



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

KOSOVO YMCA



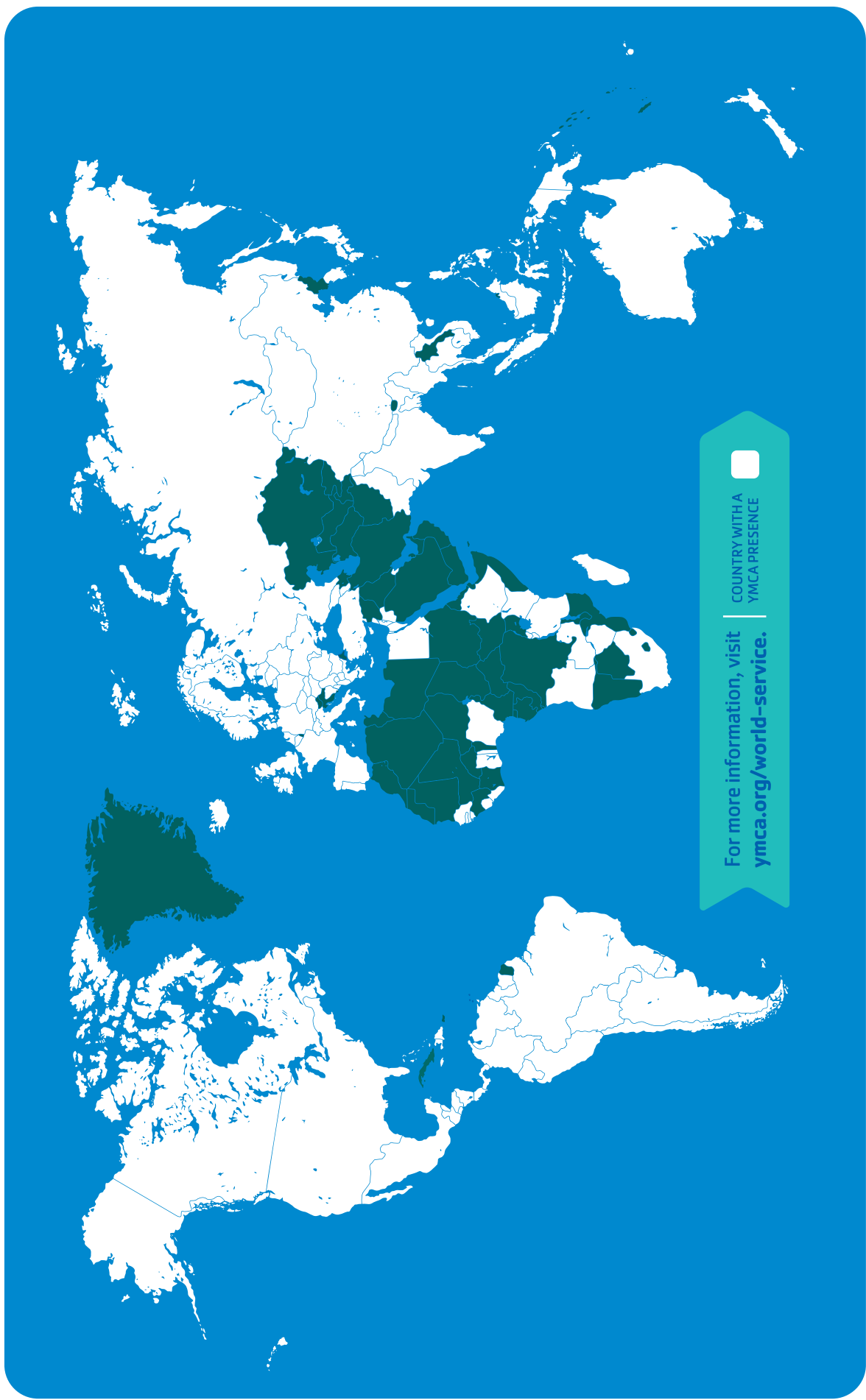
2023 World Service Annual Report

YMCA OF THE USA



GLOBAL YMCA MOVEMENT

Every day, Ys in 120 countries help people to reach their full potential and create a better future for themselves.



For more information, visit ymca.org/world-service.
COUNTRY WITH A
YMCA PRESENCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL	
YOUTH-LED SOLUTIONS TO ADVANCE VISION 2030	4
WORLD SERVICE CAMPAIGN IMPACT AND REACH	
	5
CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL	
A JUST WORLD: GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE	6
MEANINGFUL WORK: CAREER PATHWAYS IN MADURAI, INDIA AND EUROPE	7
SUSTAINABLE PLANET: YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ACTION	8
COMMUNITY WELLBEING: STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH IN LAC	9
YMCA-TO-YMCA PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS	
	10
2023 YMCA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES	
	11
YMCA OF THE USA GLOBAL LEGACY SOCIETY	
	12
CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT	
	13

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PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: **KOSOVO YMCA**

Photos courtesy of the YMCA of the USA Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team.

YMCA Mission:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL



YMCA World Service, the national annual campaign to raise awareness and support to strengthen the powerful work of YMCAs worldwide, helps young people overcome barriers and access the opportunities they need to thrive and ignite change. Thank you for being a vital part of providing access to quality health services, education and employment, creating a more just world and finding solutions to address environmental challenges affecting millions of youth and families.

We are honored to share this report with you to highlight a few of the many YMCAs around the world that are creating a better world for all. World Service aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the World YMCA's global shared strategy, **Vision 2030**, to empower young people to build a better world for all through four key areas:



Community Well-Being

Supporting the health and well-being of all people.



Meaningful Work

Providing meaningful work and education opportunities.



Sustainable Planet

Taking action to sustain and protect our planet.



A Just World

Addressing inequities and racism to create a more just world for all.

YOUTH-LED SOLUTIONS TO ADVANCE VISION 2030

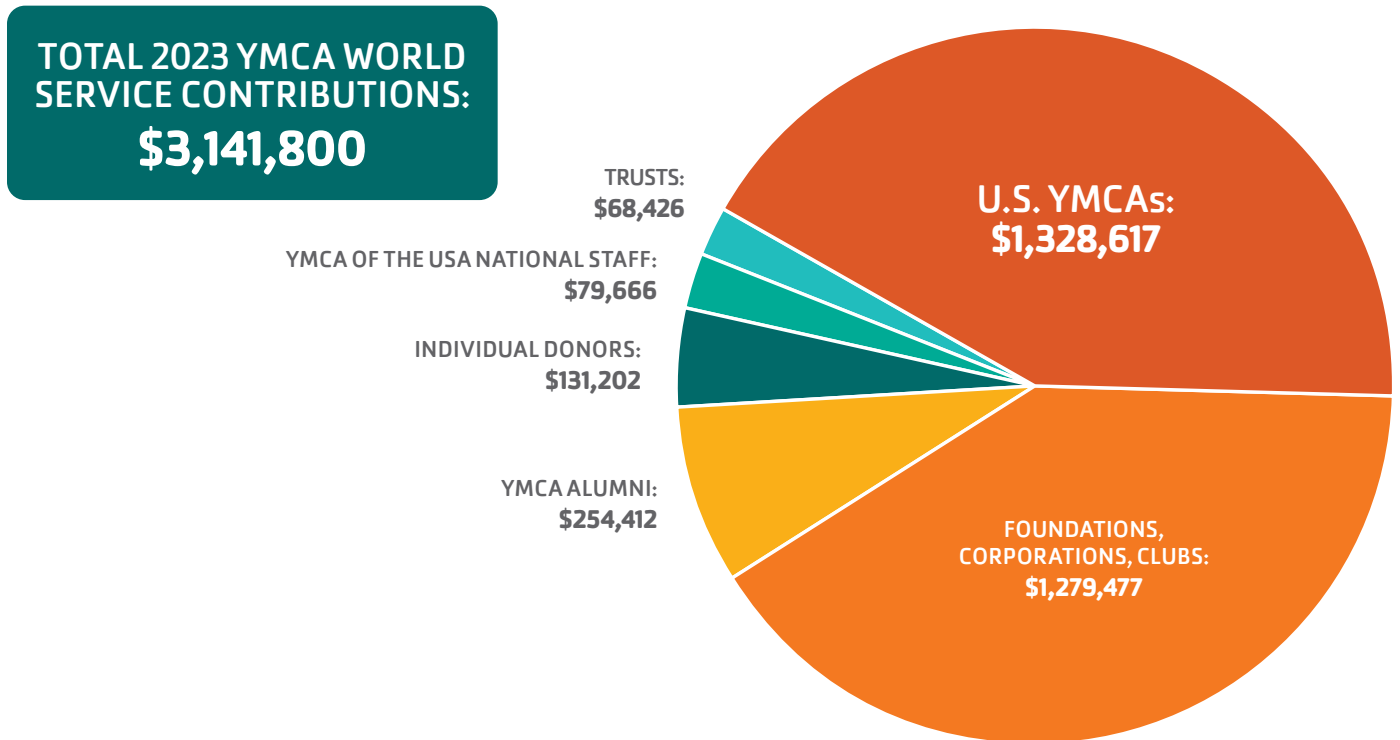
YMCAs in 120 countries focus on empowering young people. Starting in 2020, the World YMCA launched the **Youth-Led Solutions Initiative**, which encourages young leaders to address pressing issues, including climate action for a sustainable planet. In the first three years, young leaders from twenty-three countries have developed projects impacting more than 200,000 people. These visionary YMCA leaders are increasing environmental awareness, promoting sustainable agriculture, advancing climate education and much more.

YMCA World Service Campaign Impact and Reach

In 2023, the YMCA World Service Campaign raised more than \$3.1 million. Of this amount, \$1.3 million was received to assist YMCA Ukraine with their humanitarian response for internally displaced people and to support YMCA Europe’s direct response to help Ukrainian refugees who had to move to other countries throughout Europe, due to the ongoing crisis.

With sincere gratitude to the YMCAs, individuals, organizations, foundations and companies, our partners in Europe have assisted an estimated 364,000 people with urgent, mid-term and long-term needs since February 2022.

SOURCES OF 2023 YMCA WORLD SERVICE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS:



In 2023, YMCA World Service strengthened the impact of the following YMCAs, helping to create transformational change in the lives of more than one million people:

AFRICA

- Africa Alliance of YMCAs
- Ethiopia YMCA
- Liberia YMCA
- Madagascar YMCA
- Senegal YMCA
- Sierra Leone YMCA
- South Africa YMCA
- Togo YMCA
- Zimbabwe YMCA

ASIA

- India YMCA
- Myanmar YMCA
- Philippines YMCA
- Sri Lanka YMCA
- Thailand YMCA

LATIN AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN

- Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs
- Bahamas YMCA
- Belize YMCA
- Brazil YMCA
- Cayman Islands YMCA
- Chile YMCA
- Colombia YMCA
- Haiti YMCA
- Honduras YMCA
- Mexico YMCA
- Nicaragua YMCA
- Peru YMCA
- Uruguay YMCA

MIDDLE EAST

- East Jerusalem YMCA
- Jerusalem International YMCA
- Lebanon YMCA

EUROPE

- YMCA Europe*
- Albania YMCA
- Belarus YMCA
- Czech Republic YMCA
- Georgia YMCA
- Iceland YMCA
- Kosovo YMCA
- Macedonia YMCA
- Moldova YMCA
- Portugal YMCA
- Romania YMCA

- Serbia YMCA
- Ukraine YMCA

U.S. YMCA

- Puerto Rico YMCAs
- YMCA of the Seven Council Fires

YMCA CANADA

WORLD YMCA

*YMCA Europe, the regional resource office for national YMCA movements in Europe, coordinates response efforts to support those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

A JUST WORLD:

Global Response to the Crisis in Ukraine



YMCAs across the U.S. continue to share their generous support and solidarity for all those impacted by the war in Ukraine. More than five million people are internally displaced in Ukraine and over six million refugees are seeking a sense of safety and belonging across Europe since February 2022. (World Bank)

Y-USA's World Service Campaign partners with YMCA Ukraine, YMCA Europe and the World YMCA to support the immediate, mid-term and long-term needs of those affected by the ongoing crisis. Over 1,400 supporters have contributed \$4.7 million in technical and financial support to help with the efforts. YMCAs across 30 European countries — including 17 YMCAs still operating within Ukraine — have served close to 364,000 people with mental health services, legal aid, childcare, employment support, transportation, food and much more. Some U.S. YMCAs are also increasing their local efforts to build bridges and integrate refugees with intentional programs and services. For more information, please visit www.ymca.org/Crisis-in-Ukraine

UKRAINE YMCA



“When we gather at the ROUA (YMCA Romanian-Ukrainian Community Development Center), we talk, meet people, and get involved in activities. Here, people understand me and care about me. Together we are stronger.”

— 37-year-old Ukrainian Refugee
YMCA Participant

EXPLORE AN INTERACTIVE MAP OF YMCA UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE PROJECTS:



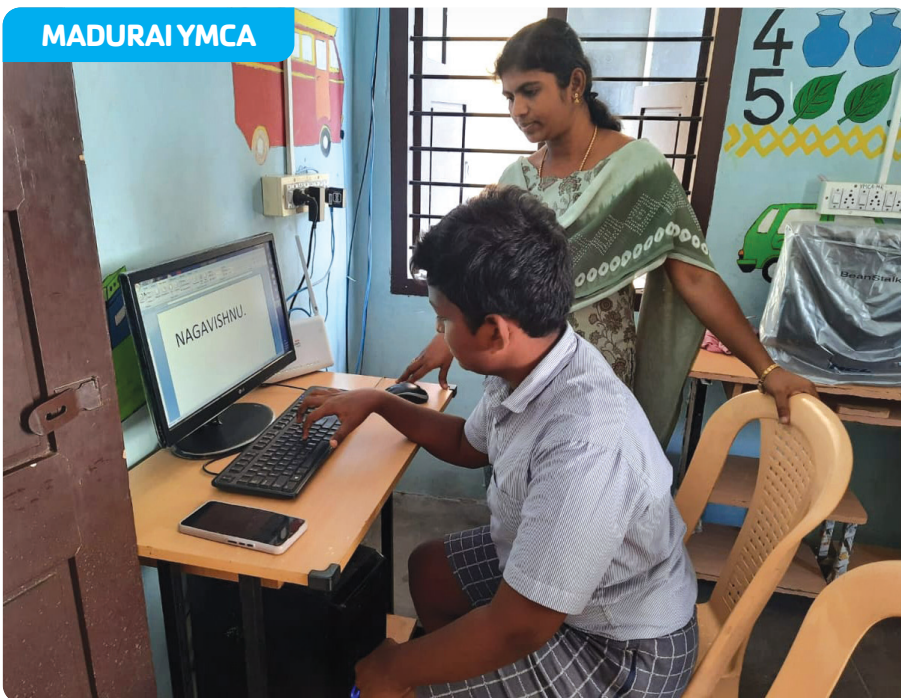
CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

MEANINGFUL WORK:

Career Pathways in Madurai, India and Europe



In a country with severe wealth disparity and lack of quality education, YMCA Madurai responds to a vital need. The YMCA School for the Hearing-Impaired helps young people thrive. From providing speech therapy and computer education in grade school to career guidance and job training for young adults, the Y uplifts youth through each stage of life to help prepare them for meaningful work. With an annual cost of US\$450 per student, the YMCA School provided education for 187 students in 2023.



14-year-old, Naga, learning to type his name at the YMCA School for the Intellectually Disabled, another initiative of the Madurai YMCA.



YMCA Cafe

The YMCA Madurai Café trains and employs students from the YMCA School for the Hearing Impaired as bakers, shopkeepers and managers. These equitable job opportunities provide a fair income that helps support their family and their own socio-economic wellbeing. As they share their talents and potential, they receive respect from the community and grow in self-confidence.

YMCA EUROPE'S CAMPACITY

Over forty young camp leaders from YMCAs throughout Europe and the U.S. met in Chicago in March 2023. Their objective was to share best practices to improve and expand their impact so they can more effectively support Ukrainian refugee youth and populations affected by conflict through camping.

European and U.S. camp leaders will meet again in April 2024 in Spain to further develop their networks and skills in:

- Program Innovation
- Mental Health
- Quality Camp Programs
- Camp Business Models
- Camp Culture
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Peace Building

CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

A SUSTAINABLE PLANET:

Liberia's Youth-led Climate Action



YMCA Liberia is one of 19 YMCA global teams that implemented a Youth-led Solution on Climate Action in 2023. Youth leaders partnered with local government, environmental protection organizations and key community stakeholders to clear up widespread plastic pollution by leading the **50,000 Plastic Bottles Campaign**. In addition, YMCA leaders upcycled the bottles into **eco-bricks**, which will be used to build first-of-its-kind cabins at YMCA Camp Todee in Liberia.

The young leaders have also led a successful climate action camp to educate young people on the importance of protecting the planet.

“Our country is facing a dual challenge: inadequate housing for many of our citizens and the disastrous impact of plastic pollution. The project we are embarking on is to pioneer a solution that addresses both issues simultaneously.”

— Ebenezer Saah Davies
YMCA Youth Leader

CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

COMMUNITY WELLBEING:

Strengthening Mental Health in LAC and the Middle East



COLOMBIA YMCA

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Approximately one in seven young people worldwide experience a mental health disorder, which has grown since the COVID-19 pandemic. To address this challenge, the Latin America and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs (YMCA LAC) piloted “ELEVA,” a program designed to address mental health issues for youth and adults throughout the region.

The pilot program reached 280 youth in Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Uruguay in 2023. It featured workshops on key mental health topics, including understanding and managing emotions and suicide prevention. Participants acquired new knowledge, tools and strategies to face mental health challenges, improving their individual wellbeing and self esteem. The new program also helped reduce the stigma and promoted openness, strengthening the collective wellbeing of the community.

“I admire this program very much because I had never been part of such a beautiful experience. Through training, we could vent. I was able to let go of many things I was going through. Each topic helped me improve my mental health and I learned to let go of my past. It has helped me improve.”

— Young program participant
YMCA Honduras

CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

YMCA World Service and many YMCAs and individuals in the U.S. have been partners with YMCAs throughout the region for decades. Together, they work to promote cooperation and peace, empower young people and provide support for needed social services.

YMCA World Service supporters have contributed more than \$100,000 since October 2023 to assist the humanitarian support services, salaries and operations of the Jerusalem International YMCA (JIY), the East Jerusalem YMCA (EJY) and the YMCA in Lebanon. We will share more updates at www.ymca.org/crisis-holy-land.



JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL

JIY has their preschool and sports center open to serve youth and families of all faiths. JIY is also providing food and hygiene supplies to communities impacted by the crisis.



EAST JERUSALEM

EJY is providing emergency medical services to injured and displaced workers and expanding their community care and services, including psycho-social support by YMCA counselors for youth and families affected by the crisis.



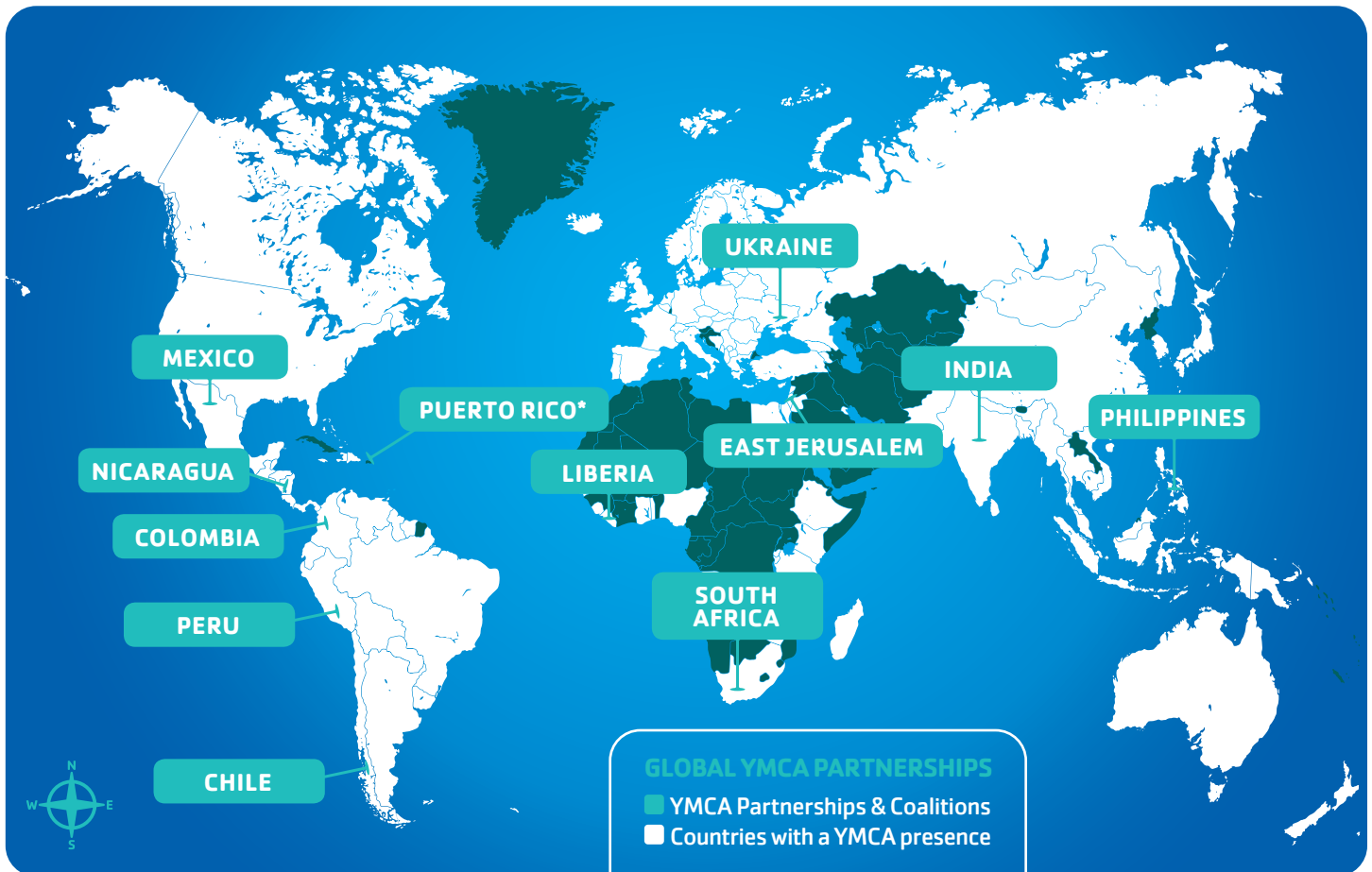
YMCA LEBANON

YMCA Lebanon is delivering medication and providing humanitarian aid to internally displaced families impacted by the crisis, including milk, diapers, hygiene kits, clothing and more.

YMCA-TO-YMCA PARTNERSHIPS & COALITIONS

Y-to-Y partnerships between one U.S. YMCA and one international YMCA and coalitions (multiple YMCAs) strengthen our global Y movement to empower young people and communities. Through collaboration, YMCAs create shared goals and engagement, while learning from each other's culture, demographics, program and local needs.

Local U.S. Ys support their global partners with financial resources and expertise. U.S. Y leaders improve cultural competencies to further their strategic priorities, deepen community relations, advance staff and volunteer development, and innovate programs, partnerships and philanthropy.



LIST OF Y-TO-Y COALITIONS

Chile Coalition YMCA Valparaiso, Chile: 8 U.S. YMCAs

Colombia Coalition YMCA Colombia: 8 U.S. YMCAs

East Jerusalem Coalition East Jerusalem YMCA: 3 U.S. YMCAs

India Coalition YMCA Madurai, India: 4 U.S. YMCAs

Liberia Coalition YMCA Liberia: 3 U.S. YMCAs

Mexico Border Initiative Coalition YMCA Homes for Migrant Youth, Mexico: 7 U.S. YMCAs

Nicaragua Coalition YMCA Nicaragua: 1 Canada YMCA; 1 U.S. YMCA

Peru Coalition YMCA Peru: 5 U.S. YMCAs

Philippines Coalition YMCA Albay and YMCA San Pablo, Philippines: 6 U.S. YMCAs

South Africa Coalition YMCA South Africa: 11 U.S. YMCAs

Ukraine Coalition YMCA Ukraine: 3 U.S. YMCAs

***U.S. Puerto Rico Coalition** YMCA Ponce and YMCA San Juan, Puerto Rico: 11 U.S. YMCAs

2023 YMCA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

We are honored to share special recognition to several of the newest inductees into the National YMCA Hall of Fame, Class of 2023. Their extraordinary leadership and lifelong commitment to the advancement of Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the YMCA is an inspiration to YMCA leaders across the world. Read more about these wonderful leaders at the [YMCA National Hall of Fame](#).



Michael Bussey

- YMCA of Metropolitan Minneapolis
- YMCA of Greater Saint Paul
- Nazareth YMCA (Israel)
- Jerusalem International YMCA (Israel)
- YMCA of the USA



Carolyn Creager

- YMCA of Twin Cities (YMCA of the North)
- YMCA of the USA



Norman Joyner

- YMCA of Montclair
- YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh
- YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
- YMCA of Northwest North Carolina
- YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta
- YMCA of the USA



Marvin Ludwig

- YMCA Camp Highridge
- YMCA of Marion, Ohio
- YMCAs of Ethiopia
- YMCA of the USA



David Mercer

- Mid Valley YMCA
- South Pasadena – San Marino YMCA
- West Valley YMCA
- Los Angeles Metropolitan YMCA
- San Francisco Metropolitan YMCA
- YMCA of the USA



José Rendón

- YMCA of San Antonio and the Hill Country
- YMCA of Greater Houston Area
- Latin American & Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs



Jane Seaver Kirk

- Sloane House YMCA
- Navy YMCA
- Omaha YMCA
- Newark YM-YWCA
- YMCA of the USA

**VISIT THE YMCA
HALL OF FAME:**



YMCA OF THE USA GLOBAL LEGACY SOCIETY / PLANNED GIVING

Sincere thanks to each member of the YMCA Global Legacy Society, whose planned gifts carry on the global mission and cause of the YMCA for many generations. Thank you!

SIERRA LEONE YMCA



“Whether fighting outbreaks, working for peace and reconciliation, helping to improve and enhance the lives of women, families and so much more, the YMCA around the world is worthy of our support today, tomorrow and forever. I am excited to be a member of the YMCA Global Legacy Society because I know the work of the Y around the world will not be completed in my lifetime. This opportunity to serve is too great and I am excited to provide resources to make sure this work continues into the future.”

— Eric J. Daubert
Member, YMCA Global Legacy Society

YMCA OF THE USA GLOBAL LEGACY SOCIETY

We extend our deep appreciation to the members of the YMCA of the USA Global Legacy Society, whose planned gifts will carry on the international mission of the YMCA and continue to strengthen the global YMCA Movement for generations to come. Thank you!

Clark and Carolyn Baker
Harry and Marilyn Brunger
Julie Whelan-Capell
Irvin C. and Edy Chapman
Herbert and Emily Clark
Chris and Susan Coker
Earl and Joyce Collins
Ken and Annette Colloton
Winifred Colton
Erik Daubert and Andrea Miele
Janet and Dave Dawson
Yolanda Deen
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Eileen Stirling
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Mary Tikalsky
Tom Valentine and Kristine Kaeding
Mike Van Haelewyn and Lisa Applegate
Jim and Jeanne Van Houten
Robert R. Wilke

CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT

Planned giving allows you to make an enduring impact on the lives of young people and families through the global mission and cause of the YMCA. It is a simple and meaningful way to combine charitable giving and sound financial planning. There are many ways to have a planned gift strengthen the work of the global YMCA Movement, support transformational initiatives and realize significant financial and tax benefits for you and your loved ones.

Your bequest or planned gift is recognized with a membership in the YMCA of the USA Global Legacy Society. This is YMCA of the USA's way of sharing our appreciation for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

For information on how to complete your estate planning to advance the global work of the YMCA of the USA, please contact your professional advisor and Mary Tikalsky, Director, YMCA World Service, at 630-520-4769 or mary.tikalsky@ymca.net.

This information is not intended to be financial or legal advice. Please consult your personal, qualified advisors as you consider philanthropic contributions.

To make a bequest gift to YMCA of the USA – International Work, please use the following language:

To the YMCA of the USA – International Work, I give _____% or U.S. \$_____ of my residuary estate.

The YMCA of the USA is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization chartered by the state of Illinois. The tax identification number is 36-3258696.

Please feel free to contact us directly at 630 520 4769 for more information about how we can help you with your estate planning. We welcome the opportunity to discuss your goals and share more about this important work of the YMCA of the USA.

For information on how to complete your estate planning to benefit the international work of YMCA of the USA, please consult with both your personal advisor(s) and Y-USA's International Group at 800-872-9622 or worldservice@ymca.net.

This information is not intended to be financial or legal advice. Please consult your personal qualified advisers as you consider philanthropic gifts.

LEBANON YMCA



"I support YMCA World Service because I'm aware of all the wonderful life-changing good effects the organization has on communities around the world. YMCA's impact in the world is unparalleled, and I'm glad I can play a small part helping this work."

— Tom Scarborough
Donor

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT. IT TRULY TRANSFORMS LIVES!

To learn more or contribute:



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