

MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS:

### KEEP OUR MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS COVID SAFE THROUGH VACCINES AND MORE

magine knowing a vaccine exists that can keep your family safe from COVID-19, but that your loved ones may never get it — because you live in one of the world's poorest countries.

Every day, millions of people in the U.S. are being vaccinated. Maybe you've already felt the relief of knowing you're protected. But our neighbors in the poorest countries are in danger of being left behind, simply because of where they were born. A vaccine may not reach them for years, if ever.

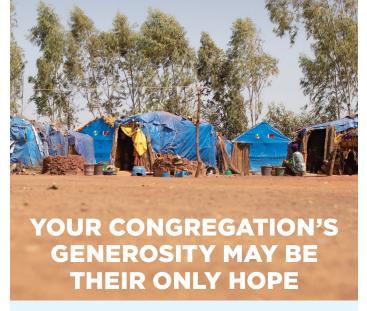
Right now, more than 70 million people worldwide have been forced from their homes by disaster or conflict. Many have nothing but the clothes on their backs. Some have no idea where their next meal will come from. Still, they are our neighbors, and they are precious in God's sight.

Your congregation's love can reach these neighbors wherever they are — even in makeshift camps, huddled in tents that buckle against the wind. With swift action, your congregation's generosity will ensure even the most vulnerable have access to the vaccine, along with other essentials they need to survive.

## Your congregation can help save lives.

Building on the skills and relationships of our local staff in places where your love is already at work, Lutheran World Relief will leverage existing partnerships to reach our vulnerable neighbors in the most forsaken corners of the world. Our longstanding relationships in communities will enable LWR to boost confidence in the vaccine and ensure equitable access for everyone, everywhere.

Will your congregation join us in reaching these vulnerable neighbors?



**OUMAR DICKO** is the elected leader of the Senou Camp, a collection of more than 200 blue tarp tents in a vacant field on the outskirts of Bamako, Mali's capital city. The dusty camp is home to more than 1,000 people who have fled ongoing conflict in the north and central parts of the country. Though these families have found refuge from the violence that drove them from their homes, Dicko says he and his neighbors in Senou are far from safe.

Severe droughts have made it impossible to grow food around the camp, and most families have no source of income to buy what they need. Malnutrition is common and, since the pandemic began, growing even more widespread. Most rely on the kindness of strangers to survive. Clean water is scarce, and sanitation is poor,

leading Dicko to fear the arrival of COVID-19.

"These tents are so close together," he says, looking out on the sea of tents. "If we get even one case here, I know everyone will get it. We know about the vaccine. We know supply is not sufficient, and we know it's hard to get."



With your gift, your congregation will be part of the largest global health effort in human history and reach those who would otherwise be forgotten.

Without widespread access to the vaccine, COVID-19 will continue to mutate and spread — taking lives and trapping families in deeper poverty. You can love our most vulnerable neighbors by making sure they have access to the vaccine and other critical ways to stay healthy.

#### Your gift will:

- Equip clinics across Africa, Asia and Latin America to receive and store the vaccine
- Train health care workers to deliver the doses and coordinate vaccination campaigns
- Provide essentials for survival, including masks, clean water for drinking and handwashing, and emergency food assistance for families in refugee and displacement camps.

Because everyone, everywhere is worthy of love.



# The needs are urgent. Please join us in reaching these vulnerable neighbors.

Please visit **LWR.ORG/CONGREGATIONS** for more information and to download a video to share with your congregation.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



#### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

Please mail gifts to: Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

Please mark "MISSION21" in the memo.