



Building a world where everyone **belongs**

Annual Report 2023

## Directory of L'Arche roles / terms:

### **L'Arche Community:**

People with and without disabilities sharing life in a local neighbourhood within a specific town or city.

### **Core Member:**

A member of a L'Arche community with an intellectual disability.

### **Assistant:**

Members without a disability who assist core members at home, in the community or at work. As members of their community assistants have an active role in the life of their community.

### **Community Leader:**

The director of the community who takes responsibility for overall leadership of the community (may include several homes and daytime programs).

### **Single Communities:**

L'Arche communities belonging to a country where there are fewer than three L'Arche communities, and no national L'Arche structure. They have the specificity to be very diverse in culture, level of wealth, economic context and size.

### **Middle Countries:**

Three to ten L'Arche communities are located in the country, with a national structure.

## **What is a Federation?**

It is "an encompassing political or societal entity formed by uniting smaller or more localized entities: such as a union of organizations."  
[www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

## **What does this mean for L'Arche?**

Each L'Arche community is unique and situated in a particular cultural reality, with its own mandate. But we are also part of something bigger: a mission united around core values that fosters relationships of true belonging among people with and without intellectual disabilities around the world!





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## Letter from Interim Executive Director

### **2023 was a year of transition for L'Arche, and like any good transition it brought both challenges and new opportunities.**

We lived this time together, as networks of people with and without intellectual disabilities supporting each other, learning from each other, and challenging each other to grow. Amidst the challenges we faced as an organization, society continued to call us to be a light and an example of the transformative power of intentional and inclusive relationships, in building a world where everyone belongs.

So, we moved forward with hope and confidence. As a Federation we ratified a new charter and continued to integrate it into day-to-day life in L'Arche.

L'Arche International focused its energy on amplifying voices of people with intellectual disabilities through international representation, empowering L'Arche values, including solidarity and safeguarding, and supporting new ways of engaging the mission. You'll hear more about these initiatives in the pages to come.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to the map on middle insert, illustrating where L'Arche is in the world. As we review the year together, I hope you'll be reminded of the universal relevance of this mission - a grassroots movement that changes people's lives through the simple yet profound experience of belonging.



Sylvain Brabant  
Interim CEO  
L'Arche International

“ **Social connection is a fundamental human need, as essential to survival as food, water, and shelter.** ”

**The U.S. Surgeon General's  
Advisory on the Healing Effects of  
Social Connection and Community**



**Sylvain Brabant**

# Amplifying Voices Through International Representation



L'Arche knows that it is important for members to tell their stories using their own words.



**With** and  
**Without**

In 2023 the L'Arche International "With and Without" campaign listened to the voices of members from across the world.

We sent a small film crew to seven countries to hear stories of what it means to erase the social barriers between persons "with and without disability" in relationships, and in life. We heard the stories of Tatenda and Stella from Zimbabwe, Bilal and friends from Palestine, Tamzin and Nesi from New Zealand, as well as stories from L'Arche in Lithuania, Brazil, Mexico, and Japan. Through this campaign their voices reached over 750,000 people around the world.

[avecetsans.larche.org/en](http://avecetsans.larche.org/en)



Zimbabwe



Palestine



New Zealand



Lithuania



Brasil



Mexico



Japan

We believe that the rights, the voices, and the contributions of people with disabilities are integral to our engagement in the world, and that we are uniquely positioned to amplify their voices through international representation.

“

Disability transcends nationality, social class, race and every other human division. This is reflected in the campaign's message.

”

**Matt Hackworth**  
Director of  
Fundraising  
and Communications  
L'Arche USA



# Tatenda's story



**WATCH NOW**

[bit.ly/tatendas\\_story](https://bit.ly/tatendas_story)

“ I was also happy that we could put our work outside to show people what we do at L'Arche Zimbabwe

”

**Tatenda Chimombe**  
Member of  
L'Arche Zimbabwe



**Tatenda:**  
Hullo everyone. My name is Tatenda Chimombe from L'Arche Zimbabwe. I was part of the "With and Without" campaign which was held last year. This campaign is based on mutual friendships between people with intellectual disabilities and without disabilities. Thankyou.

**Interviewer:**  
How did you feel when you were first approached to be a part of this campaign?

**Tatenda:**  
When I was first approached they came to me and [asked], "do you want to do a project called 'With and Without' campaign?" and I say "Okay" since I love camera. For me it wasn't a difficult issue for me. I am a model by profession.

**Interviewer:**  
Can you tell us more about your experience and what happened when they were filming?

**Tatenda:**  
My experience was both fun and learning also. Since it was my first time being filmed. We had to repeat so many takes so we could do repeats. One scene and they said "again", so I gained a lot and they also taught me how it happened in the films. Another experience with the tools, some of the tools I wasn't familiar with them. I had to learn since everything is being grasped by learning, so I learnt a lot.

**Interviewer:**  
How do you feel about being a part of this campaign which is international?

**Tatenda:**  
I felt excited. I felt excited, and for a moment I was the centre of attention. I was also happy that we could put our work outside to show people what we do at L'Arche Zimbabwe. So, I was happy.

**Interviewer:**  
What did other people say when they saw your movie?

**Tatenda:**  
People when they saw the movie they were excited!! Everyone I see "Ah Tatenda this is you! You did a great job."

**Interviewer:**  
So tell us more about your experience while making the standing frame? What did you need to make the standing frame?

**Tatenda:**  
So, my experience making the standing frame, like as usual we open the workshop and start cleaning the workshop before we work for the day. We also put aside the tools which we want to use for that day. Those tools were a hammer, sandpaper, a measuring ruler. We also need different types of cloths ... so we had different cloths which we had to choose for work. I can say that's it.

**Interviewer:**  
What was it like to see the end product of the standing frame being used by someone else?

**Tatenda:**  
For me seeing the end product being used by someone else for me it made me happy. I am a person who loves seeing people using things that I made. It gives me so much joy and also knowing that, also giving help to other people and also sharing my gifts with other people so I was happy since L'Arche is all about sharing. So I'm grateful I shared one of my gifts.

**Interviewer:**  
Thank you Tatenda.

**Tatenda:**  
*Thank you!*



# Amplifying Voices

Edita Daugėlaitė from Lithuania is a kind and soft-spoken woman. But that doesn't mean she doesn't know what she wants in life!

And as an adult living with an intellectual disability, she was feeling frustrated that she did not have the legal right to make choices that significantly affected her life. So, together with a supportive lawyer and team of people from her L'Arche community in Kaunas, Edita set out to change this situation.

After a tough journey full of ups and downs, on their third attempt they were able to persuade a court to recognize her legal capacity as a citizen! This will surely pave the way for others in Lithuania.

Edita's sharing of her story is an encouragement to people with intellectual disabilities everywhere.

## Edita's story

“ I want to go to work. I want to go into society...”



Watch edita's Incredible story:  
[bit.ly/editas\\_story](https://bit.ly/editas_story)



**ABOVE:**

Outside the court where Edita had her case heard (left) and watching the video of her story for the first time surrounded by members of her community (right).



# Participation in the UN



## CRPD

**As an international human rights treaty, the CRPD reaffirms that all people with disabilities must be holders of all human rights and freedoms, and that there should not exist barriers in society that limit their participation.**



## COSP

**The COSP is the largest joint-work gathering by people with disabilities and their allies - this UN led partnership includes civil society and government representatives from around the world.**

Our charter declares we live our mission more fully by being part of - and learning from - the societies where we are located.

This is relevant at the local, national, and international levels. Towards the end of 2023 L'Arche International launched a new focus area of work - international partnerships. One area of this work is our growing participation at the United Nations (UN).

L'Arche has been recognized with consultative status by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2015 - this means our community of members hold the right and responsibility to share our experience and our voice in the shared work of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in partnership with the Council.

L'Arche does this by responding to calls for consultation, through reports to the UN, and by sharing in mutual learning with others around the globe.

In 2023 we led a delegation to the Conference of States Parties (COSP) - at this annual conference held at the UN Headquarters in New York City, hundreds of participants from countries around the world discuss priorities, challenges, investments, and advancements that impact daily life for over one billion people with disability.

Participation in the COSP also brought the opportunity to socially network and to expand our knowledge and contacts by meeting many friends and exploring future partnerships.

“ Our voices are being heard at the table and at different tables, where everything can be more inclusive, with more awareness, and more participation, where everybody can take part. ”

## Solidarity - Gathering the Federation

# Empowering L'Arche Values

In this section we'd like to highlight how the L'Arche International structure fostered two of the values expressed in our charter – solidarity (interdependence), and safeguarding.

## IFA 2023

**In 2023 we organized our first ever online International Federation Assembly (IFA), gathering members from the 37 countries over three days for encounters and celebrations.**

This was an important opportunity to share best practices in making online meetings inclusive and participatory.

It was also a way to create connectivity amidst the L'Arche family, across countries and cultures, providing encouragement as well as birthing initiatives of concrete mutual support.



**This virtual experience demonstrated that, even at a distance, solidarity and commitment to inclusion can transcend borders, paving the way for a more inclusive and egalitarian future for all the world's communities.**

**Community Leader  
L'Arche Burkina Faso**



## Solidarity

Showing unity and support for other member communities of L'Arche who are living challenging situations. This support can go in any direction and involves much more than finances.



## Evaluation and Learning

L'Arche International Evaluation and Learning team facilitated important data collection during the planning process and execution of the online Assembly. This helped us identify both successes and areas for improvement, particularly in our ability to be inclusive during online gatherings. This type of learning is essential for us to continue to genuinely align our values and our actions.





## Solidarity – Formations and Exchanges

“ This training strengthened my skills in the day-to-day activities at L'Arche, and gave me courage and hope.”

**Emmanuel, Assistant  
L'Arche Burkina Faso**



Throughout the year we facilitate formation programs, we send experienced L'Arche members to support other communities, and we coordinate volunteer and exchange experiences.

## Formations

This year, in Latin America the Envoys facilitated a year-long formation program for local leaders and assistants covering topics such as safeguarding and the prevention of abuse; managing challenging behavior; and behavioral supports and interventions.

L'Arche communities in Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso benefited from a Relationship Based Care formation created through close collaboration between L'Arche International and the local L'Arche leadership.

L'Arche International also offered various formation programs to community leaders and assistants from Latin America, Asia and Africa, such as "Key Elements of a Healthy L'Arche Community."

**Nurturing relationships across regions, countries and cultures in L'Arche allows us to share wisdom and good practice, solve problems together, and learn from our mistakes. These connections open us to a wider vision, greater solidarity, and awareness of our responsibility for the life of the Federation.**

## Exchanges

We organized the sending of eight international volunteers to four L'Arche communities in Latin America and Asia, providing much needed support.

Exchange and training experiences within L'Arche also proved to be very beneficial for several communities. For example, the new community leader of L'Arche Mymensingh, Bangladesh participated in a six month learning experience with L'Arche New Zealand.



## Evaluation and Learning

L'Arche International Evaluation and Learning team is supporting an evaluation process to better understand the impacts of International's formation efforts over the past decade. This is one step toward a discernment period to identify the formation and networking needs of the Federation and how to meet them going forward.

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L'ARCHE

# The International Fedd



CANADA

## CA CANADA

- Abitibi-Temiscamingue
- Antigonish
- Arnrior
- Avalon\*
- Calgary
- Cape Breton
- Capitale-Nationale
- Comox Valley
- Daybreak
- Edmonton
- Fredericton\*
- Greater Vancouver
- Halifax
- Hamilton
- Homefires
- Lanaudière
- Le Printemps
- Lethbridge
- London
- Mauricie
- Montréal
- Montréal
- Ottawa
- Outaouais
- Saint John
- Saskatoon
- Stratford
- Sudbury Inc
- Toronto
- Winnipeg Inc.

## us USA

- Atlanta
- Boston North
- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Clinton
- Erie
- Fort Collins\*
- Frederick\*
- Greater Washington DC
- Heartland
- Jacksonville
- Long Island
- Metro Richmond\*
- Michiana\*
- North Carolina\*
- Portland
- Seattle
- Spokane
- St Louis
- Syracuse
- Tacoma
- Twin Cities\*
- Wavcrest



USA



IRELAND

## IE IRELAND

- Cork
- Dublin
- Kilkenny

## XI NORTHERN IRELAND

- Belfast

## ES SPAIN

- El Rusc
- Els Avets
- Madrid\*

## GB GREAT BRITAIN

- Bognor Regis
- Brecon
- Edinburgh
- Highland
- Ipswich
- Kent
- Liverpool
- London
- Manchester
- Nottingham\*
- Preston

## BE BELGIUM

- Antwerpen
- Aywaille
- Bierges
- Bruxelles
- Gent
- Moerkerke-Brugge
- Namur

## HT HAITI

- Carrefour
- Chantal

## DO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- Santo Domingo

## MX MEXICO

- Mexico City
- Querétaro

## HN HONDURAS

- Choluteca
- Tegucigalpa



HAITI

## FR FRANCE

- Agenais
- Aigrefoin
- Aix en Provence\*
- Anjou
- Beauvais
- Brest
- Clermont Ferrand
- Cognac
- Cuise
- Dijon
- Ecorchebeur
- Grasse
- Grenoble
- Haute Savoie
- La Belle Porte
- La Merci
- La Ruiselée
- La Vallée
- Le Caillou Blanc
- Le Havre\*
- Le Levain
- Le Moulin de l'Auro
- Le Sénévé
- Le Sycomore
- Les Sapins
- Les Trois Fontaines
- L'Horizon
- Lille Métropole
- L'Olivier
- Lyon
- Marseille
- Martinique\*
- Nancy
- Orléans\*
- Paris
- Pays Comtois
- Pays Toulousain
- Pierrefonds
- Reims
- Strasbourg
- Trosly
- Val-de-Marne\*

BURKINA FASO



IVORY COAST



BRAZIL

## BR BRAZIL

- Sao Paulo
- Sorocaba

## AR ARGENTINA

- Buenos Aires

# 37 Countries, 160 communities



# Generation of L'Arche Communities



ities and 20+ emerging sites

# Highlights from communities continued...



## India

All five communities in India developed their outreach work this year, providing essential developmental therapy and nutritional support. Even more importantly they helped 55 families (approximately 250 people) see their family member with a disability in a new light. This helps families grow in understanding, love, and support for their family member.

## Philippines

Through the financial support of the Federation, L'Arche Punla was able to provide transportation to several families who otherwise could not afford to attend the day program, bringing much-needed vitality to individuals and their families.



## Kenya

In addition to running two homes and several daytime programs, L'Arche Kenya was able to serve nearly 600 children and youth with disabilities through education, health support, assistive devices, therapy services, advocacy, livelihood improvements, and community mobilization.



## Bangladesh

The community has successfully transitioned to a new, locally-born community leader this year, and further strengthened its leadership team. They have also continued to provide essential support to families in the neighborhood, including soap, laundry detergent and food. Inflation has been a heavy burden on many families in Bangladesh, and L'Arche has become a place of hope and support for many.



In nearly all of these situations, L'Arche is the only organization providing support for, and building community with, people with disabilities and their families. These are truly ground-breaking, life-changing initiatives, each growing from its specific, local context.



The core members were very instrumental in creating rapport with beneficiaries and providing a source of inspiration and support to families of persons with intellectual disabilities.



## Uganda

With the support of friends and financial partners, the community was able to complete the first phase of a deep well water project!



## Dominican Republic

The community has responded to the great needs around them by launching an initiative to increase the number of people with intellectual disabilities that they can welcome into the daytime programming by 60. The work began in 2023 with a capital campaign to invest in necessary infrastructure (large capacity kitchen, rooms for activities).



## Zimbabwe

The community provided occupational and physiotherapy services to over 300 children with intellectual disabilities. The children with disabilities were from poor communities in four high-density areas in Harare. The Outreach Team is comprised of core members, assistants, and therapists. The core members were very instrumental in creating rapport with beneficiaries and providing a source of inspiration and support to the families.



## Haiti

The country of Haiti continues to be in a serious political and institutional crisis. Amidst this very difficult context, L'Arche communities are an oasis of hope, support and friendship. Community members appreciate the therapeutic aspects of working in the vegetable gardens or being part of the learning centre.





L'Arche Mexico





## Honduras

Working with a local partner, the Choluteca community has established an art workshop open to people with and without intellectual disabilities in the city, designed to both create art and change perceptions. This year they've had over 380 participants. Similarly, the Tegucigalpa community has a program called "Changing Perspectives" which works with Universities to invite students to volunteer and participate in L'Arche.



## Al Minia, Egypt

L'Arche continues with great energy and enthusiasm, with all members engaged in the mission. They have established a strong presence in the local area through family outreach programs, their guest house / conference centre, sales of products, and new this year art and theatre groups!



“ Thanks to these painting workshops my daughter feels happy. Every morning that we go she tells me 'I like it'. ”  
**Mother of a participant in the Choluteca paint workshop**



## Bouaké, Ivory Coast

In 2023, L'Arche in Bouaké supported 48 people with intellectual disabilities and their families. A motorbike allows L'Arche assistants to reach families living in remote areas and areas of great need.



## Burkina Faso

This year the community strengthened its socio-economic activities, including gardening, soap production and handicrafts. These successes have boosted self-esteem and strengthened the local income of L'Arche.

# Empowering L'Arche Values

## Emergency Response

**It is well recognized that in times of emergency, whatever the cause, persons with intellectual disabilities form one of the most vulnerable groups.**

**It is extremely important that L'Arche doors remain open during these times. Unfortunately, as was the case in Ukraine and in Palestine, sources of local income and fundraising are often abruptly cut off. Emergency funds are an important way the Federation of L'Arche communities work together to make sure the mission continues when and where it is most needed.**

## Update from Bethlehem

As the community leader of L'Arche Bethlehem describes, "one day everything went upside down. All of a sudden, we found ourselves in an active war." And with conflict all around them, the dangers were real and present. But the L'Arche community knew this was even more reason why they could not close their doors.

If the L'Arche members with intellectual disabilities could not come to L'Arche each day, they would instead very often be on the streets, and at risk of getting caught up in the conflict. It was also very important to gather as a community to support one another during this shocking and scary time. But with almost all of the local sources of income being immediately cut off... it was through the solidarity of L'Arche around the world that they were able to keep their doors open and continue living the mission!

“

One day everything went upside down. All of a sudden, we found ourselves in an active war.

”

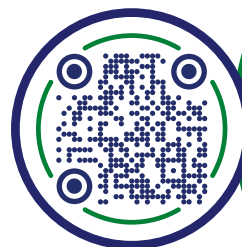
**Mahera Ghareeb  
Community Leader  
L'Arche Bethlehem**



## Watch Bilal's story:

**How selling handmade wool items funded food for hospital patients, strengthening their community.**

**[bit.ly/palestine\\_bilal](https://bit.ly/palestine_bilal)**



**WATCH NOW**

**LEFT: Picture taken in the L'Arche Palestine daytime program before the conflict escalated**





# Reem's family interview



**PICTURED ABOVE/BELOW** Products made from wool are an integral part of workshop life at L'Arche Ma'an lil-Hayat which translates as 'Together for Life'.



## How does the L'Arche workshop help Reem at this time?

The work that Reem is involved in at Ma'an helps her gain skills and capabilities and to work with love. At this time, the community of Ma'an provides Reem with a place where Core Members can feel safe and secure away from tension and worrying.

## What would Reem be doing if she were not able to come to the L'Arche workshop?

Reem loves to be at Ma'an with her friends. Every day, she wakes up full of energy and prepares herself to go to the center. When she doesn't go to the center, she feels sad, upset and she becomes unhappy. She then spends her time either sleeping or playing on the phone for long periods of time. Sometimes, she decides to draw especially when she knows that she will be able to show her artwork to her friends when the center reopens its doors.

## What difference does it make to your family, that your daughter can come to the L'Arche workshop each day?

The community of Ma'an has had a positive impact on Reem. We have noticed that attending the center has helped Reem feel calmer and she is able to concentrate for longer periods of time. She also knows how to interact with others thanks to the different events and activities that the community organizes and the positive role that the staff of Ma'an plays in her life. The community also helped her develop her artistic skills by constantly encouraging her and involving her in art competitions.

## Reem holding one of her drawings



## Do you have a message you would like to share with L'Arche supporters in other countries?

We wish that the supporters of L'Arche would know that the presence of Ma'an Lil-Hayat and its staff is crucial in the life of Reem. The administration and staff of Ma'an considers Reem like a family member and even more.





## Update from Lviv and Ternopil, Ukraine

The year 2023 was challenging as they had constant interruptions of electricity, heat, and water. It was difficult to predict how the situation would unfold, and the constant threat of danger was a heavy burden. The community's house in Lviv continued to be a safe home for 15 adult and 6 child refugees.

Despite all the challenges, the communities had an active year, with regular daytime programs full of joyful moments together. They made candles to be sent to the front lines. They made 300kg of dumplings which were shared with hundreds of people in need. They also organized therapy and psychological support for core members and parents.

The overall impact of a supportive community like this on people's health and well-being can not be overestimated! And none of it could have happened without the support of L'Arche and its friends and supporters!



“ I want to thank you for the great support, which is very, very necessary and important for us now, in the time of war.

”  
**Mother of a long term L'Arche member in Kovcheh**

## Building Bridges in Times of War



Link to a video describing how L'Arche continues to "build bridges" even in times of war:

[bit.ly/building\\_bridges\\_lviv](https://bit.ly/building_bridges_lviv)



“ Thank you that with your help I can make candles, tight the wicks, have the paraffin for candles.

Thank you that with your help I can cook for my friends on the workshop.

I wish you health, so that you don't get sick anymore. I invite you to visit us!

”  
**Vasyl Kravets**



# Empowering L'Arche Values

## Safeguarding

Maintaining high standards in the daily life of L'Arche communities around the world is a central concern.

### Study Commission:

The beginning of 2023 was a difficult moment for the organization as the Study Commission released their full report on the findings of the psychological hold and sexual abuse committed by Jean Vanier and Thomas Philippe. We were collectively shocked and deeply affected by what was uncovered. Yet, we continue to believe that what we have lost in certainty we will gain in maturity, and that L'Arche must continue with greater justice and freedom.

### Federation wide safeguarding:

L'Arche has built a strong Federation-wide safeguarding framework, inspired by UK standards. Based on this shared framework, L'Arche International facilitates an evaluation of each L'Arche community every three years. The second evaluation was launched in 2023, and resulted in improvement plans in each community. A summary report of the Federation will be released in 2024 along with a shared toolbox of best practices.

### iReport:

The iReport team is active and is responding to any contemporary situations that require investigation. Currently they work with local third-party partners on the ground in the respective countries. They will continue to contract quality independent consultants as needed.

### Standing with victims:

We continue to stand with the victims, and we are committed to doing whatever we can to support them. As part of this effort L'Arche has joined the Commission for Recognition and Reparation in France.

[www.reconnaissancereparation.org](http://www.reconnaissancereparation.org)



### Evaluation and Learning

The Evaluation and Learning team built an application in the CRM to manage the safeguarding evaluation results and use the data to produce summary information for the final report.



# Supporting New Ways of Engaging the Mission

## Strategic Support

As L'Arche continues to grow around the world, L'Arche International has a role to play in supporting our communities who are discovering new ways of living the mission. One example is family outreach.

Many of our single communities have discovered that "family outreach" is a powerful way to reach people with intellectual disabilities in their local context. It came about organically as L'Arche communities saw great need and often very dire circumstances for people with intellectual disabilities in their neighbourhoods. They felt compelled to do something even if they had very limited resources. And as they began visiting families, they discovered even more families with a member with a disability, often hidden away.

Whether on bicycle, scooter, or foot, members of L'Arche communities, usually in pairs, go out and support families. They first and foremost bring their supportive presence to the family, so the family no longer feels alone or ashamed. They also invite families to experience a new perspective, one that values and respects their family member with intellectual disabilities.

Very often the outreach teams bring practical help such as physiotherapy exercises, food, or medical provisions.

Family outreach reduces isolation and increases love and respect for people with intellectual disabilities.

“

The main focus is on people in the neighborhood with disabilities and we try to advocate for their rights. We restore dignity and raise their self-esteem.

”

**Joseph Wanjohi**  
Community Engagement  
Officer  
L'Arche Kenya





This support provided the opportunity for the four communities to learn from each other, improve their plans, and project a realistic three-year budget.

## Strategic support to increase impact

The International Delegate for Africa, together with the responsible envoys, supported four L'Arche single communities; L'Arche Ivory Coast; L'Arche Kenya; L'Arche Zimbabwe and L'Arche AL Fulk, Egypt, through an intensive strategic planning process in order to submit a joint application to a major French funder the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in support of family outreach work.

The team facilitated a multi-day workshop with each of the four communities to guide them through the process of organizing their dreams and goals for increasing local outreach into a presentable plan with clear and measurable outputs and outcomes.

The work provided the opportunity for the four communities to learn from each other, improve their plans, and project a realistic three-year budget.

**This led to a 3-year, 550K grant to empower the family outreach work in four L'Arche communities in Africa.**

Now that the funds have been granted, a member of L'Arche International will support the communities to track the responsibilities and intended outcomes of the grant.

At the end of three years, if the work has been successful, there will be the opportunity to apply for two more three-year grants.

### Interview

Paul Nderitu, a member of Betania house in L'Arche Kenya talks about what it means for him to participate in the family outreach work.

**What are some of your favourite things to do as part of the Family Outreach program?**



*"I love supporting assistants in mobilizing the foodstuffs."*

## Meet Paul Nderitu

**Why is it important for you to do this work?**



*"The Community has a chance to help people with disability by visiting them and learning from them."*

**Has participating in the family outreach program helped you build friendships with other people?**



*"I love going to awareness for I get to invite the church community to visit L'Arche."*

L'Arche Kenya



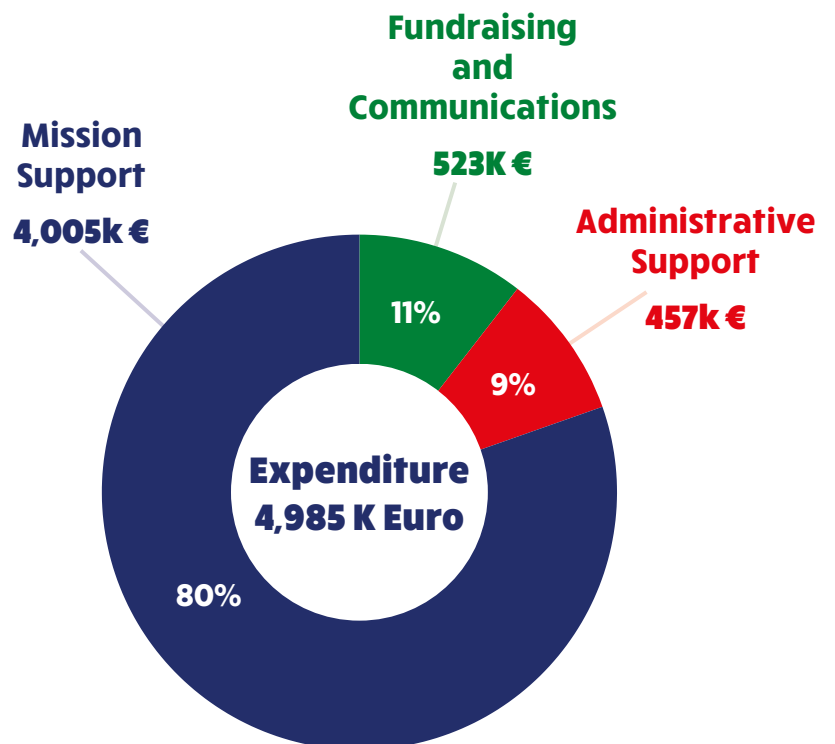
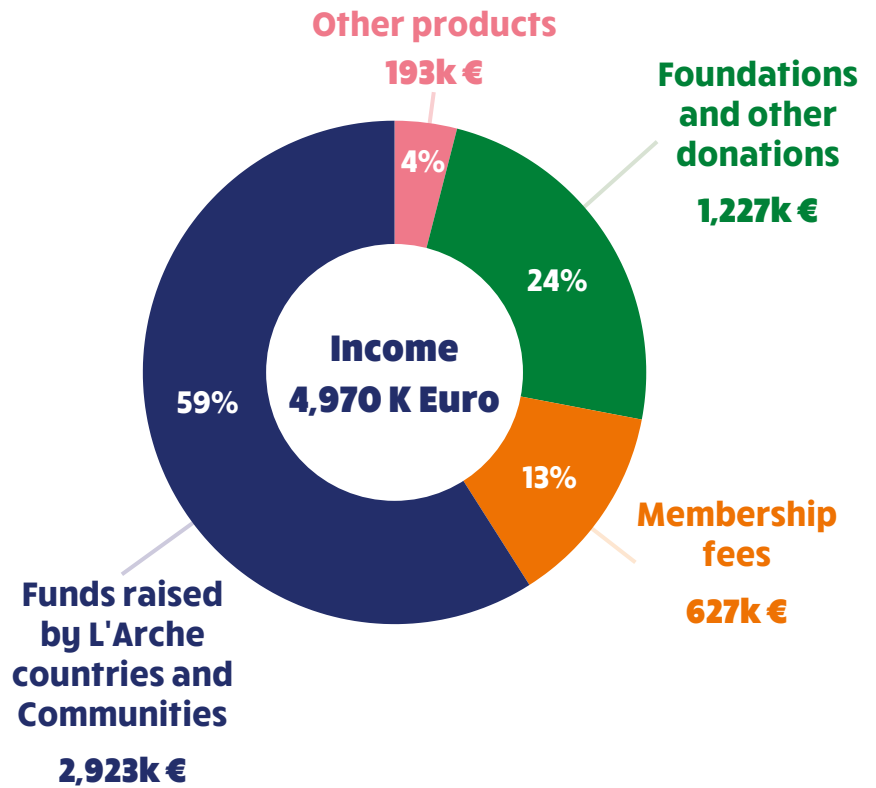
Nairobi

# Our finances at a glance

As we look back at all the ways the mission of L'Arche around the world was empowered through the L'Arche International budget, we are deeply grateful to each person and entity that made it possible!

Again this year our communities located in the developing world struggled through dramatic inflation and economic downturn, exasperating the already vulnerable situation for people with intellectual disabilities. Financial aid, emergency funds and our infrastructure of human support continue to make up the majority of the budget. And this made a real difference for thousands of people in 2023!

L'Arche International also stewarded this budget to be able to amplify the voices of people with intellectual disabilities internationally, empower L'Arche values such as safeguarding, and support new ways of engaging the mission.



Thank you!



# Innovation

2023

## Mexico:

L'Arche Querétaro is planning to open a boutique store in the downtown area. They will sell their artistic handicrafts, together with six other entrepreneurship that have persons with intellectual disabilities at the heart. The store will employ two people with intellectual disabilities who will tend to the store, together with people without disabilities.



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## Zimbabwe:

This year L'Arche Zimbabwe launched a new aspect of their horticultural program. The project provided an exciting venture for the core members who were involved in setting up a greenhouse, planting, and nurturing tomatoes, as well as selling them.



## Egypt:

Two L'Arche communities in Egypt have created theatre groups. Theatre is a new experience for most of the people involved, and each person is learning, growing, and having a lot of fun. The L'Arche Guesr Al Farah community based in Cairo has already given performances in several places around the country, which were very well received.



“

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“  
We care for each other,  
we forgive each other,  
we learn. Come!  
Support us and discover  
what we do.

”

**Joela Valente Morales**  
Core member L'Arche Mexico City

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