

(Colombia)  
Caught in a cycle of disruption

*Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal help fund these development efforts among the Kogi in Colombia.*



For centuries, the lives of the indigenous Kogi people revolved around their small farms and villages, high in the mountains of Colombia.

Isolated from Spanish-speaking neighbors, their culture and traditions remained strong until, in 2000, they were forced off their land by Colombia's civil war. Now, they are caught in a cycle of disruption: displaced, resettled, and displaced again. Whenever armed civil conflict breaks out, the Kogis are especially vulnerable.

Most women and children speak only Kogi, and only a handful of men speak Spanish well enough to conduct business with others. Education and health are also concerns. The Kogi are determined to educate their children, but few schools have trained teachers. Health care is difficult to access in remote areas, and about 50 percent of Kogi children die before reaching adulthood.

Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal helped the displaced Kogi Christian community purchase several hundred acres where they can live and worship in peace. The farm also serves as a refuge for Kogi seeking temporary shelter from conflict.

ELCA World Hunger funding helped several young men study to become teacher trainers, who prepare others to offer grade school studies using Kogi curriculum materials. Because of World Hunger Appeal funding, eight Kogis were trained as rural health workers. They learned how to dispense medications, give first aid and injections, clean and extract teeth, and teach good health practices.

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