

IMPACT REPORT



2023

The Beridze family, in the Republic of Georgia, received chickens through CWS' local partner, RCDA.



A participant of the Timor Zero Hunger program in West Timor tends to her crops that provide much needed nutrition and income for her and her family.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world where everyone has food, voice and a **safe place to call home.**

PHOTO: CATCHLIGHT PICTURES



RICK SANTOS
PRESIDENT AND CEO, CWS

Dear Friends,

As a vital part of the CWS family, you know that together we speak up for our communities with everything we've got. One core value we champion is that **everyone deserves a safe place to call home.**

This year, too many families have lost their safe homes. Inflation and rising food prices have made it harder for families all over the world to meet basic needs. Changing climates churned up severe storms, droughts, wildfires and floods. Millions of people fled war, gang violence, relentless hunger, punishing drought or other threats for a chance at a brighter future.

As always, the CWS family responded by lifting your voices, hearts and hands to prove that **love can be louder than raging storms.** You helped warmly welcome Sudanese refugees in Egypt while continuing to walk alongside Ukrainian refugees (and the communities welcoming them) in Moldova and the United States. You helped to make sure that thousands of unaccompanied children arriving in the United States had safe homes to settle into and the education, legal, counseling and other services that they need to thrive. You enthusiastically stepped up to help launch Welcome Corps, a new U.S. government initiative to expand refugee resettlement through private sponsorship. From Guatemala to Cambodia, and in many communities in between, you've continued to support families as they improve their harvests, put food on the table and connect to clean, safe water.

You have loved loudly this year, and people all over the world have heard and felt it. It has echoed in the crunch of fresh vegetables harvested from flourishing fields, bounced off the walls of homes filled with fellowship and reverberated in the voices of advocates calling for just policies. I hope you see your love reflected in the rest of this report, because our teams hear and see it every single day.

Yours in mission, 

Our Mission

Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Walking alongside our neighbors during times of crisis, emergency or disaster is at the heart of CWS' mission. Every day, faithful CWS friends and supporters give their time, energy and resources to ensure everyone has the tools they need to live today, thrive tomorrow and build a safe place to call home for years to come.

Strengthening Communities

Neighbors around the world are sowing seeds of progress and building a path of prosperity and sustainability with help from the CWS community. In rural Guatemala, 63-year-old Ana Brito is one of 917 families committed to understanding the land she lives on and using that knowledge to create a better life. After joining a CWS-sponsored food security program, Ana received a pig and learned how to grow and harvest foods like chili peppers, tomatoes, spinach, radishes and beets. **"They gave me seeds and I learned new techniques for planting and caring for the land,"** she said. Her dedication to learning and nurturing her surroundings has sparked a transformation for herself and her community. Because of caring CWS supporters, neighbors like Ana are building sustainable futures for generations to come.



50,580 people participated in CWS livelihood programs like Ana

Rebuilding Home

Children affected by war are often forced to leave behind their carefree life, grow up quickly and become little adults. Last year after Russia invaded Ukraine, 13-year-old Mark, his younger brother and their mother fled to neighboring Moldova, leaving Mark's father behind to join the Ukrainian army. **They struggled to adjust to life in Moldova.** For Mark, his father's absence meant he had little time to be a kid. He needed to take on more responsibility to help his family. After finding a CWS-supported educational center in Balti, **Mark was able to continue focusing on his childhood by keeping up with his education and nurturing his newfound passion—painting.** Your support gave Mark the freedom to have fun and just be a kid.



108,952 migrants received legal, psychosocial and other assistance

167,909 individuals reached after an emergency or natural disaster



Responding to Disasters

Earlier this year, neighbors in Pajaro, California experienced severe flooding. Many in the predominantly Spanish-speaking migrant community lost their possessions and didn't have the tools they needed to begin picking up the pieces. Because of compassionate CWS supporters and friends, **communities rebuilding after a disaster aren't left to recover alone.** Through CWS Kits and Blankets, individuals and families in Pajaro, California received the essential supplies they needed to help them through the chaos and begin the road to recovery.



Read the full stories of Ana, Mark and our neighbors in Pajaro.



From Abandonment to Abundance: Juliana's Story

When you first meet Juliana, the first thing you will notice about her is her bright smile. Behind this smile, however, lies a story of abandonment and tragedy that began in Guatemala before Juliana was even born. Just three months before her birth, Juliana's father passed away. Shortly after, her mother, who was battling with grief and depression, began struggling with alcohol and abandoned Juliana. Juliana was left under the care of her grandmother who she grew up to call "mamá."

For about 16 years, Juliana lived in her aunt's home while her grandmother worked. Unfortunately, as the years went on Juliana began to experience emotional abuse and isolation, eventually being kicked out of her aunt's home and returning to be with her grandmother.

During the months she was living with her grandmother, Juliana met her

current partner and became pregnant. She was both excited and nervous to have the baby. "I realized that if my grandmother passed, I wouldn't really have anyone to stay with other than my baby's father," she explained. Through this realization, and her determination to find a better life for herself and her son, Juliana decided to leave for the United States.

At just 16 years old and six months pregnant, Juliana made the dangerous journey to the U.S. border.

At just 16 years old and six months pregnant, Juliana bravely made the dangerous journey to the U.S. border on her own. When she arrived at the border, she held onto her belly tightly and crossed the Rio Grande where immigration officials took her to the detention center to process her into the U.S.

In the U.S., Juliana went to live with her uncle where she, unfortunately, continued to experience abuse and neglect. However, she stayed focused and enrolled in high school. A couple months later, she was alone in the hospital giving birth to her baby boy.

The lack of support Juliana had become accustomed to would, thankfully, come to an end soon. Juliana and her baby began living with her mother-in-law who welcomed them with warmth and kindness. A few months later, Juliana's partner was able to join them. She excitedly shared that her baby said his first word shortly after, "papá."

Juliana and her son are now starting to live the life they always deserved.

In those same months, Juliana was also connected to CWS and began receiving support from her case manager, Jose. Juliana and her son are now starting to live the life they always deserved. She has been able to return to school where her teachers call her "la niña mil amigos," which means "the girl with a thousand friends." She is dedicated to her son and dreams of going to college to become a nurse, so that she can support other young mothers like her. She also hopes that her son will one day meet her grandmother who Juliana talks to almost every day.

Although Juliana's life may have begun as a lonely one, it will no longer be that way. And neither will her son's. She is now surrounded by a family who loves her, "thousands" of friends and CWS who is backing her up as she pursues her greatest goals and dreams. 📍

Path to Safety

CWS walks alongside migrants on every step on their journey to safety:

Central America

We partner with rural communities to provide the resources families need to recover from disaster, put food on the table and stay in their homes.



Mexico

CWS-supported shelters offer migrants a safe haven and access to legal and medical assistance along their dangerous journey.



Southern Border

The CWS border shelter network welcomes people seeking asylum with open arms, a good meal and a safe place to rest and plan their next steps.

Entering the U.S.

The CWS call center connects asylum seekers and other migrants with our local offices and partners in cities and towns across the U.S.

New Communities

CWS offices help asylum seekers, unaccompanied children and other migrants access legal services, social services, trauma-informed care and other vital support needed to rebuild their lives.

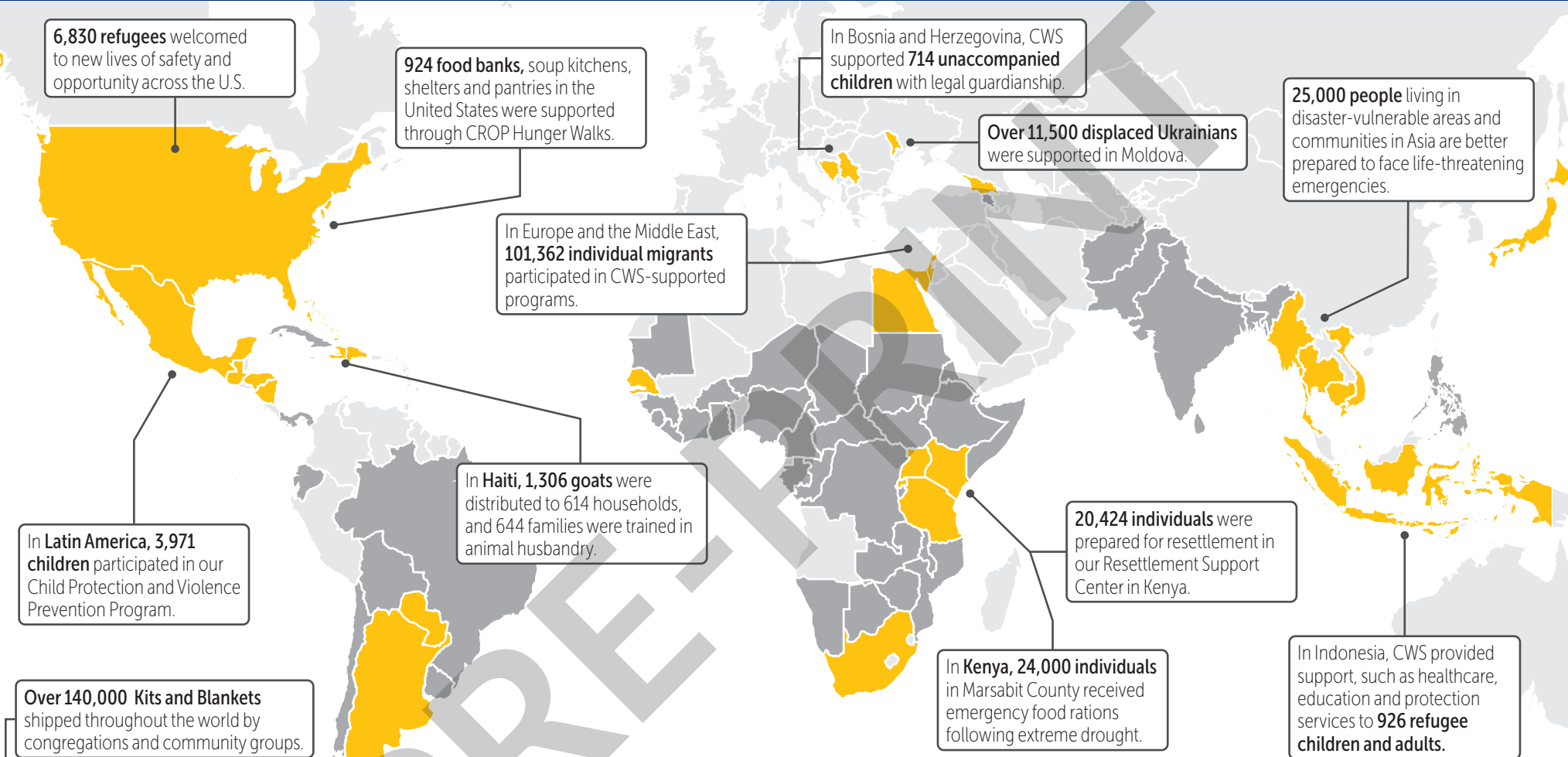


Our Presence Around the World

Thanks to the overwhelming compassion of our donors and volunteers, CWS operated in 31 countries this year and reached families in dozens more.

Below is a sample of what we achieved together this past year.

COUNTRIES WITH CWS PROGRAMS COUNTRIES THAT CWS PROGRAMS REACH



Over 140,000 Kits and Blankets shipped throughout the world by congregations and community groups.



13,558

CLEANUP BUCKETS



31,005

BLANKETS



58,350

HYGIENE KITS



35,880

SCHOOL KITS



767

WELCOME BACKPACKS



4,756

PERIOD PACKS



See our full global shipping report!

Milestones You Made Possible

From responding to disasters to walking alongside our refugee neighbors as they began safe, new lives in the United States, our work would not be possible without the compassion of generous supporters like you. This year, and every year, your support has made a life-saving impact!



PHOTO: ACTUALITY MEDIA

CROP Hunger Walk

Our CROP Hunger Walkers are taking steps to end hunger in their communities and around the world. Last year, more than 47,000 people from across 43 states participated in one of more than 415 CROP Hunger Walks across the United States and **raised over \$6.3 million** to help our neighbors near and far put food on the table.

When we reached the end of our walk, our feet were tired but our hearts were full ...our worldwide community seemed a lot closer that day.

MARIANA, CROP HUNGER WALK PARTICIPANT - AUSTIN, TX

Disaster Response

From flooding in Pakistan to earthquakes in Türkiye, our supporters stepped up to respond in the face of disaster. Your support **mobilized nearly \$4.5 million** for our neighbors impacted by disasters and emergencies.



With the birth of our new child on the horizon, we are grateful for the support of CWS to help us repair the house.

RYAN, TYPHOON RAI SURVIVOR - PHILIPPINES

Congregations

Each year, our congregational supporters prove that we're stronger together. Last year, congregations across the United States **raised more than \$3 million** in support of our work.

These acts of compassion are what is most important to God and how he wants us to live our faith. I think CWS allows people to walk the talk.

BRUCE, MINISTER - OWEGO, NY



PHOTO: ACTUALITY MEDIA

Individual Giving

This life-changing work is impossible without generous and compassionate donors like you. You helped **raise nearly \$10 million** across the globe, in 17 countries and in the United States.

750 Sustaining Partners make a change in the world through monthly giving



I know you weren't there with us but I hope that you can feel through the words that I've said that you really helped. Every little small help really counted. I know you cannot enter my mind and see all the smiles that I've seen and all the tears that I've felt, but I want to give you a great big hug and thank you.

DANIELA, LUDOBUS PROGRAM COORDINATOR - MOLDOVA



Take Action. Give Hope. Change Lives.

Living a Generous Life

Generosity is a way of life for members of First Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio.

With Pastor Tim Ahrens leading the way, everyone is inspired to take action to help others. "I really think that it's in our DNA to be a mission church," he said.

The church's youth ministry is no exception. From serving in soup kitchens to walking in marches, the youth are determined to positively impact the lives of their neighbors.

Through their partnership with CWS Kits and Blankets, the youth ministry is putting their generosity into action. During a recent youth mission week, 16-year-old Henry Gillies was one of 14 participants serving the community by handing out kits and blankets in need.

"Getting involved is super important because you want to look out for everyone in your community," shared Henry. "That's what God tells us to do, and that's what we should do as Christians."

Henry and the entire youth ministry shared 230 kits and blankets with neighbors in Columbus.

"That's just what we should do as humans. Looking out for others when they're down because we want others to look out for us when we're struggling."



LEARN MORE:
VOLUNTEERING

Our Communities

Through sharing of their time, talent and resources, CWS volunteers and donors turn dreams into reality and have a transformative impact on the lives of many – including their own.

More than **28,299** volunteers supported CWS local offices across the U.S.



A Warm Welcome Home

"We are like family."

These are words spoken by Mubarak, an Afghan refugee living in Danbury, Connecticut.

After arriving in the United States in March 2022, he feels a sense of love and belonging within his community, thanks to an

unbreakable bond he formed with the five women who ensured his welcome home was filled with support.

Barb Davis, Maureen Devin, Barbara Wolf, Renee Bronner and Lisa Cambridge-Mitchell may have joined the Danbury Area Refugee Assistance (DARA) co-sponsorship team at different times, but they all are dedicated to supporting newly arriving refugees as they rebuild their lives in the U.S.

Because of them, Mubarak's life has transformed—he has a driver's license, a new job and is able to support his younger brothers who attend school and work part-time. Mubarak even remembers a time when he became seriously ill and called Lisa, who took him to the hospital and sat by his side the entire night.

Co-sponsorship is more than a formal arrangement—it's agreeing to welcome a new family home. Now, Mubarak is passing on the skills he learned from his co-sponsorship team to support other Afghan refugees in his community.



LEARN MORE:
CO-SPONSORSHIP

More than **2,000** new neighbors served by **670** co-sponsor groups!

Community sponsorship brings people together to give practical support to refugees or people seeking asylum. They give their time, resources and expertise to help newcomers secure housing, employment, language training along with social and cultural assistance.

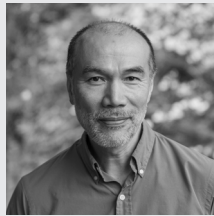
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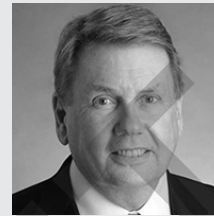
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The United Methodist Church

More than 4,000 families received emergency food rations this year in rural Kenya through a partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



"We are thankful for the food assistance from CWS... [It] represents a child who can go to school again, a parent who no longer has to worry about their children going hungry and a neighbor who can choose to stay in the place they call home."

- Julieta



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