

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friend of CRS,

In 1943, as war raged across Europe, thousands of bedraggled Polish refugees fleeing Soviet forced-labor camps streamed across the border of Iran. Most were women and children, or very old men, their bodies emaciated, their feet swollen and bleeding. Realizing they had reached sanctuary, many fell to their knees and wept. There to meet them were representatives of a newly formed agency, War Relief Services, representing the mercy and good will of American Catholics. From these beginnings, that charitable organization would become Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. For the last 65 years, CRS has been an agent of help and hope for the poorest of the poor around the world.

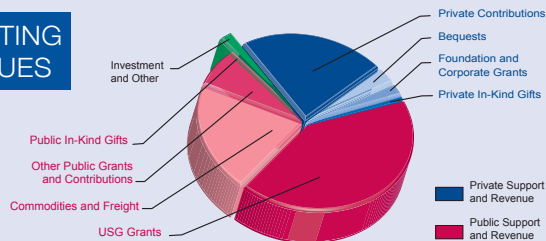
In 2008, CRS achieved significant milestones, even as we faced some of the most daunting challenges in our history. The issues we confronted were global in scope. The food crisis caused prices of basic commodities to double and even triple, stretching poor families to the limit.

Our donors have continued to respond generously to the tremendous need among the poorest people we serve. Private contributions in fiscal year 2008 totaled \$171 million, which allowed us to leverage an additional \$440 million in resources from the U.S. government and other organizations to benefit more than 100 million people. Our program expenses totaled \$597 million, making this the fifth consecutive year that programming has surpassed a half-billion dollars.

Thank you for your generous support. Your donations and prayers for our work and the people we serve have never been more important—and never more needed.

Ken Hackett, President

OPERATING REVENUES



Private Support and Revenue:

Private contributions	\$ 137,415	22.48%
Bequests	17,707	2.90%
Foundation and corporate grants	13,821	2.26%
Private in-kind gifts	1,969	0.32%
Total	170,912	27.96%

Public Support and Revenue:

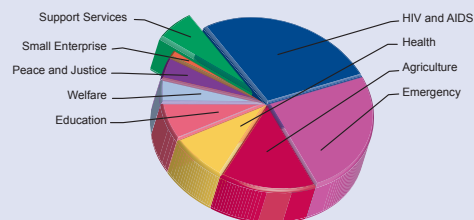
USG grants	257,981	42.21%
Commodities and freight	121,932	19.95%
Other public grants and contributions	45,261	7.40%
Public in-kind gifts	2,921	0.48%
Total	428,095	70.04%

Other:

Investment and other	12,242	2.00%
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Total Operating Revenue \$ 611,249 100.00% (in thousands)

OPERATING EXPENSES



HIV and AIDS	\$ 176,110	27.56%
Emergency	159,753	25.00%
Agriculture	94,725	14.82%
Health	54,042	8.46%
Education	45,336	7.09%
Welfare	28,967	4.53%
Peace and Justice	27,660	4.32%
Small Enterprise	9,947	1.56%
Total	596,540	93.34%
Fundraising	19,760	3.10%
Management and General	17,666	2.76%
Public Awareness	5,123	0.80%
Support Services	42,549	6.66%

Total Operating Expenses \$ 639,089 100.00% (in thousands)



Building on
65 years of
help and hope

Photos by David Snyder for CRS, CRS staff and CRS Archives



Photo by David Snyder/CRS

New Life

Catholic Relief Services' HIV and AIDS programming is a central and growing component of our efforts to relieve suffering in the world, part of our commitment to provide health and medical services to those in need that dates back to CRS' earliest years. When CRS first took on HIV and AIDS in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1986, there were few happy endings.

But the growth of funds available for the fight against HIV and AIDS allows CRS to deliver lifesaving antiretroviral treatment. CRS' largest HIV and AIDS treatment project, AIDSRelief, is a consortium that provided treatment and care to more than 370,000 people in nine countries in 2008.

The work of AIDSRelief means that technicians working with state-of-the-art equipment can give patients their proper diagnosis in a matter of hours—not days or weeks—getting those infected with HIV started on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment that much sooner.



Photo by Jim Stipe/CRS

Born of Compassion

As part of our mission, CRS continues to expand our outreach here at home, particularly through parishes, youth, colleges and universities. We provide education and opportunities for the faithful to engage in our work on behalf of the poor overseas.

Our Lenten program, Operation Rice Bowl, which reaches some 13,000 parishes and schools, has become the best-known symbol of these efforts. The program raises about \$10 million annually, 75 percent of which goes to CRS' overseas mission. The remaining 25 percent stays in the dioceses to support local projects that help the poor.

One increasingly popular effort is CRS' Fair Trade program. In 2008, CRS supporters purchased more than \$2 million worth of fair trade coffee, chocolate and handcrafts.

Through our advocacy program, CRS encourages American Catholics to call for action on many issues affecting our world. Their advocacy is saving lives while delivering programs that embrace Church teachings on the sacredness of all human life.

CRS has made it part of our mission to reach out to diverse groups of American Catholic churchgoers. Most of our domestic programs and materials are now available in Spanish, and our new website, crsespanol.org, invites Hispanic Catholics in the United States to participate in our mission.



Photo by David Snyder/CRS

New Faces of Opportunity

CRS has worked for many years to create new opportunities for women in countries where poverty, difficult access to education and cultural restrictions often prevent them from reaching their full potential. Our programs open doors by helping women and girls gain an education, teaching them skills to compete in the local economy, or giving them a small loan to start a business. With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, CRS helps courageous women overcome social pressure and engage in the political process.

Through savings-led microfinance initiatives, CRS aids groups of women entrepreneurs with little or no access to formal credit. They save a bit each month and borrow from group savings. Their income pays for their children's school fees, among other needs.

These programs help women on their way to financial independence by promoting saving habits and providing access to capital. Around the world, CRS helps women avoid exploitation by filling the gaps where opportunities are lacking.