

Annual Report 2025





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Dear Friends,

As we mark our centennial, permit me to first thank you for being a part of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association family, and for your generosity of mind, matter and spirit for the support of men and women of and served through the Eastern churches. **Thank you!**

None of what CNEWA has accomplished in this past century would have been possible without you and the generations of generous people who proceeded us. Our fellowship spans continents, languages, politics, races and religions to provide essential aid, material and spiritual, for those most in need of healing and hope.

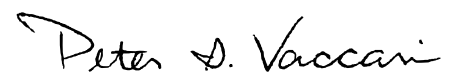
Building bridges for the past 100 years, we have partnered with the apostolic Eastern churches to heal the sick, feed the hungry, comfort the despondent, shelter the displaced, and offer protection to victims of the “scourge” of human trafficking throughout the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe. And although the world looks vastly different than it did at the time of our founding, our mission as an agent of healing and hope remains more vital than ever.

While for decades CNEWA’s programs have focused on building stable and lasting foundations — equipping the men and women of the church with the tools to help their people thrive — today the people we serve are beset by one crisis after another, none of which they created. War, natural disasters, famine, poverty, oppression, persecution and exploitation of the marginalized and vulnerable are day-to-day realities impacting tens of millions of people.

The clergy, religious and laity of the local churches, despite their limited resources and numbers, find themselves compelled to respond with agility, compassion and purpose. And I am so grateful to our regional teams for their deep devotion to the sacred Gospel-driven mission that unites us all as they partner with our “boots on the ground,” touching countless lives in incalculable ways. None of the past hundred years of service would have been possible without them.

This summary report of CNEWA’s work in the last year — the financial and statistical information dates to 31 December 2025 — is our way of letting you know where and to whom we have channeled your generous gifts and contributions. As you review these pages, I hope you experience the satisfaction of knowing **you did this**, your sacrifices have been appreciated, considered and multiplied through God’s grace to accomplish real good.

Thank you! And may God continue to bless you and keep you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter D. Vaccari". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'V'.

Msgr. Peter I. Vaccari
President
CNEWA-Pontifical Mission for Palestine



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; and 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, CNEWA has made a powerful impact on the people we serve, 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; bandaged them when they bled; sheltering them when they had no place to call home.

The mission of this “CNEWA Communitas” 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 and Jerusalem — and forged partnerships in Armenia, Georgia, India and Ukraine — hail from the very communities of faith we serve for the common good of all.

**“Thanks to
Monsignor
Peter Vaccari
for visiting our
parish, when we
learned about
CNEWA. May God
bless all of you in
your work.”**

CNEWA is not a massive global relief agency. We are independent of the whims of governments that increasingly weaponize humanitarian aid as part of their growing “zeal for war,” as stated by Pope Leo. CNEWA is a global network of generous men and women who, as people of faith, express their shared humanity by a common purpose, mission and vision.

“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 Northeast Africa, where years of war and drought have exposed families to violence and hunger, those most vulnerable and in need may count on the healthy meals offered through the church’s scores of social service programs, including schools and child care facilities, clinics and homes for elders and those with special needs.

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 our “boots on the ground,” brave men and women in Ukraine, for example, who provide sacraments and counseling, nourishing the hearts, minds and souls of a war-weary population, civilian and military.

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.

Our global network also grew larger this past year, with the formation of new partnerships and philanthropic alliances to facilitate simpler giving at every level. In 2025, CNEWA joined Global Impact’s **Charity Alliance**, one of the world’s largest employee giving platforms, making it easier for supporters to secure a matching donation from their employers. And the CNEWA community acquired more than 3,200

new benefactors and grew its monthly giving program, newly renamed “Communitas CNEWA,” to 1,459 members.

In the year **2025**, CNEWA distributed a total of **\$20,542,509** 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 affirming human dignity, alleviating poverty, encouraging dialogue and inspiring hope.



WE BUILD THE CHURCH

Pope Pius XI founded CNEWA to assist the men and women of the Eastern churches as they witness the Gospel in advancing the common good and building the kingdom of God. These communities of faith cannot flourish without those who respond to the Lord's invitation to serve as priests, religious brothers and sisters, lay catechists and community leaders.

Central to our commitment is concern for leadership development. This commitment enables our programs to be developed, administrated and led by informed and caring men and women who are intimately familiar with the challenges faced by their communities, and whose attention and sensitivity to these issues strengthen the bonds forged between the caregiver and their charges.

CNEWA disbursed **\$2,996,337** in 2025 to help form men as priests, and women and men to serve as religious sisters and brothers, respectively, and includes funds for:



- The formation of seminarians at Holy Saviour Major Seminary in Asmara, Eritrea
- Support of the Little Flower House of Studies in Aluva, India
- The novices studying at the Franciscan Clarist provincial house in Murickassery, India
- Support of men completing their studies at the Maronite Patriarchal Seminary, Ghazir, Lebanon
- Greek Catholic seminarians at Three Holy Hierarchs Seminary near Kyiv, Ukraine.

CNEWA also helps pastors and religious sisters with their pastoral apostolates and the activities of the various dicasteries of the Holy See. In 2025, CNEWA allocated **\$4,241,228** in support of university chaplaincies, prison ministries, summer Bible camps for youth, graduate degree scholarships, counseling for refugees, migrants and the displaced, as well as programmatic funds for catechesis and formation of the laity in Catholic social teaching, including:

- Support for five religious education institutes among the Copts in Egypt
- Provision of funds for the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat's university chaplaincy, including its programs to mitigate illegal migration
- Scholarships for women religious and priests, Catholic and Orthodox, pursuing further studies
- Help for an international conference on Syriac Christianity hosted at the SEERI Institute in Tiruvalla, India
- Support of youth activities in Israel, sponsored by the Melkite Greek Catholic Church

**"Just a thank you
for the amazing,
beautiful work
you do in
the name of
Jesus Christ.
Happy to
support you."**

- Activity subsidies for the Pontifical Mission Community Center in Amman, Jordan
- Assistance to Jerusalem's Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Aid to assist the pastoral work of the Syriac Catholic and Orthodox churches in the Holy Land
- Hosting catechesis activities for Syria's parish communities.



WE RESPOND TO HUMAN NEEDS

CNEWA supports the leaders of the Eastern churches as they address the profound human needs enveloping them in places of conflict and cultural, economic, environmental, familial and social collapse in much of the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe. Although these challenges may seem insurmountable, CNEWA remains unwavering in support, ensuring the churches' responses have the capacity to be effective and sustainable.

For decades, CNEWA has focused on child care initiatives. These programs offer education, health care and a safe and warm environment for children with special needs or those exposed to endemic poverty, familial or community strife. These initiatives of the churches 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 **\$2,985,061** in 2025 for child care activities, including:

- Medical care and support for blind children at the Santa Lucia Home in Alexandria, Egypt, and the Saint Raphael School for the Blind in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Educational activities, extracurricular programming, career counseling and other forms of support for Palestinian students in Gaza and the West Bank, whose educations have been interrupted by war and military occupation
- Care of children with H.I.V./AIDS at the Kidane Mehret Children's Home in Ethiopia
- Socio-psychological counseling for children impacted by the trauma of war administered by Caritas Ukraine
- Agriculture and farming training programs to set up young people for a lifetime of self-sufficiency in agrarian Ethiopia and Eritrea

"Thank you for helping the innocent. People have a right to food, and you show them God hears their prayers."

WE RESPOND TO HUMAN NEEDS (continued)

- Care for children living with physical disabilities, including deafness, blindness and H.I.V./AIDS, through institutions in India such as the Malnad Social Service Society and Karnataka Integrated Development Society (KIDS)
- Helping vulnerable girls in Adigrat, Ethiopia, build self-confidence and independence, preventing trafficking and abuse
- Support and care for young girls facing psychological, emotional and social challenges at Beit Mariam Home in Al-Hashemi, Jordan
- Nutrition programs and educational support for impoverished, malnourished and vulnerable children participating in child care programs of the churches in Ethiopia.

**“Thank you all
for the crucial
work of helping
people in the
Middle East.
God reward
you greatly!”**

Care for the least fortunate among us lies at the core of CNEWA's mission. From offering access to health care for the wounded victims of war in Gaza to supporting job skill workshops for survivors of abuse in Tbilisi; from assisting recidivism-prevention programs for former prisoners in Haifa to providing heating fuel, blankets and winter coats to elderly pensioners in Armenia, CNEWA's network of friends and benefactors enabled us to allocate **\$5,017,513** in 2025 in support of humanitarian programs, including:

- Supporting heating expenses, home care and day care for the elderly and children through Caritas Armenia and its Little Prince centers
- Funding child protection support services through the Oasis Center in Minya, Egypt
- Providing rural Eritreans with resources and funding to establish small, sustainable community farms for self-sufficiency
- Funding for medical supplies, medicines and support services in Gaza through the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital and the Near East Council of Churches clinics



- Offering vulnerable single mothers and their children shelter and support through St. Barbare Center run by Caritas Georgia in Tbilisi
- Supporting the long-term mental health and rehabilitation needs of victims of the landslides in Wayanad, India, in 2024, and the 2020 port blast in Beirut, among other disasters
- Offering educational youth programs that encourage interfaith dialogue and care for the environment and community in Haifa and Nazareth, Israel
- Sponsoring maternal health programs at the Mother of Mercy Clinic in Zerqa, Jordan, and the health care clinic for the most vulnerable at the Italian Hospital in Amman, Jordan
- Providing essential human needs for displaced families living in the Dbayeh Refugee Camp in Lebanon

- Providing health care, educational and spiritual support for internally displaced families in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, Tartous and those scattered across the rest of Syria.

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 **\$742,030** in funds for capacity-building projects in 2025.



WE RUSH EMERGENCY RELIEF

CNEWA's story begins with the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian, Imperial Russian and Ottoman empires brought about by 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 in 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 and the oppressed.

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 emergency relief task force, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, to coordinate worldwide Catholic care for the refugees. Entrusted to CNEWA for its administration and direction, the Pontifical Mission launched emergency relief efforts in Beirut, Jerusalem and Amman.

Crisis management has been in CNEWA's DNA since its inception, and while not an emergency relief organization per se, it has had to retool in the 21st century to respond to the needs of the Eastern churches caught up in the torpor that defines our century, the human-made tragedies of war and social strife and the environmental and natural calamities that impact every region where CNEWA serves.

CNEWA's global community has responded, generously, quickly and consistently, providing **\$2,704,053** in 2025 for emergency relief, including:

- Emergency food packages and potable water for those affected by war in Gaza through Holy Family and St. Porphyrios churches
- Immediate assistance to displaced families from southern Lebanon finding refuge in Beirut as well as rushing food, potable water and medicines to villagers in the south of Lebanon who refuse to flee the Israeli-Hezbollah war

**"Thank you
for this work
in such a
terrible time."**

- Humanitarian aid and ongoing psychosocial support for those affected by the war in Ukraine, especially children and families, including a specialized rehabilitation and support program for military families in Kyiv
- Emergency medical assistance, health care and monitoring of pregnant women and babies in Beit Sahour and the West Bank through the Cooperative Society for Health Welfare
- Increased support to partner organizations struggling to maintain operations in the wake of sweeping cuts to government-funded aid programs across CNEWA's world, especially in Ethiopia, Gaza and Lebanon.



WE INFORM AND INSPIRE

One of the foundational mandates entrusted to CNEWA by Pope Pius XI is to educate Christians of the West about the churches, peoples and cultures 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 bring to audiences worldwide the richness of the peoples and communities we support with multimedia that brings to life the spirit of the faith communities that serve them and opportunities for readers to learn more and to engage deeper.

CNEWA provided **\$1,856,287** in 2025 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.



Impact Stories

Human trafficking, child exploitation, early marriage and abuse remain serious threats to vulnerable women and children in Egypt. Since 2023, CNEWA has supported Talitha Kum and its regional initiative, Wells of Hope Egypt. A network of religious and lay staff who raise awareness and offer training, protection and accompaniment, Wells of Hope Egypt works under the auspices of the Episcopal Conference of Patriarchs and Bishops for the common good of all Egyptians.

CNEWA's support has helped the network reach women, girls, youth and children in Egypt's densely populated centers of Alexandria, Cairo and Upper Egypt. For M. S., a young mother from Upper Egypt, one awareness seminar became a turning point. Trapped in a cycle of poverty and violence, M. S. and her four children endured severe abuse and exploitation. After attending a Wells of Hope seminar, she found the courage to ask for help.

The network, led by Sister Jeannette Alfi of the Good Shepherd Sisters, worked with specialized organizations and authorities to protect the family. Her children were recovered, enrolled in school, and provided continued support. M. S. also received a deep freezer to start a small home-based culinary business, giving her a path toward economic independence.

Thanks to CNEWA's generous donors, one awareness session became a doorway to safety, independence and a more hopeful life for an entire family.



Alaa Awada creates comic strips that feature people with special needs. A 39-year-old man with cerebral palsy and spastic quadriplegia, Alaa uses his comics to advocate for the rights of those with mental and physical challenges and disabilities in his native country of Lebanon and change societal perceptions of people with disabilities.

Fortunately for Alaa, his parents enrolled the budding advocate and artist as a boy at SESOBEL, or the Social Service for the Welfare of Lebanese Children. Founded in 1976, SESOBEL serves children and youth with disabilities and their families, each year providing services to more than 1,200 children and their families throughout Lebanon.

For decades, Alaa has benefited from the programs offered by society — thanks in part to the generous benefactors of CNEWA, who have long supported this endeavor — including medical, social, rehabilitative, educational and professional services. These have significantly contributed to Alaa's development, enabling him to achieve greater autonomy by leveraging his physical and intellectual abilities. In June 2025, thanks to CNEWA, he received an electric wheelchair, which enhanced his quality of life, enabling him to buy groceries or medication from the pharmacy, and interact and engage with those around him.

Having special needs, he says, does not mean a person has to be deprived from the right of living decently, adding, “this power wheelchair is my feet and my freedom.”



Your Dollar at Work

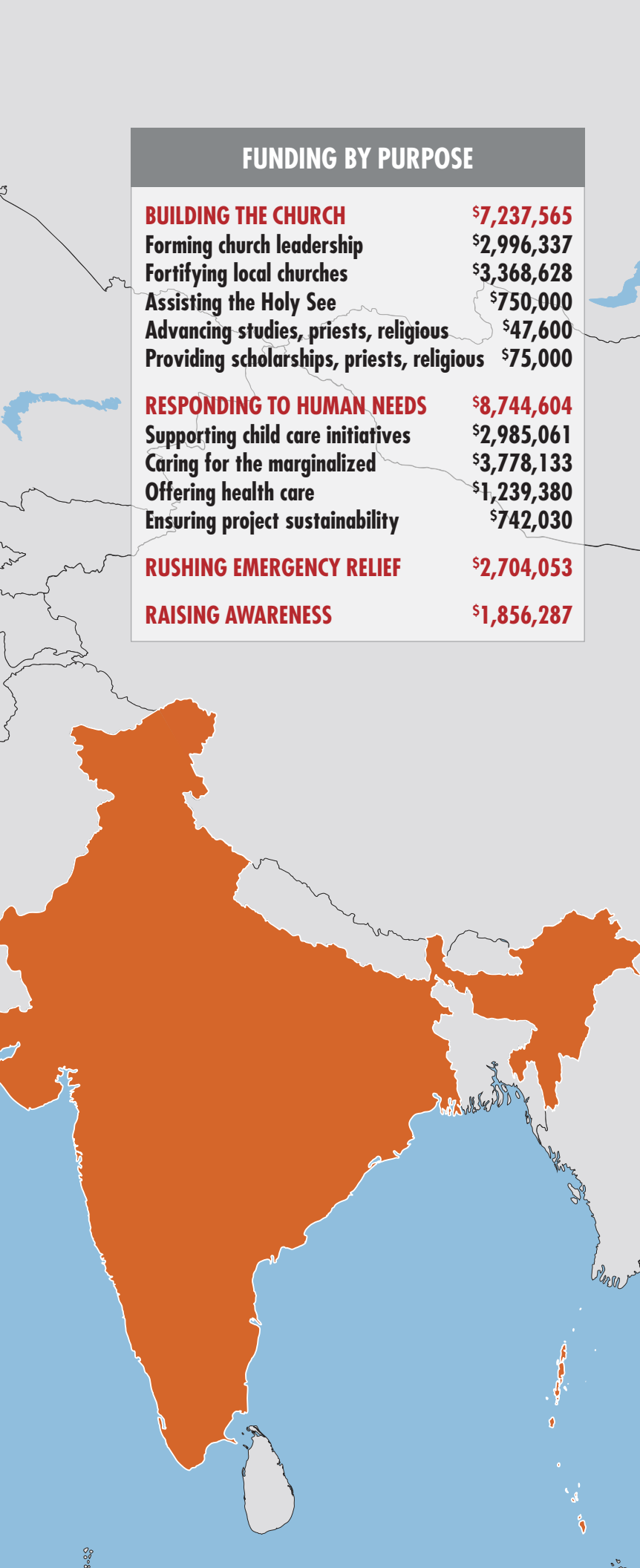
\$.85 cents of every dollar raised
goes directly to support our program

TOTAL SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS BY REGION

Eastern Europe	\$1,435,685
Middle East	\$7,787,328
Northeast Africa	\$1,800,680
India	\$906,900
Holy See	\$2,279,122
North America	\$4,032

BY COUNTRY

Armenia	\$325,000
Georgia	\$325,000
Romania	\$17,000
Ukraine	\$768,685
Iraq	\$134,450
Israel	\$230,014
Jordan	\$682,072
Lebanon	\$3,462,664
Palestine	\$2,659,538
Syria	\$618,590
Egypt	\$381,855
Eritrea	\$600,000
Ethiopia	\$818,825
India	\$906,900

A map of India is shown in the background, with a large orange-colored area covering most of the country. A grey box with a white border is overlaid on the map, containing the text 'FUNDING BY PURPOSE' and a list of funding categories and amounts.

FUNDING BY PURPOSE

BUILDING THE CHURCH **\$7,237,565**

Forming church leadership \$2,996,337

Fortifying local churches \$3,368,628

Assisting the Holy See \$750,000

Advancing studies, priests, religious \$47,600

Providing scholarships, priests, religious \$75,000

RESPONDING TO HUMAN NEEDS **\$8,744,604**

Supporting child care initiatives \$2,985,061

Caring for the marginalized \$3,778,133

Offering health care \$1,239,380

Ensuring project sustainability \$742,030

RUSHING EMERGENCY RELIEF **\$2,704,053**

RAISING AWARENESS **\$1,856,287**

In 2025, your funds supported a half million people, including:

146,347 people in need of medical care

65,681 Catholic school students

29,412 people in need of emergency aid

19,312 refugees and internally displaced people

12,230 prisoners and prison chaplains

1,085 vocational training participants

3,729 children enrolled in child care programs

1,552 elderly people in need of nursing home or home health care

72 construction and infrastructure repair projects

2,247 seminarians supported, including **288** of whom were ordained

376 novices provided for, **163** of whom made their first vows

121,039 children and **2,500** adults participated in catechesis classes

750 priests continued in advance studies

WITH THANKS TO OUR FOUNDATION AND FUNDING AGENCY PARTNERS:

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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Verizon Foundation Cybergrants, Inc.
Warren & Joanne Powers Charitable Foundation

2025 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Contributions	\$9,181,951	\$6,038,342	\$15,220,293	\$13,407,491
Grants from funding agencies	257,095	7,820,096	8,077,191	6,357,340
Collections	1,467,437	–	1,467,437	1,435,315
Legacies and bequests	2,989,740	1,979,898	4,969,638	2,673,633
Investment return	3,178,966	1,721,452	4,900,418	4,776,605
Contributed services	125,281	–	125,281	125,281
Contributions in kind	–	–	–	–
Net assets released from restrictions	11,722,821	(11,722,821)	–	–
TOTAL REVENUE	\$28,923,291	(\$5,836,967)	\$34,760,258	\$28,775,665

EXPENSES	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
PROGRAM SERVICES				
Accompanying the church	\$7,237,565	–	\$7,237,565	\$7,538,772
Responding to human needs	8,744,604	–	11,448,657	9,880,613
Emergency relief	2,704,053	–	2,704,053	3,379,654
Public awareness	1,856,287	–	1,856,287	1,771,665
Total program services	20,542,509	–	20,542,509	22,570,704
SUPPORT SERVICES				
Fundraising	2,012,287	–	2,012,287	2,205,090
Management and general	3,224,005	–	3,224,005	2,592,762
Total support services	5,236,292	–	5,236,292	4,797,852
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,778,801	–	\$25,778,801	\$27,368,556

NET ASSETS	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Undesignated	\$29,219,408	\$19,381,164
Board designated	12,893,753	11,700,259
Plant	708,702	3,540,859
With donor restrictions	49,147,981	42,153,008
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$91,969,844	\$76,775,290

View the 2025 audited financial statements at cnewa.org/financials

HOW TO HELP

As CNEWA marks its centennial, we are especially grateful for the transformative power of our donors' commitment and generosity. For a century, your compassion has sustained CNEWA's mission and brought hope to countless individuals, families and communities in need in more than 14 nations of the Middle East, Northeast Africa and Eastern Europe as well as in communities throughout India.

Today, amid the tumult and profound challenges facing the people we serve, your generosity is more important than ever. CNEWA remains committed to providing our network, our "CNEWA Communitas," with meaningful ways to express your faith, compassion and generosity in support of those who need it most.

As we launch CNEWA's next century of service, there are many ways to join us in advancing this mission, through prayer, advocacy and charitable giving.

Together, and by inspiring others to serve, we strengthen CNEWA's mission of healing and hope as we work toward justice and peace in the One God.

Your compassion can bring real and lasting hope where it is needed most. As we enter this historic new chapter, we are honored to continue this journey of faith and service with you.

Contact us about the many ways you can give:

Make an outright gift online at [**cnewa.org/donate**](https://cnewa.org/donate)

Join CNEWA's new monthly giving program at [**cnewa.org/communitas-cnewa**](https://cnewa.org/communitas-cnewa)

Attend or inquire about hosting a fundraising event at [**cnewa.org/events**](https://cnewa.org/events)

Include CNEWA in your estate plan at [**cnewa.mylegacygift.org**](https://cnewa.mylegacygift.org)

Easily donate your car or boat at [**careasy.org/nonprofit/cnewa**](https://careasy.org/nonprofit/cnewa)

Double your gift to CNEWA at no extra cost by visiting [**cnewa.org/employer-matching-gifts**](https://cnewa.org/employer-matching-gifts)

Offer Masses in remembrance of or for special intentions at [**cnewa.org/mass-intentions**](https://cnewa.org/mass-intentions)

Or contact CNEWA's Development Department for guidance on any of the aforementioned ways to give: **(800) 442-6392 | Developmentdepartment@cnewa.org**

Your gift may be tax deductible according to the law.

We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our tax identification EIN: 13-1623929



Catholic Near East Welfare Association
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