs to withstand the rainy winter months.

But your caring support offered warmth to Abdel on the coldest of nights.

He and his family received an MCC relief kit and comforters that were packed and sewn by MCC volunteers. These supplies provided his family with important basic necessities and the knowledge that people across the world were thinking of them.

**Name changed for security reasons.*



MCC THRIFT

Ruth Jantz (left), shop manager of the Sargent MCC Thrift Shop in Winnipeg, Man., and shop assistant Essence Matthews say adapting to public health orders now feels somewhat normal. (MCC photo/ Allison Zacharias)

"[The volunteers are] so dedicated, even though it took a while for it to sink in that we can't do things as we normally would [due to COVID-19]."

RUTH JANTZ, manager of Sargent MCC Thrift Shop

Your dedication kept thrift shops open for our communities.

This year saw a major disruption to MCC Thrift shops across the country. But the staff and volunteers who operate our shops worked tirelessly to ensure shoppers got as close to a regular experience as they could.

Ruth Jantz, manager of the Sargent MCC Thrift Shop, says the flexibility of volunteers made a challenging situation much more manageable. "They've been great at adapting to the changes in their schedules, filling the gaps and figuring out a new routine," says Ruth. "They're eager to continue as much as they can."

And for volunteers like Pearl Plohman, her time at a thrift shop was also a way for her to connect. "MCC has been a lifeline for me [during the pandemic]," she says. "God made us to be sociable creatures, so you do need contact with people."



MCC THRIFT
Where every purchase is a gift to the world

\$12,387,000

Donated by MCC Thrift shops in Canada and the U.S. to support the work of MCC in the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

GLOBAL SERVICE LEARNING

GSL

YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEERING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

Dr. Ela Castro, a 2019–2020 YAMEN participant, used her training as a doctor to serve at Casa del Migrante (Migrant House) in Guatemala City, Guatemala, offering medical care to migrants and refugees. (MCC photo/Lizette Miranda)



You are helping young adults experience service and growth

“YAMEN is a great place for people to confirm their gift and their call.”

DR. ELA CASTRO, a 2019/2020 YAMEN participant

Dr. Ela Castro always knew she wanted to spend her life serving those in need. By all outward appearances, this is what she was doing. She’d studied for years to earn her medical degree. She was working at a health-care clinic. She was helping people—but something was missing.

It wasn’t until she took a step of faith that she truly felt like she’d found her purpose. Through her church, Ela decided to try a one-year term of service with Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN) and was placed at a ministry serving migrants in Guatemala.

“YAMEN is a great place for people to confirm their gift and their call, and for me it was proof that I can do something different than other doctors are called to do,” she says. She also says her time with YAMEN played a pivotal role in her faith formation and in planning what is next for her life.

“It was my Gethsemane,” says Ela. “It was an opportunity for me to experience my faith by myself without the support of my mom and dad and closer family.”



SOOP



NEPAL

Give a gift today

Help families in poverty survive the effects of COVID-19

Even as the impact of the pandemic recedes in Canada, in many countries the hope of widespread vaccinations could still be two or three years away. This leaves people incredibly vulnerable to the health and economic effects of the pandemic.

Join us with a gift to help respond to the overwhelming need for health care and relief. Your generous donation will provide life-saving support for families living in poverty.

mcccanada.ca/covid-19-donation



COVID-19 RESPONSE



In the early months of 2020, it became clear the COVID-19 disease was going to be a global threat. Adapting our programs around the world to ensure everyone stayed safe was a top priority. Working with our partners across the globe, we adapted and shaped projects to meet the constantly changing situation. As universal as the threat of the coronavirus was, each project required a unique approach. Here are just a few of the ways we responded.

A staff member* from MCC partner Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARC) prepares to distribute MCC blankets and relief items in Tyre, Lebanon, in March 2020. She wears a mask and gloves to protect herself and recipients. (MCC photo/Evangeline Hammond)

* Name not used for security reasons.



Kenya

Anna Mwatha (right) and Joel Esapaya (left) support families and pregnant mothers in Mathare, a neighbourhood of Nairobi, Kenya. Our partner shifted how they provide health care and support for pregnant mothers to one-on-one sessions, mostly by phone. And they maintained a network of handwashing stations in the area.

(MCC photo/Scott Stoner-Eby)



Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, we shifted some funds to buy personal protective equipment for project staff so they could keep meeting safely to provide mental health care and share COVID-19 prevention information with their clients. The name of MCC's partner in this work and the names of the people pictured are not provided for security reasons.

(MCC photo)



Nepal

Public health inspector Ram Udgar Yadav (right) takes Pramod Kumar Yadav's (left) temperature in front of a health facility in Nepal. We shifted our program here to a more direct care approach, providing items such as hospital beds and thermometers to under-equipped hospitals in the area. At the time the photo was taken in May 2020, the government of Nepal did not require face masks to be worn outdoors.

(BICWS photo/Sanjog Luitel)



El Salvador

When tropical storm Amanda devastated communities in rural El Salvador, we quickly launched an emergency response that included food and personal protective equipment. These women in Cuisnahuat, El Salvador, were some of the 300 households who received a one-month supply of food.

(MCC photo/Kathy Figueroa)



India

In India, our local partner introduced social distancing and other safety protocols to distributions of food, water and hygiene kits like this one to make sure no one was exposed to any extra risk.

(ISARA photo/Jajati Pandit)

MCC around the world

Canada
444 MCC workers*
\$9.5 million
*includes MCC Thrift

United States
156 MCC workers
\$8.4 million

Latin America & the Caribbean
67 MCC workers
\$5.9 million

Europe & the Middle East
35 MCC workers
\$15.2 million

Africa
138 MCC workers
\$15.6 million

Multi-Region
\$7.4 million

Asia
128 MCC workers
\$6.1 million

47
countries

385
partners

508
projects

968
workers

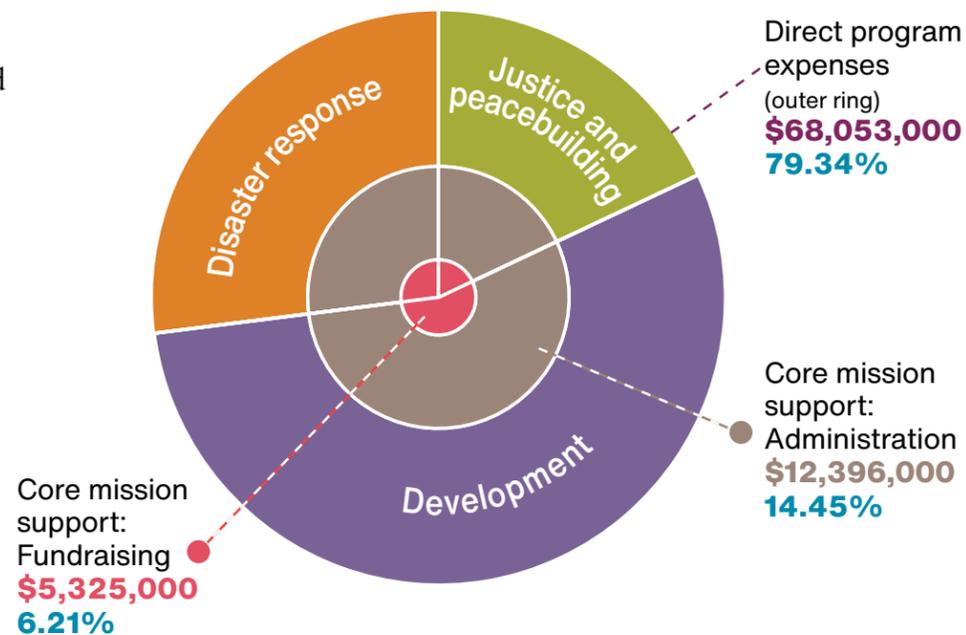
31

participants in Global Service Learning programs: SALT, IVEP, YAMEN, Summerbridge, Seed and SOOP. Participant numbers last year were greatly reduced because of the pandemic.

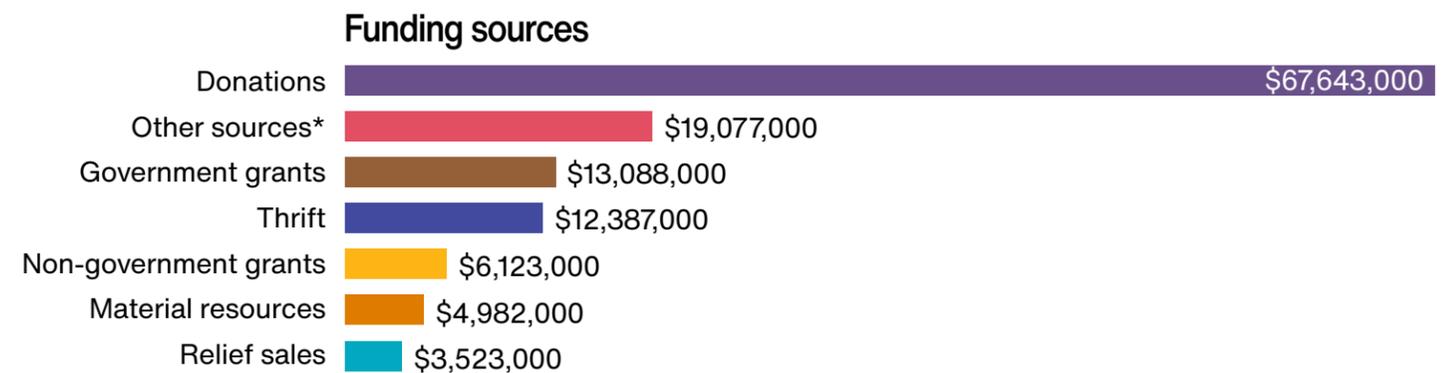
FINANCES

The financial information on these pages presents the combined operations in Canadian dollars of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. for the year ended March 31, 2021. More detailed financial and program reporting, as well as complete audited financial statements are available at mcccanada.ca/annual-report.

TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$85,774,000



TOTAL REVENUE:
\$126,823,000



*For a detailed list of funding sources see the electronic annual impact report online at mcccanada.ca/annual-report.