



# Near East Foundation



## 2024 Impact Report

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## Our Mission

Near East Foundation (NEF) works with local partners to enable innovative, sustainable, and community-led economic and social development across the Middle East, Africa, and the Caucasus to realize more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient communities.



# Our Impact

**553,979**

people were supported by Near East Foundation

**77%**

were women, youth, and people with disabilities

**350**

communities were strengthened



**\$11,369,081**

in grants/loans provided support to vulnerable entrepreneurs

**76%**

of participants increased their household income

**174**

civil society organizations increased their capacity

**72,023**

participants improved their ability to meet their basic needs

A world map with a light blue background and white landmasses. Office locations are marked with colored dots: four yellow dots for administrative offices (Syracuse, NY; Washington D.C.; Brussels, Belgium; London, UK) and ten teal dots for program offices (Morocco; Mali; Sudan; South Sudan; Lebanon; Iraq; Armenia; Jordan; Syria; and one in East Africa).

## Where We Work

### Administrative Offices

Syracuse, NY

Washington D.C.

NEF Belgium: Brussels, Belgium

NEF UK: London, United Kingdom

### Program Offices

Morocco

Mali

Sudan

South Sudan

Lebanon

Iraq

Armenia

Jordan

Syria



# Success Stories

Our work is inspired by the strength and resourcefulness of the people and communities we serve. They face various challenges and barriers, and their stories of **resilience and determination** show that partnering with and **investing at the community level** is the most effective way to create lasting change.

## Andranik

Former military officer Andranik is dedicated to growing the Dyutea tea brand he created with passion and care.

After being displaced from Artsakh, and settling in Armavir, Armenia, **Andranik began producing teas made from medicinal and beneficial herbs.** With support from the “Prosperous Future in a New Community” initiative, which was funded by NEF through the STRIVE project and implemented by the local non-governmental organization, MITK NGO, Andranik acquired the tools and materials needed to expand his business. This support has enabled him to increase his tea production and build a sustainable livelihood through self-employment.

NEF supports Armenian NGOs by providing funding to address community needs, such as the project run by MITK NGO, or by helping them strengthen their organizations for long-term success. Additionally, NEF offers practical guidance for their projects, including assistance with designing and refining proposals, monitoring and reporting, procurement, and financial management.



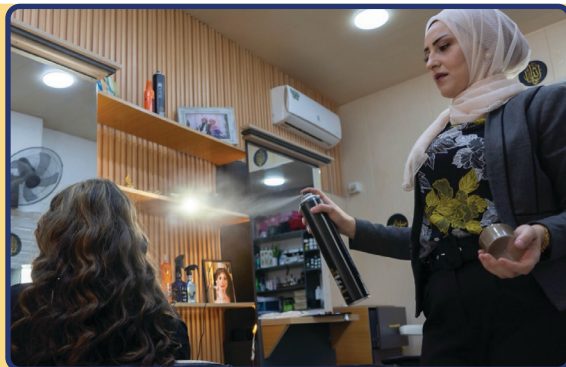
## Randa

Randa Farsoni, a 34-year-old Jordanian woman from Irbid, had long dreamed of opening a beauty salon. Driven by a passion for hairstyling and skincare, she saw her business as a path to personal fulfillment and financial independence. However, the financial resources to make this dream a reality always seemed out of reach. She often wondered, “Will I ever have a salon?”

In 2022, a friend invited Randa to accompany her to the **NEF Siraj Center**, where she was applying for support to launch her business. Intrigued, Randa agreed and was excited to learn about the **entrepreneurship training programs and financial resources** available to small business owners.

Randa decided to apply and was surprised to be accepted into the training program. **She was awarded a grant for 600 JOD** (around \$846) and used the funds to open Rand Ladies Salon, a beauty salon offering high-quality services to women in her community.

**“My joy was indescribable,”** Randa says. “I took a screenshot of the grant amount and still keep it to this day.”



## Achien Garang Makuc

Achien Garang Makuc, chairperson of a community association in South Sudan, **received leadership training through a NEF project aimed at developing local leaders in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap, and Unity.**

As an internally displaced person (IDP), Achien initially felt limited in her leadership abilities. She shared, “The training has gone deep into my mind, because, as an IDP, I did not know how to be a leader, but now I do.”

Through NEF’s support, community association’s staff like Achien’s undergo training and coaching to map resources, raise awareness on WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), and manage loan and grant disbursements. **Achien now leads a team of 17 members**, facilitating market links, financial activities, and community-based projects. “After the training, we went to Kuajok and opened our association’s bank account... These accounts have enabled us to keep our funds safe and support local businesses,” she said.

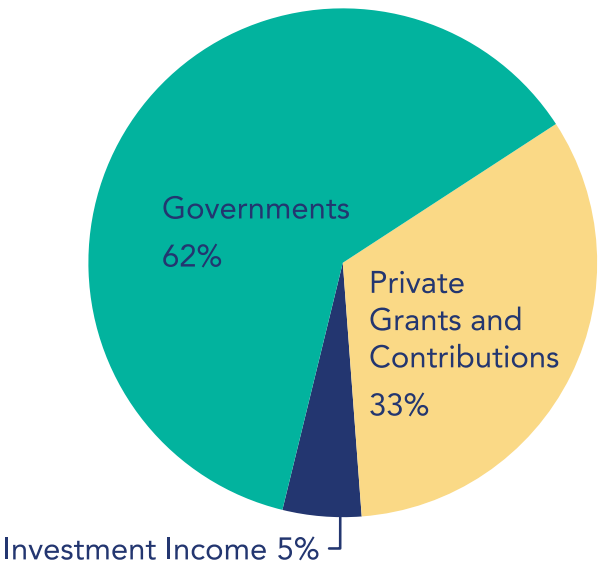
**The project has empowered women in the community**, with many using their \$100 loans to start businesses. Achien proudly notes, “The women we have registered are all busy in the market doing business... it has really helped them a lot.”



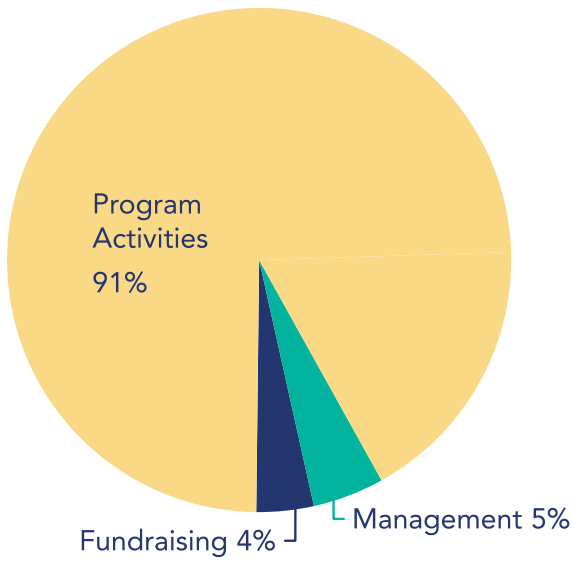


# Financials

Revenue Sources



Allocation of Expenses



How We Invested Our Funding



Total Revenue

\$27,889,470

Total Expenses

\$21,696,556

Net Assets

Beginning \$8,455,558

Ending \$14,648,472

\*Financials reported are based off of Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

# Special Thanks

## Funding Partners and Major Donors

### \$50,000+

Court Ballinger  
Bogosian Quigley Foundation  
Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation  
JoEllen Ison - In Memoriam of Bryan Ison  
Linda K. Jacobs  
In Memoriam John Poochigan and Christine Avakoff  
Dadourian Foundation  
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Elsa & Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundation  
European Union  
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)  
Global Resilience Partnership  
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center  
International Organization for Migration  
Islamic Relief USA  
Syria Recovery Trust Fund  
United Nations Office for Project Services  
US Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)  
US Department of State - Office of Global Partnerships  
Vitol Foundation

### \$49,000 - \$10,000

In Memoriam of William and Elizabeth Cline  
Mona Eraiba  
Johnson Garrett  
Rana Gillmon  
Elias Habayeb  
Liz Aslanian Lorenzoni  
Jeff Habib and Jessica Lowery  
Haig and Connie Mardikian  
Shant and Christine Mardirossian  
Sebouh Nahabedian  
Emily Rosenberg

### \$9,999 - \$5,000

Shahnaz Batmanghelidj and Radford Klotz  
Wesley and Susan Hayden  
Seth and Cassie Hollander  
Karen Bedrosian Richardson  
Joan Rothermel  
Mark Rutherford and Melissa B. Dodge

### \$4,999 - \$1,000

Carol Amirian  
John and Christine Ashby  
Stephen Craxton  
Anthony Draye  
Anthony and Elizabeth Enders  
Stephen Ferrari  
The Fullgraf Foundation  
The Greene-Milstein Family Foundation  
Suha Hamid  
Susanne Hand and David Kinsey  
Charles and Kathleen Hinkaty  
Richard and Barbara Lacy  
Stephen and Leslie Malott  
Barbara Merguerian  
Diana and Charles Mkhitarian  
Mostafa Family Charitable Trust  
Rosalind O'Campo  
Susan Penn  
Dee Robarts  
David Russell

\*Donors reported are based off of calendar year 2024



# Special Thanks

## Funding Partners and Major Donors

### Violet Jabara Jacobs Endowment Fund:

Violet Jabara Jacobs, Founding Member, In Memoriam  
Linda K. Jacobs, Founding Member

### Legacy Donors:

Christine Avakoff and John Poochigian, In Memoriam  
William and Elizabeth Cline, In Memoriam  
Bryan Ison, In Memoriam



## Board of Directors

### US Board

John Ashby, *CEO*  
Nina Bogosian Quigley, *Chair*  
Emily Rosenberg, *Vice Chair*  
Mona Eraiba, *Treasurer*  
Rana Gillmon  
Elias Habayeb  
Jeffrey Habib  
Linda Jacobs  
Liz Aslanian Lorenzoni  
Haig Mardikian  
Shant Mardirossian  
Sebough Nahabedian

### UK Board

Anthony R. Williams, *Chair*  
Robert Brown  
Mona Eraiba  
Catherine Essoyan Hopen  
Selase Torkornoo  
Anthony G. Williams

### Belgium Board

Linda Jacobs, *Chair*  
Robert Brown  
Fredrick De Gryse  
Catherine Essoyan Hopen  
Jean-Michel Pochet  
Emily Rosenberg



# Looking Ahead

**The people we serve are at the heart of everything we do.**

We are committed to supporting those most affected by displacement and conflict, and this commitment guides every aspect of our work - from the way we design programs to how we manage operations and funding. By partnering closely with local communities, pioneering innovative approaches, and prioritizing impact, we can deliver programs that adapt to evolving needs and drive lasting change.



Together, we're helping to build more **inclusive and prosperous futures** for those who need it most.





Transforming livelihoods and strengthening communities for more than 100 years.



Platinum  
Transparency  
2025

**Candid.**

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