



Near East Foundation

2008 Annual Report



Partners for Community Development since 1915

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Conflict, poverty and climate change afflict many communities in northern Africa and the Middle East; for some, they threaten their very survival. Such communities in peril include newly-formed settlements of refugees -- Iraqis in Jordan and Darfurians in central Sudan -- and villages isolated by their environment -- Berbers in Morocco's Atlas Mountains and Egyptian farmers relocated from the Nile Delta to the desert near the Aswan Dam.

The Near East Foundation, founded in 1915, identifies such communities and mobilizes them into grassroots civil society organizations that find homegrown solutions to community problems. Communities in peril lack reliable water, sanitation and electricity, basic health care and education and adequate economic opportunity. Women are particularly vulnerable, and families struggle to stay together. These are the ingredients of societal crisis that foster extremism and violence.

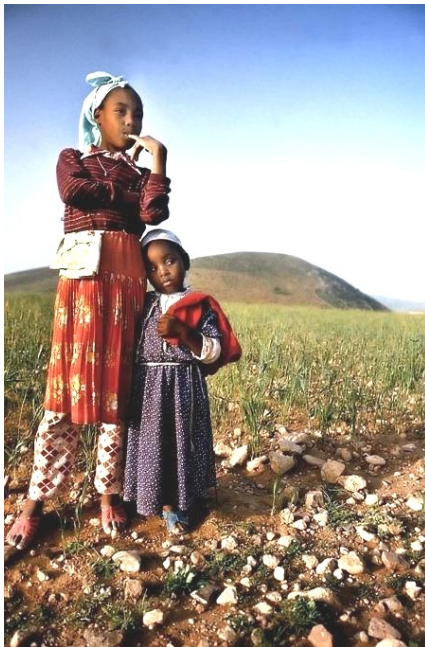


- 35,000 Sudanese fleeing conflict in Darfur and the south live in a mud-hut settlement, 35 kilometers from Khartoum, where the government relocated them
- 60,000 Egyptian farmers struggle to learn desert agriculture near Lake Nasser, where the government plans to move one million people from the Nile Delta
- Girls in dozens of Berber villages miss school in the face of traditional attitudes and the need to spend all day gathering wood for cooking
- Palestinian children in the northern West Bank lack adequate nutrition and schools, and single mothers have few job opportunities
- 46 villages in the Tarabe Korombana region of Mali's Inland Niger Delta face

the failure of traditional millet and rice cultivation as the desert encroaches and they exhaust available wood and water supplies

NEF's hundred-plus staff-- who come from the countries where they work -- guide communities through stages of identifying problems; recognizing the value of collaborative problem solving; and forming civil society organizations in response. NEF, an international non-governmental organization, had its origins in emergency relief for Armenians seeking refuge from the Ottoman Empire. It established and operated orphanages, hospitals and schools throughout the Balkans, Caucasus and Near East that served refugees after World War I and then World War II. As it evolved into a grassroots economic development agency, it presaged President Truman's Point Four Program and later the Peace Corps. Then, as now, NEF relied on the philanthropy of individuals and foundations, as well as governments.





Statement of Financial Position at June 30, 2008

ASSETS	
Cash & equivalents	1,637,291
Grants & Contracts receivable	917,020
Accounts & loans receivable	179,957
Investments & investments in trust	630,663
Other current assets	52,453
Fixed assets net	136,874
	3,554,258
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	363,873
Refundable advances	170,267
	534,140
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	1,304,723
Temporarily restricted	1,480,010
Permanently restricted	235,385
Total net assets	3,020,118
Total	3,554,258

Statement of Activities Year ended June 30, 2008

REVENUES & OTHER SUPPORT	
Contributions	1,246,493
Government	865,152
Private Grants	3,978,268
In Kind Contributions	230,870
Program related	228,285
Other including investment	21,316
	6,570,384
EXPENSES	
Program Services	4,684,256
Management & General	604,703
Fund-raising	201,356
	5,490,315
Net Surplus	1,080,069

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The US Department of State Middle East Partnership Initiative has funded NEF since 2004 to enhance enrollment and retention in rural primary schools, particularly for girls, in the High Atlas Mountains. From 2004 to 2007, on a budget of \$600,000, NEF's program focused on 21 schools in the Ghesate and Imminoulaoune rural communes in the Ouarzazate province with 3,000 students and increased overall attendance by 35%, girls' attendance from an average of 10% to 100% and retention to 98%. (Photo by Jina Dev.)

