



This is the latest report on Catholic Relief Services' ongoing emergency response and recovery activities 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.



At a momentous time of transition, CRS and our partners are supporting families as they rebuild their homes and livelihoods in Syria. Here in Aleppo, CRS is working with local partner SARD to support the repair of damaged homes and schools.

*Photo courtesy of SARD*

## I. SPOTLIGHT: CRISIS IN FOCUS

### Gaza and the West Bank

Families in Gaza face catastrophic conditions as violence escalates and access to food, water, shelter and medical care collapses. The Gaza Health Ministry reports rising deaths from starvation and severe malnutrition. Emergency rooms are overwhelmed and hundreds of people—many of them children—are at imminent risk of death. Families have been forced to move again and again, with nowhere safe to go. In the West Bank, intensified settler attacks and demolitions have displaced nearly 36,000 people since January 2024. Access of humanitarian assistance to people in need is severely restricted.

Since 2023, and despite the dangers, Catholic Relief Services and our partners have been delivering food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, cash assistance, counseling and emotional care to people across Gaza and the West Bank. This includes:

- Food for 1.72 million people.
- Shelter for 340,000 people.
- Cash assistance for 184,000 people.
- Water and sanitation for 500,000 people.
- Emotional care for 12,157 children and 2,058 caregivers.
- Supplies for Church partners serving as temporary shelters.

CRS and our long-time partners in Gaza and the West Bank have strong grassroots connections, experience and the trust of communities. CRS is committed to these vital partners as they uphold human dignity, even amid bombardment and displacement.

### VIDEO FROM GAZA

See the latest efforts of CRS and partners at a momentous time for the country at [brnw.ch/gaza\\_response](https://brnw.ch/gaza_response)



### HOW TO HELP

- Donate online: [support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict](https://support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict)
- Donate by phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS
- Catholic Relief Services, Holy Land Response  
P.O. Box 5278  
Tipton, IA 52772-0517



## II. REGIONAL SNAPSHOT



### VIDEO FROM SYRIA

See the latest efforts of CRS and partners at a momentous time for the country at [youtube.com/watch?v=aTYmjo5d5fA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=aTYmjo5d5fA)

### EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA

#### Syria

Following the collapse of the Assad government in December 2024, Syria is at a pivotal moment after 14 years of conflict that displaced 13 million people and devastated the economy. CRS is supporting Caritas Syria and other long-standing partners to help communities rebuild homes, return to school, recover jobs and regain stability.

From 2015 to 2025, CRS and our partners have helped nearly

**1.92  
MILLION  
PEOPLE**  
in Syria.

#### CRS and Partner Response

Since 2007, CRS has supported partners across Syria to assist vulnerable families. As Syria enters a phase of stabilization and recovery, the Church's historical and cultural role is more critical than ever. CRS' partners are deeply woven into the fabric of Syrian communities, and among the few organizations with the network, trust and capacity to work across diverse areas. From 2015 to 2025, CRS and our partners reached 1.9 million people in Syria.

#### Program Priorities

- **Safe, dignified housing and infrastructure.** Cash grants, technical support, community-led repairs to help people rebuild their homes and safe water systems.
- **Agriculture and livelihoods.** Skills training, small business support, climate-smart farming and market access, especially for women, young people and returnees.
- **Education.** Remedial classes, teacher training, school repairs and supplies for children to return and stay in school.
- **Emotional and social support.** Counseling, social services and community activities to help families heal.
- **Emergency relief and cash assistance.** Food, hygiene kits, bedding, winter supplies and market-based cash assistance for critical needs.

#### Afghanistan

Since March 2025, Iran has deported more than 741,000 Afghans. Returnees include women traveling alone, children and people with health needs. They often arrive at the border in extreme heat, dehydrated, hungry and without safe shelter. Many have no homes or work to return to, and shelters and host communities are overwhelmed.

#### CRS and Partner Response

CRS is boosting support at border crossings, working with the International Organization for Migration and local partners to support shelter, registration, cooling, sanitation and essential services. In Afghanistan, CRS has direct experience in large-scale returns of refugees and migrants. CRS is supporting operations and services at transit and reception centers with staff handling registration, referrals and social services.

#### Pakistan

Pakistan's 2025 monsoon season has been exceptionally severe, with torrential rains and floods affecting all provinces. The National Disaster Management Authority has reported 799 fatalities, 1,000 injured and 29,311 displaced. Entire villages have been inundated and infrastructure destroyed. The humanitarian impact is widespread with over 1 million people directly affected by the various flooding incidents across the country.

#### CRS and Partner Response

CRS and local partners are responding in areas of Buner district along both sides of the flood streams—where access remains difficult and aid has yet to reach. We will support cash assistance to cover urgent food and recovery needs, as well as cash grants for shopkeepers whose businesses are vital to rural supply chains.

With support from CRS and Caritas Moldova, Nina Turcan, left, opened her home to Ukrainian refugees like Vera and Ruslan, offering shelter and care in the wake of war.

*Photo by Schimbator Studio for CRS*



## Ukraine

After three years of war, nearly one-third of Ukraine's people are still in need of humanitarian assistance, especially in the east. CRS has supported partners in Ukraine and across 10 countries in the region to have food and safe shelter, find work, repair their homes, return to school and heal from grief, distress and trauma. Since 2022, CRS and our Caritas partners have helped nearly 3.6 million people across Ukraine.

Since 2022, CRS and our Caritas partners have helped nearly

**3.6 MILLION PEOPLE** across Ukraine.

## CRS and Partner Response

CRS tailors our support to assist displaced and returning families in Ukraine—as well as those who remain in other countries—to have the tools to rebuild and live independently.

## Program Priorities

- **Food and basic needs.** Cooked meals and food baskets for people without access to food, markets or kitchens. Cash assistance for families to buy food locally and support the local economy.
- **Shelter and dignified housing.** Home and infrastructure repairs, cash for rent and support for host families and communities.
- **Livelihoods.** Support for small businesses, job training, farming recovery and strengthened markets.
- **Protection, counseling and social support.** Help for children and adults coping with grief, legal aid, referrals for specialized care, caregiver training and case management.
- **Regional integration.** Access to education, jobs and social services for refugees in Moldova, Romania and the Balkans.
- **Local leadership.** Help local partners improve services, adjust to changing needs and rebuild their communities.



Families in Sudan face heightened hunger amid conflict and displacement.

Photo by Paul Jeffrey/  
ACT-Caritas



## EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Sudan

A humanitarian crisis is worsening across Sudan as conflict displaces millions of people and increases hunger and instability. The country is now home to the world's largest internally displaced population. The key drivers of hunger for Sudanese families are

ongoing conflict and displacement. At the same time, falling incomes, broken supply chains and disrupted agricultural production have led to soaring food prices. Today, between 8 million and 9 million people are facing emergency or catastrophic levels of hunger. Famine has struck

five areas of the country. Recent violence in Darfur has forced more people to flee just as lifesaving U.S. government aid has been cut.

### CRS and Partner Response

CRS has worked in Sudan since 2004 and—despite extremely challenging conditions—has reached 2.5 million people with assistance since 2023. Operating in 26 localities in Sudan, we are expanding our reach through a World Bank-funded project to help communities recover. We are also working with partners to provide relief to Sudanese refugees in Egypt, Chad and South Sudan.

### Program Priorities

- **Emergency food.** Food distributions, including support for Emergency Response Rooms, locally led initiatives that offer a lifeline in areas where aid organizations have had to evacuate.
- **Health and nutrition.** Therapeutic food supplements for malnourished children, treatment and feeding centers, malnutrition screenings, and health services for mothers and children.
- **Shelter and living supplies.** Emergency shelter kits and household items for displaced families.
- **Agriculture and livelihoods.** Support for farming, livestock and small businesses to help displaced families earn income.
- **Cash assistance.** Urgent cash aid for newly displaced families.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene.** Access to clean water, repairs to water and sanitation systems, hygiene kits and training in safe water treatment and system management.
- **Resilience building.** Support for local leadership, peacebuilding and long-term recovery.

.....  
**Currently, as many as  
9 MILLION  
people face extreme  
hunger in Sudan.**  
.....

## Somalia

Somalia has faced a severe food crisis for many years, made worse by conflict, poverty and repeated drought. And this year, renewed fighting in the Gedo region has displaced nearly 100,000 people. Access is severely hampered by security threats and damaged infrastructure.

### CRS and Partner Response

Despite severe logistical and security challenges, CRS draws on our 40 years of support in Somalia, where we've maintained continuous operations since 2011.



### Program Priorities

- **Food assistance.** Food and nutrition support for families.
- **Health and nutrition.** Malnutrition screenings and treatment for children under 5, as well as pregnant and nursing mothers; mobile health services and medical supplies, including care for preventable illnesses that can exacerbate malnutrition.
- **Cash assistance.** Flexible cash assistance to help displaced families meet urgent needs.
- **Shelter and living supplies.** Emergency shelter materials, bedding and essential household goods.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene.** Safe water, hygiene supplies, and construction of sanitation facilities at displacement sites.
- **Protection.** Services for separated and unaccompanied children and support for women, girls and other vulnerable groups.
- **Coordination and access.** Ongoing work with local authorities, the United Nations and other aid organizations to keep aid delivery routes safe and open.

A child is weighed at a CRS-supported health clinic in Somalia. Photo by Will Baxter/CRS

## Ethiopia

Ethiopia is facing a deepening food crisis, driven by drought, unpredictable rain and worsening living conditions driving hunger and instability. Nationwide, more than 14 million people—around 10% of the population—require urgent food assistance. Drought and food shortages in the northern Tigray region—where conflict has displaced millions of people—have been compounded by devastating livestock losses. In the Kola Tembien district alone, more than 19,000 animals have died from lack of water, food and care. The animals that remain are thin, produce less milk and can't reproduce, forcing families to sell off remaining herds to survive.

Agricultural production has been crippled by uneven rainfall, causing crop failures and soil degradation. Farmers are shifting from

long-cycle crops like corn and sorghum to lower-yield, drought-resilient crops such as beans, but with limited success.

### CRS and Partner Response

With over 65 years of experience in Ethiopia, CRS is leading emergency response and long-term recovery efforts with Church and other partners. Together, we continue to deliver lifesaving interventions and support communities through farming, livestock, health, nutrition, and water and sanitation programs—protecting lives now and restoring stability for the future. Through the Joint Emergency Operation Program, CRS has supported 3.2 million people with monthly food assistance, which is currently a lifeline.

## South Sudan

South Sudan is facing multiple crises—political instability threatening the 2018 peace agreement, escalating conflict and displacement, severe food insecurity, and a cholera outbreak. More than 1 million returnees and refugees from Sudan have added strain to local communities. U.S. government cuts to foreign assistance have left more than 2.8 million people without lifesaving support. And the World Food Program has had to pause the distribution of vital food assistance in parts of the Upper Nile—warning that families are at a breaking point as hunger nears record levels.

### CRS and Partner Response

CRS and our partners continue to operate and deliver aid despite worsening access and security challenges.

### Program Priorities

- **Emergency food and cash assistance.** Expand distributions with WFP in high-need areas like Jonglei and Greater Pibor.
- **Shelter support.** Provide emergency shelter for newly displaced families.
- **Health.** Support cholera prevention and treatment.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene.** Ensure access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.
- **Livelihoods and resilience.** Continue efforts supported by Global Affairs Canada to strengthen livelihoods and community resilience.

## WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

### Burkina Faso

Families across Burkina Faso are facing a complex humanitarian crisis marked by widespread displacement, violence and the breakdown of livelihoods and stability. The conflict includes deadly attacks on civilians and community leaders, human rights violations and destruction of vital infrastructure. In isolated areas like Djibo and Dori, food insecurity has surged as markets

and humanitarian aid have been totally cut off by conflict.

At least 2.1 million people have been displaced and 6.3 million people urgently need food, health care and basic services.

promoting peace and social cohesion. These efforts are coordinated across the Sahel region to reflect the cross-border nature of the crisis.

### Program Priorities

- **Lifesaving assistance.** Food, safe shelter, clean water and essential care for the most vulnerable families.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene.** Improved access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services in displacement and host communities.
- **Livelihoods and market recovery.** Support to rebuild incomes and economic resilience where security allows.
- **Peacebuilding and resilience.** Promoting peaceful relations, healing and stability in conflict-affected areas.

Currently in Burkina Faso,  
**6.3 MILLION**  
people need food, health  
care and basic services.

### CRS and Partner Response

Since 2018, CRS and our partners have provided comprehensive assistance to families and communities most affected by the crisis. Our work focuses on saving lives, reducing suffering, building resilience and

## Democratic Republic of Congo

Since January 2025, conflict has intensified in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, displacing 4 million people in the region and 7 million across the country. Insecurity has devastated livelihoods and the local economy, and overwhelmed health facilities. Families who have fled are struggling to survive, with limited access to food and basic care.



This crisis comes amid major funding cuts to international humanitarian aid. Today, an estimated 25 million people in the eastern part of the country are facing acute food insecurity.

In and around Goma, the surge in displacement has overwhelmed health centers, schools, churches, shelters, and water and sanitation facilities. Recent World Food Program assessments found that nearly three-quarters of the displaced people in Goma are living off a diet so poor it is contributing to malnutrition, especially for children under age 5. Many families have sold or lost their belongings while seeking safety.

Claudine Mapendo holds her baby, Aksante, in North Kivu Province, in eastern DRC.

*Photo by Hugh Kinsella Cunningham for CRS*

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS is responding across borders with our Caritas partners in the following ways:

### Democratic Republic of Congo

- Lifesaving food assistance and vouchers where local markets are accessible.
- Critical household items like cookware and sanitation supplies for families to meet daily needs with dignity.

### Rwanda

- Support to local partners as they assist the Rwandan government's response to the crisis.

### Burundi

- Aid for displaced people in transit centers near the border, including hygiene kits, nutritional supplements and core household supplies.



**CLICK HERE**  
for more photos and videos:  
[crs.widen.net/  
s/5l9pjchzqg/2025\\_05\\_08\\_v8](https://crs.widen.net/s/5l9pjchzqg/2025_05_08_v8)



*Photo by Hugh Kinsella Cunningham for CRS*



## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Venezuela

Venezuela's protracted crisis remains one of the world's largest displacement and humanitarian emergencies. Millions of people lack access to protection, while essential services like health care, education, food and clean water are nearly nonexistent. At least 7.9 million people have fled the country and an estimated 7 million people inside Venezuela urgently need aid. Detentions, disappearances and insecurity have left

families in oppressive conditions. Recent funding cuts—particularly from the U.S. government—have severely disrupted humanitarian operations, threatening services for more than 2.5 million people.

### CRS and Partner Response

Caritas Venezuela and CRS are among the few actors still reaching the most vulnerable people, delivering lifesaving support through trusted local networks. CRS and partner support reaches families across 13 Venezuelan states, and helps restore livelihoods, mitigate malnutrition and help families with relief. CRS and our partners also support Venezuelan refugees and migrants across Latin America and the Caribbean.



CRS supports Caritas Venezuela to provide emergency nutrition programs for children under 5, including nutritional supplements and screenings.

*Photo courtesy of Caritas Venezuela*

### PROGRAM PRIORITIES

#### In Venezuela

- **Nutrition.** Emergency nutrition programs for children under 5 and pregnant women in high-risk communities, including screenings and nutritional supplements and health support.
- **Food vouchers and cash assistance.** Help for families to meet their diverse needs and support local market recovery.
- **Livelihoods.** Job training, small business support and agricultural production, including entrepreneurial training, start-up kits and business coaching.
- **Disaster risk reduction.** Activities to strengthen family and community resilience to future disasters.

#### Regionally

- Support to Caritas and Church partners in Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil to provide safe shelter, legal aid, integration services, job support, water, sanitation and hygiene, and nutrition for migrants and host communities.



CRS' emergency response in Haiti includes food assistance, educational support, disaster risk reduction and livelihood recovery—supporting families like Yvrose Carelus' after the 2021 earthquake.

*Photo courtesy of Georges Harry Rouzier for CRS*



## Haiti

Haiti has been in a crisis of political instability since the 2018 protests, the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and the 2024 resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry. Although the Transitional Council named new leadership in 2024, gang violence continues to disrupt daily life and livelihoods. Nearly half the population is experiencing

---

Half of Haiti's population faces food insecurity,  
**6,000 PEOPLE**  
face catastrophic hunger and  
**1 MILLION PEOPLE**  
are displaced.

---

acute food insecurity, including 6,000 people facing catastrophic hunger. More than 1 million people are displaced, and market blockades, service disruptions and soaring food prices are making survival even harder. U.S. government funding suspensions have halted or reduced programs serving more than 70,000 people—deepening the crisis as the agriculture lean season and hurricane season converge.

## CRS and Partner Response

CRS has worked in Haiti since 1954, working with Catholic partners including Caritas. With deep roots in the South, Nippes and Grand'Anse departments, CRS and our partners are well-positioned to meet evolving needs.

## Program Priorities

- **Food security and nutrition.** Resume and expand assistance to vulnerable families, especially children under 5, pregnant women and new mothers.
- **Educational support.** Maintain quality education, school meals and sanitation for children in affected communities.
- **Livelihoods.** Restore small business and agricultural support to reduce migration pressures.
- **Disaster risk reduction.** Help communities prepare for hurricane season with activities to reduce storm impacts.
- **Local leadership.** Strengthen local Church and civil society partners' ability to deliver aid and maintain community stability.

Keth Ayor and her newborn at a settlement for displaced people in South Sudan.

Photo by Will Baxter/CRS



### III. HOW WE RESPOND—AND ENDURE

#### Save Lives: An Urgent Appeal

**Save Lives: Your Support, Their Survival** is CRS' urgent response to a global funding crisis that threatens millions. As humanitarian aid declines, lifesaving programs that provide food, water, shelter and health care are being suspended or terminated across the globe. This has led to:

- The loss of health and nutrition programs for women and children.
- The end of food and nutrition support for families facing famine.
- The termination of school meal programs in Central America and Africa.

These aren't just program losses—they're human losses, and they weigh heavily on us. With decades of programming experience, CRS is positioned to respond swiftly and reach people in need—even in the hardest-to-reach places.

These aren't just program losses, they are  
**HUMAN LOSSES.**

#### FAITH IN ACTION: THE CHURCH'S ROLE

A great source of resilience has been our global Church partnerships. The Church's deep roots and historical presence in many countries have helped sustain our mission—even as we've had to adapt our operations in response to funding cuts.

At the same time, Church institutions in places like Gaza and Syria are under incredible strain—losing their communities and operating in life-threatening conditions.

Just as the Church enables us to serve the world's most vulnerable people, we are called to stand by the Church in its hour of need. As CRS continues to respond to urgent needs, the Church remains both a source of strength and a community in need of solidarity. Recognizing and supporting this dual role is essential to sustaining humanitarian efforts in the most fragile contexts.