

GLOBAL EMERGENCY SNAPSHOT

This update provides the latest snapshot of the most pressing humanitarian emergency responses. Catholic Relief Services teams and partners are carrying out vital emergency relief and recovery efforts around the world. Our work is possible thanks to the generous support of private and public donors, the dedication of local partners, and the unwavering presence of Caritas and the local Catholic Church.

EUROPE + THE MIDDLE EAST Iraq: Conflict and displacement



CRS provides support to some of the 85,000 people displaced by the battle for Fallujah.
Photo by CRS staff

Military operations are still underway by Iraqi, Kurdish and coalition forces to retake Mosul from ISIS control. As many as 400,000 people are expected to be displaced from the city and, along with many more in other parts of the country, will need help to face the harsh winter. Since January 2014, the violence in northern and central Iraq has caused devastation and mass displacement. Last year, more than 7,500 people were killed, and 3.3 million fled to other parts of the country. More than 80 percent of those displaced are living outside of the organized camps, with host families, or in makeshift or unfinished dwellings. In all, nearly 10 million people in Iraq need humanitarian assistance.

CRS is responding to newly uprooted families as well as people who have been displaced for years. We are prepared and stand ready with emergency staff and materials

for the Mosul response. One of the most pressing needs is accessing recently uprooted families from Hawija living both in and outside of organized camps.

Provisions of cash for kerosene are well underway in Dohuk and Ninewa, already reaching 800 out of 4,000 families. CRS will scale up shelter activities with Caritas Iraq by upgrading more buildings in Ghazaliya, where we have now reached well over 1,000 people.

CRS and Caritas Iraq have helped more than 150,000 people, and are positioning critical staff and supplies in areas where uprooted families are expected. Besides providing vital emergency supplies, CRS is improving unfinished buildings for housing, providing for sanitation and making sure children receive education and emotional care.

EUROPE + THE MIDDLE EAST Greece: Refugee crisis

Greece is the epicenter of Europe's refugee crisis, with more than 170,000 refugees and migrants, many of whom arrived through perilous sea routes this year. Almost 5,000 people have died at sea or are missing. This year's arrivals add to the almost 857,000 who landed in Greece in 2015. The majority are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, and more than half are women and children. Border closures and delays in processing asylum claims have caused overcrowding and security risks for refugees and migrants, and some tension with host communities. Many people are sleeping with inadequate shelter as winter approaches.

In the past year, CRS and our partners have provided assistance to more than 350,000 refugees and migrants across Greece and the Balkans. Priorities have included food and emergency supplies, temporary shelter, urban service hubs for hot meals and showers, and medical and legal services. Since March, when nearly 60,000 refugees were stranded after the Balkan borders closed, programming emphasis has shifted to shelter. CRS is partnering with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide temporary shelter, by repairing vacant buildings across Athens, for refugees transiting to their country of asylum. For many refugees, it is their first warm, safe, dignified shelter after months of travel and years of war.

- Watch this behind-the-scenes video: [CRS/Caritas architects find shelter for refugees in Athens](#)

EUROPE + THE MIDDLE EAST

Syrian refugee crisis

Thousands of residents of eastern Aleppo have been fleeing after days of almost constant attacks by Syrian and Russian forces. Five years of fighting in Syria has resulted in massive destruction of cities, farms, roads, hospitals and schools—and harmed the people who lived, farmed and studied there. More than 400,000 Syrians have been killed and nearly 1 million injured. Some 11 million people are displaced, either to other parts of the country, or to neighboring countries. Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt bear the heaviest burden, together hosting more than 4.8 million people. Many refugees have attempted a harrowing—sometimes deadly—journey to Europe.

CRS has helped more than 1.25 million Syrians in the Middle East and Europe, and we continually adjust our services as refugees relocate. A large part of



Amani, left, from Aleppo, and Marwa, from Homs, make puppets at a summer school run by CRS partner the Good Shepherd Sisters in Lebanon.
Photo by Sam Tarling for CRS

our programming for refugees occurs in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt, where help includes food vouchers and rent stipends, vital living supplies, hygiene and sanitation facilities, medical assistance, and education and counseling for children.

HAITI

Hurricane

Hurricane Matthew made landfall on October 4, killing 900 people. It destroyed homes, infrastructure, farmland and businesses—particularly in the South and Grand Anse provinces. An estimated 2.1 million people were affected, and 1.4 million needed immediate humanitarian assistance. CRS is helping 215,000 of the most vulnerable people meet their immediate needs and recover with dignity. Priority support includes food, hygiene supplies, home repairs and rebuilding, clean drinking water, rehabilitation of health facilities—particularly those treating cholera—and helping farmers restore their livelihoods. To date, CRS has distributed food assistance to nearly 10,000 families, and shelter supplies to another 13,200. In mid-November, CRS provided vouchers to 1,000 farmers in Chantal to buy seed for the current planting season. Long-term activities will focus on shelter and agriculture recovery.

WEST + CENTRAL AFRICA

Boko Haram crisis

The drought-prone Lake Chad Basin—including Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria—is one of the world's poorest regions due to environmental degradation, climate change, poor governance and isolation. In addition, Boko Haram extremists have killed thousands of people, primarily in northeastern Nigeria. Boko Haram has planted bombs in public places, abducted women and girls, forcefully conscripted young men and boys, and destroyed villages and towns. At least 9.2 million people urgently need food, water and basic supplies. Of these, 2.7 million also need shelter, having been uprooted from their homes. Boko Haram is destroying farmland, seizing livestock and forcing markets and farms to shut down. In some areas, people have been unable to plant or harvest for 3 years, and millions now face severe food shortages.

CRS is responding across all four countries, providing emergency food, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, and agricultural support.



In Djetkoram village, Niger, CRS distributes cash as part of a cash-for-work project helping people displaced by Boko Haram violence.
Photo by Michael Stulman/CRS

We are prioritizing monthly food e-vouchers and cash-for-work opportunities to help families meet their most basic food needs. Support with agricultural tools, seeds and livestock—through seed and voucher fairs—will help people begin to recover their livelihoods and their local economy. Investment in water, sanitation and hygiene will bring vital potable water through borehole construction, and provide supplies and activities to promote sanitation and hygiene.

MALI

Conflict and displacement

Insecurity continues to trigger displacement in the Kidal region. In mid-September, several violent confrontations sent uprooted families into the neighboring Gao and Menaka regions. Despite a peace accord, the government of Mali and armed groups that signed it struggle to guarantee people's safety. The compounding impact of drought over the past few years has depleted limited resources.

Despite restricted access for humanitarian actors in high-risk areas, CRS has been able to provide immediate support to some of the most vulnerable communities. CRS has conducted thorough assessments across some of the most affected areas to provide timely lifesaving activities. CRS support is focused on providing food, shelter and living supplies. Cash assistance helped 1,861 people meet their immediate household needs. CRS has also provided cash-for-work opportunities, livestock fairs, fodder distribution, and rehabilitation of water infrastructure.

