

# 100 Years of Healing and Hope

CNEWA

100

a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support serving the churches  
and peoples of the Middle East • Northeast Africa • India • Eastern Europe



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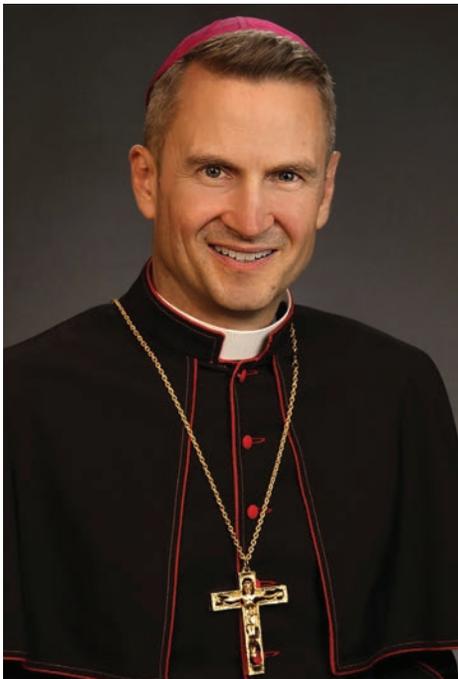


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**Catholic Near East Welfare Association has been building community for 100 years. *This fellowship spans continents; bridges divisions in age, caste, class, color, income, language, politics, race and religion; joins generations, living and those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.***

United in purpose, this global CNEWA community advances the common good through the men and women of the dynamic Eastern churches: priests, religious and laity. Since their founding by the apostles, these communities of faith have formed the backbone and provided the lifeblood for so many who seek consolation, healing and hope with open hearts and minds throughout the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

Since its founding by Pope Pius XI in 1926, this fellowship formed by CNEWA — thanks to the generosity of generations of its friends and benefactors — has made a powerful impact on the people we have served, walking side by side with them in times troubled and tranquil; praying with them when they were attacked; comforting them when they grieved; feeding them when they hungered; bandaging them when they bled; sheltering them when they had no place to call home.

CNEWA's mission is simple: to reach out to the forgotten and care for the vulnerable, in heart, mind, body and soul. We strive to be an agent of healing and hope, to follow the command of Jesus to “go and do likewise” and help bind the wounds of a broken world.

But how? **CNEWA is rooted in the communities we are called to serve.**

Quietly and efficiently, the women and men who form our regional teams in Addis Ababa, Amman, Asmara, Beirut, Ernakulam and Jerusalem — and those with whom we have established close partnerships in Armenia, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine — have longstanding relationships with the churches and peoples we support as they hail from the very communities of faith we serve for the common good of all.

CNEWA is not a massive global relief agency dependent on funds and emergency supplies donated by governments that increasingly weaponize humanitarian aid as part of their growing “zeal for war,” as stated by Pope Leo.

CNEWA depends on the generosity and shared humanity of people of faith united by a common purpose, mission and vision. This includes initiating, developing and nurturing strategic partnerships with other like-minded organizations, including church-affiliated aid agencies in Europe and Asia, including the Caritas network; chivalric groups, such as the Order of Malta and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; and



fraternal organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus.

“We don’t help people because they’re Christian,” said one of the religious sisters with whom we work. “We help because we are.”

This faith in action is evident in our many programs in the Middle East and Eastern Europe caring for mothers and their children, where sisters and lay people alike join forces to create the much-vaunted “village” for those who have little support, few options and have survived trafficking or abuse. In Ethiopia, where years of civil war and drought have exposed families to violence and hunger, students in schools count on the healthy meals made available to them thanks to our friends and benefactors.

This spirit of fellowship is present in the parish communities with whom we are blessed to support, sacred spaces serving as beacons of healing and hope. We support the formation of priests, religious sisters and brothers as well as lay catechists, chaplains, teachers and social service administrators.

These are CNEWA’s “boots on the ground,” brave men and women in Ukraine, for example, who provide the sacraments and the counsel that nourish the hearts, minds and souls of a war-weary population, civilian and in uniform.

Thanks to this global community, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay leaders are armed — not with weapons of death — but with the academic, pastoral and spiritual tools that, forged by faith, promote the dignity of life as commanded by the Gospel.

In the years **2023** and **2024** (unaudited financials for 2025 are not yet available), CNEWA distributed a total of **\$44,491,627** to support works that build up the church, address human needs, rush emergency relief and educate our CNEWA community of friends and benefactors about the challenges facing the peoples and churches we serve. Together, CNEWA’s global community is building up the church, affirming human dignity, alleviating poverty, encouraging dialogue and inspiring hope.

## WE BUILD THE CHURCH

Pope Pius XI founded CNEWA to provide for the Eastern churches to help care for their communities. The Eastern churches cannot survive without those who choose to serve the Lord and his people as priests, religious brothers and sisters, lay catechists and community leaders.

**Central to our commitment is concern for leadership development.** This allows our programs to be administrated by informed and caring men and women who are intimately familiar with the challenges faced by their local communities, and whose attention and sensitivity to these issues strengthen their relationships with their program beneficiaries.

CNEWA also helps pastors and religious sisters with their pastoral work, which include university chaplaincies, prison ministries, summer Bible camps for youth, and counseling for refugees, migrants and the displaced.

CNEWA committed **\$7,039,807** in 2023 and **\$7,538,772** in 2024 to help form men as priests, and women and men to serve as religious sisters and brothers, respectively, as well as supporting the pastoral work of the churches, including programs of catechesis and formation in Catholic social teaching for the youth, which in 2024 included **117,659 youth**.

In 2024, this includes subsidizing the formation of seminarians and novices in regions facing steep challenges, such as the **12 seminarians** studying at St. Peter's

Seminary, the last functioning seminary in Iraq, and the **172 men** studying for the priesthood in Ukraine, where priests and religious not only minister to congregants in churches, but on the field of battle. While vocations to religious life are not as strong in India as in years past, CNEWA subsidized the formation of **283** Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara women in preparation for their lives as sisters.



## WE RESPOND TO HUMAN NEEDS

CNEWA supports the leadership of the Eastern churches as they address the profound human needs enveloping them. Although these challenges may seem insurmountable, CNEWA remains unwavering in support, ensuring the churches' responses have the capacity to be effective and sustainable.

Our regional teams engage deeply, listening and dialoguing with church leaders, who are at the forefront of their communities' child care initiatives, social services programs, health care efforts and sustainability development projects. Many of these programmatic efforts address the drivers of human trafficking that plague the regions where CNEWA serves: conflict and insecurity, environmental degradation, socioeconomic decline and the evaporation of foreign aid.

Through careful review and assessment, we work in lockstep to meet these critical needs. The total amount committed for all these works in 2023 and 2024 was **\$18,416,859**.

### Child Care Initiatives

**For decades, CNEWA has focused on child care initiatives.** These programs offer education, health care and a safe and warm environment for children exposed to endemic poverty, familial or community strife or special needs. These initiatives of the church offer a place where all children can experience the necessary conditions for genuine growth among peers, thanks to highly trained and dedicated teachers, sisters and support staff. In their faces, we see a world of possibility and hope — and CNEWA is passionately devoted to ensuring the children in the world we serve will know a better tomorrow.

CNEWA provided **\$3,048,651** in 2023 and **\$3,764,810** in 2024 for child care activities. In 2024 specifically, these activities benefited **82,067 students** in Catholic educational programs and **1,522 children** with special needs. These include:

- Care of H.I.V./AIDS-affected children at the Kidane Mehret Children's Home in Ethiopia
- Socio-psychological counseling for children impacted by the trauma of war administered by Caritas Ukraine
- Support and care for young girls facing psychological, emotional and social challenges at the Beit Mariam girls' home in Al-Hashemi, Jordan



- Agriculture and farming training programs to help children become self-sufficient in Ethiopia and Eritrea
- Educational activities, extracurricular programming, career counseling and other forms of support for Palestinian students whose educations have been interrupted by the war
- Nutrition programs and educational support for impoverished, malnourished and orphaned children attending Catholic schools in Ethiopia
- School programs promoting peace, religious tolerance and social justice to Israeli youth in Haifa and Nazareth
- Educational support for girls living in dangerous circumstances in Adrigat, Ethiopia, helping them build independence and escape potential trafficking and abuse
- Offering vulnerable single mothers and their children health care and other opportunities through St. Barbare Mother and Child Center run by Caritas Georgia.



## Outreach to the Vulnerable and Marginalized

### **The care for the least fortunate among us lies at the core of CNEWA's mission.**

From offering workshops and immediate aid to **20,289 refugees** in 2024 to supporting vocational training programs that same year for **5,334 vulnerable people**; from providing heating fuel and blankets and winter coats to elderly pensioners to funding counseling clinics for survivors of human trafficking to supporting prison ministry impacting the lives of **10,200 incarcerated men and women**, CNEWA's network of friends and benefactors enabled us to allocate **\$3,812,213** in 2023 and **\$3,880,652** in 2024 in support of programs that respond to the needs of the marginalized, including:

- Empowering women across many regions with job skills training and support for all stages of life, from schoolgirls to single mothers to elder care
- Offering prisoners in Ethiopia literacy and educational programs to reduce recidivism rates
- Funding elder care centers run by the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate in Lebanon
- Helping exploited migrant workers living in Jordan secure social support and legal aid at the Pontifical Mission Community Center in Amman
- Improving the welfare of asylum seekers in Ethiopia through programs administered by Jesuit Refugee Services
- Providing comprehensive dental care to war refugees through mobile clinics in Lviv, Ukraine
- Bringing both job skills workshops and hygiene support to impoverished women in rural India
- Feeding elderly, disabled and homeless people at soup kitchens run by Caritas Georgia
- Distributing heating supplies and home care for the elderly in Armenia and Ukraine
- Supporting addiction rehabilitation centers and shelters for those with special needs in Ukraine.

## Health Care Efforts

For those of us who can easily visit an emergency room or urgent care center whenever we fall ill, the idea of traveling hundreds of miles to the nearest hospital or clinic might seem unimaginable. For countless poor and marginalized people around the world, however, this is simply their reality of life.

Amidst the hardship where we serve, **CNEWA is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of many people in need of medicine**, for the body and the mind.

We fund hospitals, medical clinics, dispensaries and other essential health care providers administered by the Eastern churches, allocating **\$1,323,285** in 2023 and **\$1,579,494** in 2024 for health care activities, which in 2024 alone assisted **239,805** people in hospital and **1,601 elderly** receiving home health care. Apart from helping providers purchase medical equipment and medication, **we help keep their doors open by combating staff retention problems by covering operational costs with salary subsidies** in regions facing severe economic crises.

## Sustainability Development Projects

CNEWA's regional teams and partners evaluate potential projects by **considering the capacity of the community to develop, execute and manage each responsibly**. They collaborate with community leaders to ensure viability and fiscal sustainability, short- and long-term impact, commitment to the common good, and environmental stewardship, ensuring fiscal transparency, accountability and the protection of children and all vulnerable people.

CNEWA provided **\$352,097** in funds for capacity-building projects in 2023 and **\$655,657** in 2024, which that year alone included **72 projects** involving construction, renovation or equipment supply.





## WE RUSH EMERGENCY RELIEF

The story of CNEWA began during the fallout of the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian, Imperial Russian and Ottoman empires after the “war to end all wars,” World War I. Much of Europe and southwest Asia — the “Near East” in the English of the time — was caught up the socio-political and demographic turbulence, which included the uprooting and mass expulsion of vulnerable communities, genocide, revolution and civil war. The global Catholic community experienced the horrors of the time, and its leaders and members rallied in support of the suffering displaced by war and oppression.

In 1926, Pope Pius XI combined several initiatives to address these challenges and established CNEWA, which began its work addressing the emergency needs of the traumatized in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In 1949, in response to the first Arab-Israeli war and the forced exodus of more than 700,000 Palestinians from their communities, Pope Pius XII charged the leadership of CNEWA with a special task force, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, to coordinate and rush worldwide Catholic care for the refugees. Entrusted to CNEWA for its administration and direction, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine launched emergency relief efforts in Beirut, Jerusalem and Amman.

Crisis management has been in CNEWA’s DNA since its inception. While not set up as an emergency relief organization, the human-made tragedies of war and social strife and the environmental and natural calamities that

have impacted, in particular, Ethiopia, Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and Ukraine have compelled it to retool so as to respond to the grave needs of the people served by the Eastern churches.

CNEWA’s global community has responded, generously, quickly and constantly, providing **\$4,609,430** in funds in 2023 and **\$3,379,654** in 2024 for emergency relief, including help in 2024 to **40,146 people** for:

- Emergency food packages and potable water for those affected by war in Gaza
- Milk, diapers, temporary housing and other essential aid for earthquake survivors in Syria
- Humanitarian aid and ongoing psychosocial support for those affected by the war in Ukraine, especially children and families, provided through Caritas Ukraine.

## WE INFORM AND INSPIRE

One of the foundational mandates entrusted to CNEWA by Pius XI is the education of its friends and benefactors about the churches, peoples and cultures of the world of the Eastern churches, including the societal challenges affecting these communities of faith for the last 100 years.

For more than half of the CNEWA century, CNEWA's flagship magazine, **ONE**, has provided its print and online readers with helpful and hopeful insights on the communities we are privileged to serve, its feature stories, essays and assorted multimedia repeatedly earning acclaim from the Catholic Media Association as among the best in Catholic journalism.

CNEWA's family of websites in English, French, Italian and Spanish brings to audiences worldwide the richness of the peoples and communities we support, the spirit of the faith communities that serve them and opportunities for readers to learn more and to engage deeper.

In 2023, CNEWA provided **\$1,735,440** and **\$1,771,665** in 2024 in support of these public awareness activities, as well as other public awareness programs in the countries we serve as mandated by the Holy See.



## 2024 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Contributions	\$7,493,443	\$5,913,992	\$13,407,491	\$17,133,132
Grants from funding agencies	90,000	6,267,340	6,357,340	6,020,728
Collections	1,435,315	–	1,435,315	1,380,802
Legacies and bequests	2,586,025	87,608	2,673,633	1,962,445
Investment return	3,265,823	1,510,782	4,776,605	602,374
Contributed services	125,281	–	125,281	125,281
In-kind contributions	–	–	–	17,475
Net assets released from restrictions	14,559,767	(14,559,767)	–	–
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$29,555,710</b>	<b>(\$780,045)</b>	<b>\$28,775,665</b>	<b>\$27,242,237</b>

EXPENSES	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>				
Accompanying the church	\$7,538,772	–	\$7,538,772	\$7,039,807
Responding to human needs	13,260,267	–	9,880,613	8,536,246
Emergency relief	–	–	3,379,654	4,609,430
Public awareness	1,771,665	–	1,771,665	1,735,440
Total program services	22,570,704	–	22,570,704	21,920,923
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>				
Fundraising	2,205,090	–	2,205,090	2,384,552
Management and general	2,592,762	–	2,592,762	2,488,420
Total support services	4,797,852	–	4,797,852	4,872,972
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$27,368,556</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$27,368,556</b>	<b>\$26,793,895</b>

NET ASSETS	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Undesignated	\$19,381,164	\$16,449,400
Board designated	11,700,259	10,332,527
Plant	3,540,859	3,537,796
With donor restrictions	42,153,008	42,104,206
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$76,775,290</b>	<b>\$72,423,929</b>

View the 2023 and 2024 audited financial statements, at [cnewa.org/financials](https://cnewa.org/financials)

# CNEWA'S WORLD

