

# MOSAIC 2021

## Year in Review



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



# Mosaic Musings: a word from the director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



We have changed the name of our annual magazine from “Mission Mosaic” to “Mosaic”! Let me share the reasons behind this change.

Nothing about us without us. I have been a part of numerous gatherings, within the PC(USA) and international partners, where this saying was lifted up when conversations about “mission” were underway. What you do for us without us you are doing to us, explained one community activist, and when a person protested, saying, “But we are here to help you!” she put it bluntly: If we are not at the table, we’re on the table.

The work that many church people who look like me have grown up supporting has always been called “mission work.” And that’s a good thing, isn’t it? Maybe your childhood congregation supported missionaries, maybe your congregation or youth group goes on “mission trips.” Maybe your community’s efforts to help those who are unhoused, living in poverty or struggling with incarceration is described as “mission outreach” and supported by the church’s “mission budget.” Your congregation’s gifts to PDA might come from the mission budget, and if so, we do thank you! What we have been learning, as we listen to our partners talk about their sense of agency and dignity in their work, is that how we talk about those relationships and our shared work matters, almost as much as the work itself. The heritage of colonialism — that is, the ways in which western benevolence toward communities in the Global South was expressed — came with strings attached. Along with gifts of resources, even faith outreach, colonial engagements spread disease, cultural attitudes not suitable for the context, a sense of superiority of western/industrial cultures over all others, disrespect for local autonomy, and opened the doors to ongoing exploitation. For many partners, the word “mission” evokes that painful and unhelpful history, perpetuating inequity and denying all partners a chance to learn mutually. So, we have chosen to drop the word “Mission” from our magazine, leaving “Mosaic,” evoking the idea of a rich, intersectional tapestry of different pieces, bound together by a shared vision and stronger because of it. That’s what we all want our work after disaster to be. Diverse, grounded locally, pieces that have been chipped or broken (all of us!) fitted together to make something useful and to renew our wholeness in a way that uses all the pieces God gave us.

In these pages you will see how our work, informed by PC(USA) commitments to Matthew 25 ministries of poverty alleviation, the eradication of racism and a robust commitment to congregational vitality — are fitted together like a mosaic. Our stories this year lift up the intersections in our shared work and honor the amazing and inventive collaborations of several communities that, together with PDA, and through your gifts and partnership with us, have made healing, welcome and resilience a reality. As 2022 unfolds in the midst of war in Ukraine and unseasonable disasters intensified by the effects of climate change, we are grateful for the ways survivors, donors, responders and the Church come together to make from our many broken pieces a tapestry of healing and hope.

*Laurie Kraus*



## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

### OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

800-728-7228

#### LAURIE KRAUS

Director  
Laurie.Kraus@pcusa.org- x5840

#### DAVID BARNHART

Associate for Story Ministry  
David.Barnhart@pcusa.org- 773-230-4050

#### EDWIN GONZÁLEZ-CASTILLO

Associate for Disaster Response in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Edwin.Gonzalez-Castillo@pcusa.org- x5084

#### JIM KIRK

Associate for National Response  
James.Kirk@pcusa.org- x5036

#### SUSAN KREHBIEL

Associate for Refugees and Asylum  
Susan.Krehbiel@pcusa.org- 502-565-6148

#### MYLES MARKHAM

Mission Specialist for National Disaster Response  
myles.markham@pcusa.org - 502-216-8283

#### DAYNA OLIVER

Associate for International Program Administration  
Dayna.Oliver@pcusa.org- x8700

#### KATHY RILEY

Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care  
Kathryn.Riley@pcusa.org- 859-536-7792

National Call Center-Register  
volunteer work teams  
PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org 866-732-6121

#### SHEKU SILLAH

Regional Project Manager for Asia & Africa  
Sheku.Sillah@pcusa.org

#### BECCA SNIPP

Administrative Project Manager  
Rebecca.Snipp@pcusa.org- x5326

#### CAMERON STEVENS

Associate for Constituent Relations  
Cameron.Stevens@pcusa.org- x5839

#### CAMERON STEVENS

Managing Editor

#### MARK THOMSON

Designer

#### RICH COPLEY

PC(USA) Communicator

#### DARLA CARTER

PC(USA) Communicator

#### Advisory Committee members:

Advisory Committee members: Zandra Maffett, co-chair; Kenneth Page, co-chair; Dagmary Fornés Arcelay, John Buchanan, Laura Cheifetz, Karen Finney, Jerrod Lowry, Kenneth Page, Dave Thalman (National Response Team Liaison)



JESSICA RIED



ACT/AYDER



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MATTHEW 25:31-46 CALLS ALL OF US TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN THE WORLD AROUND US, SO OUR FAITH COMES ALIVE AND WE WAKE UP TO NEW POSSIBILITIES. BY ACCEPTING THE MATTHEW 25 INVITATION, YOU CAN HELP OUR DENOMINATION BECOME A MORE RELEVANT PRESENCE IN THE WORLD.

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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Presbyterian Mission



# LIVING INTO MATTHEW 25



By Rich Copley, Darla Carter and Jen Lockard

In 2019, following the direction of the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbyterian Mission Agency issued the Matthew 25 Invitation. Following Jesus Christ's direction in Matthew 25:31-46, the invitation guides ministries of the Mission Agency, along with churches and mid councils across the country, to work to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and build congregational vitality.

We know that the impact of natural and human-caused disasters often falls hardest on marginalized communities — people who are already hungry, oppressed, and poor. These communities are often in precarious positions to begin with, located in places subject to disaster's worst impacts and least equipped to deal with the outcomes. Guided by the compassion and justice of Christ and the clear commands of Matthew 25, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance focuses its efforts on serving these communities as it responds to disasters around the world. These stories and conversations are a glimpse of what that work looks like, and how it helps strengthen the church and the world.



## Stories that lead to action

The youth group from Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church had been watching proceedings in the Tucson, Arizona, courtroom for the better part of the day.

It had been a stream of eight detainees at a time caught crossing the United States border with Mexico being brought before Judge Leslie A. Bowman. Methodically, according to a BuzzFeed News article by John Stanton, the detainees stood before the judge, most accepted a plea deal where misdemeanor charges of illegal entry into the U.S. were dropped, and they were immediately deported.

It is part of a process called Operation Streamline, in place since 2005, designed to speed the process of hearings and ultimately deportations. According to BuzzFeed and Sunnyvale pastor the Rev. Hardy Kim, many detainees did not understand what was

happening and received only a few minutes of counsel from public defenders in a process even Judge Bowman questioned.

**“These aren’t films, they’re resources,” Barnhart says. “They’re resources to gather people around story and to mobilize and to have conversations — tough, difficult conversations — but also to do the work of outreach and bringing in partners and making connections in the community and mobilizing those community partners as well.”**

Midafternoon, as a new set of detainees was coming in, Kim and a few students stood and turned their backs to the court. Fairly soon, most of the two dozen youth group members were standing with their backs to the proceedings. They were met with security contractors in their faces, telling them to sit down, and threatening them in no uncertain terms. But they stood.

“Understanding their story and understanding some sense of what was at stake for the people who are suffering from this unjust system gave these young people, these high schoolers, the courage and the commitment to stick with their display of civil disobedience,” Kim said. “And thankfully the judge allowed it and recognized that these young students were participating in the political process, exercising their First Amendment right.”

One part of the reason they understood what the detainees faced was they had watched “Locked in a Box: Immigration Detention,” a documentary by director David Barnhart from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s Story Ministry. It was part of their preparation for a youth volunteer trip through BorderLinks, a Tucson-based organization offering experiential programs to help people understand the realities of life on the U.S.-Mexico border.

It is exactly the way Barnhart wants people to use his films.

“These aren’t films, they’re resources,” Barnhart says. “They’re resources to gather people around story and to mobilize and to have conversations — tough, difficult conversations — but also to do the work of outreach and bringing in partners and making connections in the community and mobilizing those community partners as well.”

Kim’s church northwest of San Jose, California, is far from the only church to utilize Story Ministry documentaries for engagement, outreach and inspiration. But his experience with Barnhart goes back further than most, as the two were students together at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

**“the power of these films to make what was happening in the news real and relational. ... It proved to me that these films were powerful and could motivate folks to action in a very real way.”**

“Some of the first experiences I had with David, experiencing his use of film and storytelling, weren’t actually through PDA documentaries,” Kim says. “They were through other things that he had made independently, and even working with him on some translation for some of them.”

One of those projects focused on Korean women who had been abducted into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War II. It gave Kim insight into Barnhart’s process of starting without preconceptions and building relationships as well as the psychological impact of engaging with traumatic stories and situations repeatedly during the long process of making a documentary.

Following seminary, Kim was excited to watch Barnhart’s work begin to grow with PDA and Story Ministry, and he began to engage with it early on. Kim’s first call was in Atlanta, where Barnhart resides, and he brought the filmmaker in to discuss his work after screening his film “Coming Home: Hurricane Katrina Five Years Later.” Though a lot of people fleeing New Orleans after the hurricane came to Atlanta, the film was still a key to persuading church members to travel to New Orleans to help in still-ongoing recovery.

Kim says he saw “the power of these films to make what was happening in the news real and relational. ... It proved to me that these films were powerful and could motivate folks to action in a very real way.”

The films are particularly appealing to young adults, Kim says, noting the popularity of other nonfiction offerings such as documentaries on

Netflix. Films such as “Locked in a Box” and “To Breathe Free,” a deeply personal look at the refugee crisis, have inspired engagement with impacted people and advocacy on their behalf in churches Kim has served. Other Story Ministry films include “Flint: The Poisoning of an American City” about the Flint water crisis, and Kim is particularly excited about a new series, “Trouble the Water,” centering on conversations about race and racism. Conversations, Kim says, are a key outcome of Story productions.

When Sunnyvale experienced an outbreak of shootings, Kim suggested having a screening of Story’s “Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence.”

“I’d experienced that film in multiple different places and know for myself how well it lays out some of the issues, but also how it really brings the story home to people,” Kim says. “So, we did that, and we had a really good conversation.”

The results of that conversation included the church session enacting a policy of not allowing weapons of any kind on the church campus and the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety asking the church to host a gun buyback

program. There was some pushback from people in the community who didn’t think it was appropriate for the church to host the buyback program or be discussing gun violence. But Kim said the results have been overwhelmingly positive, even if people still disagree on solutions.

Barnhart says, “The thing I love most about the work is seeing it go from that listening phase in Flint or listening phase with gun violence survivors ... and letting it just kind of evolve and seeing the circles grow around it and the support grow, grow, grow and just see it continue, even years later.”

The films are successful, Kim says, because they don’t come with an agenda. They tell a story.

“How am I going to argue with someone’s story if they tell the story of how they lost their mother to gun violence, right?” Kim says. “I can’t argue with the story. Now, later on, we might have to have a discussion about policy where we might disagree. But having received somebody else’s story, I think changes me or at least changes some of my attitudes, and hopefully opens me up to hearing somebody else in a different way.”

## Welcoming others strengthens congregational and community ties

When a congregation opens itself to follow Jesus’ teaching to welcome the stranger, it is not always clear how and when that pledge will be made real. In the case of First Presbyterian Church of Winchester, Virginia, after what seemed like a long wait, they are now an integral part of the largest U.S. refugee resettlement in almost 40 years.

In 2016, Carolyn Thalman — a member of the National Response Team for PDA and a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church — organized a series of educational programs for her congregation about refugees and immigration and helped organize early talks between Winchester’s Unitarian, Lutheran, Episcopal,

Quaker and Presbyterian churches and Church World Service (CWS) to learn how their community might welcome refugee resettlement. When the Trump administration made drastic cuts in the number of refugees coming to the U.S. the following year, however, the idea for a new refugee ministry was dashed. Resettlement offices around the country contracted and this group was disbanded. Circumstances changed again when the Biden administration made a public commitment to restart and expand U.S. refugee resettlement, prompting the group to reorganize and resume talks of opening a local office with CWS.

With the fall of Kabul and the evacuation of

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Afghan allies in August 2021, all resettlement efforts kicked into high gear. The CWS office in Harrisonburg soon learned it would receive up to 100 Afghan refugees between October and December and that a new office in Winchester was approved. The local interfaith group, including Thalman, was soon assisting CWS in its search for transitional short-term housing as well as coordinating church and community commitments to co-sponsor families in Winchester and the rest of Frederick County, Virginia. The group also helped CWS find an office location while focusing most of their efforts on finding housing, employment and English for Speakers of Other Languages services for their soon-to-be neighbors.

Meanwhile, Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center outside Harrisonburg offered CWS temporary housing, placing refugee families in the center's cottages as well as its hotel. When the urgent need for culturally appropriate groceries became clear, Thalman reached out to PDA and worked with CWS and Massanetta Springs to submit a successful grant request to help cover the cost. The Shenandoah



**“We all hear the Matthew 25 call to welcome the stranger, and I think that’s the reason our members have stepped up to do what we can to prepare welcome for these refugees.”**

Presbytery voted to endorse the PDA grant to this refugee ministry and set up a new Refugee Resettlement subcommittee of the presbytery to support the ongoing work.

Pleased to see the blossoming community ties formed throughout town, Thalman remained unsure of how her own congregation would respond when she began organizing apartment setups for Winchester’s impending Afghan arrivals in November. The members who always participated in outreach work would obviously step up, but what about those who remained aloof? She was genuinely amazed when everyone wanted to bring something (everything from four dressers to a tremendous amount of toilet paper!), but she has been particularly astounded by the extensive commitment of members who usually had not been involved in these type of church activities.

“I’ve been wondering if the people who don’t generally step up are looking for a direct ask for this kind of help. My pastor reflected that welcoming the stranger builds congregational vitality by encouraging people to be involved in something that’s exciting. I hope that excitement continues because in the last week I’ve gotten to know people beyond just their names as they have shown up to make beds, wash dishes and get things put together for our new arrivals. We all hear the Matthew 25 call to welcome the stranger, and I think that’s the reason our members have stepped up to do what we can to prepare welcome for these refugees.” Thalman went on to comment that the experience has continued to be like the Gospel story of the loaves and fishes. Every time she worries that they don’t have enough to meet the needs of the new arrivals, another donation appears!

## Working toward more refugee and immigrant-centered advocacy

In PDA’s efforts to faithfully partner with refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants in our advocacy work, we have often confronted a very real challenge: disparate resources. Unlike the PC(USA) with dedicated staff and budgets to focus on advocating for just U.S. immigration policies, most immigrant and refugee groups rely on volunteers and staff already working overtime on other job responsibilities. These differences become evident in the day-to-day efforts to work together. While all of us must face difficult decisions between attending to immediate human needs versus advocating for long-term policy change, for many immigrant and refugee leaders this is even more personal. These members of our interfaith coalitions frequently have to choose between taking time off from an hourly wage job to participate in an organizing meeting or attend a prayer vigil. They struggle to

add time in an already busy work week to make a statement at a congressional briefing instead of distributing food, clothing and other emergency assistance to their neighbors.

In spring 2021, PDA set aside \$100,000 for a new Refugee/Immigrant Faith-Based Advocacy Grant to support the capacity of local/grassroots refugee or immigrant groups interested in connecting their local and personal experiences with the national dialogue and advocacy campaigns. A new grant review team was pulled together with staff from PDA, the Office of Immigration Issues and the Office of Public Witness. This interagency team proved to be critical in bringing much-needed perspectives and knowledge of the advocacy community into the grant-making decisions.



SUSAN KREHBIEL



**“For PDA, these grants have reinforced and strengthened our ties with refugee and immigrant leaders, enabling us to center our advocacy on their experiences and voices. Investing in refugee and immigrant leadership is part of a larger commitment of our denomination to decenter whiteness, confront xenophobia in our society and work for the dismantling of racism within U.S. policies and its immigration system.”**

In April 2021, PDA awarded four grants to the following organizations:

- Movement for Justice in El Barrio, based in an East Harlem neighborhood of New York City, which is 90% Latinx.
- Mutual Aid Brockton of the Brockton Interfaith Community, based in Brockton, Massachusetts, the only majority Black city in Massachusetts with residents from Cape Verde, Haiti and Latin America.
- NAKASEC (National Korean American Service & Education Consortium), based at the HANA Center in Chicago, today works with Koreans as well as other Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

- Voces de la Frontera, based in Milwaukee, working with agricultural workers primarily from Mexico and Central America.

For PDA, these grants have reinforced and strengthened our ties with refugee and immigrant leaders, enabling us to center our advocacy on their experiences and voices. Investing in refugee and immigrant leadership is part of a larger commitment of our denomination to decenter whiteness, confront xenophobia in our society and work for the dismantling of racism within U.S. policies and its immigration system. PDA is committed to continuing this new grant program with an additional \$100,000 for 2022.



HIAS/ERIC KRUSZEWSKI

## Affordable housing among the ways PDA fulfills the Matthew 25 invitation

When a disaster, such as a tornado or a hurricane strikes, it often exacerbates pre-existing problems, such as a dearth of affordable housing.

That was the case when a tornado outbreak ravaged the Miami Valley in southwest Ohio in 2019, laying bare the need for more affordable housing, said the Rev. Terry L. Kukuk, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley.

That Matthew 25 presbytery and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) both were involved in responding to the immediate needs of those affected but wanted to do more.

“When we first started, it was how to help with the tornado cleanup -- how to get people back into their homes,” Kukuk said. But then the reality hit that “Oh, my goodness, 42% are renters; there’s no home to go to.’ There were no apartments being rebuilt.”

As part of the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group, the presbytery had a seat at the table when it came to discussions of how to help residents rebound for years to come.

“As we started getting out of that initial recovery work, we began to look at ‘Wait a minute, what is the opportunity here when it comes to affordable housing?’” Kukuk said. “When we began to ask that question, we also raised the question of there’s a lot of vacant nuisance properties and there’s a lot of vacant lots, so is there something that can be done to look deeper,” with an eye toward “stabilizing of the communities by allowing there to be home ownership for first-time homeowners?”

The result was the creation of the Tornado Survivors’ Pathway to Home Ownership, which was started by the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group with the presbytery’s help. The affordable housing program, funded with donations from various



SALLY DYER

sources including a PDA grant, is a vehicle for addressing social injustices.

“What that (grant) enabled us to do is we were able to share with the presbytery, ‘Hey, we’re in this new Pathways Program. We want to raise awareness of how poverty and racism has contributed to some of the housing insecurity and housing needs we have, and here is one concrete way that we can help to be present in the community ... to help take away some of the barriers and allow folks to have a new future,’” Kukuk said.

From the beginning, the program leveraged the skills of volunteer organizations that were already involved in the repair and rebuilding of tornado-impacted homes to transform donated properties and vacant lots into affordable single-family housing, according to a project description from Kukuk. Another aspect of the program involves working with tornado survivors to prepare them to become homeowners including providing down payment assistance.





FEMA/JOCELYN AUGUSTINO

**“At a time of limited resources and overwhelming need, it is crucial to use resources in a way to address systemic issues”**

“Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is thankful for the opportunity to partner with the Presbytery of (the) Miami Valley in supporting the Tornado Survivors’ Pathway to Home Ownership Program,” said the Rev. James Kirk, Associate for National Disaster Response for PDA. “At a time of limited resources and overwhelming need, it is crucial to use resources in a way to address systemic issues by providing a pathway towards homeownership for those impacted by a disaster.”

Kirk applauded the program for being self-sustaining in that “once the sale of the homes to the tornado survivors happens, the funds from the sale will be put back into the Pathways program to fund another home. The Pathway Program is a shining example of a community building back better and more resilient.”

Such efforts are in line with the Matthew 25 goal of tackling structural racism and systemic poverty.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided a grant to help develop a housing complex in Immokalee, Florida, where farmworkers of color often find themselves living in substandard conditions.

The Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance project will provide 128 two- and three-bedroom units at or below 30% of household income and are Category 5 hurricane-rated.

“I have talked about it in terms of Matthew 25’s focuses on systemic poverty and structural racism,” the Rev. Melana Scruggs, general presbyter of Peace River Presbytery on the western side of the Florida peninsula, said of efforts to create affordable housing for the Immokalee farmworker community in the

presbytery. “I think that fits exactly into what our calling is — to make a difference for people who largely either speak Spanish or Creole, and, you know, during COVID didn’t even have good resources about what they were supposed to do during the pandemic. To begin breaking down some of those structural things that make farmworkers vulnerable is part of our faith.”

Substandard housing left farmworkers particularly vulnerable to Hurricane Irma when it struck in 2017. The presbytery and several churches had relationships with the farmworker community through other projects such as weekly Friday night meals with the farmworkers and Misión Peniel, a covenant ministry of the presbytery.

After the hurricane, when the presbytery and churches asked what the Immokalee community needed, they were told housing. The farmworkers and their families were housed in trailers that were often in disrepair.

“Workers who live in Immokalee, Florida and who contribute invaluable to our society, economy, and communities and who put food on the tables of families across the United States, have far too long had little access to decent, humane, and affordable housing,” said Julia Perkins, Education Coordinator/Senior Staff with CIW and Member of the Board of Directors of IFHA. “The Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance project is a first step in addressing this long-standing abuse. Having a community organization like the Coalition of Immokalee Workers at the table throughout this process is essential to making sure that workers are a part of designing the type of community that meets their needs and recognizes their value.”



## Vastly different countries face similar challenges

India is the second-largest country in the world — on pace to be the largest in a few years — with 1.3 billion people, representing one-sixth of the world’s population. That population is one of the most ethnically diverse on the planet, according to Britannica, with innumerable castes and tribes and hundreds of linguistic groups.

Haiti is the smaller country in land mass on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic. Haiti has 11.2 million people — putting it at 81st in world population. Since the French colonial period, the rising demand for resources such as sugar and charcoal has resulted in devastating deforestation.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has a long history of working in both nations, and while the differences are inescapable, in each country it works with partners to address similar problems related to two key components of the Matthew

25 invitation: systemic poverty and structural racism. These are problems increasingly exacerbated by climate change.

“With natural disasters — cyclones, hurricanes, droughts, among others — which are becoming recurrent, farmers are finding it difficult to plan their agricultural campaign,” says Fabienne Jean, coordinator of FONDAMA (Fondasyon Men-lan-Men Ayiti or Foundation Hands in Hands Haiti), one of PDA’s partners in Haiti. “PDA is a constant partner that supports FONDAMA in its actions to help people recover from the many losses and trauma resulting from the various disasters that the country has experienced for years.”

Given its size and location, Haiti is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including severe weather events. On top of that, the Caribbean region as a whole and Haiti in particular have suffered a series of devastating

earthquakes this century. The combination of natural disasters is particularly hard on a nation dependent on agriculture and already deep in the throes of poverty. That makes support of organizations such as PDA vital.

“PDA continued to support our projects to promote the protection, regeneration and sustainable management of the environment,” says Berndadin Amazan, director of ADLH (Appui au Developpement Local en Haiti), another PDA partner in Haiti. “We want to support mitigation, livelihoods, recovery and resilience of families affected by natural disasters.”

Similar to Haiti, a lot of India’s land is bordered by large bodies of water, making much of the country susceptible to tropical phenomena such as cyclones and other extreme weather, including flooding and drought. India also experiences frequent earthquakes.

“There is extreme weather throughout the year,” says Godfrey G.P. Jawahar, executive secretary of PDA’s longtime partner in India, SNIRD (Society for National Integration through Rural

approach is not just to come and say, ‘OK, you are in need, and this is what we are providing.’ Through our capacity-building programs, we develop something called rural participatory appraisal, which means that we allow the people to choose their own priorities. When you do that, the program becomes very sustainable, so even at the end of the funding, the community takes ownership.”

The Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, PDA Associate for Disaster Response in Latin America and the Caribbean, says one of the major obstacles partners in Haiti have faced in aiding impacted groups has been social instability and political unrest.

The enduring impact of colonialism reverberates in both countries, particularly Haiti, which has suffered foreign interference since its independence from France. PDA partners in both nations work to create sustainable solutions to recurring problems, including growing food insecurity.

“The aim is to train people to raise their awareness of environmental issues, so that they

**“Through our capacity-building programs, we develop something called rural participatory appraisal, which means that we allow the people to choose their own priorities. When you do that, the program becomes very sustainable, so even at the end of the funding, the community takes ownership.”**

Development). “Marginalized communities are the worst affected in times of calamities. Their houses are located in the low-living areas and often the villages get marooned.”

Among numerous SNIRD projects PDA funded was emergency tsunami relief such as rice and bedding for socially excluded people. The project involved local leaders and businesses in the procurement and distribution of goods.

Sheku Sillah, PDA Associate for Disaster Response in Africa and Asia, explains, “Our

can recover and become more resilient to natural disasters,” Amazan says.

Jean says, “During and after disasters, FONDAMA supports long-term recovery, resilience to future shocks and sustainable development, while addressing immediate needs in regions affected by natural disasters.”

Jawahar says disasters affect “the agriculture crops. SNIRD has taken effort to promote dry land horticulture and organic farming, for vegetable cultivation.





SNIRD

“Most of our target communities are from the socially excluded community having 0.5 to 1 acre of land. Failure of crops is noticed during every agricultural season. Hence, they are forced to be in debt.”

In the past two years, India and Haiti have also been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Marginalized communities suffered from skyrocketing unemployment and isolation, and of course many succumbed to the virus without protections of high-quality medical care or, later, vaccines.

Most of the SNIRD staff was hospitalized with

COVID-19 at some point, but the organization still worked to get food, medical supplies and equipment to hard-hit communities, including Dalit families, who are considered among the lowest caste in India and are not identified by the government for aid.

“With the support of PDA, SNIRD provided dry food packages to 984 families besides distribution, surgical three-layer masks, pulse oximeters, thermal scanners, etc.,” Jawahar says.

According to a New York Times global vaccination map, more than 65% of the Indian population has received at least one dose of

“Our work in COVID, centered in the Matthew 25 commitment to see those who suffer unjustly and work for the eradication of poverty and racism, put resources in the hands of local partners overseas who were in the best position to decide what help was needed, and with congregations here at home who already have built relationships with unhoused communities, refugees and those living in poverty, so that those who needed it most would be prioritized in a moment where the pandemic intensified the struggle many have already long endured.”

COVID-19 vaccine, while less than 20% of the Haitian population has. In all cases, vaccine access is an issue in marginalized communities.

“The pandemic has exponentially worsened an already unsustainable situation for the Haitian people, mainly the poorest people,” Jean says. “There are not many partners and friends on whom we could count because they too are living their own drama with the pandemic. So, the dire poverty level is increasing and it’s difficult to bring a sustainable and significant response given the extent and the multiple facets of the crisis.”

Aware of the strain on support due to the pervasive nature of the pandemic, PDA was intentional about attaining support to help sustain global communities and partners impacted by COVID-19.

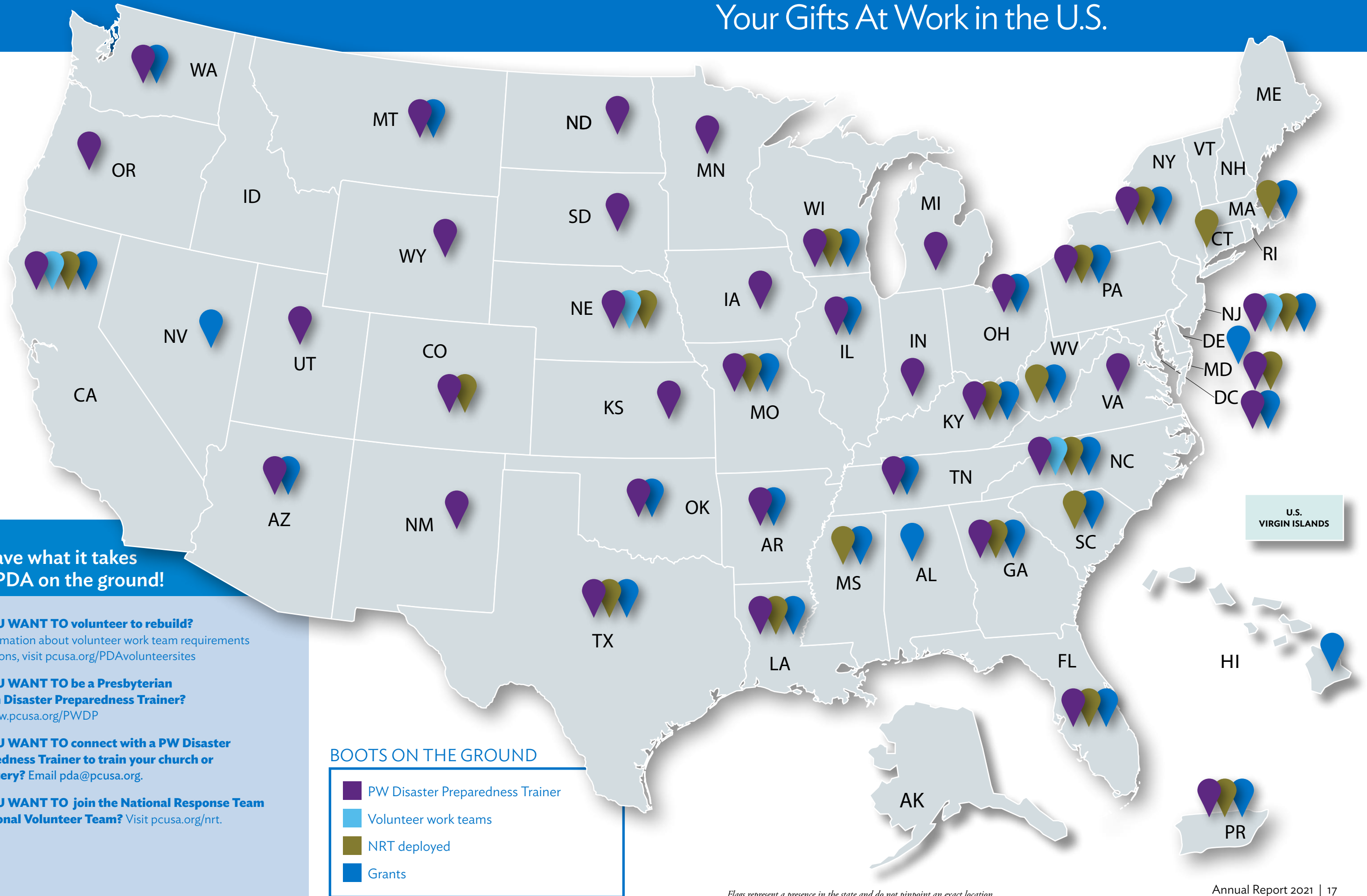
The Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, director of PDA, explains, “Our work in COVID, centered in the Matthew 25 commitment to see those who suffer unjustly and work for the eradication of poverty and racism, put resources in the hands of local partners overseas who were in the best position to decide what help was needed, and with congregations here at home who already have built relationships with unhoused communities, refugees and those living in poverty, so that those who needed it most would be prioritized in a moment where the pandemic intensified the struggle many have already long endured.”



ACT/GREGG BREKKE



# Your Gifts At Work in the U.S.



**YOU have what it takes to join PDA on the ground!**

**DO YOU WANT TO volunteer to rebuild?**  
For information about volunteer work team requirements and options, visit [pcusa.org/PDAvolunteersites](http://pcusa.org/PDAvolunteersites)

**DO YOU WANT TO be a Presbyterian Women Disaster Preparedness Trainer?**  
Visit [www.pcusa.org/PWDP](http://www.pcusa.org/PWDP)

**DO YOU WANT TO connect with a PW Disaster Preparedness Trainer to train your church or presbytery?** Email [pda@pcusa.org](mailto:pda@pcusa.org).

**DO YOU WANT TO join the National Response Team or National Volunteer Team?** Visit [pcusa.org/nrt](http://pcusa.org/nrt).



# Facts & Figures

## United States

Total dollars granted: **\$2,351,291.56**



### Hurricanes

55 grants, 12 NRT deployed\*



### Floods

14 grants



### Human-Caused Disaster

6 NRT deployed



### Tornadoes

11 grants, 5 NRT deployed



### Fires

6 grants, 5 NRT deployed



### Storms

9 grants, 2 NRT deployed



### Refugee ministry

16 grants



### Earthquake

1 grant

\*The PDA National Response Team consists of about 100 members who represent PDA and the PC(USA) in the field following a disaster. They provide support to presbyteries and synods as they assess the impact of the disaster on both the church and the community, and they assist in connecting presbyteries to recovery resources. In 2021, NRT members were deployed virtually and in-person.

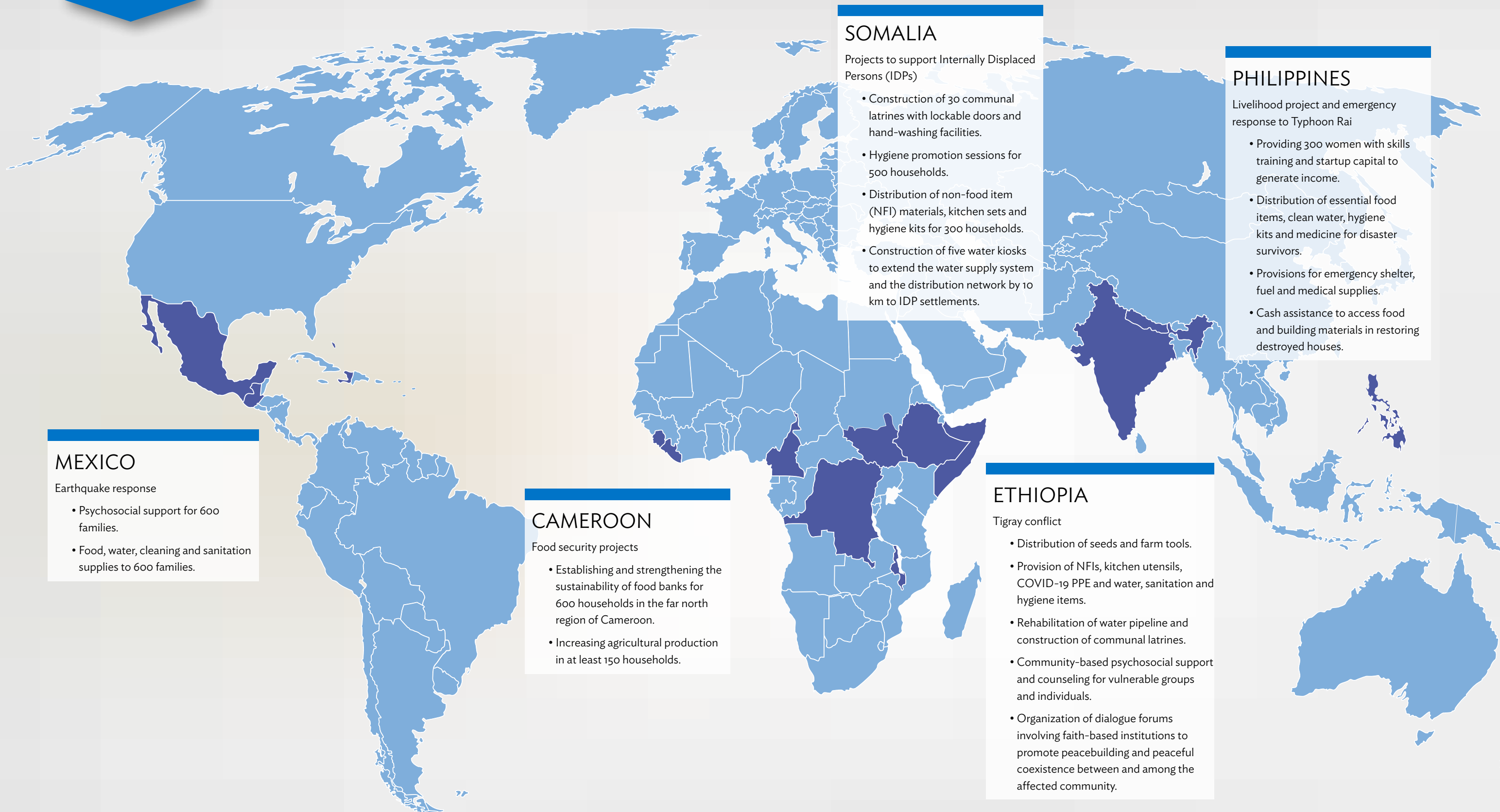


THIS PAGE HIGHLIGHTS  
ONLY A FEW PROJECTS  
FROM THIS YEAR.  
Visit [pcusa.org/PDA](https://pcusa.org/PDA)  
for more information

# Your Gifts At Work Internationally

Total amount granted: \$744,046.77

In 2021, PDA responded to disasters in 15 countries outside the U.S. Dark blue indicates a country that received assistance.



## MEXICO

Earthquake response

- Psychosocial support for 600 families.
- Food, water, cleaning and sanitation supplies to 600 families.

## CAMEROON

Food security projects

- Establishing and strengthening the sustainability of food banks for 600 households in the far north region of Cameroon.
- Increasing agricultural production in at least 150 households.

## SOMALIA

Projects to support Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- Construction of 30 communal latrines with lockable doors and hand-washing facilities.
- Hygiene promotion sessions for 500 households.
- Distribution of non-food item (NFI) materials, kitchen sets and hygiene kits for 300 households.
- Construction of five water kiosks to extend the water supply system and the distribution network by 10 km to IDP settlements.

## PHILIPPINES

Livelihood project and emergency response to Typhoon Rai

- Providing 300 women with skills training and startup capital to generate income.
- Distribution of essential food items, clean water, hygiene kits and medicine for disaster survivors.
- Provisions for emergency shelter, fuel and medical supplies.
- Cash assistance to access food and building materials in restoring destroyed houses.

## ETHIOPIA

Tigray conflict

- Distribution of seeds and farm tools.
- Provision of NFIs, kitchen utensils, COVID-19 PPE and water, sanitation and hygiene items.
- Rehabilitation of water pipeline and construction of communal latrines.
- Community-based psychosocial support and counseling for vulnerable groups and individuals.
- Organization of dialogue forums involving faith-based institutions to promote peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence between and among the affected community.



# Q&A

In an effort to center the voices of our partners and the communities they serve, we wanted to ask a few questions and share their answers. Some answers are abridged, read the unabridged answers at [pcusa.org/Mosaic21](https://pcusa.org/Mosaic21)

## What have you found useful in partnering with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through PDA?

**Lisa Horne, Director of Community Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Flint**

The most useful was offering the talents of the Story Ministry to restore the voice of the residents of Flint to share our lived experience related to the water crisis and to also share the story with the world. The distribution of water and filters also met a great need in our community. I must also add that your seat at the table to educate and increase awareness on lead poisoning and water injustices demonstrates your commitment to caring for communities affected by crisis and catastrophic events. Thank you for being present with us.

**Bruce Yerman, Director of Operations for the Camp Fire Collaborative**

PDA has been with the Camp Fire Collaborative through the beginning providing support to the Unmet Needs Round Table. PDA funds have been used specifically for what we identify as “Complex Unmet Needs,” those that require a concerted effort of several funders to help the most vulnerable survivors recover. We work with greater confidence and effectiveness because of PDA.

**Magda Bolland, Executive Director of La Posada Providencia Shelter at the U.S.-Mexico Border**

The funding allows us to hire more staff for the weekend and welcome more guests.

**Alison Wood, Tucson Borderlands Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Site Coordinator**

Partnering with the PC(USA) through PDA has connected local organizations with a wider network of resources and support. The partnership helps the Tucson Borderlands YAVs see how they are situated within this web of denominational connections, making them feel the truth of their role in the larger picture of the church. We feel supported by PDA and, by extension, the PC(USA), and are grateful for the resources, encouragement and collaboration that can emerge as we work for a better world together.

**Judith Castañeda, General Coordinator of The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA)**

Emotional & Spiritual Care trainings from PDA; being able to provide humanitarian response for COVID and hurricanes Eta and Iota; and financing emergency responses including food, water filters, psychosocial and spiritual care, and livelihood recovery.

**Tori Salas, Coordinating Director of Interfaith Welcome Coalition**

PDA understands that serving immigrants and refugees is an emergency. However, PDA is also aware of the current border shelters and organizations that assist immigrants and refugees throughout the nation.

**Lirio Márquez D’Acunti, Executive Director of Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust in Puerto Rico**

Partnering with PDA has been beyond useful. Funding provided by PDA was fundamental in setting up our Barbosa Resiliency Hub and was the inspiration for our Resiliency Project. With PDA funding we were able to install a water catchment and filtration system and two 1,000-gallon cisterns that allow us to provide drinking water to the community during emergencies. A photovoltaic (PV) system was also funded by PDA. This system, which is

totally off the grid, allows us to provide energy for the community to charge their devices and connect to the internet during emergencies. But most importantly, we have installed an emergency communications center at the Resiliency Hub, which is powered by this PV system and that will allow us to communicate in and off island during emergencies. As stated before, the funding provided by PDA was the motivation and first step in our Resiliency Project, which promotes resiliency and preparedness through education and technology to improve community safety and wellness before, during and after an emergency.

**Angelina Nyajima Simon Jial, Executive Director of Hope Restoration South Sudan**

Response and management of disasters such as floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigating their devastating impacts on the affected populations through management of Flood Protection Systems and COVID-19 awareness raising campaign. Disaster risk assessment and management strategies as well as emergency relief are some of the aspects I found useful.

**Peter M. Egwudah, Program Coordinator of Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE) in Nigeria**

Homegrown initiatives from the community and partners supported by PDA allow the community members or beneficiaries to own the project. This has allowed for sustainability of projects funded by PDA. Funding and support from PDA are able to reach beneficiaries in hard-to-reach locations and communities that were not reached with any form of assistance by humanitarian actors in the northeast region where the activities of the non-state armed group (Boko Haram) has displaced people from their community.





## How have you seen the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change informing your work?

### **Camp Fire Collaborative**

Long-term recovery from a disaster, notably the Camp Fire, is influenced by climate change's immediate and long-term impacts. These impacts permeate recovery work in many forms: economically, socially, psychologically and as a community (and beyond). While this is a multifaceted issue, a disaster like the Camp Fire in 2018 resulted from years of drought, low humidity and unseasonably high temperatures in the Sierra Nevadas — conditions that continue to impact the landscape of the burn scar.

### **La Posada Providencia**

When Winter Storm Uri hit, La Posada spent many days without electricity — and it was a nightmare. With a propane grill, the staff provided hot drinks and meals to guests. Additionally, to make matters more difficult, the winter storm was at the beginning of the 2021 migrant influx — and La Posada was overflowing with guests. Some were staying at hotels without electricity, stranded for days due to canceled flights and buses.

### **YAV Tucson Borderlands**

Through our partnership with PDA, Tucson Borderlands YAV has been able to place Young Adult Volunteers with organizations supporting refugees and asylum seekers. In these work placements, the YAVs see how climate change is increasingly fueling migration — driving people from their homes where they can no longer support themselves (through farming, for example) the way that generations before were used to doing. At the same time, here in the Sonoran Desert, the conditions facing people migrating are made harsher by increasing climate chaos. We expect these conditions will continue to worsen across the board, making the journey more desperate and more dangerous for our neighbors in transit.

### **CEDEPCA**

Awareness-raising processes have begun regarding the care of the environment through talks, workshops and courses; and actions have been initiated in the field of reforestation to preserve the soil and mitigate the impact of climate change. CEDEPCA also promotes disaster prevention actions that may be caused by climate change, through training in Risk Management. Mainly due to the impact that the greater recurrence and intensity of hydrometeorological phenomena, derived from global warming, may have.

### **Interfaith Welcome Coalition**

Communities of people are leaving their countries due to natural disasters caused by climate change. For example, natural disasters in Haiti have impacted the people and they can no longer survive in their country. Climate change affects a people's ability to obtain basic needs; there will continue to be people migrating to survive. Climate change also impacts where we send immigrants and refugees to in the United States as there are states that are short on water supply, land that doesn't grow food, etc. Such places are unsustainable to live in and residents are resentful of newcomers.

### **Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust**

Most of the work that we currently do is influenced by climate change. The Resiliency Project educates about climate change consequences for a small island and prepares communities in Vieques and Culebra for disaster communications and other preparedness methods; the MANTA education program visits all schools in Vieques and has preparedness and climate change education components; and the Mangrove Project does reforestation and scientific research to combat the effects of Hurricane Maria in our mangrove forests and the Vieques Bioluminescent Bay.

### **Hope Restoration South Sudan**

Climate change has caused flooding in my place of work. It has directly killed animals, destroyed the places they live and wreaked havoc on communities' livelihoods. Flooding disasters took lives away, displaced people and destroyed infrastructure. This has posed challenges to my humanitarian work since movements to project sites has not been possible.

### **CISCOPE Nigeria**

The immediate impact of climate change in communities where we work includes but is not limited to loss of livelihood as a result of flooding, causing landslides, washing out farmlands and livestock; excess drought resulting in poor crop yield and high rate of morbidity of animals; and food insecurity resulting in hunger and acute malnutrition, especially among children and lactating mothers.

## What are some challenges you are facing in your work and how can the church accompany you?

### **First Presbyterian Church of Flint**

Some challenges as water recovery continues and we all battle the impact of the pandemic are helping those who are experiencing poverty and homelessness regain a sense of hope. As we continue to assist with legal documents for access to local, state and federal programs, the need for temporary shelter, transportation, navigating social service systems and help with food security are an ongoing challenge for residents. The mental and emotional distress has been very challenging for many. The church can accompany us by first continuing to lift us up in prayer, sharing the stories of lived experiences, and any resources to support the Community Ministry in reducing barriers to access and providing emergency needs will be a blessing.

### **Camp Fire Collaborative**

The Camp Fire Collaborative has assisted 1,400 families through our Unmet Needs round table, and 39 of those 72 of those cased have provided a rebuild or a manufactured home. Much of this work has been done during the pandemic in the past two years. Our greatest need is to house vulnerable families through the Unmet Needs Program. At this time, a 1,000-square-foot home will cost \$140,000 for a volunteer rebuild group (up \$40,000 since the beginning of the disaster). That amount is beyond what the combined

funders can produce due to funding limitations per case. We need to increase the number of funders at the table.

### **La Posada Providencia**

La Posada would like to continue to count on PDA's financial support, we would like to add medical staff and we are also interested in professional training.

### **YAV Tucson Borderlands**

We are finding that almost everyone we work with is carrying a heavy load of trauma and anxiety. This is, of course, made deeper by the ongoing pandemic. Our partners in hospitality are working hard to find ways to keep hundreds of visitors safe through COVID-19, as well as protecting the volunteers who serve with them. We covet the church's prayers and financial support and are grateful for the ways we are already experiencing these blessings through PDA!

### **CEDEPCA**

Challenges include the increase in poverty, unemployment and migration; access to vaccines; the ability to respond appropriately to mental health crises; and having the economic resources to be able to implement development projects. PDA can help by continuing to



train our Prevention and Emergency Care team, financing for emergency response and development projects and continuing to make our work visible.

#### **Interfaith Welcome Coalition**

Our work is unpredictable. We can't provide a plan to serve migrants as the trend changes daily, and we need to adjust to provide welcoming services. In December we saw a tremendous increase of migrants, the most since the beginning of 2021 and more than 2019. Through the migrant coordinating partnership, we were able to meet these needs knowing that such numbers are not sustainable to provide services.

#### **Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust**

Being able to stay ahead in technology and equipment is one of our major challenges. This project is not only starting but is limited in funding and acquiring equipment is sometimes uphill. Being able to hire more staff to meet increasing demands of the project is also a challenge.

## **What do you wish our constituents knew more about the communities with whom you are working?**

#### **First Presbyterian Church of Flint**

I want the constituents to know that Flint is a community that, despite challenges, continues to fight for what is right, fair and just. First Presbyterian Church of Flint and other faith communities are working closer with social service agencies, educational institutions, local foundations and other governmental organizations to overcome the challenges faced by many individuals and families. We know the need many times outweighs the resources, but by faith and through hope we continue to answer the call to serve, create hope and prepare for a healthier future for our community.

#### **Camp Fire Collaborative**

The Paradise, Magalia and Concow areas pride their resourcefulness and resiliency. And they help each other. We have received several donations from survivors we helped house — after their lives are settled and income grows. Camp Fire survivors are paying it forward.

#### **La Posada Providencia**

Our guests are very vulnerable — they have experienced tons of suffering and poverty since birth and during their travel to the United States. Most of them need medical and psychological services.

#### **Hope Restoration South Sudan**

Inaccessibility to the affected populations due to floods, inadequate non-food items (NFIs), supplies and shelters for the IDPs displaced by floods, lack of medical supplies and expertise in the few available medical facilities for COVID-19 response, lack of food items. PDA can step in by providing more funding to be able to build resilience and improve livelihoods of people who are affected by flooding.

#### **CISCOPE Nigeria**

Challenges include paucity of funds from donor agencies due to competing needs in other regions; the need for capacity development, fundraising and data analysis; and availability of funds and institutional support for partners.

#### **YAV Tucson Borderlands**

Young adults are passionate and smart — they are full of wondering about how to follow God's voice through the thickets of this complicated world and are already leaders for a church seeking God's way into a better future. U.S.-Mexico border communities are full of creative, strategic, compassionate people, on both sides of the border, who are collaborating across national and cultural borders to take care of neighbors in transit. People in transit — migrants, refugees and asylum seekers — are just people, as complex and challenging and wonderful as anyone else, persisting through all the hardships put up by government, landscape, climate change, violence and bad actors. If you are looking for Matthew 25 communities, you will find them here.

#### **CEDEPCA**

Our communities are resilient. They are people interested in learning and improving their knowledge through the courses and workshops that CEDEPCA offers. They have an interest and willingness to organize, are formed mostly by youth and support each other to execute projects of mutual benefit. Some communities are indigenous and do not speak Spanish, only their mother tongue.

#### **Interfaith Welcome Coalition**

Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) addresses the best way possible to meet the needs of immigrants and refugees by providing essential services. However, it takes additional resources to serve Haitian or African populations, such as intensive case management, interpreters, and training for culturally competent staff and volunteers to provide adequate services.

IWC has seen an increase of immigrants and refugees that have arrived in San Antonio without sponsors or a place to go. Serving immigrants and refugees that need shelter and sponsor support services takes additional resources such as hotel rooms, meals, over-the-counter medication, etc.

#### **Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust**

The people we are serving are part of a low-income struggling community. Transportation

issues make it very difficult to bring resources to the island. Little is known about which or how things are affecting us. Lack of knowledge of our reality sometimes generates the proposal or implementation of projects/"solutions" that although well-intentioned, don't really work in our communities. This same lack of exposure to the "outside world" limits our community's access to processes, funding, and education to implement appropriate solutions to daily and emergency situations.

#### **Hope Restoration South Sudan**

I wish they knew more about the extent to which poverty has ravaged communities in Unity State, South Sudan, and which is caused by prolonged periods of armed inter-communal conflicts. If we design and implement agricultural-based long-term projects with a view to building their livelihoods, incidents of conflicts will decrease and so will the poverty levels.

#### **CISCOPE Nigeria**

Yearly flooding as a result of climatic factor has continued to decimate the lives and livelihood of the citizens, especially the rural poor who depend on small-scale farming to earn a living.

The affected population in these communities is where we are currently implementing our project with funding from PDA/Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (the three offices of One Great Hour of Sharing).

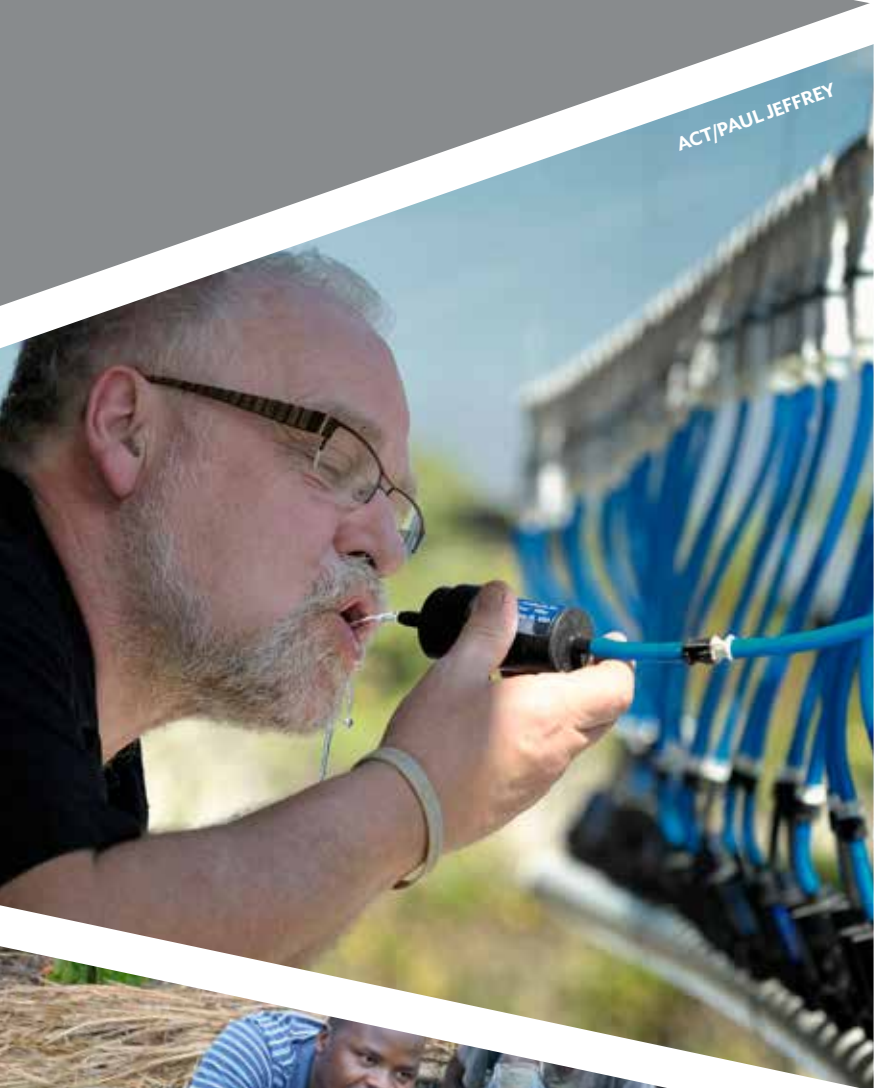
We have received funding from PDA for COVID-19 response in Adamawa State, northeast Nigeria. We were able to utilize the funds for the provision of PPEs, food and non-food items for vulnerable households, especially lactating, pregnant mothers and children in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and host communities.







MICHAEL RATTO



ACT/PAUL JEFFREY



BIRDS



TANZANIA TANGANYIKA CHRISTIAN REFUGEE SERVICE TCRS SEAN HAWKEY



ACT/PAUL JEFFREY

# 2021 in Review

In 2021, because of your generous support, PDA was able to grant more than **\$3 million** across the globe; **support 400 work team volunteers** who helped rebuild communities affected by disaster; **deploy 60 National Response Team members to 19 presbyteries** (virtually and in-person); develop a new grant opportunity supporting refugee and asylum advocacy programs; host more than **41 Emotional & Spiritual Care programs for more than 500 people**; **train 112 Presbyterian Women Disaster Preparedness Trainers** across the U.S.; **work alongside communities** impacted by industrial air pollution to amplify their voices and demands in an upcoming documentary on Ethylene Oxide; and with Church World Service, aid in the **collection and distribution of 191,182 Gift of the Heart Kits and blankets. THANK YOU!**







Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

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