

## Priority of Practice

# Migrant Protection & Assistance



INDONESIA PURE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT AND CWS STAFF  
PHOTO: CATCHLIGHT PICTURES

### About CWS

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. Our vision is a world where everyone has food, voice, and a safe place to call home.

### Protecting Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, Migrants and Other People on the Move

Over the last two decades, prolonged conflicts, disasters, and economic crises have led to increasing levels of displacement around the world. In mid-2023 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that forced displacement exceeded 110 million people globally, with children accounting for 41 percent of the total.<sup>1</sup> Many of those children are on their own without the care and protection of their parents or other caregivers. Additionally, large numbers of migrants are escaping to or through countries where their rights are not guaranteed or violated.

### CWS Approach to Migrant Protection and Assistance

CWS has a long history of working alongside refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers. Our programs' theories of change reflect the importance of creating and strengthening relationships and social bonds between people on the move and host community institutions. CWS connects migrants and refugees with neighborhood faith and community groups, public sector and civic institutions, and local businesses and commercial networks. This approach builds the social capital of people on the move, which in turn increases their ability to become economically self-reliant, live safely and with dignity.

CWS recognizes that affected people, especially those in more vulnerable situations, such as children, refugees, migrants, and traditionally marginalized groups, may need special attention, support, and

1. <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

protection. In Indonesia, Egypt and Bosnia, CWS particularly provides support for Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Youth (UASCY), who face heightened risks of abduction, trafficking, exploitation, physical violence and harmful practices, and lack of access to asylum procedures.

Within the context of our work, CWS defines “protection” according to the Sphere standards<sup>2</sup> as: encompassing all efforts pursued by humanitarian and human rights actors to ensure that the rights of affected persons and obligations under international and national law are understood, respected, protected, and fulfilled without discrimination. CWS contributes to the realization of key global goals - such as the implementation of the [Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#) and [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) - through safeguarding the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in vulnerable situations, in ways that benefit communities who welcome newcomers.

## Strategic Alignment, Local Partnerships and Capacity Strengthening

Since we began our work in 1946, CWS has advocated for the safety, dignity and human rights of migrants and displaced persons. Today, CWS participates in numerous technical work groups and advocacy coalitions, in the US and globally, and continues to work with its partners to serve people in the most vulnerable situations. In Indonesia and Egypt, CWS strengthens refugee-led organizations (RLOs) to provide inclusive education services and other essential services to refugees from multiple countries.

## Protecting Urban Refugees through Empowerment (PURE)

INDONESIA



<b>Duration:</b>	2022 – 2024 (ongoing)
<b>Funders:</b>	US State Department Bureau for Population Refugees and Migration (PRM), Australian Department of Home Affairs, UNHCR, Frank Denton
<b>Total Budget:</b>	\$1.6 Million USD/Year
<b>Partners:</b>	Dompot Dhuafa Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Indonesian Civil Society Association for Refugee Rights Protection (SUAKA), Yayasan Guru Belajar, Human Initiative, Indonesia Postal Service, 16 hospitals, clinics and government-operated community health centres

CWS and our partners work to protect and support refugees and asylum seekers in the Greater Area of Jakarta, Indonesia, with a special focus on unaccompanied children and Women and Girls at Risk (WAGAR). The Protecting Urban Refugees through Empowerment - PLUS (PURE+) program focuses on ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers have access to basic education, physical and mental health, psychosocial care; critical information in appropriate languages; safe, secure gathering places; peer-to-peer and refugee-community support, and protection information sessions and individualized plans, especially for children and women.

### Program Impact

- Managed around 400 referrals per month providing access to physical and mental health care
- Facilitated education services for elementary level (26 children), accelerated education program (2 children), enrollment to preparation class for public school (9 children)
- Provided protection services at a group home for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) (40 boys), and a separate group home for Women and Children at Risk (WAGAR) (54 residents), and distributed monthly subsistence allowances, hygiene kits, undergarments, bedding, household items, and provided educational and sports programs
- Supported independent living for 25 young adult refugees who transitioned from group homes
- Supported and strengthened 3 education-focused RLOs to deliver inclusive education, including vocational training for 53 young adults

2. [The Sphere Handbook | Standards for quality humanitarian response \(spherestandards.org\)](#)

## CWS Ukraine Response Program

MOLDOVA



**Duration:** 2022 – 2024

**Funders:** United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), United Church of Christ (UCC), Church of The Brethren, The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), Trull Foundation, ACT Alliance, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Howard Gillman Foundation, Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church, Global Impact, International Ministries, Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ.

**Total Budget:** \$5,667,434 USD

**Partners:** Diaconia Social Mission, Ormax, Soarta Community Association, Memoria, Roma National Center, Romni, Zdvorovii Gorod, Speranta Terrei, Uniunea de Sanatate si Echitate, Fundatia Crestina Titus, and Filantropia.

CWS has been responding to the influx of refugees caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in partnership with eleven national organizations, providing program management, technical expertise, capacity building, and funding. CWS established a country office to implement refugee assistance programming in the areas of food and non-food items (NFIs), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) case management, health, mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS), social cohesion and education.

### Program Impact

- Since 2022, CWS has supported more than 44, 000 unique refugees and host community members.

## HELPP: Support for Refugees and Their Communities in Cairo

EGYPT



**Duration:** 2022 – 2024 (ongoing)

**Funders:** US State Department Bureau for Population Refugees and Migration (PRM)

**Total Budget:** \$1,930,307 USD

CWS supports St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS), a local refugee-led organization providing wraparound legal, protection, health, education, and psychosocial support for refugees and their communities in Cairo. The program addresses immediate and long-term unmet needs of vulnerable displaced people, including registered and undocumented refugees, and migrants, in Egypt, with a special focus on unaccompanied children and youth. For those with emergency needs, CWS provides emergency cash assistance and food items. In response to the growing and complex protection needs of refugees, StARS relies on long-term case management services that can span multiple quarters and multiple years, depending on the individual's needs and risks they face.

### Program Impact

- Annually, the program reaches over 30,000 clients with comprehensive case management in child protection, Gender-based Violence (GBV), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies (MHPSS), legal assistance, health and education services.
- In response to the crisis in Sudan, HELPP in Egypt has provided an additional 16,000 refugees from Sudan with emergency assistance and case management support.

# Migrant Programs

U.S. - MEXICO BORDER



- Duration:** 2021 – now
- Funders:** UNHCR, UNICEF, UMCOR, Save the Children
- Total Budget:** \$1,930,307 USD

CWS supports migrants and asylum seekers at the United States-Mexico border and throughout the interior of the US. CWS supports more than thirty border shelters in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. CWS provides shelters with necessary resources to support their reception efforts, such as material aid, CWS blankets, hygiene kits, onward movement packets, and emergency cash grants in 2021. CWS also completed site visits to border shelters, has regular check-ins, and provides training, technical assistance and connection to other stakeholders and resources to build shelter staff capacity.

In addition to the Border Asylum Shelter Coalition, CWS also ran a Border Volunteer Corps Program from 2021 - 2022, in which volunteers help shelter staff address mental health and psychosocial support, child protection, and other asylum seeker needs. CWS also supports Red de Documentación de las Organizaciones Defensoras de Migrantes (REDODEM), a Mexican network of 21 shelters and organizations located in 13 Mexican states, serving migrants in transit, refugees and asylum seekers. CWS provides direct funding to ABBA House (a shelter in Celaya, Mexico) focused on providing long-term care to particularly vulnerable mobile populations. With technical support and funding from CWS, ABBA House offers counselling as well as legal and employment support to migrants, along with shelter, food, medical assistance, hygiene supplies, clothes, shoes and telephone access.

## Program Impact

- Hired and placed yearlong Border Volunteers at Safe Harbors (San Diego, CA), Casa Alitas (Tucson, AZ), and Val Verde Humanitarian Coalition (Del Rio, TX), and Mission Border Hope (Eagle Pass, TX)
- Enrolled 274 individuals in the referral program for CWS Case Management from border reception sites; 148 individuals received alternative community referrals
- Provided border shelters with 7 Trainings on Communications, Media, Mental Health First Aid, ADA access and case management for LGBTQI migrant populations
- Completed over 2,299 interviews in 19 border shelters, recorded in the UNHCR Kobo toolbox system.
- Provided technical assistance and shelter support by providing material aid, including the distribution over \$500,000 worth of material goods to border shelters (fleece blankets, hygiene kits, welcome backpacks)

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As a global humanitarian organization, CWS strictly adheres and applies Core Humanitarian and Sphere Standards across all programs and seeks to ensure that it is accountable to all those who participate in and benefit from its program activities. CWS' Accountability to Affected Populations Guidance reflects this commitment and outlines CWS practices and procedures to improve the quality and quantity of feedback within CWS program activities. CWS has PSEA, Child Safeguarding, Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption policies and practices which are IASC compliant.

## Contact

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