



BUILDING CAPABILITY AND COMMUNITY SINCE 1915

ANNUAL REPORT 2003



OUR MISSION

The Near East Foundation helps people in the Middle East and Africa build the future they envision for themselves.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend of the Near East Foundation,

Is your life better this year than it was last year?

That question is often asked around election times in the U.S. Whatever the answer you might give, thousands of people in the Middle East and Africa can answer "yes" because of the work of the Near East Foundation.

That work has been supported by the gifts of hundreds of individuals and organizations who understand and appreciate NEF. They displayed their generosity in 2003 by helping the Foundation's level of voluntary giving to grow significantly in spite of negative economic conditions.

Speaking of generosity: This year we celebrate and express our gratitude for the largest single gift NEF has ever received from an individual. Violet Jabara Jacobs of Pasadena, California gave the Foundation stock worth over \$1 million. Mrs. Jacobs intended this unrestricted gift to be used for the "transformation of the Near East Foundation," to help prepare for its second century doing international development.

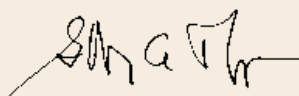
Indeed, 2003 has been a year of transformation for NEF. Richard "Chuck" Robarts became President Emeritus in January after twenty years of service. NEF's assistance to the people of the Middle East and Africa grew exponentially as a result of Chuck's leadership, energy, and wisdom. Most people's career is about building their own future; Chuck Robarts' career has been about helping others build their futures.

Transition to new leadership has offered an opportunity to take stock. NEF's Board of Directors began the process of designing a plan to make the Foundation as effective and efficient as possible as it prepares to move into its next century. The planning process began with the first-ever meeting of NEF country directors in Marrakech, Morocco in January. The energy and commitment of our staff promise exciting and productive years to come.

Whatever plans develop, NEF's primary commitment remains unchanged: partnering with the people of the Middle East and Africa to help them gain the capabilities and resources they need to create their own future. In 2003 that commitment fostered growth in every current program, serving more people in more places and creating additional projects. New programs in Djibouti and Iraq and a greatly expanded program in the West Bank complemented this general growth.

By recognizing the dignity of those with whom we work and helping them take power in their lives, NEF has stayed true to the values of our founders. Appreciation for our approach and accomplishments abounds. The only real constraint to our helping even more people is limited funding. We continue to rely on our many existing friends and new ones to help NEF achieve the stronger future we are envisioning. Thank you!

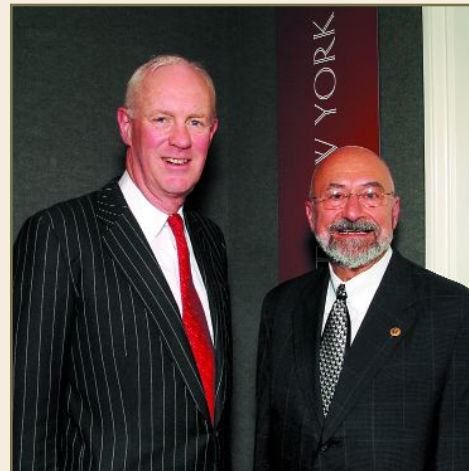
Sincerely,



Geoffrey A. Thompson
Chair, Board of Directors



Ryan A. LaHurd
President



NEF Chairman Geoffrey Thompson and President Ryan LaHurd at the benefit reception celebrating NEF's 88th anniversary and the opening of Near East/New York: The Near East Foundation and American Philanthropy at the Museum of the City of New York. (Photo: Christopher Dawson)

2003 INITIATIVES



DJIBOUTI

◇ NEF launched a pilot project to increase farm production, improve transportation and marketing, promote the development of on-farm enterprises, and improve health and nutrition for over a thousand rural families.

EGYPT

◇ NEF is working to enhance and upgrade nursing schools in Aswan Province and promoting nursing as a career through community-based organizations and local radio, television, and newspapers. With support from the Governor of Aswan, NEF's efforts have raised enrollments in local nursing schools, and the 276 nurses who graduated from Aswan's six nursing schools in May 2003 all secured immediate employment.

◇ NEF worked to expand its youth involvement program by making available reliable, Arabic-language information on reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, and to provide an Egyptian youth organization with the training and technical assistance to disseminate this information locally.

◇ Funded by the Ford Foundation, NEF began a two-year study of Egyptian philanthropy.

ETHIOPIA

◇ NEF began work on an integrated rural development project south of Addis Ababa. The project centers on natural resource management, water use, rural sanitation, and income-generation, together with initiatives in reproductive health care, maternal and child health services, and girls' education.



IRAQ

◇ To address urgent humanitarian needs, NEF's Jordan office assumed responsibility for a program of emergency assistance, coordinating with other partners to purchase and ship to Iraq

over forty tons of bottled water, food, water purification systems, and medical supplies from Jordan and Kuwait.

◇ The Near East Foundation was a member of a consortium led by Research Triangle Institute (RTI International) that won a multi-million dollar USAID contract for local governance work in Iraq. As a member of this consortium, NEF will send up to ten staff members to work with the local governance team to advise on issues concerning program development, rule of law, public administration, community development, and urban management and development.

JORDAN

◇ NEF's long-term investment in fish farming continued to provide returns for small farmers in the Jordan Valley. By the end of the 2002 season, 200 families were raising fish in small, on-farm irrigation ponds, providing income for them and better nutrition for their neighbors.

◇ In Amman, NEF's "Cans for Kids" collection and recycling project resulted in more efficient pickup and greater community awareness; collections reached nearly 90 tons per month.

◇ NEF completed the setup of 17 new rural, community-based credit funds. By the end of 2003, these funds had provided \$365,000 in loans to 300 small businesses, 35 percent of which were owned and operated by women.

LEBANON

◇ NEF and its partner Human Concern International are providing access to credit for low-income borrowers and for borrowers with disabilities chiefly caused by land mines. A loan fund of \$180,000 made possible over 250 loans ranging from \$700 to \$2,000.

LESOTHO

◇ Because so many adults have died of AIDS, leaving many children with no extended family, NEF's GROW began a program to help these orphans develop survival skills and to train community members to provide care.



MALI

◇ NEF's rural programs in Mali continue to expand to new villages. Literacy, microcredit programs for women, new floodwater farming techniques and a rural radio station continue to help the villagers learn skills they require.

◇ This year the Malian government launched a local governance project, which NEF is administering in two provinces.



MOROCCO

◇ Training sessions for over 200 leaders of village associations and rural communes, including over 50 women, were conducted as part of the rural civil society and development project, now in its final year.

◇ Health initiatives expanded to include work on the treatment and prevention of trachoma. With financial support from NEF and based on the recommendations of village parent-teacher associations, community members began construction on new latrines in nine rural schools.

OMAN

◇ In collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Development, NEF conducted a national child welfare study. Based on the study's findings, the Ministry has decided to develop and implement new policies, legislation, and procedures to protect children from all forms of abuse through a nationwide program of training and public awareness.

SUDAN

◇ With funding from the World Bank, NEF helped launch the first Ethiopia-Sudan Development Marketplace, a competition that showcased innovative ideas and best practices in development and poverty reduction. As a result, 20 Sudanese organizations received funding for their ideas.



◇ NEF opened a new health center, funded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, which provides reproductive health services, maternal and child health services, and primary health care to more than 9,000 refugees.

WEST BANK

◇ After eight months of being unable to work because of border closures and military action, NEF reopened its West Bank office in May.

◇ In March, NEF launched a new environmental action project that emphasizes community-based approaches to solid waste management, recycling, awareness-raising, and cost sharing.

◇ In the town of Assira, NEF and its partners initiated the "Helping Kids Cope" project to help children and their families deal with the effects of continuing violence and extended periods of isolation brought about by civil conflict. Funders include The Mosaic Foundation, an American organization of the spouses of Arab Ambassadors to the U.S.

NEW YORK

◇ NEF launched a French-language version of its website (www.neareast.org) and began work on an Arabic version. The website currently logs 20,000 individuals a month who visit the site an average of five times.

◇ A volunteer group of NEF supporters formed the Armenian Friends Committee, with the goal of helping NEF raise funds for an exhibition. Featuring more than 200 never-before-displayed items from the NEF archives, including photographs, letters, fundraising materials, and publications, the exhibition tells the story of NEF's early years between 1915 and 1930. The exhibition is on display from October 4-December 7, 2003 at the Museum of the City of New York. (Photo: Aram Kailian)



◇ In January 2003, Visionaries, Inc. filmed an independently funded documentary on NEF's current work in Morocco and Egypt. The film also features an interview with a survivor of the Armenian genocide and draws on the NEF archives to tell the early history of the Foundation. The two half-hour films are scheduled to be broadcast on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations in 2003 and 2004.

◇ After over 20 years of distinguished service as President of the Near East Foundation, Richard C. Robarts retired in January and become President Emeritus. During 2003, Dr. Ryan LaHurd, the new NEF President, traveled to all NEF's overseas programs, convened a meeting of NEF overseas directors, and began a new fund-raising effort in the New York office.

RECOGNIZING NEF'S CONTRIBUTORS

The Near East Foundation pays tribute to the individual and institutional donors whose generosity makes the Foundation's work possible. NEF is proud of its tradition of sending overseas every dollar contributed for program support.

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The Cleveland H. Dodge Society, founded in 1998, recognizes those who support the Near East Foundation's Annual Fund with unrestricted leadership gifts over \$500. Their commitment and generosity reflect the qualities of Cleveland H. Dodge, who in 1915 called together a group of distinguished New Yorkers to found Near East Relief, which became the Near East Foundation.

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Twenty-five hundred in the Orphan City of 12,000 at Alexandropol express their thanks for American aid provided through Near East Relief. From The New Near East magazine, published monthly by Near East Relief from 1918 to 1927.

Like many friends of NEF, you are probably the kind of person who sees the tremendous need in the world and seeks to make a positive impact. And probably you have learned from experience that many people working together can make a bigger difference.

Making a positive difference in the lives of people in the Middle East and Africa is what NEF is about. We invite you to be part of our team by contributing toward our programs. As NEF has been able to say since 1915, we can assure you that every cent of every dollar you contribute will go to serve people overseas and not to cover fundraising costs or administration of our headquarters office in New York. Those costs are paid by gifts of special friends of NEF, gifts intended for just that purpose.

By supporting NEF you will know that, because of you, families have more food and cleaner water, people are learning to read and write, new businesses are being established to enhance incomes, and farmers are learning new agricultural techniques. And because of the way NEF works, you will know also that these accomplishments are being done in a way that treats people with dignity and ensures these improvements are self-sustaining.

When the world economy slumps, it becomes more of a sacrifice for people to give. And at the same time needs grow greater. Please consider a generous contribution to NEF's Annual Appeal. Consider also the possibility of a planned gift through a trust or bequest. Through an endowment you can make a difference in perpetuity.

Together we are making a meaningful difference!
Thank you for your part in making what NEF does possible.

You can send your gift to NEF's New York office, or use your credit card to donate by telephone or online.

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E-mail: nef-sd.dir@neareast.org
Director: Abdel-Rahman El-Mahdi



Clockwise from left: Michael Kelly (Lesotho), Hajem Halaseh (Jordan), Roger Hardister (Egypt), Alaa Saber (Egypt CDS), Yacouba Dème (Mali), Ryan LaHurd (New York), Abdel-Rahman El-Mahdi (Sudan), Joanne Wedum (Morocco).

MOROCCO
Near East Foundation
Dou ar Tamassinte
Ouarzazate, MOROCCO
Tel: +(212) 44-88-42-92
Fax: +(212) 44-88-42-94
E-mail: nef-ma@neareast.org
Director: Joanne Wedum

LESOTHO
Near East Foundation/GROW
P.O. Box 74
Mokhotlong 500, LESOTHO
E-mail: lengolo@grow.org.ls
Director: Kenneth Storen

MALI
Near East Foundation
B.P. 2627
Bamako, MALI
P.O. Box 09
Region de Mopti
Douentza, MALI
Tel/Fax: +(223) 245-2023
Tel: +(223) 245-2023
E-mail: nefdtza@eikmail.com
Director: Yacouba Dème

SWAZILAND
Women's Resource Centre
Box 3573
Manzini, SWAZILAND
Fax: +(268) 50-55771
E-Mail: wrcumtapo@iafrica.sz
Director: Kathy Gau

NEW YORK
Near East Foundation Headquarters
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2516
New York, NY 10170
Tel: (212) 867-0064
Fax: (212) 867-0169
E-Mail: nef-hq@neareast.org
NEF President: Ryan LaHurd

Statement of Activities and Net Assets, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003
(with comparative totals for 2002)

Revenue, gains and other support:	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2003	Total 2002
Contributions	\$1,293,174	\$500,338		\$1,793,512	\$242,513
Government grants		278,369		278,369	161,649
Private grants		1,353,916		1,353,916	1,111,063
Legacies and bequests	1,202			1,202	1,542
In-kind contributions	31,495			31,495	48,300
Investment income	81,550	448		81,998	117,114
Net realized gain on security transactions	103,427	491		103,918	6,260
Net depreciation of securities	76,485	469		76,954	(576,393)
Program-related income	420,484			420,484	376,968
Miscellaneous	6,063			6,063	8,334
Net assets released from restrictions					
Satisfaction of program restrictions	2,111,936	(2,111,936)			
Satisfaction of equipment acquisition restrictions	19,738	(19,738)			
Total revenue, gains, and other support	\$4,145,554	\$2,357		\$4,147,911	\$1,497,350
Expenses:					
Program services					
Direct program services	\$3,745,144			\$3,745,144	\$3,468,398
Program administration	531,823			531,823	292,378
Total program services	4,276,967			4,276,967	3,760,776
Supporting services					
Management and general	393,592			393,592	355,907
Promotion and fund raising	387,022			387,022	351,393
Total supporting services	780,614			780,614	707,300
Total expenses	\$5,057,581			\$5,057,581	\$4,468,076
Changes in net assets	(\$912,027)	\$2,357		(\$909,670)	(\$2,970,726)
Net assets at the beginning of year	4,562,618	2,234,221	169,702	6,966,541	9,937,267
Net assets at end of year	\$3,650,591	\$2,236,578	\$169,702	\$6,056,871	\$6,966,541

Report of Program Expenditures

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (by country)

Egypt	\$1,529,329	Morocco	\$477,919
Sudan	\$255,729	Mali	\$648,724
West Bank/Gaza	\$69,598	Lesotho	\$337,741
Jordan	\$290,356	Swaziland	\$13,293
Lebanon	\$10,000	Djibouti	\$38,233
Iraq	\$36,813	Ethiopia	\$15,928
		Program Development/Monitoring	\$21,481
Total overseas program expenditures			\$3,745,144

The latest audited financial statement will be available on our website or may be obtained by writing to the Near East Foundation, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2516, New York, NY 10170-2599, or to the State of New York, Department of State, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12231-0001.



Near East Foundation
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2516 • New York, NY 10170
Tel: (212) 867-0064 • Fax: (212) 867-0169

www.near-east.org