

CRS Global Food Crisis Response Strategy

2023-2024



A doctor measures the arm circumference of a Somali infant at CRS-supported Baidoa district Hospital. After four failed rainy seasons in the Horn of Africa, young children, in particular, are at risk of starvation. *Photo by Omar Faruk for CRS*

CONTEXT

Millions of people around the world are experiencing life-threatening levels of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in a global crisis that has reached unprecedented levels. About [735 million people faced hunger](#)¹ in 2022, three-fifths of them women and girls². In 2023 more than 250 million³ people are facing acute food insecurity, including extreme, life-threatening hunger and malnutrition. The drivers of these high levels of food insecurity are expected to continue through at least 2024, and experts worry that this is the ‘new normal’ – and with limited humanitarian budgets and rising need, new and robust ways of working are required.

At the root of this crisis are converging factors that have exacerbated the fragilities of global and local food systems. The factors include increased effects of climate change, heightened conflicts, and the persistent economic ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict. Food price inflation has put people under tremendous strain, and supply chain interruptions and high costs continue to slow humanitarian operations and disrupt local and regional markets.

The crisis has laid bare the weaknesses with the systems and structures that should support a nourished and food secure world. When one part of the system breaks down, the whole is impacted: a war in one part of the world has led to starvation in another. However, these effects are felt in very unequal and inequitable ways. Varying levels of underlying poverty, inequality, vulnerability and exclusion across and within countries mean



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¹ “Hunger” is defined here as undernourishment, per FAO’s State of Food Security and Nutrition 2023, and per SD3 2’s indicator 2.1. Acute food insecurity is defined as “food deprivation that threatens lives or livelihoods”, per IPC version 3.0. Populations can be both undernourished and face acute food insecurity or malnutrition.

² CARE. 2022. [Food Security and Gender Equality](#).

³ The World Food Program’s 2023 Global Report on Food Crises: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-2023>; This number reflects people facing ‘crisis’ or worse levels of acute food insecurity per IPC.

that people have very different experiences when faced with compounding economic, social political, and environmental shocks. CRS has identified 25 priority countries that are affected by high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition due to combinations of these drivers.

In this agency response strategy, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) lays out how we, alongside our partners and other institutions, aim to meet immediate, life-saving food security and nutrition needs, while also

putting in place the building blocks for systems change that can address the root causes of both acute and chronic food insecurity. We seek to implement holistic programming that draws from food systems thinking and integrates humanitarian-development-peacebuilding responses, and we call for collective approaches for all stakeholders to respond to the crisis holistically as well. We must provide urgent aid to save lives now, and also support programs that aim to break the cycle of increasing hunger and build resilience.



CRITICAL CONCERN

Extremely high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition; presence of chronic food insecurity; immediate life-saving action and longer-term investment is required



HIGH CONCERN

High levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition; presence of chronic food insecurity; immediate response or anticipatory action, and longer-term investment is needed



CONCERN

Some presence of acute food insecurity; presence of chronic food insecurity; response or anticipatory action, and longer-term investment is needed



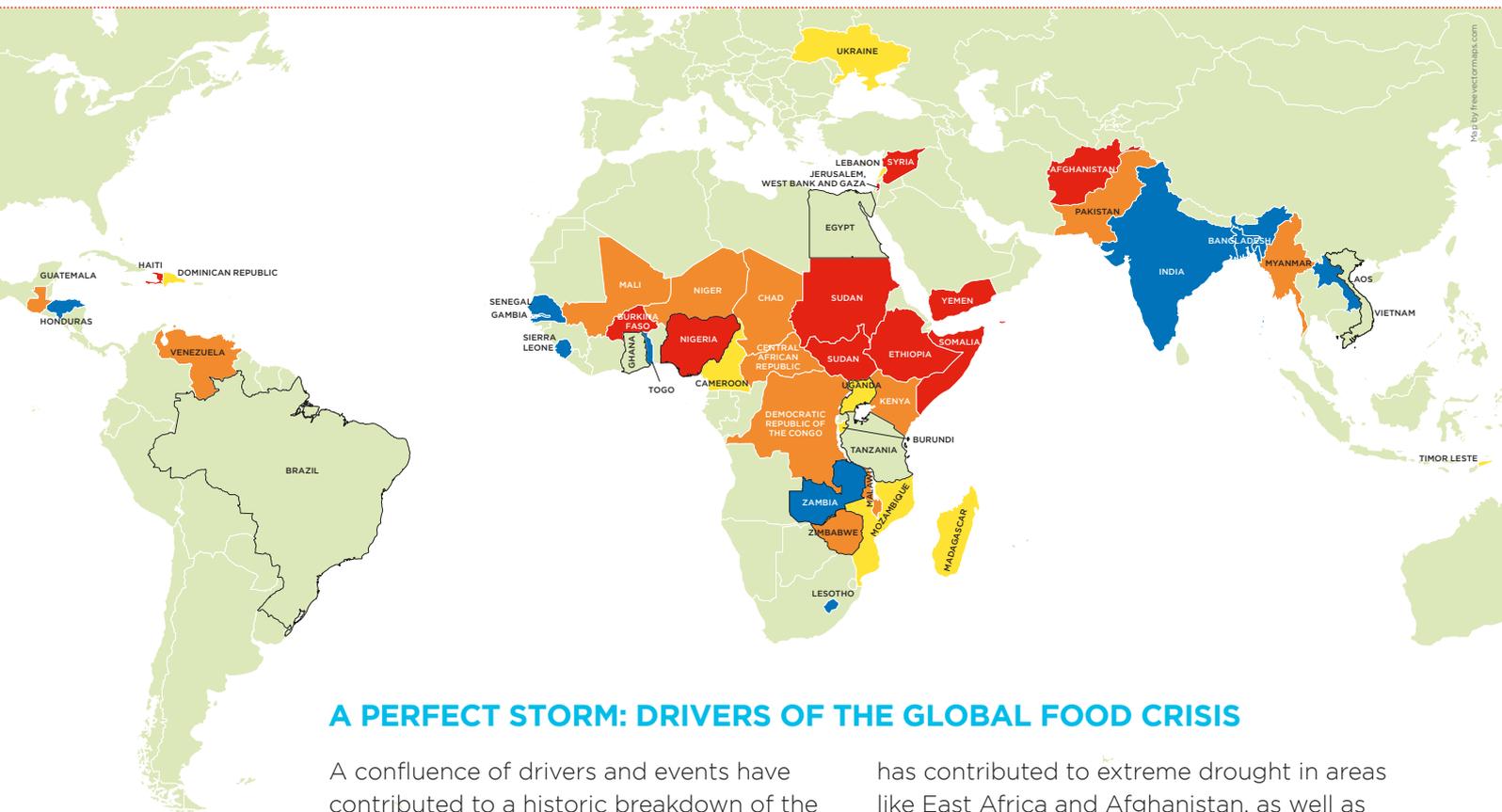
TRACKING

Low to no level of acute food insecurity; presence of chronic food insecurity; at risk of escalating to a higher level



MARKET AND CONTEXT MONITORING ONLY

Country that plays an important role in global or regional trade, regardless of its own food security status



A PERFECT STORM: DRIVERS OF THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

A confluence of drivers and events have contributed to a historic breakdown of the global food system and local food systems. These include:

 **Climate change**, often described as a threat multiplier, has direct and significant impacts on food insecurity. Climate change

has contributed to extreme drought in areas like East Africa and Afghanistan, as well as devastating flooding elsewhere – all of which destroy crops, disrupt livelihoods, degrade land, shift and exacerbate lean seasons, and decrease nutrition and resilience outcomes. Global temperatures between 2023 and 2027 are likely to be the highest on record,⁴

⁴ [WMO Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update \(Target years: 2023-2027\)](#)

“Global food systems are broken — and billions of people are paying the price. More than 780 million people are going hungry while nearly one-third of all food produced is lost or wasted. More than three billion cannot afford healthy diets.”

— UN Secretary-General António Guterres, July 2023

and droughts and floods have increased in intensity and frequency. Climate change amplifies the impacts of naturally occurring weather patterns such as La Nina and El Nino. The recent La Nina contributed to the worst drought in a generation in the Horn of Africa. El Nino patterns in 2023-2024 are also expected to be exacerbated by global warming, the impacts of which continue to affect agricultural production, water availability, people's incomes and stability, access to food and ability to maintain good nutrition. Extreme weather events also disrupt supply chains and infrastructure, causing wider economic impacts. By 2050 over 200 million people will likely be displaced by shifting climate conditions, including water scarcity, reduced crop productivity, sea level rise or storms⁵.

Further, climate change is the most consequential threat multiplier for women and girls:⁶ women's food security and nutrition is disproportionately affected by climate change,⁷ including through an increase in Gender Based Violence (GBV).⁸

Conflict, new and ongoing, across numerous countries and regions have inextricable links to increasing food insecurity and malnutrition. In 2021, 70% of people facing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity were living in areas destabilized by conflict.⁹ While some contexts remain in protracted states of conflict, others like the Sahel are now seeing escalating conflict which has resulted in large-scale displacement, rising gender-based violence, deteriorating roads and supply chains, and further disruption of local food, livestock, cash crop production and health services.¹⁰

Economic constraints and supply chain disruptions due largely to Covid-19 and the Ukraine war have led to high costs of food, fertilizer, and fuel, as well as job losses that, together, diminish the purchasing power of families. Macroeconomic trends—including inflation and high levels of national debt in countries with high levels of food insecurity—

have had an impact on national governments' abilities to provide social assistance. The [World Bank](#) forecasts show elevated, volatile prices through 2023 and possibly through 2024. For families living at or below poverty levels, high food prices means they can access and afford less of safe, quality, nutritious food; water, sanitation and hygiene supplies; health and nutrition services; and other basic needs. With high prices and less access has come rising malnutrition, illness and mortality. High food and fuel prices have also meant that less humanitarian food assistance can reach those most in need.

Continued inequality. The impact on the most vulnerable is outsized. Compounded shocks like these can overwhelm people's finances, options and capacities to provide food and maintain good nutrition for their families. This is especially true for those who are more vulnerable or face inequality in times of crisis - women, children, people living disabilities and families who have been displaced from their homes or countries due to conflict or repeated extreme weather events.

The above drivers come on top of - and are exacerbated by - food systems inefficiencies that have been present for years. For example, a *relative lack of investment and support for small-holder agriculture and pastoralists* means that while many of the people who make a living growing food should have enough of it to feed themselves and their families, the reality is that they do not. *Food waste* is another sign of our inefficient food systems. One-third of food produced for human consumption goes to waste globally¹¹. Food waste also contributes 8-10% of global manmade greenhouse gas emissions.¹²

These complex, compounded global drivers all interact with one another and have *led to or exacerbated local food insecurity, revealing inequities and a lack of resilience in local and global food systems* that have affected people's ability to produce, afford and consistently access sufficient, nutritious foods.

5 [Operationalizing USAID's Climate Strategy to Achieve Transformative Adaptation and Mitigation in Agricultural and Food Systems](#)

6 [Climate change is a threat multiplier for women and girls: UN expert | OHCHR](#)

7 [UN Women Strategic Plan, 2022-2025](#)

8 Global Protection Cluster. [Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence: What are the links?](#)

9 WFP, FAO. Global Network Against Food Crises. [Hunger Hotspots June to September 2022 Outlook](#).

10 2022 OCHA [Flash Update](#) 2022.

11 [https://www.wfp.org/stories/5-facts-about-food-waste-and-hunger#:~:text=Here's%20what%20you%20need%20to,worth%20approximately%20US\\$241%20trillion](https://www.wfp.org/stories/5-facts-about-food-waste-and-hunger#:~:text=Here's%20what%20you%20need%20to,worth%20approximately%20US$241%20trillion)

12 <https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/food-drink/actions/action-on-food-waste>



George Kanyiki tends to his garden as a participant in the Market Garden group in Tshibata village in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Market Gardens engage a group of local farmers on several varieties of vegetables to diversify foods at home, bringing both nutritional and economic benefits.

Photo by Michael Castofas/CRS

OUR RESPONSE¹³

The goal of CRS' global food crisis response is that *all people are food secure and resilient to recurrent, increasingly complex local and global shocks*. To contribute to this goal in FY23 and FY24, CRS aims to *meet immediate needs and mitigate acute food insecurity and malnutrition*. At the same time, while this strategy covers only a short period, CRS aims to begin the longer-term support to local systems that promote food security and nutrition in crisis-affected countries, *to address the root causes of acute food insecurity, for greater resilience, and for sustainability and stability over time*.

This crisis is calling us to work more intentionally through systems approaches, as facilitators, partners and influencers; to

scale evidence-based solutions; and to listen, evolve and learn as we go—for more lasting and sustainable change at scale. In humanitarian responses, we can work with existing local actors – including civil society, government officials, and market actors – to build a foundation for longer-term systems change. In the medium- to long-term, CRS and partner responses aim for this systems change, to mitigate the effects of the current crisis, and to anticipate and lessen the impact of future food crises. A systems approach requires CRS to take a facilitative role, to partner with and support strengthened capacities for local public, voluntary, and private service providers to achieve food security and nutrition outcomes.

¹³ We have drawn on the IPC [Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Conceptual Framework](#) (IPC manual p.11) as a reference for incorporating nutrition outcomes within the food security pillars of access, availability, utilization, and stability. We have also referenced CRS' new resilience framework, considered a gender equity approach, and have used a food systems lens in analyzing the root causes of the current crisis.

CRS FOOD CRISIS RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

GOAL

All people are food secure and resilient to recurrent, increasingly complex local and global shocks.

1

THE OUTCOMES WE SEEK

SO:1

MEET HUMANITARIAN NEED:

Vulnerable people meet their immediate food and nutrition needs and are able to recover from shocks.

SO:2

ENABLE SYSTEMS-LEVEL CHANGE:

Food and related systems support vulnerable people's resilience to food security and nutrition shocks.

SO:3

EFFECT INTERNAL CHANGE:

CRS invests in cross-agency food security efforts that aim for systems change across the HDP nexus.

IR. Accountable government, advocacy, and social protection systems support access to food and nutrition

IR. Market systems provide immediate food and nutrition, as well as resilient, affordable last-mile food and nutrition

IR. Climate & landscape restoration systems mitigate food security shocks

IR. Data systems support anticipatory action and better decision making, including food security, resilience, and market monitoring

2

OUR RESPONSE STRATEGY



PROGRAMMING

Improving the scale and technical quality of both humanitarian responses and longer-term systems change to address underlying causes of acute and chronic food insecurity



EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Promoting CRS' engagement and advocacy with key stakeholders for U.S. government and global policy improvements, public awareness-raising, fundraising, and thought leadership



COORDINATION & LEARNING

Investing in knowledge management, learning and evidence within and outside of CRS - across humanitarian-development-peacebuilding programs

3

CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES FOR OUR WORK

- **Empowered women**, within an enabling environment, are key to preventing and mitigating acute food insecurity and malnutrition.
- **Social cohesion integration** is critical for humanitarian and sustainable food security and nutrition outcomes.
- **Humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding** approaches should be aligned for greater impact.
- **Climate change adaptation** is a core part of response in acute and chronic contexts.
- **All people** have access to assistance in a safe and dignified manner.

In Tigray, Ethiopia, community members register for food assistance provided as part of CRS' Joint Emergency Operation Program (JEOP). Across the country, food insecurity has skyrocketed, as conflict in the north has displaced millions of people and prevented access to farmland, and drought across the south has ravaged crops.

Photo by Will Baxter/CRS



LEVERAGE POINTS

CRS has identified four leverage points that we aim to address as part of our role to meet immediate needs and improve, alter and contribute to resilient food systems—with a goal to turn the tide of this global food crisis and lessen the impact of future crises. Breaking the cycle of global hunger begins with investing in local, gender- and conflict-sensitive solutions to build resilience, through local organizations, local government, and local markets, and through technical solutions that prioritize data and climate resilient production.

1 Accountable governance and policy systems

We support the role of government, where feasible and equitable, to provide immediate social protection assistance for food, cash, nutrition, and related services. In the longer-term, we also strengthen structures that improve citizens' resilience to shocks that affect their food security and nutrition. CRS and partners aim for duty-bearers (state and non-state) to be transparent, accountable and responsive to community members', food security and nutrition needs. CRS and partners strengthen governance for better accountability, policy coherence, vertical social cohesion, and social protection.

2 Market systems

To respond to immediate needs, CRS and partners work with and through existing market systems to provide people facing acute food insecurity with food, nutrition, and access to basic needs and WASH, such as through the provision of cash or vouchers, or by providing market support. In the medium- to long-term, CRS and partners intentionally support markets to be inclusive, conflict-sensitive, resilient, and able to reach the last-mile with affordable, nutritious foods. We also provide access to seeds, tools, materials and other resources needed for climate-resilient agricultural production. Prioritizing market systems development approaches in the longer-term aims to ensure that food systems continue to serve the most vulnerable people and communities through future economic crises.

3 Data systems for decision-making and anticipatory action

Context and market information, technology, and data systems can inform anticipatory and early action to address food insecurity, and drive greater evidence-based humanitarian and resilience programming. CRS works to address gaps in data systems



As a defining part of our mandate, CRS works with and through local partners, and fully in support of community-led programming. In this crisis, we support local entities to design and conduct food security interventions more independently, with appropriate capacity and resources.



CRS and partners increase the resilience of agricultural production systems to impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions and strengthened behaviors and capacities.

to strengthen its use in projections and anticipatory action, and to promote agility and adaptive management. Utilizing diverse, gender-disaggregated data streams for more efficient and targeted evidence-based programming will prioritize highest-impact interventions focused on the most vulnerable. Data cycles that engage communities and in-country partners will also promote stronger country-based data systems, empowerment toward local solutions and localization, and enhanced collaboration, coordination, and communication (3Cs) across all stakeholders.

We encourage a culture of data use, including leveraging technology as an enabler and building internal and partners' analytical capacity to be able to forecast and identify a food security shock before it impacts people's lives, as well as the operational capacity to be able to respond. This includes (1) clearly defining the operational and programmatic decisions they need to make, and (2) once decisions

are defined, using data and evidence to inform operations and programming.

4 Landscape regeneration and climate-resilient production systems

Addressing land degradation in particular is key because it is a major contributor to hunger, as it has undermined the production of food and livestock fodder. Degraded soils cannot produce sufficient nutritious foods in the face of climate shocks. Through investment in resilient landscapes and livelihoods, CRS and partners increase the resilience of agricultural production systems to impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions and strengthened behaviors and capacities. In this 10-year strategic endeavor (through 2030), CRS and partners aim to understand and promote low cost, high impact, locally relevant technologies for land restoration that can renew soils and productivity, including in the face of drought and floods—system-level efforts that are increasingly shifting to humanitarian contexts and showing high potential to impact both chronic and acute food insecurity.



Photo from WALA project above by Harandane Dicko for CRS

Nineteen of 24 communities that had invested in landscape restoration through Malawi's WALA program needed less or no food assistance during subsequent droughts; by contrast, some neighboring communities required up to 9 months of food assistance.

Marie Ntumba checks on the vegetable plants in her family's permagarden in the Cilundu zone of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Permagardens involve the use of specialized agricultural techniques to maximize production on a small amount of land, and is part of CRS' Budikadidi program.

Photo by Michael Castofas/CRS



CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

- CRS recognizes that *empowered women and girls within an enabling environment are key to addressing acute food insecurity and malnutrition* in the immediate and longer-term. Thus CRS aims to work towards gender transformative approaches that enhances women and girls access to assets and resources, strengthens their input into household and community decisions, reducing their workload, and improves gender equitable norms that empower women and girls in response and mitigation of food and nutrition shocks. CRS recognizes the importance of engaging with influencers that affect women's and girl's empowerment such as spouse/ partner/ father, extended family members, the community and the social and legal environment.
- CRS promotes *safety, meaningful access and dignity* for all community members, including identifying and mitigating GBV and other protection risks. We commit to being accountable to the needs of vulnerable groups. Meeting food and nutrition needs, and building longer-term resilience to future food security shocks, is especially difficult for groups that are more vulnerable such as women, children, people living with disabilities, or displaced communities, as they experience marginalization and other cultural and social barriers to accessing food, nutrition, and livelihood opportunities.
- We apply a *conflict sensitivity and social cohesion lens* across our response. We use context monitoring to inform conflict-sensitivity and to promote coherence across the humanitarian-resilience-peace nexus, and we act with the recognition that conflict is a significant underlying driver of acute food insecurity in our intervention areas.



We commit to being accountable to the needs of vulnerable groups.

Madina Minta, 39, and her daughter Awa Minta, 4, have been living at a camp for displaced people in Mopti, Mali, since fleeing conflict. CRS provided them with cooking supplies and cash transfers, which allowed them to purchase food and clothing.

Photo by Annika Hammerschlag/CRS



WHAT A SYSTEMS LENS BRINGS

CRS and partners aim for systems approaches where feasible. A systems approach requires us to work across the nexus. It allows us to see interrelationships, processes of change, and feedback mechanisms. Specifically, we value the following elements:

 **Working across the nexus, through integrated, holistic approaches** This crisis has elevated the need for a greater coherence across humanitarian-development-peace programming and thus, where feasible, we provide humanitarian responses that also protect or build resilience to food security shocks. CRS and its partners are providing lifesaving conflict- and gender-sensitive assistance to millions of people facing acute food insecurity and malnutrition through the provision of cash, food, and livestock support, as well as services for nutrition, WASH, health, crop agriculture and protection. We believe reversing the trend of global hunger is possible with greater investment in solutions that optimize humanitarian and development funding.

Additionally, while food assistance is critical, food security cannot be achieved solely through a single-sector response; instead, integrated, multi-sectoral approaches are

needed to meet holistic food security needs and to ultimately fill gaps in and strengthen local food systems. Funding and response structures are often very siloed, making multi-sectoral programming difficult; thus CRS aims to work across sectors and departments.



To address rising humanitarian needs in Madagascar, CRS sequences its activities to maximize longer-term impact, layers programs from different funding streams, and integrates social cohesion into its programs. Three USAID-funded programs bridge the 'nexus' – Maharo, a resilience food security activity; Tabiry, an emergency seed activity, and Rima, an emergency food security program, all of which include social cohesion elements to advance peace and stability.

 **Acting in anticipation of a worsening food security shock.**

Over a quarter of a million people, half of them children, died when Somalia last suffered famine in 2011; in 2017, the country faced risk of famine again. In 2022, people in Somalia again faced famine-like conditions in Somalia, again with a need for significant levels of humanitarian response. While urgent assistance is needed to avert famine and acute food insecurity, humanitarian need is much greater than available funding.¹⁴ Early warning and early interventions can reduce food gaps and protect assets and livelihoods at a lower cost than late humanitarian response, but funding and implementation are currently not able to systematically respond early or in anticipation of a worsening crisis. Funding cycles and programming approaches also are not able to systematically address the underlying drivers of hunger while continuing to meet humanitarian need, and thus the humanitarian system is overburdened with urgent response needs.

One factor in averting acute food insecurity and malnutrition is through the analysis and use of food security and market data,

leading to early and anticipatory action. The humanitarian and development community needs to improve its use and communication of data to inform early and preventative action. CRS will intentionally invest in preparedness and build our own and partner capacity in anticipatory action for context monitoring, contingency planning, and food security and nutrition program implementation, particularly cash and market-based programming, before a shock occurs. CRS and our peers need to better access and use appropriate available monitoring data, to work with communities on effective early responses, and to build a culture that values gender-disaggregated data and appropriate technologies.

 **Addressing the links between climate and hunger.**

Climate change has been called the existential crisis of our time, and the world's most vulnerable and marginalized people will continue to bear the brunt of it, particularly women and children. Global and local food systems are under pressure from climate change and non-climate stressors. In the short-term, historic droughts have led to death and malnutrition. In the longer-term, climate change is affecting yields of crops like maize and wheat in lower-latitude regions; increased CO₂ is lowering the nutritional quality of some crops; pests are reducing productivity of crops. The current food system contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – from the way food is grown to how it is transported, packaged, and processed. The way food is produced contributes to land degradation and biodiversity loss.

CRS addresses the intersection of climate change and hunger in the short- and long-term. We invest in landscape regeneration to improve yields and incomes, and also to maintain food production during drought or flood that can cause acute food insecurity. CRS also advocates for governments to reduce GHG emissions to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and to rapidly scale up investment in adaptation. We need to rethink our food system, and it starts from the soil up.

Talata Dicko, 15, fled from her home near Bankass, Mali in November 2019 after armed men attacked her village and burned it to the ground. She's been living at a camp for displaced people in Mopti, Mali ever since. CRS provided her family with cash upon their arrival, which allowed them to purchase food and clothing.

Photo by Annika Hammerschlag/CRS



¹⁴ Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 mid-year update.



A nurse visits the region of Tahoua, Niger, where CRS supports health programs for the community.

Photo by Dominique Guinot/CRS

WAYS OF WORKING

COORDINATION

CRS aims to collaborate with other food security actors and coordination mechanisms at regional, national, and sub-national levels. This includes contributing to the IPC processes and food security, nutrition, and WASH clusters, and engaging with others on monitoring for anticipatory

and early action. CRS also works in tandem with regional bodies such as ECOWAS. In longer-term systems responses, CRS seeks to coordinate with peers, government actors, regional bodies and initiatives, and the private sector.



A doctor at a CRS-supported clinic in Baidoa, southwestern Somalia talks to a patient about her children's nutrition. Somalia has been undergoing severe drought for months after four straight rainy seasons failed to bring water. Infants, in particular, are at risk of starvation. Photo by Omar Faruk/CRS

Selvin Alf Hernández is with CRS agriculture technician Luis Edgardo García Molina as he checks the crop diversity on his farm in Opatoro, Honduras, where he has participated in CRS' Water Smart Agriculture program. He has been using live barriers to prevent erosion, and leaving stubble to protect the soil in his plot "Now we sow more orderly, according to the ground level. We have learned about living barriers that stop erosion when it rains hard. We can sow in summer and, with the irrigation system, more water is saved," he says.

Photo by Oscar Leiva Silverlight/CRS



PARTNERSHIP AND ADVOCACY FOR INFLUENCE

We seek to build and expand partnerships and collective effort to effect transformative change at global levels. With greater collaboration and sharing of expertise, perspective and learning, we can support extended impact where it matters most. Opportunities include:

- 1 **Policy change:** Advocating for more effective, coherent policies that better respond to the food crisis, with a lens on managing shocks so they don't become food crises;
- 2 **Public awareness:** Supporting efforts that amplify the voice and perspective of people affected by the crisis, to inform the general public and CRS constituents about the complexity of the crisis, the humanity at its center, opportunities and milestones in effective response, and ways to engage;
- 3 **Increased and flexible funding:** Collectively seeking opportunities to promote flexible, integrated funding

to address both urgent needs and the root causes of the crisis among institutional donors and corporate foundations —ideally with local organizations the lead recipients and/or responders for that funding;

- 4 **Thought leadership:** Gathering evidence with and for partners and peer organizations, for our shared learning, adoption of resilient practices, extension of local solutions, and collective impact for both immediate and long-term needs. In the longer term, we seek to influence the USG's new approaches to addressing food security and food systems, as supported by our own learning, evidence collection and research. While the USG is one focus of our advocacy and donor engagement work, we will also target multi-lateral institutions, non-USG and non-traditional donors, as well as peer agencies and CRS constituents.



In the longer term, we promote approaches that address food security and resilient food systems sustainably, as supported by our own learning, evidence collection and research.

A displaced mother carrying her child walks to fetch water from a water-distributed point next to their makeshift tent in an IDP settlement in Baidoa, Somalia, on 12 September 2022.

Photo by Omar Faruk/CRS



LEARNING

Internally, CRS is also focusing on *learning and evidence*, promoting a culture to reflect on, and learn from the significant footprint we currently implement in food security programming.

How can we mitigate this and the impact of future food crises?

How can systems approaches and a food systems lens enhance our work?

Each component of our framework includes learning questions, and we are intentionally investing in evidence gathering, which we will share proactively across the CRS world, as well as in collaboration with peers, donors and policymakers.



Our annual metrics help us track our impact and work.

MEASURING IMPACT

CRS must have measurable evidence of significant contribution to mitigating food crises at program level and, as feasible, to mitigating the impact of future food crises. This means, CRS is collecting evidence of saving lives and livelihoods, and also of

strengthening systems that can support people's food security in the long-term. CRS should be seen as a leader in food crisis response and impactful food security programming across the 'nexus'. Our annual metrics help us track our impact and work.



Nery García Martínez shows different kinds of corn varieties he sows on his farm in Opatoro, Honduras. "I dream of having a more prosperous family, a successful family in the countryside. Before this project I thought a thousand times about emigrating. After the project came, it no longer crosses my mind. I have the option here in Honduras that I can get up."

Photo by Oscar Leiva Silverlight/CRS

THE NEED TO 'DO DIFFERENTLY'

The compound and complex nature of the drivers of the current food crisis shows us that humanitarian and development actors can no longer continue to do 'business as usual.' This has spurred us to ask ourselves and our peers fundamental questions such as:

What do we need to do differently--as an agency, and as part of a humanitarian and development community--to mitigate the impacts of this crisis, and to ensure that people are more resilient to this and similar food security shocks in the future?

How does international food security assistance need to change?

This strategy was born from this challenge, and we will continue to build evidence, understand what works and what doesn't,

and make internal commitments and changes to meet the moment.



Silverio Mendez lives in Barrio El Cedro, Chiquimula, Guatemala with his seven children. His family has been on this land for three generations. After extended droughts in the area now known as the Dry Corridor, CRS has been supporting farmers to improve their soil quality--including its ability to hold moisture--by applying Conservation Agriculture techniques, helping farmers to thrive on land that is doing the same. Photo by Julian Spath/CRS