



NEAR EAST
FOUNDATION

Communities Taking The Lead

2021 Impact Report

“

When we were displaced from our home, we lost everything. My sheep, my cows - we lost them all. My life relied on charity - it was very difficult. And then, when my husband died, I became the main provider for my family. With trainings and financial support from NEF, I rebuilt my farm. Now, I not only provide for myself with my earnings but can also share my crop to support those in need in my community.

- Sundus, an Iraqi farmer (front cover)

”



Near East Foundation

2021 IMPACT REPORT

**THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT
ARE THE FACE OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE
RESILIENCE, AND PEACE IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES.**

We work *alongside* people impacted by conflict, injustice, and poverty to:

- support their immediate and longer-term needs
- remove barriers to their success, and
- amplify their voice

Together, we combine *local expertise* with *pioneering solutions* to bring stability and prosperity to communities, now - and for generations to come.



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To Our Committed Supporters,

2021 was a year of continued impact, innovation, and growth at the Near East Foundation.

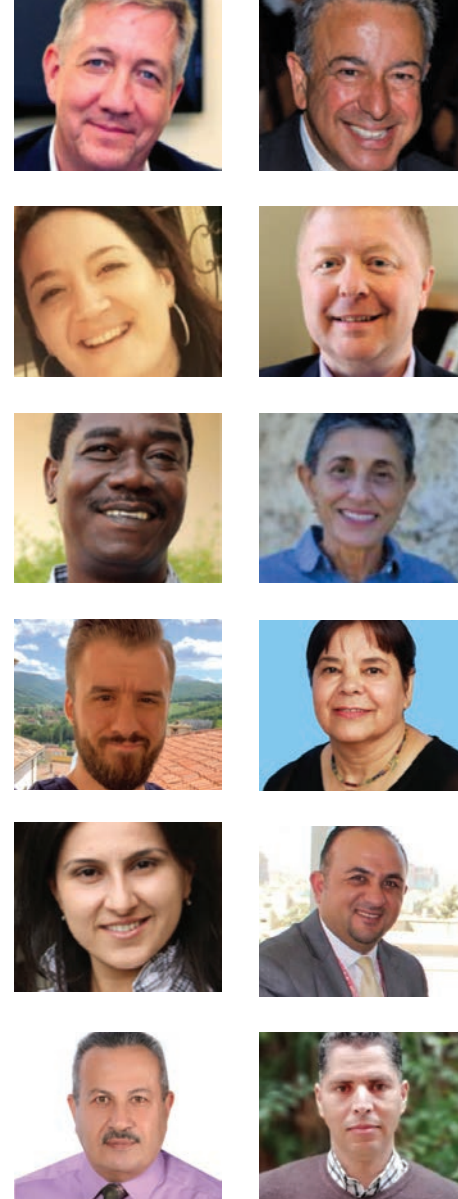
With your enduring commitment, together we supported **1.1 million people** - and delivered critically needed tools and training to **170 communities** across the Middle East, Africa, and the Caucasus. These services created safe, inclusive opportunities for people to **earn a dignified income and take meaningful steps toward rebuilding their livelihoods and communities.**

NEF's work has always relied on the actions of ordinary citizens who **stand up** to injustice and **stand with** vulnerable communities. From donors around the world to local experts, community partners, and our global team - we continue to come together to make sure people in crisis are supported to build the future they deserve.

To deliver this impact, the past year required NEF to swiftly adapt to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic while continuing to respond to the multidimensional crises that challenge our partner communities. This report illustrates concrete examples of how **your partnership translated into meaningful action** - bringing stability, prosperity, and hope to hundreds of thousands of people.

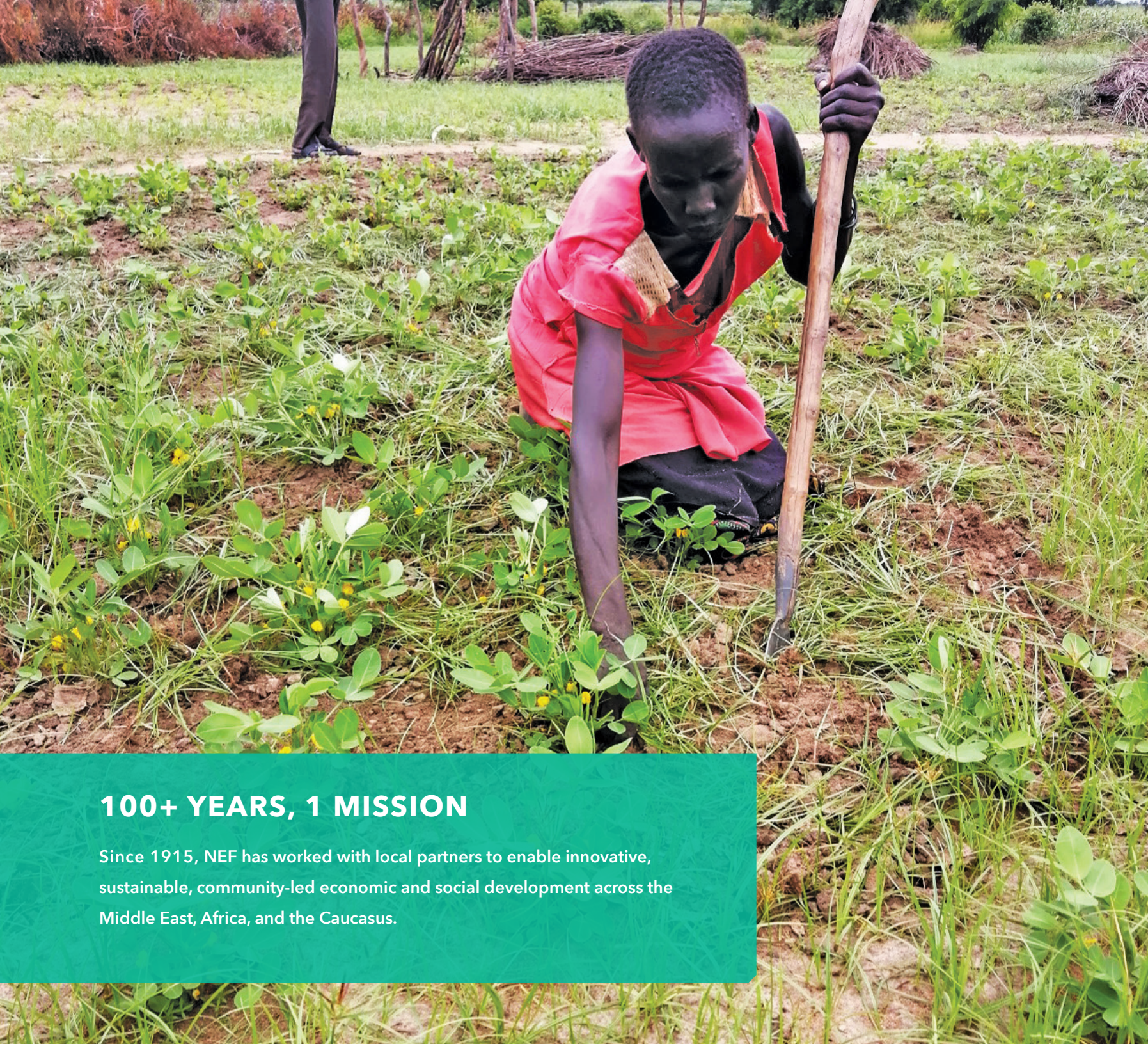
From all of us, we thank you for your commitment to empowering local communities in their pursuit of realizing a better and more equitable future.

With sincere gratitude,
The NEF Team



Left to right: Charlie Benjamin, CEO; Haig Mardikian, Board Chair; Simona Ceci, Co-President; John Ashby, Co-President; Yacouba Deme, Mali Country Director; Ban Saraf, Sudan Country Director; Ziad Kmied, Lebanon Country Representative; Maha Shadid, Jordan Country Representative; Arpine Baghdoyan, Armenia Country Director; Mohammed Al-Turk, Syria Program Director; Abdelkhalk Aandam, Morocco Country Representative.





100+ YEARS, 1 MISSION

Since 1915, NEF has worked with local partners to enable innovative, sustainable, community-led economic and social development across the Middle East, Africa, and the Caucasus.

OUR FOCUS



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We build people's economic and social resilience through entrepreneurship, employment, access to finance, peer mentoring, and social support.



LEADING WITH EQUITY & INCLUSION



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

We facilitate climate adaptation, governance, and resilience-building to improve food security, livelihoods, and natural resources management.



PEACE & STABILITY

We support early recovery, peace, and stability in crises-impacted communities through civic engagement and economic cooperation.



We ensure those most disadvantaged and underrepresented have equitable access to power, a safe platform to express their voice, and resources to build resilience and recover from crisis.

INVESTING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We work in some of the world's most challenging environments. Together with our partners, we help people move away from poverty and insecurity toward self-sufficiency and stability.

28

Projects

200

Global Staff

91%

of our team is from the communities where we work

Lebanon

42,993 people supported

Morocco

47,654 people supported

Mali

236,815 people supported

Sudan

738,106 people supported

Armenia

3,980 people supported

Syria

19,027 people supported

Iraq

16,200 people supported

Jordan

7,388 people supported

South Sudan

New Program Site



2021 IMPACT

1,112,163 PEOPLE

170 COMMUNITIES

567,786 WOMEN, **548,308** YOUTH,

279,751 DISPLACED PEOPLE,

111,216 DISABLED PEOPLE

HIGH IMPACT
PROGRAMS

\$15 = 1 LIFE CHANGED



THE FACE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Helping people to move beyond survival to stability.

People who suffer the most from the impacts of conflict, injustice, and a rapidly changing climate are those who stand determined to fight for their survival, their dignity, and the betterment of their communities. But millions of people remain marginalized and without access to the tools and resources needed to earn a reliable source of income – trapping people into a vicious cycle of poverty, inequity, and instability.

Our work proves that when people are economically empowered, they gain the ability to build a life, make plans, and cope when crisis hits. We create both spaces for people to express their needs and pathways to safely earn a sustainable income, helping them to regain control over their lives and build more productive and resilient communities.

NEF's Siraj program now includes 17 Siraj Centers across the region and an expanded digital curriculum that helps vulnerable people start and expand small businesses. Services include:

- Business management training to help people launch, sustain, and grow their small businesses
- Access to grants, loans, financial investment and banking
- Job opportunities and employment support
- Social support, peer mentoring, and networking

Manaf | A Fruit and Vegetable Grocer in Iraq



I had an ambition to grow vegetables and sell them. If a person is serious, he will succeed. A person should not mentally limit themselves because of a physical disability.



16.5k
people with increased
income through
business expansion



26.6k
people trained in
financial literacy and
business management



16.2k
full-time jobs
created or
secured



Oumou | Mali

“ I fattened sheep to sell at the market to support my young family, but it never resulted in enough profit. I couldn't earn enough income to do more and felt stuck. I then heard about NEF's lending program where I could access credit. With a loan, I was able to purchase a cow and carry out cattle fattening, which is more profitable than sheep.

With my first cow, I made a profit of 35,000 CFA which I used to buy more cattle, a ram, and the feed needed to fatten them for sale. With the profit I make, I can support my family's food needs and children's school fees. There are now many women in my community who are becoming financially secure thanks to NEF's fund!



10.8k

loans and grants distributed. Loans have high repayment rates and are managed through NEF's custom **Loan Management System.**

Suhair | Jordan

“ I began selling clothing, cosmetics, and accessories from my home to help my family make ends meet. It was very difficult to keep stock and grow my income. I tried many times to apply for a loan, but the process was challenging. I then heard about NEF's loan program.

With guidance, I received a \$750 loan and business management training from my Siraj Center. **I have been able to buy the materials needed to meet my customers' needs and now also better manage my inventory and accounts.** I am proud to say that I have paid back my loan entirely with the profit I've made.





Ahmed | A Tailor in Syria

“ My work as a tailor is important, especially as I suffer from hearing loss. I used to work from my kitchen using outdated equipment. With the \$600 loan I received, I have been able to rent a workshop and buy new equipment and materials - transforming my business. ”

Revolving Credit Fund | Syria

In 2021, NEF launched a first of its kind community revolving credit fund (RCF) in Northeast Syria. **The RCF has disbursed more than 640 loans (with a 99% repayment rate)** and provides complementary business development services, helping micro- and small-entrepreneurs to improve their income, create jobs, and support local economic recovery.

Ahmed*, a tailor, and **Sonya***, a baker, both received a loan and training to professionalize their business, improving their efficiency and profit.

“ Before receiving a RCF loan, I prepared dough for my at-home bakery by hand - it was time intensive and physically exhausting. With the loan I purchased an industrial mixer. This has improved my efficiency, decreased my labor, and increased my monthly sales!

- Sonya, a Syrian baker ”



* Faces not shown and names changed for safety considerations.

157

businesses expanded by young Moroccans, creating **218 new jobs**.

Siham | Morocco

“ From digital marketing to business management and registration - I received a lot of support to get my guest house up and running. Through the project, I made connections to new clients and became much more confident and self-assured. When the pandemic hit, government restrictions required me to close my guest house. During this time I received support on how to adapt and manage the risk. I am glad to say that my guest house has safely reopened!

”



\$1 = \$2.6

Every \$1 spent on NEF's livelihoods programming in Lebanon has resulted in **\$2.6 put back** into the Lebanese economy.

Wael | Lebanon

“ As Syrian refugees in Lebanon, my family [wife and two children] lived on a monthly income of \$180, mainly relying on aid. It was through NEF's program that I was able to attend a business training and develop my shoemaking business, building upon the skills I already had. I learned bookkeeping and how to track my expenses and manage my profit. And with a grant, I bought the needed equipment to launch my shop and begin work.

”





Refugee Impact Bond | Jordan and Lebanon

The first ever Development Impact Bond (DIB) for refugees launched in 2021, to support the expansion of NEF's vocational, entrepreneurship, and resilience-building program over four years. Services are strengthening the capacity of both refugees and host communities to recover from crisis, emerge from poverty, and achieve economic independence.

With public and private funding, the DIB offers an innovative and flexible outcomes-based approach to maximize impact while generating a return for investors. The first tranche of the DIB has launched in Jordan with the second tranche in Lebanon to follow once additional funding is secured.

DIB IMPACT GOALS



4,380
people supported
with tools to lift
themselves out of
vulnerability



2,560
small businesses
created and
supported



+ 17%
expected increase
in household
consumption



75%
women and **30%**
youth supported



Amadou | A Smallholder Farmer in Mali

“ With support, I established a market garden to help feed my family and sell produce for additional income in the local market. In my garden, I graft Jujube plants for sale. With the profit I earned, I purchased a solar motor pump to better irrigate the garden to improve the health and yield of my crops. ”

THE FACE OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Building climate resilient communities for generations to come.

The communities we work in are on the frontlines of the global climate crisis, yet they lack access to the information, tools, and infrastructure to adapt. Resource scarcity from droughts, deforestation, extreme temperatures and other stresses are drastically compromising people’s food and economic security.

We partner with civil society, local governments, and communities to develop community-driven initiatives and provide access to necessary tools and resources to build people’s climate resilience, protect resource-based livelihoods, and improve agricultural production.

NEF supports communities to become more resilient through:

- The development of agricultural value chains through access to training, technology, inputs, and finance.
- Collaborative natural resource management planning with local communities and governments.
- Investments in infrastructure and productive assets such as solar powered water pumps, fuel-efficient cook stoves, and water-efficient irrigation systems.
- Forest protection measures like tree planting, forest brigade training to protect tree cover, and diversifying livelihoods away from timber.



565k

people improved their food security



128k

people benefitted from local natural resource management agreements



6.7k

hectares of forest and wetland areas restored or protected



7k ha

Local producers implemented improved, eco-efficient practices on 7,164 hectares of land.

Improving Livelihoods and Supporting Climate Action | Mali

NEF works in the Mopti region to improve livelihoods, increase forest cover and reduce carbon emissions through reforestation, forest protection, and water, soil, and energy conservation measures. To ensure sustainability, NEF is fencing reforested areas, forming community-led forest protection brigades, and supporting local communities to register reforestation sites with the Chamber of Agriculture in Mali.

600 cookstoves

constructed and distributed to **300 households** to improve energy- and time-efficiency.



85 women

trained in **non-timber forest products** in Mali to improve food, nutrition, and income - like preparing monkey bread, tamarind juice, and date syrup for consumption and sale.





Improved Water Management | Mali

Rice producers tend irrigated rice cultivation areas in Mali where NEF works with communities to integrate locally led, nature-based solutions to support agricultural development and conflict management. **729 producers attended information exchange visits** to improve irrigation, water management and farming techniques to increase the production of high-demand agricultural value chains (i.e., rice, fonio, shallots, sesame).

Empowering Women | Sudan

We supported **1,517 women** and **15 women-led cooperatives** in Sudan, improving their agency and inclusion in key agricultural value chains.

Support includes new techniques that reduce the degradation of trees, create market linkages to improve income and elevate women's voices in negotiation, and commercialize high value products like gum arabic and desert dates.



Boosting Food Production | South Sudan

To support food and income security, we've worked with communities in South Sudan to establish **15 demonstration farms and micro-gardens**. Nearby households are provided with seeds and tools to farm the land - using crops grown to feed their families and selling the surplus as a form of income.





THE FACE OF PEACE & STABILITY

Creating more peaceful and prosperous communities through partnership.

Reoccurring conflict and political upheaval erode the economy and food systems in our partner communities, increasing competition for jobs and natural resources for people who are already struggling to make ends meet. Instability and scarcity increases inequity and exclusion, creating tension that undermines peace and prosperity where women and young people suffer the most.

To help communities work toward stability and productivity, NEF expands opportunities for people to recover their income, strengthen social cohesion and local capacity, and improve infrastructure so people have more reliable and equal access to essential resources, like clean water, and income earning opportunities.



402
local organizations
improved their capacity
for livelihoods services



1.5k
community
infrastructure repair
projects implemented



317k
people with
access to safe
water

Community Planning | South Sudan

NEF guides villagers in a collaborative community mapping exercise used to visualize and plan water point and sanitation upgrades to improve community health and hygiene, resource management, and social cohesion. NEF conducts similar conflict mitigation exercises in other water-scarce, agricultural communities, like Sudan and Mali.



Delivering Clean Water | Sudan

When supplies were needed to build a mini-water yard in Arrow Village (Central Darfur State), no roads were accessible by vehicle due to poor infrastructure and heavy rains.

The only way for NEF to reach the village and provide much needed support to this under-served community was to use animals to carry the pipes, solar panels, iron sheets, cement, and other supplies needed. Loaded on the backs of donkeys and camels, the materials successfully reached the village, and the water yard was completed to improve safe and reliable access to clear water for the community.

“
Now we have water available within our village. And without long lines or needing to travel a distance, we [women] have gotten time back to attend to our other priorities.
- A woman from Arrow Village”

60 Local Water and Sanitation Committees

established to maintain infrastructure and address local needs. NEF trains local artisans and technicians on manufacturing water pumps, latrines, and water yards.

Young People Building Back

We empower young people knowing the critical role they play in rebuilding their communities. We create opportunities for them to realize a future free from the conflict and instability they have experienced.

In Iraq we supported **three livelihoods pathways** for young people: microenterprise development, agricultural recovery, and vocational trainings. Vocational training included workshops on electric repair, HVAC, and hairdressing. In Sudan, we organized **Farmer Field Schools** for young people with trainings on plant preparation, nursery bed setup and transplanting, crop production, weeding, integrated pest management, post-harvest management, and farm produce marketing.

533

young Iraqis supported to improve their job prospects and income.



“

It became difficult to find a job. We heard that the Near East Foundation supported young people who have ideas that they want to implement on the ground. When we presented our idea for our horticulture business, they supported and welcomed us.

- Nuha (top), a young agribusiness entrepreneur

”



15

Farmer Field Schools established to support young South Sudanese women and men.



THE FACE OF CRISIS RESPONSE

When crises strike our partner communities we leverage our local teams and networks to quickly mobilize early recovery and rapid adaptation strategies to help people navigate their immediate needs while maintaining a focus on long-term resilience and self-sufficiency.

From the COVID-19 pandemic, war in Armenia and the Beirut port explosion, our teams have met people where they are and worked with community partners to develop innovative solutions that support livelihoods recovery, food security and infrastructure repair.

4,041

people across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria continued to receive livelihoods support during the pandemic through NEF's e-learning Siraj Digital platform.



The Power of Bread | Armenia

Since the war, Armenian border villages have economically struggled from decreased access to wheat and limited use of their land for agriculture, while continuing to host displaced families from Artsakh.

NEF partnered with a local organization in Nerkin Khndzoresk village to launch a bakery as a social enterprise to create job opportunities for displaced women and local residents affected by the war and to boost food security. **Profits are being reinvested into the bakery and channeled toward local community development activities.**

“ *The launch of the bakery is a revitalizing force that will give Armenians an opportunity to be inspired, to live, survive, and win again.*

- Narine, a village resident

”



Photo credit: Anera

Rapid Recovery | Lebanon

After the Beirut Port Blast left thousands of people without homes or their businesses, NEF partnered with Anera, SHEILD and other local partners to support safe shelter rehabilitation, small business recovery, and employment - **impacting 1,200 people.**

Vulnerable skilled workers, households, and small businesses within the explosion site were prioritized, with a focus on the heavily impacted areas of Burj Hammoud, Karantina, and Khandak Al Ghamik.

88% of families supported said they felt safer with the support received.

97%

of business supported resumed their activities with support and **64% increased their income.**



Photo credit: Anera

“ *Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the high exchange rate, it was impossible to repair my house. Without the help of Anera and NEF, I would not have been able to live again in my home.*

- Armenoy, Burj Hammoud resident (woman above)

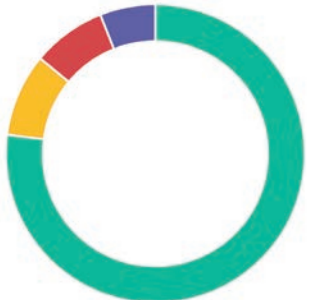
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FINANCIALS

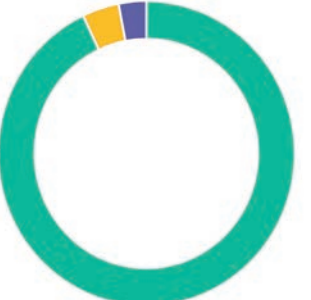
NEF is committed to providing the highest levels of transparency and efficiency. See our complete fiscal year 2021 consolidated financial report at www.neareast.org/resources/#financial-reports

Funding Sources



- 77% Governments
- 9% Other (i.e., paycheck protection, investment income)
- 8% Private Contributions
- 6% Foundations

Allocation of Expenses



- 93% Program Activities
- 4% Management and General
- 3% Fundraising

2021 Total Revenue	\$18,358,357
2021 Total Expenses	\$16,675,491
Net Assets	
<i>Beginning</i>	\$6,305,677
<i>Ending</i>	\$7,988,543



“ I started with three beehives and with NEF support I was able to expand. I now own more than 20 beehives and dream of having a large business that will meet the needs of the region and the province for honey.

- Ali, an Iraqi beekeeper

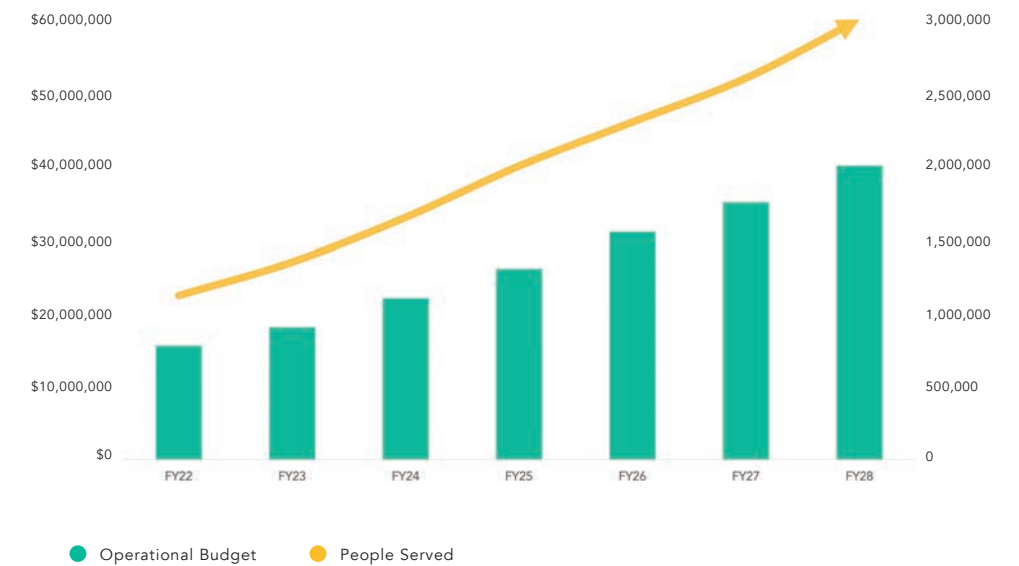


LOOKING AHEAD

The frequency of crises across the regions we work in only continues to grow, causing widespread displacement and threatening to push millions more people into poverty. Guided by our 2021-2027 Strategic Plan, we are committed to expanding our reach to support more vulnerable people in need, deepening our impact in the communities we serve, and ensuring sustainability through community ownership and innovation.

By 2028, we have a plan to double the size of NEF's program and triple our impact to support 3 million people every year.

Key to achieving this ambitious impact goal is your continued support.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* List reflects fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

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“ NEF’s training helped me start my business in a powerful way. Through business management trainings I learned how to do calculations and operate my business. And with the grant I received, I was able to purchase the equipment I needed to start.

- Abir, a baker and mother of four in Lebanon





THANK YOU

Funding Partners

Aurora Humanitarian Initiative
Bogosian Quigley Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation
Dadourian Foundation
European Union
Flora Family Foundation
Global Giving Foundation
Global Resilience Partnership
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Syria Recovery Trust Fund
The Chubb Charitable Foundation
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The Fulgraff Foundation
The Greene-Milstein Family Foundation
UK Aid Direct
United Nations Population Fund

U.S. Agency for International Development
USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
U.S. Department of State, Middle East Partnership Initiative
Vitol Foundation
World Food Programme

Implementation Partners

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Al Hadatha Association
Anera
Arcenciel
Astghavard NGO
Association Jeunes pour Jeunes
Azraq Women Productive Cooperative Association
Centre for Emergency and Development Support
Cluster Menara
Emerging Business Factory

Friends of Peace and Development Organization
Idoun Charitable Society
Iraqi Al Amal Association
Kapan Women's Resource Center
Kuforsoum Cooperative Association for Pomegranate Producers
Maison des Associations (Safi)
Lebanon American University
Marrakech Generations
Qawafil Al Khair for Relief and Development
Sanabel Nour

Sevan Youth Club
Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD)
Sudanese Red Crescent Society
Syracuse University
Taron Youth Development NGO
Women's Development Resource Centre Foundation - Goris
Women's Support Center - Yerevan

A community of partners and donors makes our work possible. We are grateful for every donation we receive and we hope that you will continue to support NEF long into the future.

To see a complete list of donors for the July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 fiscal year, please visit: www.neareast.org/2021-impact-report

SCAN ME



A RESPONSIBLE STEWARD OF YOUR PHILANTHROPY

93%

of donations directly support program activities



High-Impact Operations

We deliver high impact programs, making the most of your donation. Your support builds knowledge, strengthens voices, and creates economic opportunity for those who need it most.

Charity Navigator

For the 7th year, we earned the top 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator.

Global Giving

We are recognized as a vetted member of the GlobalGiving community for being a trusted partner and global change-maker.

Better Business Bureau

We are an accredited member of the Better Business Bureau, meeting the highest standards for ethics and accountability to ensure confident charitable giving.



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US Headquarters

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** NEF also has local
country offices in the
communities we work in.*

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Near East Foundation



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Imagine a world where *all* people
can recover from crisis *and*
overcome barriers to their success.

Together, we are creating that world.



www.neareast.org