



IMPACT REPORT



2025



And the rain fell, and the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat on that house,
but it did not fall,
because it had been founded on the rock.

— MATTHEW 7:25

Dear CWS Friends,

It has been a stormy year. Since taking office in January, the new administration has dismantled the policies and structures that countless people rely on. They have attempted to deny the legitimate and legal claims of people seeking safety. They have cut vital food programs, undermined emergency response efforts and gutted services that millions of people count on to meet their basic needs. They have also eliminated humanitarian programs worldwide and abandoned commitments to neighbors near and far.

The number of people who need programs like ours is surging, but these programs have been cut. These funding cuts have forced us to say goodbye to hundreds of brilliant team members. We've had to close offices and adjust much of our programming.

The storms are raging, but CWS has a sturdy foundation and deep roots. For nearly 80 years, we've built sustainable, community-driven programs alongside people and partners all over the world. Our work is grounded in our vision of a world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call home. No matter the headwinds, we will put one foot in front of the other. We are still walking alongside communities worldwide—meeting urgent needs and advocating for lasting change—as they put food on the table, find new or improved ways to earn a living and build safer, healthier lives.

You will see examples throughout this report of how we're standing strong and fighting back. Whether you're an advocate, a volunteer or a donor, you're standing with us.

We are founded on the rock. Our movement endures, and I'm so glad that you're here.

In solidarity,

Rick Santos
President and CEO
Church World Service



Holding on to Hope: One Family's Fight for a Better Life

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



At just 13 years old, Pacito fled the Democratic Republic of Congo, beginning a long and uncertain journey in search of safety. Nine years later, he was living in Nairobi, Kenya with his wife and son, filled with hope about the chance to build a safe new life in the United States.

"When I was given the chance to move to America, it felt like I was given a second chance at life," he said.

The family sold their belongings, packed only what could fit in their luggage and prepared for a new beginning. But the day before departure, Pacito received a devastating call—their flight was canceled.

"I hoped there was a mistake," he recalled. That night, they slept outside the transit center with other refugee families. The next morning, they learned the truth: refugee travel had been suspended. "I [didn't] know what [we were] going to do. We have nothing."

With a single signature, President Trump's executive order halted all refugee admissions—derailing years of preparation and putting countless lives at risk. Families like Pacito's, who had endured endless rounds of paperwork, medical exams and interviews, were suddenly left in limbo, their hopes for a new life shattered.

In response, CWS joined resettlement agencies and individuals in filing the first lawsuit challenging the refugee ban and funding freeze: *Pacito v. Trump*. CWS supporters rallied—giving generously to keep refugee programs running and advocating to preserve our nation's legacy of welcome.

Thanks to a temporary court ruling, Pacito and his family finally departed for the United States in July 2025. "I feel like I'm blessed," he shared upon his arrival. Because of CWS's legal action, 160 other refugees like Pacito have also been welcomed to the United States, along with 1,000 Afghans seeking safety.

Pacito's story now has a happy ending, but many others are still being written. Tens of thousands of refugees still wait for the case's outcome, holding onto hope for a safe new future. As they wait to find refuge, the CWS community continues to walk alongside our neighbors—standing up, speaking out and ensuring that everyone has a safe place to call home.

HUNGER & LIVELIHOODS



stability and the joy of giving back. "This is the first time an institution has helped us. Thank God and thank you."

In Las Varas, Honduras, you're helping families create lasting change. Pedro Pablo Gutiérrez, his wife Rosa and daughter Glenda have turned their small plot into a thriving farm. They grow fruits and vegetables, raise pigs and chickens and use sustainable practices like making fertilizer and cooking with eco-stoves. Thanks to supporters like you, their family has reliable access to food — with enough to share. They recently gifted a piglet to another family. For the Gutiérrez family, this support has meant resilience,

DISPLACEMENT



With support from CWS and local partner the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Adamou found safety in Serbia after fleeing violence in Niger. Granted asylum in 2022, he began rebuilding his life—working, playing football and dreaming of a brighter future. When sudden challenges forced him from his apartment, **your generosity provided temporary housing, giving Adamou the stability and hope he needed to keep moving forward toward safety and a fresh start.**

DISASTER



In April 2025, a devastating earthquake struck central Myanmar, destroying homes, water sources and livelihoods. **Thanks to the generosity of compassionate donors like you—and the dedication of local partners—CWS responded swiftly, delivering critical aid to the hardest-hit communities.** Your support provided nutritious food packages, restored clean water access through repaired taps and deliveries, and installed new community toilets and solar lighting in vulnerable areas. Today, families are rebuilding their lives with dignity, safety and hope—comforted by the knowledge that they are not alone.

Spotlights

INSTITUTIONAL DONOR



Since 2023, the **Eli Lilly & Company Foundation** has been a vital supporter of the CWS Indianapolis office, providing grants to supply backpacks filled with school supplies, hygiene items and blankets to unaccompanied children. In 2025, the Foundation expanded its support to CWS sites in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, Michigan, helping

ensure more children and refugees across resource-limited settings in the Midwest receive the care and resources they need to rebuild their lives.

Lilly's generosity extends beyond funding — separately to the Foundation, through Lilly's Employee Resource Group, OLA, employees shared joy during the holiday season by donating gifts to children from an Amazon Wishlist.

PRIVATE DONOR

Eugene and Patsy Holsinger devoted their lives to helping others, Eugene as a small-town country doctor, and both through their shared commitment to service. After their passing, that legacy of compassion lives on through a generous gift to Church World Service, honored by their sons, Kevin and Kent.

"It's nice to know that their gift might help someone find a home, respond



to an emergency or even help people and the environment recover with a sand dam," Kevin shared. "It feels really good to help make the world a better place."

Top 21 Institutional Funders

1. United Methodist Committee on Relief
2. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
3. Alongside Hope
4. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5. Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
6. United Church of Christ
7. Japan Platform
8. Airbnb.org
9. Growing Hope Globally
10. Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc.
11. Lutheran World Relief
12. Church of the Brethren
13. Carnegie Corporation of New York
14. Arcus Foundation
15. Week of Compassion
16. Presbyterian Church USA
17. Osprey Foundation
18. Partnership for Better Health
19. Unbound Philanthropy
20. Volunteer Florida Foundation Inc
21. Bohemian Foundation



Board of Directors

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- Dr. Samuel Mwenda
- Harriett Jane Olson
- Wendy Patten
- Richard L. Santos
- Angela Spencer-James
- Sonya Funna Evelyn
- Sam Worthington

Covenant Members

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Alliance of Baptists
- American Baptist Churches USA
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada
- Church of the Brethren
- Community of Christ
- The Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- International Council of Community Churches
- Moravian Church in America
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Reformed Church in America
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the General Board of Global Mission (GBGM), The United Methodist Church

Take Action

SHARE YOUR TIME

- Organize a CWS Kit or Bucket assembly
- Organize a fundraiser to provide CWS Blankets
- Help welcome a newly arrived refugee

SHARE YOUR VOICE

- Advocate for just legislation and policies
- Create your own virtual fundraiser

SHARE YOUR PLATFORM

- Promote your CROP Hunger Walk or other CWS events
- Share content from CWS social media to encourage compassion and action



PHOTO COURTESY OF IRAP



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.



CWSGLOBAL.ORG

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Our Presence

Thanks to the overwhelming compassion of our donors and volunteers, CWS works to strengthen communities in **67 countries** around the world. Here is a sample of what we achieved together this past year.

COUNTRIES WITH CWS PROGRAMS COUNTRIES WITH CWS OFFICES



Tens of thousands joined CROP Hunger Walks this year, raising **\$6.5 million to fight hunger worldwide**. CWS grants supported **845 U.S. food pantries, soup kitchens and service agencies**.



With your support, **5,273 unaccompanied migrant children**—across countries like the United States—are participating in CWS programs that help them build safe, stable futures where they can grow and thrive.



CWS provided emergency food assistance to **13,878 people affected by disasters and humanitarian emergencies**, including Ukrainian refugees living in Moldova.



Thanks to your generosity, CWS delivered **131,401 essential services to displaced individuals**—including support with housing, employment, legal assistance, mental health care, education and protection—helping thousands take their next steps toward safety and stability.

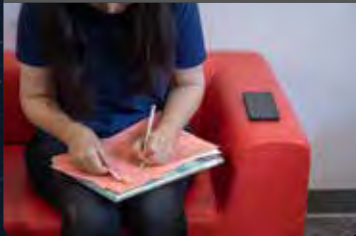


Through CWS Japan, **50,107 people across Asia** strengthened their resilience through disaster risk reduction and response programs—enhancing preparedness and advancing both climate and non-climate risk assessments to better protect their communities.



Together with our generous donors, CWS distributed **78,772 Kits and Blankets** to neighbors impacted by emergencies around the world, including Thailand—offering comfort and critical supplies when they were needed most.

Your compassion made a global impact—ensuring **81,424 displaced individuals, including asylum seekers, humanitarian parolees, non-U.S. resettled refugees and other migrants**, received essential services and support across regions like Latin America and the Caribbean.



With your help, **74,913 individuals** received the tools and training needed to grow nutritious food, earn an income and strengthen their resilience through CWS livelihood programs, including CWS's Produce Verde project in Honduras.



Through the CWS-operated Resettlement Support Center Africa, **19,042 refugees** were resettled to safety in the United States.

Thanks to your support, **97,230 individuals living in high-risk disaster zones, including countries like Kenya**, are now better equipped to face emergencies and climate-related challenges.



24,978 people around the world—including communities in Asia where new wells were installed—now have improved access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene through CWS programs.



Significant Events

July 2024-December 2025

- JUL. 2024**

Jul. 1 – Jan. 31 CWS welcomed 9,697 individuals through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement and Placement Program.
- SEPT. 2024**

Sept. 25 CWS opens a new office in Odesa, Ukraine that aims to reach 4,500 people.
- OCT. 2024**

CWS delivers thousands of CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets, Hygiene Kits and Blankets across Florida and North Carolina as communities recover from Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- JAN. 2025**

Jan. 8 After deadly California wildfires, CWS helped establish a Wildfire Resource Hub—supplying Go Bags, blankets, food, housing support and other resources to affected families.

Jan. 20 Trump signs an executive order banning refugee resettlement and freezing foreign aid.

Jan. 22 The refugee ban takes effect five days before expected. 12,000 refugees who had flights to the U.S. booked are left in limbo.

Jan. 24 Stop-work orders force CWS to suspend resettlement and placement services funded by the government. Mass layoffs follow, leaving severe service gaps for refugees already in the United States.
- FEB. 2025**

Feb. 10 CWS joins HIAS, LCSNW and nine individuals in *Pacito v. Trump*, the first lawsuit challenging the refugee ban and funding freeze, filed in Seattle with pro-bono counsel, IRAP.

Feb. 14 CWS launches the “*Emboldened in the Face of Adversity*” appeal to raise \$5 million over 18 months to defend refugees with legal support, resettlement and global humanitarian aid.
- MAR. 2025**

Mar. 5 With Covenant Members and supporters nationwide, CWS launches the *Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Declaration*—a pledge to preserve welcome for all people, regardless of faith, language or origin, through collective action.
- MAY 2025**

Due to funding cuts, CWS announces the closure of 11 program offices across the United States.

May 5 A federal judge orders the U.S. government to obey court rules and allow entry for refugees who had approved travel plans to the United States before January 20, 2025.

May 23 CWS and other agencies restart some resettlement services, focusing on Afghan arrivals. U.S. government releases most of the funding/ reimbursements it owed to CWS and other partners.
- JUN. 2025**

Jun. 20 CWS joins refugees, faith leaders and supporters to present the Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Declaration at the White House—signed by nearly 600 churches and 3,000+ faith leaders.
- JUL. 2025**

Jul. 10 Pacito, the lead plaintiff in *Pacito v. Trump*, and approximately 80 other refugees arrive in the United States.
- AUG. 2025**

Aug. 15 – Jan. 14 CWS Africa works with long-time partners to deliver food aid in the Democratic Republic of Congo, assisting 9,450 people with immediate food needs and distributing seed packs for long-term food security.
- SEPT. 2025**

Sept. 1 CWS Africa staff establishes a new program office in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Sept. 12 The Ninth Circuit pauses the district court’s injunctions while reviewing the case. Refugee resettlement and placement services are restricted again.
- NOV. 2025**

CWS Thailand and Japan launch a new project providing Burmese refugees on the Thailand/ Myanmar border with shelter, food, education and jobs.