

**Explore your local impact
in British Columbia.**



2020/2021

Annual Impact Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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 British Columbia.

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.**

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THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has been a courageous journey of resilience and generosity.

A year ago we were in the middle of our centennial year while coming to grips with a global pandemic. Our Thrift Shops, café, Ten Thousand Villages, Material Resource Centre, and Relief Festival were shut down due to the COVID pandemic. There was uncertainty about the economy, and it looked like donations would also be down.

We were looking at a bleak and uncertain horizon and made cuts to programs around the world.

But then you stepped forward. You donated generously to help make up for the shortfall of income due to the closure of Thrift Shops, Material Resources, and the Relief Festival. You came back as volunteers to help get the thrift shops up and running and handled the restrictions with grace and courage. You showed up at our Cyclathon and Festival To-Go as an alternative to the regular festival. And you did much, much, more.

Our staff and partners stepped forward with you. With less income for global ministry, they found ways to focus food production and health care to improve the resilience of the most vulnerable. They also adjusted BC programs to help meet COVID restrictions and still serve 2,488 of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you for your courage, resilience, and generosity this year to help serve others as an expression of God's love. It brings to mind Hebrews 13, "do good and share what you have with others, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God".



WAYNE BREMNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA
WAYNEBREMNER@MCCBC.CA



"do good and share what you have with others, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

—HEBREWS 13, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

2021 Program Highlights



169,256

hours worked by volunteers throughout BC



7

churches participated in the Indigenous Neighbours Program



82

newcomers were welcomed to our community



218

relief kits sent for distribution to vulnerable communities



88

churches engaging with MCC BC in various ways



65

people volunteered at the first MCC Festival To-Go



720

vulnerable people received aid from an MCC BC Thrift Shop



18

students participated in the 2020 Student Seminar



263

individuals received help through the End Abuse Programs



300

vulnerable people were assisted with housing locally



312

Prince George residents engaged in community programs



540

vulnerable people engaged in a weekly community meal





One in four women will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Your support of the MCC End Abuse Program helps survivors like Tara Dawson heal and rebuild their lives.

Tara felt trapped in her abusive relationship and couldn't find answers. After years of struggling, one of her daughters gave her the push she needed. As Tara sat crying in her bedroom one day, her daughter came in and said, "Mum, it's time." And it was.

She heard about End Abuse through a friend and began Phase I in 2019. "Before joining the group, I felt lost," Tara says. "I feel like I'm a different person now."

Phase I had the greatest impact on Tara. She says, "...that's when I realized that I wasn't crazy – that what I was feeling for so long was what everybody else in the room had been feeling."

With gifts from generous people like you, we continue to help women and families through End Abuse.

Because of your support, women like Tara can find hope.

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"Before joining the group, I felt lost. I feel like I'm a different person now."

Tara Dawson,
End Abuse Program participant



Tara Dawson participated in all four phases of the When Love Hurts Program. She had felt trapped in her abusive relationship and couldn't find answers. A friend recommended the program and she enrolled in 2019. (Photo provided by Tara Dawson)

Magda Williams working in the Craft Area at the MCC Clothing Etc. Thrift Shop in Abbotsford. She began serving with MCC in 2001.



Magda's dedication to crafts

Volunteers are vital to MCC. Magda Williams has faithfully volunteered with MCC since 2001. Magda has graciously served in many areas. Today you will find her at Clothing, Etc. five days a week, usually in the craft department. In 2020, she volunteered an incredible 950 hours. "I hope I have many years yet to serve," says Magda.

End Abuse program highlights:

137

Women participated in the When Love Hurts Program phases 1 to 4

42

Men participated in the Home Improvement Program

17

MCBC pastors received training in Relationships with Integrity

70 +

Children have benefited from their fathers attending the Men's Program



Your compassion and generosity supports the homeless and under-housed in the Fraser Valley through the FV Rent Bank and Homelessness Prevention and Outreach Program (HPOP).

Paula has been an enthusiastic volunteer at the MCC community meals for years. In February 2019, when she broke her leg and lost her income, she already knew she could find help at the rent bank. Paula received an interest-free loan of \$400 for her trailer pad rental to prevent eviction.

Two years after her first loan, Paula received another loan for \$450 to help her move out of her 24-foot trailer in the woods and into a one bedroom apartment in Abbotsford. She says, “I love my new place! It’s so beautiful, it’s so quiet and peaceful – it’s awesome.”

The FV Rent Bank and HPOP work together to provide not just housing assistance but wraparound services like food, clothing, and community meals. The meals provide time for connection and sharing.

These programs provide housing stability in our community. Your gifts support vulnerable community members.

Because of your support, Paula has found a home she loves.

.....

“I love my new place! It’s so beautiful, it’s so quiet and peaceful - it’s awesome”

**Paula
Rent Bank client**



The Homelessness Prevention and Outreach Program provides wraparound services like food, clothing, and community meals. As seen above, the meals not only provide nourishment they also provide a time for connection and sharing. (MCC photo/Luke Tilley)

Shirley Torr, Gladys Giesbrecht, Chris Simrose, and Jeanette Gross (not pictured Margaret Giesbrecht) were among those who presented some of the blankets to an MCC representative earlier this year.



MCC and the Local Church

The local church is essential to the work of MCC. Whether sponsoring refugees, providing safe communities for women leaving violent domestic situations, or seeking reconciliation with Indigenous communities, MCC both relies upon and supports the local church. It is also the church that supports MCC’s work around the

world, whether by giving, praying, assembling relief kits, volunteering in a thrift store or at the Material Resource Center, or participating in a festival.

Despite the public health restrictions of the past year the quilting circle of Nechako Community Church in Vanderhoof sewed more than 50 comforters that will be given to displaced people in some of the 45 countries where MCC works.

This labour of love is a simple yet profound way in which the church acts as the hands and feet of Christ, sending a message of love to those in our world who need it most.

MCC remains gratefully committed to being a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist and likeminded churches sharing God’s love for all by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.

For the past six years, the Walk in the Spirit of Reconciliation event has been a solemn time to reflect and to honour the Sto:lo people who have inhabited the lands along the Fraser river, since time immemorial. The annual walk begins at the Fort Langley National Historic Site and ends at the grounds of the former St. Mary's Indian Residential School in Mission.

One day before the walk, on May 27, 2021, the remains of 215 Indigenous children were found in unmarked graves at the former Kamloops residential school site, re-traumatizing Indigenous peoples. This evidence made their stories of children lost to them forever undeniable.

On the third and final day of the Walk, participants arriving at St. Mary's saw a group of Indigenous women in the field preparing to hold a circle ceremony to remember the 215 children. They invited the walkers to participate in the circle.

The ceremony began with storytelling and sharing. They passed a talking piece around the circle. Many had stories of their own residential school experience or stories passed on by family.

An Indigenous woman who worked at the nearby Friendship Centre led drumming and singing with her husband and children. Hearing the small children singing was moving. Emotions were intense and tears flowed.

Wayne Bremner, Executive Director of MCC BC, and his mother Ruth were part of the circle. For Ruth, grandmother to three grandchildren who are part Haida Gwaii, it was a "once in a lifetime" experience.

As a non-Indigenous woman, Ruth quietly watched and listened. When invited to participate in part of the ceremony by the Indigenous leader, Ruth hesitated and said that she didn't want to do anything wrong. The woman gently told her, "There is no wrong way to love or to pray."

The circle embodied the powerful sentiment: sharing and praying together as they honoured the 215 children.

The MCC BC Indigenous Neighbours program, led by Coordinator Bridget Findlay, has spent years fostering relationships between local churches and Indigenous people in their communities. There is still much to do to bring reconciliation. As hearts and minds open, we renew our commitment to action and to live out Christ's call to love our neighbours as ourselves.

PURSUING RECONCILIATION



Because of your support, relationships can continue to form and reconciliation continues.

"There is no wrong way to love or to pray."

was an encouragement shared from an indigenous women to a non-indigenous women.



As walkers approached the circle ceremony and participated in sharing, an eagle feather was passed around to symbolize a "talking stick". Tradition holds that the eagle feather transmits strength and gives the ability to speak honestly from the heart, without hurt or anger. (Photo courtesy of Deborah Klein-Dejong)

Doing good around the world

Whether it's through her giving or carefully sewing together baby caps for MCC infant care kits, Joan Wisely of Maple Ridge, BC is happy to give wherever she can.

"I know that MCC is a good organization," she says. "I know that wherever my donations end up going around the world, it's doing good."



Over the course of the pandemic Joan, her daughter Sandra, and another friend have knit dozens of baby hats and booties to be packed in our Infant Care Kits.

WELCOMING REFUGEES



Ramy, his parents, his sister, and her husband stepped off the plane on August 2, 2018 to start their new life in Canada. Pictured here arriving at the airport and being greeted by their sponsorship group. (Photo/Charlotte Siemens).

Your support helps families rebuild their lives in Canada.

The Refugee Sponsorship program has been integral to MCC since its inception. Your generosity enables us to support people fleeing conflict and violence.

Recent graduate Ramy Yaqo was just beginning his career with Iraq's largest oil refinery when ISIS captured the city of Mosul on June 6, 2014. Christians had 24 hours to leave the city. Staying meant conversion to Islam or possible death.

"All the dreams that I built before, they'd gone in one night," says Ramy. Those leaving behind homes and possessions were unaware they would never return. Thousands of Christians flooded into the region of Kurdistan, overwhelming the local churches and aid agencies.

Facing sweltering heat and torrential rain in crowded and insufficient living quarters, Ramy's family remained thankful. Ramy worked in the trauma-healing centre at the Mar Elia church, a partner of MCC's office in Erbil.

In the summer of 2015, Ramy befriended Charlotte Siemens when she came to Iraq as part of an MCC teacher-training program. They kept in touch even after his family relocated to Jordan. After the disappointing denial of their immigration application to Australia, Charlotte suggested Canada. With Ramy's wholehearted approval, Charlotte began working on the family's behalf. She encouraged her church family and others in Abbotsford to join her private sponsorship group. They successfully raised the funds and MCC BC facilitated the family's immigration.

Ramy, along with his parents, sister, and brother-in-law landed in Canada on August 2, 2018. Ramy found work after just ten days in the country and is now halfway through a four-year electrical apprenticeship.

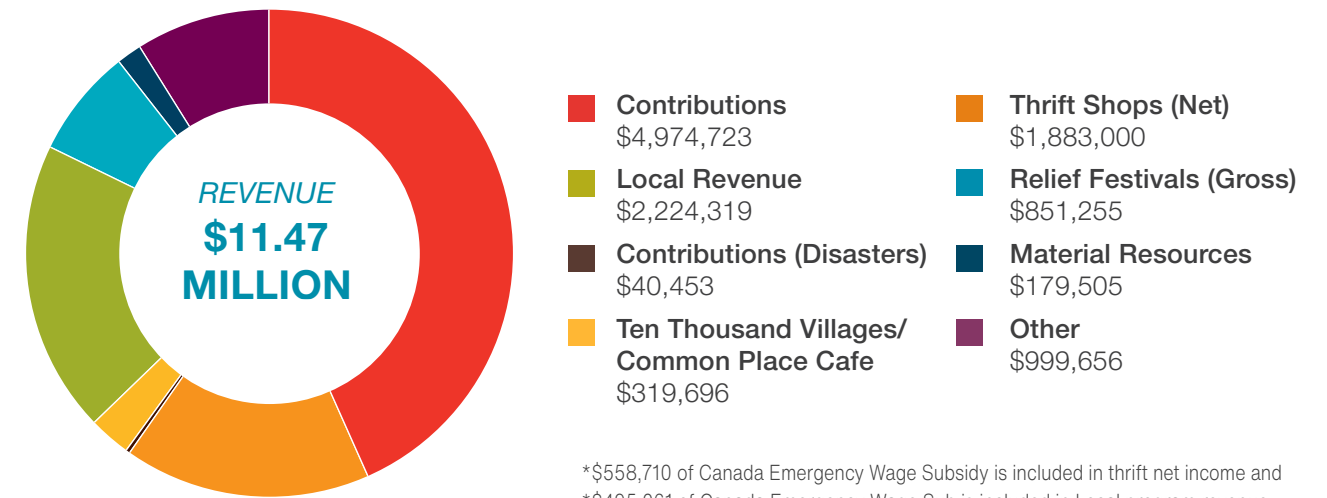
Your contributions enable us to continue giving resettlement assistance to displaced people like the Yaqo family.

Financial highlights

Our Thrift Shops, relief sale and material resource activity all had to be shut down for a period of time and are still impacted by

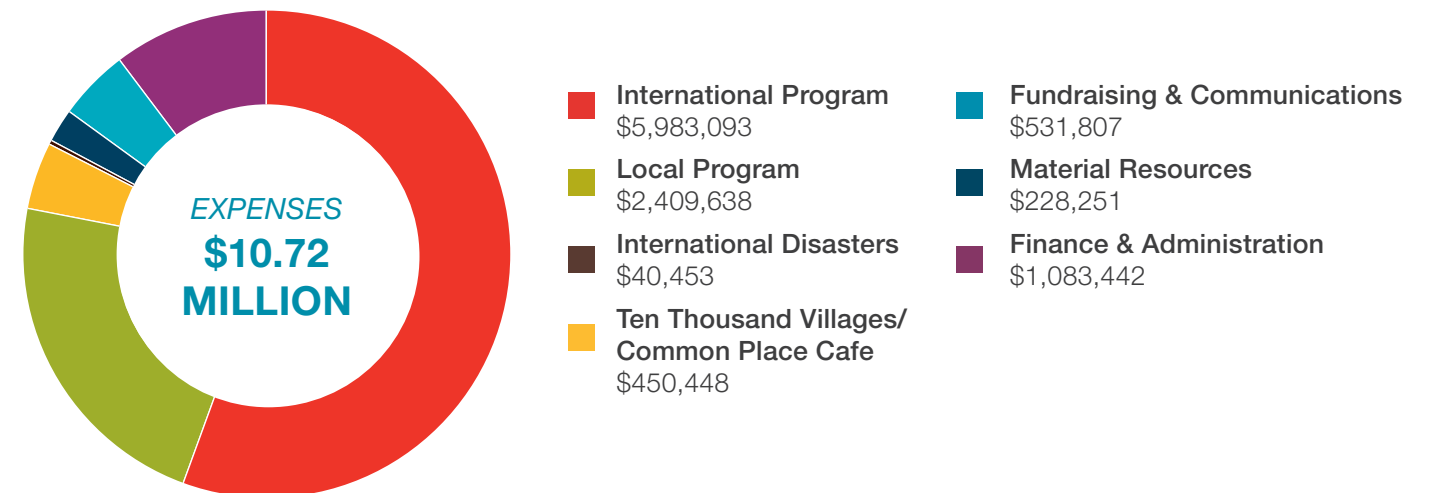
restrictions. Our staff and volunteers have been resilient with creative solutions and generous in giving time to keep things going. With reduced income from these activities, our donors stepped forward and gave even more generously to help sustain the ministry of MCC.

TOTAL REVENUE:
\$11,472,607



*\$558,710 of Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is included in thrift net income and
*\$495,061 of Canada Emergency Wage Sub is included in Local program revenue


TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$10,727,132



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)

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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)

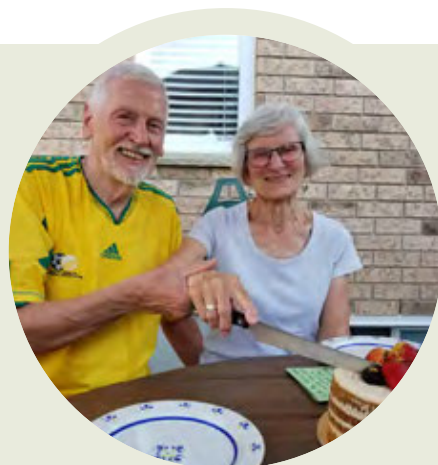
Sarothi Pahan wanted to be a teacher. But after finishing her primary school education, that dream seemed impossible. Sarothi has polio. Even though Bangladesh was declared polio-free in 2014, many remote areas, like Sarothi’s home of Vutahara, struggled to access vaccines.

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



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

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.

"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.

“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)

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.”

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 Mwenezi 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 Alkhannous 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 ALKHANNOUS
Former refugee from Syria



Shadi Alkhannous 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



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

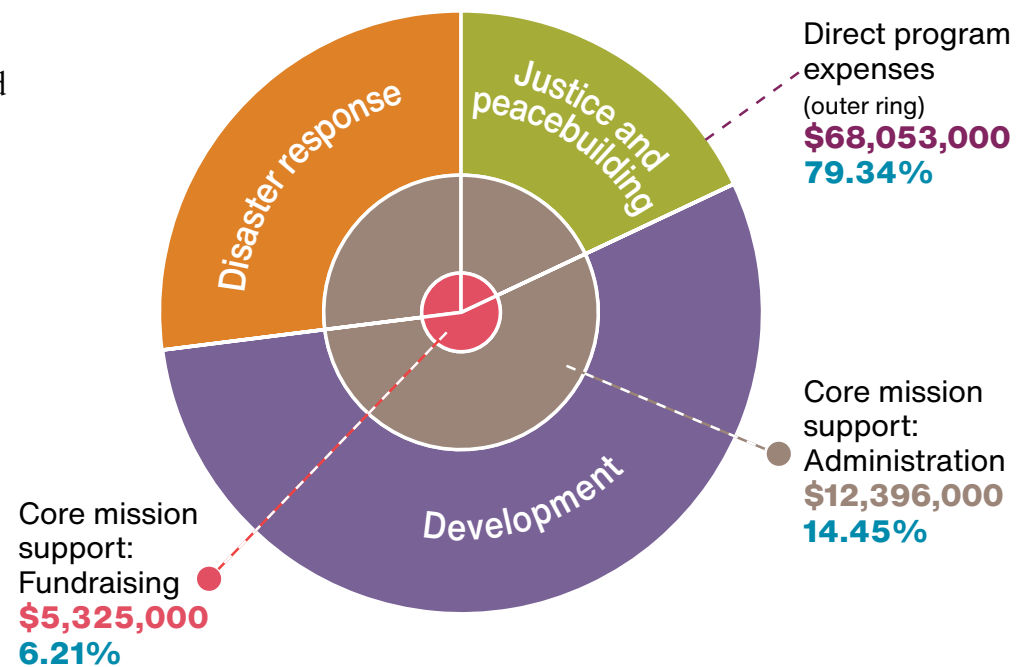
968
workers

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.

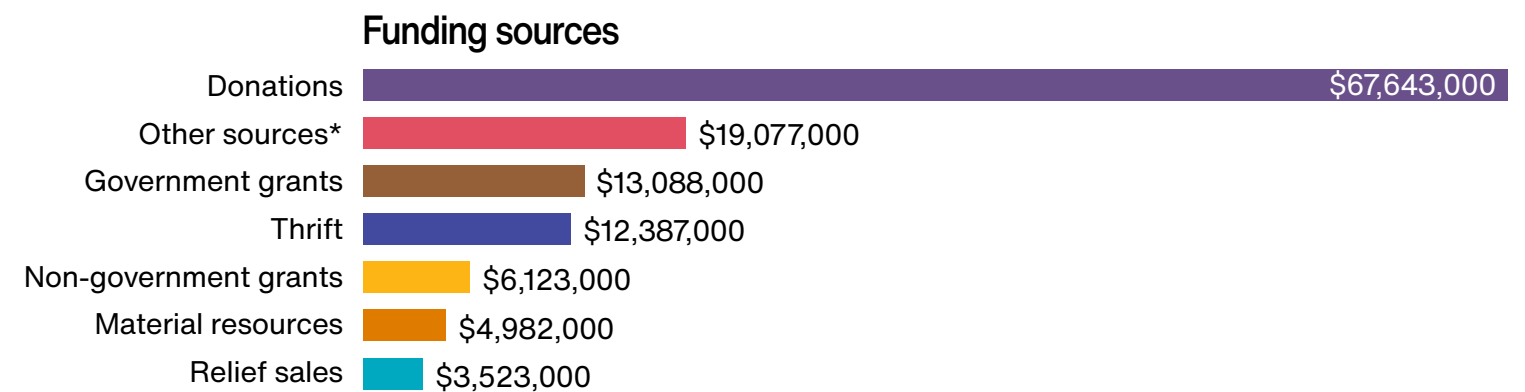
FINANCES

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.