

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES' COMMITMENTS

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

The World Humanitarian Summit, the first of its kind, has called for the international community to tackle head on some of the systemic issues and immense challenges faced in today's humanitarian emergencies, and to lay the groundwork for truly transformative change.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in our emergency response and recovery efforts, takes a comprehensive approach that provides urgent lifesaving assistance with a focus on full recovery. Our goal is to help people survive with dignity, get back on their feet, rebuild their homes and lives, and strengthen their long-term stability and resilience. CRS carries out a range of disaster responses tailored to local contexts and needs, always following the community's lead, building their meaningful engagement and ownership of programs.

In response to this call, CRS and United States NGOs submitted a collective statement of commitments to the World Humanitarian Summit through the InterAction alliance. Also, CRS—a member of the Caritas network—joined commitments pledged by Caritas Internationalis.

Given the importance of this issue, CRS also pledges further commitments that are especially important to us and our 1,500 local partners across 100 countries. CRS makes these commitments (see overleaf) toward this collective pursuit to better serve the world's most vulnerable people.

CRS' UNIQUE POSITION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

- Present in more than 100 countries, CRS has staff, partners and structures ready to respond.
- Our partnership with the global Catholic Church provides far-reaching, trusted access.
- We closely collaborate with communities, local partners and governments to build resilience.
- Private funds give us flexibility to quickly deploy staff, procure items and adapt to fluid contexts.
- We invest in the skills and capacity of people so we can prepare for and respond in a crisis.

ABOUT CRS

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas Internationalis and the National Catholic Development Conference. CRS' relief and development work is accomplished through programs of emergency response, HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peacebuilding. CRS alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

\$264 million

INVESTED IN EMERGENCY
RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN 2015

168

EMERGENCY PROJECTS SUPPORTED
IN 46 COUNTRIES IN 2015

13.2 million

PEOPLE REACHED WITH
EMERGENCY SUPPORT IN 2015

3,300

FIRST RESPONDERS
TRAINED BY CRS SINCE 2009

CRS' COMMITMENTS

CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES: FROM DELIVERING AID TO ENDING NEED

Prioritize a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, building toward reduced risk and vulnerability in the longer term.

CRS commits to:

- Include risk analysis and the integration of risk reduction, mitigation and/or response plans into all new development and humanitarian programming by 2020. This analysis, planning and programming with our local partners will include the identification of climate change related risks and their impact on conflict, migration and development outcomes as experienced by those we serve.
- Only go where needed and respond with local partners as a default. We will jointly assess partners' response capacity and invest at least US\$8 million in increasing readiness (see commitment 3 under *Investing in Humanity*) of local partners in at least 20 countries by 2020.
- Prioritize partner leadership in coordination mechanisms, at the expense of our direct role, where possible. CRS commits to locally based, coordinated and multisectoral assessments and response planning that build on local systems and coping mechanisms.
- Provide a global platform, the Institute for Capacity Strengthening, for learning and access to tested guidance and tools for our network of over 1,500 local partners in more than 100 countries. CRS also commits to expanding the use of our Partnership Scorecard through which local partners provide us with feedback on the quality of our partnership and support.
- Ensure that all our programming with local partners includes the mainstreaming of protection and includes mechanisms for information flow to and from affected people to ensure their active role in defining response design, implementation, and monitoring by 2020.
- Support our local partners in the integration of psychosocial support and trauma-healing, as needed, into our humanitarian programming and contribute to an evidence base on the importance of this programming for children and youth within protracted refugee or displaced contexts.
- Develop and implement with partners flexible long-term programs that, based on area-specific needs, can transition quickly between disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, recovery, development, and disaster preparedness.
- Use private resources to fill funding gaps created by inflexible donor mechanisms while contributing to solutions that allow for greater access to simultaneous funding of both development and humanitarian needs, especially in protracted crises.

INVESTING IN HUMANITY

Invest in enhancing local capacities, reducing risk and building effective and inclusive institutions, especially in fragile contexts.

CRS commits to:

- Invest in and strengthen our own cash readiness and that of our local partners, allowing for the use of cash, when appropriate, in all our humanitarian and development programming by 2020.
- Measure the effectiveness, appropriateness, feasibility and efficiency of our cash programming as a means of contributing to learning and the global expansion of cash programming.
- Invest at least US\$8 million by 2020 in strengthening the financial, human resources, planning, monitoring, evaluation and management capacity of our local partners so they can directly access international funding. CRS commits to supporting partners to manage the range of risks associated with these funds, and will be transparent about its costs and those of its partners for donor funds received.
- Invest at least US\$5 million of our own resources and leverage an additional US\$5 million to support urban disaster risk reduction in partnership with local organizations and government by 2020.
- Integrate innovative financing mechanisms, including social impact bonds and/or parametric insurance, in humanitarian response in at least five countries by 2020, as well as strengthen our own capacity and that of our local partners in the effective utilization of innovative financing mechanisms.
- As a member of the Cash Learning Partnership, or CaLP, work with states, humanitarian and development agencies and the private sector to build consensus, capacity, resources and commitment to scale up multipurpose humanitarian cash transfers in line with the calls to action laid out in the CaLP Agenda for Cash.

