

GLOBAL EMERGENCY UPDATE

This is the latest snapshot of 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.

AFRICA



A landslide and heavy flooding have claimed nearly 500 lives in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. Photo by Alex Macavorey/CRS

SIERRA LEONE CRS teams are responding to a landslide that ripped through Freetown on August 14, claiming nearly 500 lives. We are working with Caritas to provide emergency shelter, living supplies, water and help with burials.

MALI The country has been facing multiple crises, including flooding, drought, food insecurity, conflict and displacement. This update provides information on the impact of our humanitarian response throughout the past year.

LAKE CHAD BASIN More than 10 million people in one of the world's poorest, most drought-prone regions are estimated to have been affected by the Lake Chad Basin crisis, now in its seventh year. Across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency has killed thousands of people and 2.3 million have fled their homes, a number that has tripled over the last 2 years.



Children fall ill less often since CRS helped this community in Nigeria with water and sanitation. Photo by Dooshima Tsee/CRS

KENYA Drought in the arid and semi-arid lands remains dire, and food security is deteriorating further. Below-average milk production and low livestock prices have resulted in household food shortages. Multiple disease outbreaks continue. A recent survey reported that nearly 73,000 children are severely malnourished and at risk of dying without immediate aid.

SOMALIA Extreme drought has brought a large-scale shortage of food and water, loss of livestock and agricultural livelihoods, and a severe cholera outbreak. The July harvest is anticipated to be 40 to 50 percent below average. Meaningful recovery is not expected until at least early next year.

SOUTH SUDAN AND UGANDA The South Sudan refugee crisis is the largest in Africa and the fastest growing in the world. Nearly 1.9 million people are internally displaced, and another 2 million have fled to neighboring countries. More than 1 million South Sudanese refugees are living in Uganda, 85 percent of whom are women and children.

ETHIOPIA Some 8.5 million people are in need of emergency food assistance, nearly half in the southern drought belt. Most Ethiopians are farmers, completely dependent on rainfed agriculture. There has been some rain, but it is insufficient, and many families have been obliged to sell their livestock at very low prices to buy food.



CRS President and CEO Sean Callahan greets South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. Photo by Hugh Rutherford for CRS

EUROPE + THE MIDDLE EAST



Refugee children arrive at a school in Amman, Jordan. CRS services include tutoring, recreational activities and trauma counseling for children. *Photo by Oscar Durand for CRS*

EUROPE Across Greece, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bulgaria, CRS and our partners provide a range of programs—from meeting the urgent needs of new arrivals, to helping thousands of longer-term refugees build new lives.

IRAQ The humanitarian crisis has uprooted more than 3 million Iraqis since 2014, including recent waves of displacement from Mosul, Fallujah and Ramadi, as Iraqi forces retake territories previously under ISIS control. The humanitarian consequences are significant. CRS and Caritas Iraq are expanding support for newly displaced families, as well as those returning to communities once controlled by ISIS. We provide shelter and education support for those who have been uprooted.

SYRIAN REFUGEES

The catastrophic war in Syria has transformed the fabric of communities where 5 million Syrian refugees have sought safety in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and other countries. Inside Syria, many remain in danger. CRS and our local partners provide critical, comprehensive support to more than 1 million Syrians across the region.

YEMEN is devastated by war, hunger and health crises, and is facing a humanitarian disaster. A cholera outbreak has resulted in more than 425,000 cases and nearly 2,000 deaths. CRS is supporting our local partner with aid to address malnutrition and critical medical needs, including cholera prevention and care.



CRS and Caritas Iraq staff provide living supplies to recently displaced families. *Photo by CRS staff*

LATIN AMERICA + THE CARIBBEAN

VENEZUELA The humanitarian crisis is worsening as rising levels of inflation—and political violence—leave communities without access to food, medical care or basic government services. An estimated 4 million people are eating only twice a day. CRS is supporting Caritas Venezuela to focus on the needs of children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and the elderly.

HAITI Since Hurricane Matthew hit in October 2016, CRS has been working with local partners to repair homes and restore livelihoods. From emergency relief to investment in agriculture, homes and the local economy, the recovery effort is well underway.



A bean field in Les Cayes planted with seeds bought with CRS vouchers. *Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS*

EAST + SOUTH ASIA

INDIA Floods and landslides have killed about 600 people and displaced hundreds of thousands across the country. An estimated 5 million people are affected. CRS is supporting local partners providing emergency relief.

PHILIPPINES More than 380,000 people are displaced from the city of Marawi after violence broke out, and martial law has been declared on Mindanao island. CRS is working with local partners to provide emergency hygiene and living supplies for displaced people.

VENEZUELA

CONFLICT + HYPERINFLATION

CONTEXT

The humanitarian crisis is worsening, as rising inflation and political violence leave people without access to food, medical care or basic government services. As many as 82 percent of Venezuelans live in poverty. The annual inflation is 700 percent—the highest in the world—and is projected to rise to 1,200 percent in the coming year.

General health is deteriorating because medicine is scarce. This has resulted in outbreaks of diseases thought to have been eradicated, such as malaria, diphtheria and tuberculosis. Food prices have risen by 650 percent, and an estimated 4 million people are eating only twice a day. As many as 68 percent of families have resorted to foraging and prostitution to get food. Families are spending almost 5 hours a week standing in line to buy food. Children are missing school and adults are missing work. Food riots have escalated.

Accessing potable water is also a challenge. Where public water systems exist, the government cuts off water for days. Rural families struggle to find chlorine to treat water. Electricity is also unreliable, with almost daily blackouts. More than 2 million people have fled the country.

“The health infrastructure is absolutely devastated. The only way I can describe the situation is tragic.”

Suzanna Tkalec,
Caritas Internationalis
humanitarian response director



Malnourished children receive food at a Caritas Venezuela soup kitchen. *Photo courtesy of Caritas Venezuela*

CRS RESPONSE

CRS is supporting Caritas Venezuela, focusing on the needs of children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and the elderly. As the facilitating partner of Caritas Venezuela, we will provide on-the-ground management and technical support for quality program implementation. This includes supply chain management, the use of technology for monitoring and evaluation, and support with transportation, communication, administration and logistics to expand response in the most vulnerable areas. Priority activities include:

Health

- Facilitate access to basic health care, including prenatal care, regular immunizations for children under age 2, and treatment for common childhood and chronic diseases.
- Distribute nutritional supplies and supplements to children diagnosed with mild and moderate malnutrition, as well as therapeutic food for children with severe malnutrition.
- Distribute donated medical supplies to health care facilities.
- Provide hygiene kits, mosquito nets and water purification supplies.

Community meals

Since October, Caritas Venezuela has been distributing food kits to pregnant women and children under age 5 across four states. CRS will support Caritas to:

- Establish regular communal dining through the Communal Pots program, held weekly across a network of 365 parishes in predominantly urban areas.
- Provide training in nutritional cooking techniques at the Communal Pots locations.
- Offer counseling to families attending Communal Pots.



Caritas Venezuela provides emergency relief items. *Photo courtesy of Caritas Venezuela*

CONTEXT

Hurricane Matthew, the Category 4 storm that hit Haiti on October 4, 2016, passed over the southwestern peninsula, destroying homes, infrastructure, farmland and businesses. The hurricane affected 2.1 million people across the country, and severely damaged or destroyed 120,000 homes. Nearly all crops were lost in some locations, creating an acute food shortage with potential long-term effects. The South and Grand'Anse departments, close to the storm's center, were the most affected.

CRS provided emergency relief supplies to 200,000 people in the first months of the response—including hygiene and kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses, supplies for clean water, and food. We also engaged local vendors to supply small farmers with seeds and tools, and are launching training to help families, tradespeople and engineers to use disaster-resilient techniques to “build back safer.”

Recovery activities began in mid-November, when farmers received seed vouchers for the winter planting season. We also launched hygiene, cash-for-work and agricultural livelihoods programming.

2.1 million

**PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY,
WERE AFFECTED, AND THE
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OR DESTROYED 120,000 HOMES**



This bean field in Les Cayes is planted with seeds bought with CRS vouchers.
Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

IMPACT TO DATE

Shelter support

- 2,000 families have participated in Build Back Safer training. A CRS engineer helps families evaluate damage to homes and estimate the cost for repairs. Each family receives an e-voucher to buy construction materials at accredited local stores.
- 62 local technicians have been trained. Each family can select one of these to lead home repair work, which CRS funds. CRS engineers supervise construction and approve technicians' work before payments are made.
- In partnership with the Haitian government, 300 families still living in emergency shelters are being identified to receive rental assistance so they can relocate.

Livelihood recovery

- Provided more than 25,500 farmers with vouchers to buy seeds from local suppliers; 4,770 of the farmers were included in cash-for-work.
- Involved the local farmers' association in cash-for-work to repair the irrigation canal in Chantal, in collaboration with the ministry of agriculture.
- Provided cash-for-work in Dame Marie for 500 women, who each worked 15 days on community improvement, including road repair, cleanup and tree planting.
- Implemented a USAID-funded project in which more than 31,300 families received two payments of \$60 each for lean-season support before the July harvest.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

With funding from UNICEF, CRS launched a project to repair 20 water sources, including 8 hand pumps, 8 springs and 4 water points in Maniche and Saint Louis du Sud. Families there will also benefit from a hygiene promotion campaign on potable water storage and use.

Accountability

To ensure response activities have maximum impact, CRS is ensuring transparency, communication and accountability to beneficiaries through robust feedback systems. A free phone line was promoted at all CRS project sites and distributions, so community members could voice complaints or request information. From January through June, the line received almost 800 calls about emergency programming. They were tracked to ensure that everyone received a response within a week. The feedback was used to improve and inform project activities.

Market response

Based on lessons learned in previous emergency responses, CRS chose to implement market-based projects wherever feasible and appropriate. These interventions assist direct beneficiaries, local businesses and the economy. For example, rather than distributing imported seeds, local seed vendors were used. Farmers could select the type of seed they needed, and local seed merchants also benefited.

EUROPE

REFUGEE CRISIS

WATCH THE VIDEO

Sarah, 6, helps her mother Fatima Al-Mahabani bake cookies at their home in Sofia, Bulgaria. Fatima, a baker from Homs, Syria, is starting a new life with CRS' help. Watch this YouTube video [Helping refugees integrate into society: Spotlight from Bulgaria](#). Photo by Oscar Durand for CRS



CONTEXT

The flow of refugees arriving by sea in Europe has dropped to 117,000 people so far this year, from the peak of more than 1 million in 2015. This is largely due to the closure of the Republic of Macedonia border in March 2016, which left nearly 60,000 refugees—most of whom were heading north—stranded in Greece. Most of the refugees are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, and more than half are women and children.

CRS RESPONSE

CRS and our local partners have assisted more than 400,000 refugees and migrants across Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia and Bulgaria, as well as provided assistance to other vulnerable groups in these countries. Support ranges from meeting the urgent needs of new arrivals to helping thousands of longer-term refugees build new lives. We are also building local government and NGO capacities across the Balkans to strengthen protection services for women and children at risk of violence and abuse.

PRIORITIES

- **Food and emergency living supplies** CRS has prioritized the use of vouchers and prepaid debit cards to allow people to buy items in local markets. Cash allows families to prioritize what they need to buy, offers a sense of control and respects their dignity.
- **Information, integration, protection and reconciliation** CRS supports language classes, financial courses, job placement and other support for integration into society. Case workers help new arrivals register their children in school, seek medical help and access other services. CRS and Caritas also provide information, translation and legal resources to refugees. At least 10,300 people have received these services, including gender-based violence and trafficking prevention, and counseling for children and their parents. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, CRS has worked with 66,680 people in 60 municipalities on peacebuilding across ethnic and religious divides.
- **Urban social centers** In Athens, CRS and Caritas are managing two service hubs that provide hot meals, child friendly spaces, shower facilities, access to social workers and translators, referrals to medical services, rest areas and internet access.
- **Shelter** Across the region, we provide vulnerable people with access to safe, quality, affordable housing.

In **Greece**, CRS works with Caritas Athens and Caritas Hellas to provide transitional shelters for asylum seekers who were living in camps. CRS has made use of vacant housing in Athens, negotiating lease agreements with landlords, and repairing buildings to provide shared apartments for families. Basic furnishings and utilities are provided, as well as a package of social services.

In **Bulgaria**, Caritas Sofia runs a housing program for refugees who have moved out of camps.

In **Serbia**, CRS and the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation have renovated 13 barracks and 1 reception center for asylum seekers. At any time, more than 1,000 asylum seekers are estimated to be staying in the facilities.

In **Ukraine**, CRS and Caritas have provided cash grants to more than 900 families for materials for repairs, including windows and doors; building materials for walls, roofing and floors; and heating systems.

■ **Livelihoods opportunities**

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Serbia** and **Montenegro**, 330 families will receive small grants for agricultural, trade or craft enterprises, and CRS will co-fund employment or internships at selected companies. In **Ukraine**, CRS and Caritas Ukraine helped 640 small businesses restart, with 70 percent continuing to operate a year later.

CONTEXT

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq has uprooted more than 3 million Iraqis since 2014, including recent waves of displacement from Mosul, Fallujah and Ramadi, as Iraqi forces retake territories previously under ISIS control. In the first half of this year, displacements included families that had lived under ISIS control for more than 2 years. They often faced torture or risked death when attempting to flee. Many families have been separated and have lost loved ones, and children and adults alike have seen and experienced horrific brutality.

On July 9, the Iraqi security forces announced that they had retaken Mosul. By mid-August, an estimated 840,000 people had been displaced during this operation and others to retake ISIS-controlled areas. The humanitarian consequences are significant, especially in western Mosul, where the Old City is uninhabitable and explosive devices that remain make return risky. As the Iraqi government's military offensive has shifted focus to other geographical areas, humanitarian groups are preparing for further displacement.

The safety and dignity of families returning to areas retaken from ISIS will require mine removal, significant investment in infrastructure, and the rebuilding of education systems and local economies. People have endured torture and abuse, and are grieving. They need counseling to help them heal.

LEARN MORE

Watch [Educating Iraq's Displaced Children](#), on YouTube, about CRS' support for education in Iraq.



Lavina and her sister Julianne wear clothes bought with vouchers from CRS partner Caritas in Mangesh, near Dohuk. They fled their home when ISIS militants overran their town. Photo courtesy of Sam Tarling/Caritas

CRS RESPONSE

CRS has been working closely with Caritas Iraq to provide urgent relief since the crisis began. With 70 staff, primarily Iraqi, working out of offices in Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk and Baghdad, CRS has partnered with Caritas Iraq to help 300,000 people with a range of support to meet evolving needs in the rapidly changing context. In August, CRS and Caritas Iraq distributed critical aid to 12,000

displaced civilians in camps in Amiriyat al Fallujah and Bzeibiz, in Anbar governorate. CRS also distributed summer items—including food coolers, jerry cans for water and floor mats—to more than 1,800 families in Salamiyah 1 camp, near Mosul, as well as supplies to those arriving at Hamam Al Alil camp and Nargizilia camp in Nineveh governorate.

PRIORITIES

Shelter This includes upgrading unfinished buildings where families have taken refuge, to increase protection from winter cold and summer heat, and for safety and privacy. Improvements include installing double-glazed external doors and windows, and internal partitions and doors, as well as sealing off openings. To date, CRS has upgraded more than 5,000 buildings, supporting over 70,000 people in Baghdad, Kirkuk and Dohuk. CRS and Caritas have also designed and provided transitional shelter, using local materials and labor, for more than 500 families stranded in the desolate Amiriyat al-Fallujah settlement.

Support for people returning home CRS has a pilot project to help households make basic repairs to their war-damaged homes on the Nineveh plains, with plans to expand programming to include education and job training.

Essential living and hygiene supplies

These include a wide range of supplies like kitchen sets, bedding, soap, stoves and other supplies. The extreme temperatures require specific support—including extra blankets, warm clothing, heaters and kerosene for the cold, or shade and extra water storage for the scorching heat. Supplies are either provided directly or, where markets are functioning, through vouchers or cash assistance.

Preparedness and scale-up

CRS and Caritas Iraq teams continue to train staff and prepare supplies and vendors for the anticipated influx of newly displaced communities.

Education

CRS helps displaced Iraqi children in Kurdistan, Nineveh and Kirkuk access formal education, and plans to expand to Baghdad in October. To date, CRS has supported 9,000 children in 26 schools with teacher training and coaching, student counseling, and school building upgrades.

SYRIA

REFUGEE CRISIS



Syrian refugee Reem and her daughter Ibtisan at their home in Zarqa, Jordan. Reem's other two children attend a public school and Caritas remedial classes. Previously they attended Caritas catch-up classes, having missed a year of school. *Photo by Oscar Durand for CRS*

CONTEXT

More than 6 years since the conflict began, intense hostilities persist across many parts of Syria, uprooting and devastating the lives of millions of families. An estimated 6.3 million people have been internally displaced, and more than 4.8 million have fled to other countries. More than half of all refugees are children.

Many struggle with family separation and grief. Mothers and young children fled the violence without their husbands and fathers, who may be missing, killed, still in Syria, or in Europe applying for asylum. Many elderly people stayed in Syria, unable to flee with their families. People are anxious about their loved ones, and about where to go, who to trust and what to do. They long to be reunited. Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt continue to support millions of refugees, with strained resources.

CRS RESPONSE

CRS has helped more than 1.4 million Syrians across the Middle East and Europe, and continually adjusts services as the situation evolves. CRS works closely with the Catholic Church, especially Caritas and our Church partners, who have deep roots in the region. Together, we provide the following assistance:

- **Shelter and rent assistance** Monthly rent stipends support most refugees who live in urban areas. With few opportunities to earn income, this helps prevent homelessness, squatting and destitution.
- **Living supplies** Relief kits of bedding, stoves, buckets and other household items are provided to newly arriving refugees.
- **Children's education, support and trauma counseling** Services include tutoring, recreational activities and trauma counseling for children.
- **Food** Cash and voucher programs allow people to buy the food they need, respecting their dignity and supporting the local economy.
- **Medical assistance** Immediate care for life-threatening injuries, care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, and maternal and child care, are included.
- **Hygiene and sanitation** Vouchers for soap, laundry detergent, diapers and other sanitary supplies are provided.

“Humans are born with hope, born through hope. If you don't strive to build and improve, what else can you do? You can't do anything else. We are obligated to build and improve. If for nothing else, it's for our children.”

Mohamad El Saho, Syrian refugee in Lebanon



CONTEXT

Yemen has been devastated by a war between forces loyal to the internationally recognized government of President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and Houthi rebels. More than 7,600 people have been killed since March 2015, the majority in airstrikes by a Saudi-led multinational coalition that backs Hadi.

The conflict and a blockade imposed by the coalition have triggered a humanitarian disaster, leaving 70 percent of the population in need of aid. More than 14 million people do not have enough food or safe drinking water. About 462,000 children face acute malnutrition. The most affected areas are Aden, Taiz and Saada, where food prices have soared. Hunger is on the rise, and basic services such as water, health and education have deteriorated.

Cholera has been widespread. Between April and July, more than 425,000 cholera cases and nearly 2,000 deaths were reported. While cases are declining, new ones continue to surface because of poor access to health care exacerbated by a lack of security. Uncollected garbage has contaminated water sources and allowed the disease to spread.

Meanwhile, the health system's capacity to respond has been crippled by the 2 years of continuous conflict and restrictions on imports. Health infrastructure has collapsed. Public employees in water, sanitation and health services have not been paid. There is a severe shortage of health care workers, increasing risks for children under age 5 and new mothers. Medical supplies are chronically limited, and only 45 percent of health facilities are functioning. Some high-risk areas are inaccessible, hampering the response.



CRS is supporting Islamic Relief to provide health and nutrition services in villages across Yemen. Photo courtesy of Islamic Relief

CRS RESPONSE

CRS and our local partner, Islamic Relief, focus on reducing illness and death from malnutrition among children under age 5, and pregnant and nursing women. We have recently expanded support to address the escalating cholera crisis. Activities include:

- Nutritional food to 3,360 households, or 23,540 people, including rice, flour, sugar, vegetable oil and kidney beans.
- Essential medical supplies and medicines to 4 hospitals in Taiz governorate, reaching 4,000 patients in 2 months. Supplies include 263 oxygen cylinders, 200 first aid kits, 40 wheelchairs and 40 pairs of crutches.
- Mosquito nets to 1,000 households in Taiz to control malaria.
- Treatment of acute malnutrition in children under age 5, and pregnant and nursing women, through an outpatient and targeted supplementary feeding program.
- Prevention of acute malnutrition by counseling mothers and caregivers of children under age 2.
- Nutrition screening and referral to treat malnourished children under age 5, and pregnant and nursing women.

CHOLERA, a waterborne disease, is extremely virulent and affects both children and adults. Without treatment, previously healthy adults can die within hours. Individuals with lower immunity, such as those who are malnourished or living with other chronic conditions, are at even greater risk.

CRS treatment and prevention efforts include:

- Providing medical treatment to 1,000 people with acute diarrhea.
- Raising awareness across communities about hygiene practices, through 5,000 household hygiene promotion sessions for women and men.
- Providing 20 solid waste bins and 20 cleaning kits to diarrheal treatment centers.
- Distributing 4,000 hygiene kits and 76,000 chlorine tablets to 4,000 families for water purification, and 2 jerry cans per household, or 8,000 jerry cans, for safe water storage.
- Providing safe water and water quality monitoring.

SIERRA LEONE

FLOODS + LANDSLIDES

CONTEXT

Early on August 14, torrential rains caused a massive landslide in the Regent neighborhood of the capital, Freetown, burying families and more than 100 homes. The government of Sierra Leone and partners are exploring long-term shelter solutions, while the education community prepares for the start of the school year.

While dignified burials have taken place for 500 people, the total number of dead or missing is 1,031. More than 1,000 families need assistance with food, water, shelter and essential supplies.

“The devastation is like nothing we’ve seen before. Entire neighborhoods have been washed away. There are people whose entire families have gone missing. There is a real sense of despair. Right now, people are in a complete state of shock. People here have already experienced so much trauma, having lived through war and then Ebola, and now this.”

Idalia Amaya, CRS Sierra Leone, deputy head of programs and emergency response coordinator



There was heavy flooding in the Juba, Regent, Central and Crossroad areas of Freetown. Photo by Alex Macavorey/CRS

CRS RESPONSE

Having worked for years in Sierra Leone, CRS was able to quickly scale up—in close partnership with Caritas Sierra Leone and Caritas Freetown—to assist communities. Actions to date and program priorities include:

- Along with other faith-based organizations, CRS is supporting culturally appropriate burials and logistical support for the coordination of burial teams, as well as providing fuel for ambulances. CRS teams are drawing on their experience responding to Ebola in 2014.
- Providing emergency shelter and living supplies, including blankets, mattresses and mats. To support local market recovery and flexibility of choice, CRS will provide cash assistance to families where markets are functioning.
- Responding to the shelter needs of families who have lost their homes. This is likely to include support for hosting those left homeless, housing rehabilitation and reconstruction, and resettlement of families. Rebuilding will address water and sanitation needs as well as measures to reduce risk from future shocks.
- Delivering safe, clean drinking water in 8 affected communities, providing an average of 10,000 gallons a day. Support includes sanitary kits for women and girls.
- Providing counseling by trained staff for up to 200 community members a day, including youth volunteers who were involved in burial activities, and children returning to school.
- Leading area-level coordination of health interventions, which includes identifying gaps in health services, urgent needs and related follow-up with other health actors.
- Supporting a newly developed CRS child friendly space, where staff lead games and activities while offering one-on-one counseling.
- Repairing and equipping schools that were used as emergency shelters, and ensuring they are cleaned and ready for the new school year. We will also focus on identifying safe transitional shelter options for education.

SEE CRS FIELD REPORTS

- **NPR**
[As rain keeps falling, Sierra Leone scrambles to find mudslide survivors](#)
- **The New York Times**
[Sierra Leone buries over 300 mudslide victims in mass graves](#)
- **PBS News Hour**
[Facebook Live interview](#)
- **Reuters**
[Food aid reaches thousands devastated by Sierra Leone mudslide](#)



MALI

MULTIPLE CRISES

CRS provides relief supplies to flood-affected families in the remote, flooded zone of Haribomo. *Photo by CRS staff*

CONTEXT

Mali has been facing multiple crises, including flooding, drought, food insecurity, conflict and displacement. Volatility in the northern and central regions has resulted in limited access to public services, shelter, education, water and food.

The situation has worsened over the past 18 months, with armed groups controlling more terrain, and terrorist groups more organized. This increases the

frequency of emergencies, as well as the number of families affected. Access to people in need and our ability to provide support has become more complex.

In July 2016, CRS launched a project funded by the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. The Kisili project, which means “project that saves lives,” establishes a countrywide rapid response mechanism to support the most

vulnerable communities affected by conflict, drought and flooding.

Timely emergency responses can be deterred by funding constraints to launching assessments or interventions. Through our vast network of partners, the Kisili project conducts needs assessments within 72 hours of crisis alerts and provides quality information to humanitarian responders so they can quickly deploy.

IMPACT

During the 12-month project, CRS launched 13 rapid assessments across 5 regions: Gao, Menaka, Mopti, Segou and Timbuktu. Evaluations of household needs, local market functionality and the security context were disseminated within Mali’s humanitarian community to enable immediate lifesaving assistance.

CRS assisted communities that did not have a group that could provide humanitarian aid. By July, the Kisili team had launched nine rapid emergency responses, helping crisis-affected communities get adequate shelter, restore household goods, and protect their families from waterborne disease.

COORDINATION

CRS shares its assessments and the GPS coordinates of registered households with trusted partners—seven humanitarian groups and the government of Mali—which can intervene with critical assistance. The World Food Program also filled a critical gap in food assistance. CRS leveraged private funds to provide nationwide flood relief in December 2016 and address the needs of 1,300 families fleeing intercommunity violence in central Mali in April 2017.

Read more about Kisili here:

- [Kisili website:](#)
Assessment reports and maps
- [Kisili Project StoryMap:](#)
Program summary

TRAINING

CRS trains its local partners in the use of technology for greater efficiency. By logging GPS coordinates and registering families using pre-populated questionnaires on electronic tablets, responders can analyze the data remotely and share a report and map with other humanitarian actors within days of the assessment—even in remote locations. CRS also trained 11 local early warning groups—with more than 100 members—in vulnerable areas of Timbuktu. The training addressed responsibilities to monitor and communicate crisis alerts within the national system, with a focus on identifying food insecurity.



KENYA + SOMALIA

DROUGHT + FOOD INSECURITY

SOMALIA CONTEXT

Extreme drought in 2016 triggered early warnings of potential famine, and early this year brought a large-scale shortage of food and water, loss of livestock and agricultural livelihoods, and a severe cholera outbreak. Famine was averted through a massive scale-up in humanitarian assistance, relying heavily on cash-based interventions.

The expected March-June rains were erratic and below normal in many areas, leading to July harvest figures anticipated to be 40 to 50 percent below average. Meaningful recovery is not expected until at least early next year. An estimated 766,000 people have been displaced since November 2016, and uprooted communities continue to arrive in urban centers, especially Mogadishu, Baidoa and the Afgooye Corridor. CRS is assisting in each of these areas.

An estimated 6.7 million people need help, including 3.2 million who need emergency assistance, 363,000 children who are acutely malnourished, and those affected by the cholera outbreak that has resulted in 71,000 cases, many fatal. Food security, WASH and health are priorities for lifesaving assistance. There is grave concern about people's safety.*

CRS RESPONSE

CRS is providing the following support:

- Food assistance for 9,000 families through cash grants paid via mobile money.
- Mobile clinics and training for community health workers to treat acute malnutrition, and prevent and treat communicable diseases.
- Cash-for-work, vouchers for supplies, hygiene promotion and distribution of living supplies.
- Crisis centers to help survivors of gender-based violence.

* All figures from UNOCHA Somalia Humanitarian Bulletin, July 31, 2017

CRS is helping people get water for themselves and their livestock. Photo by Nancy McNally/CRS

KENYA CONTEXT

Drought in the arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya remains dire, although water availability and vegetation has improved in the few regions where rain fell in May and June.

In the pastoral areas, food security is deteriorating further. Below-average milk production and low livestock prices have resulted in household food shortages. Drier-than-normal conditions have resulted in atypical livestock migration, leading to conflict over resources.

Multiple disease outbreaks continue. Cholera outbreaks—including more than 1,060 cases and 12 deaths since January—have been reported in the counties of Garissa, Nairobi, Muranga, Turkana and Wajir. Dengue fever has hit Mombasa and Wajir counties, with 1,200 cases and 1 death reported.

A recent nutrition survey reported that nearly 73,000 children are severely malnourished and at risk of dying from drought-related hunger without immediate aid. The survey shows that in Turkana alone, severe acute malnutrition rates—the most life-threatening form of hunger—are up nearly fourfold in just 1 year, from 2.3 to 8.3 percent. Nearly 40,000 pregnant and nursing women are malnourished—a 20 percent increase on last year.

The outlook for the next 3 months is poor. Livelihoods are already under significant stress. As the dry season unfolds, conditions will deteriorate, so drought interventions must be scaled up. A critical issue is the onset of the short rains season, since any delay will have significant consequences for food security and well-being.

CRS RESPONSE

CRS is responding to the drought in five counties—Kwale, Kilifi, Turkana, Isiolo and Samburu—by supporting access to water for households and livestock, hygiene promotion, improved livestock health and well-being and livelihood recovery efforts. The project is being implemented through our local Church partners and county governments. We expect to reach 15,500 families.

IMPACT TO DATE

- Repaired and performed maintenance on water infrastructure reaching 1,500 families.
- Prepared to install and rehabilitate water points, and carry out hygiene promotion activities.
- Purchased and distributed high-quality feed to livestock farmers in five counties.
- Prepared for seed fairs to reach 6,000 farmers.
- Began identifying farmers to be supported with restocking later in the year.
- Continued to identify beneficiaries for micro-irrigation projects.

SOUTH SUDAN

DISPLACEMENT

CONTEXT

Six years after the country gained independence, fighting between government and opposition forces has displaced 3.9 million people. Nearly 1.9 million people are internally displaced, and another 2 million have fled as refugees to neighboring countries.

The South Sudan refugee crisis is the largest in Africa and the fastest growing in the world. In Lakes and Jonglei states, the consistent flow of internally displaced people and returnees has strained local communities' abilities to withstand the setbacks of floods, drought and conflict.

In addition to the conflict, communities are struggling with violence, often because of cattle raiding. Increasing insecurity and lack of rain are reducing harvests, compounding the country's food crisis. Food insecurity has reached unprecedented levels, with some 1.7 million people—the highest number ever—on the brink of famine in June and July.

Cholera outbreaks have been confirmed in 19 counties, with the most affected counties along the Nile River.

Between June 2016 and July 2017, health officials recorded more than 19,500 suspected cholera cases—including 358 deaths—in South Sudan. According to the United Nations, 7.6 million people, or 62 percent of the population, need humanitarian assistance.



CRS has provided nearly 9,000 children under age 5 with emergency food.
Photo by Nancy McNally/ CRS

CRS RESPONSE

CRS' emergency response is an extension of our ongoing development programming. These interventions include food assistance, market support, agriculture, health, education, and water, sanitation and hygiene. We continue to adapt assistance to meet developing needs. Our office in Juba helps CRS sustain strong systems for accountability and program quality. Activities include:

Emergency food assistance

- Provided 226,200 people with 14,500 metric tons of food commodities.
- In partnership with the U.N. World Food Program, airdropped 981 metric tons of food for 54,000 people in August.
- In August, provided 8,890 children under age 5 with emergency food.
- Reached 17,900 people with information on improved maternal, infant and child nutrition through the USAID-funded Resilience and Food Security program.

Livelihoods recovery and resilience

To increase agricultural, fishing and livestock production in food-insecure areas of Jonglei and Lakes states, from October 2016 through June 2017, CRS:

- Helped communities form 80 agriculture, 60 fishing and 10 livestock groups.
- Distributed 7,500 vegetable seed kits to farmers, nearly 5,400 fishing kits to fishery groups and more than 6,800 tools to agriculture groups.

Access to clean water

Our projects improving water infrastructure and hygiene promotion include the use of 4 drilling rigs and a 10-ton truck. Among our activities:

- Thanks to support from the U.S. government, CRS restored 58 non-functional boreholes and facilitated hygiene promotion among 6,000 people in Lakes state.

- In Jonglei, CRS has drilled 4 new boreholes, rehabilitated 17 and expanded water access to more than 10,600 people since February.
- CRS also monitors the quality of water before and after the development of new sources.
- Since 2016, CRS has reached 78,000 people by promoting hygiene, distributing hygiene materials and constructing latrines.
- Forty-five non-functional boreholes will be rehabilitated and re-equipped with hand pumps, and 20 new boreholes will be developed this year.

Cholera prevention

- In August, CRS was awarded \$2 million from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to support an emergency cholera prevention project that will assist 50,000 people. CRS will focus on constructing or rehabilitating public latrines, ensure they are properly managed, and provide wide ranging support to water users, water technicians and water infrastructure.

Peacebuilding

- CRS works closely with the South Sudan Council of Churches to nurture relationships with government representatives, church leaders and community leaders.



“There is no segregation between us. We work as one team and combine our skills, and if one of us doesn’t know something we can learn from our host brothers and sisters.”

Isaac Boboya, refugee

UGANDA

REFUGEE CRISIS



Isaac Boboya, left, a refugee works with Akuju Kiren from his host community. CRS employs skilled labor from both refugee and host communities to help build the 750 shelters for vulnerable households. *Photo by Hugh Rutherford/CRS*

CONTEXT

The refugee crisis in South Sudan has become the world’s third largest, after those in Syria and Afghanistan. As of mid-August, there were more than 1 million South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, according to UNHCR, more than 85 percent of them women and children.

To date, Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Uganda has received more than 272,200 South Sudanese refugees, making it the world’s largest refugee settlement. The huge influx of refugees has led to the opening of several new settlements in the West Nile region.

In northern Uganda, CRS focuses on emergency water, sanitation and hygiene services for refugees and host communities in Bidi Bidi. Working parts of the settlement with little basic water and shelter infrastructure. CRS will help construct water systems and distribute hygiene supplies and tools to reduce the risk of waterborne illnesses.

In July, CRS President and CEO Sean Callahan, Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha and Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of Brooklyn visited the Bidi Bidi settlement and others areas where CRS is providing relief.

CRS RESPONSE

Activities to date include:

Shelter

CRS will build 725 semi-permanent shelters. CRS is providing support in the neediest and more newly populated areas of the settlement, Zones 4 and 5, as well as other zones in need. Support includes supplying tools and construction materials* and technical assistance to ensure homes are built using disaster-resilient techniques.

Water, sanitation and hygiene Borehole motorization

- To increase the water supply in Zone 5, CRS works with Oxfam and Uganda’s Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR on borehole motorization.
- CRS raises awareness with refugee and host community leaders on their roles and responsibilities. These included participating in trench excavation, mobilizing local materials and clearing debris.

Community mobilization

- Organized community awareness activities and monitored hygiene promotion with families.
- Held community meetings to raise awareness about hygiene support.
- Addressed community concerns about the need for latrine-digging tools, brick molds, the cleaning of water tanks and other support for latrine construction.

Hygiene and sanitation training

This includes training 20 hygiene promoters—5 women and 15 men—to carry out quality daily hygiene promotion over the next 6 months.

Production of latrine slabs

CRS and our partners have trained masons, carpenters, other workers and volunteers in latrine slab production. The domed slab forms the basis of a space families can use as a bathing area and latrine. To date, 300 slabs have been produced by youth from refugee and host communities.

Distribution of latrine-digging kits

CRS has distributed 80 latrine-digging kits to families in Ayivu and Yangani.

Decommissioning communal latrines

CRS trained a team of 18 youths, and equipped them with lime, bleach and cleaning materials to ensure proper and safe latrine decommissioning. To date, 277 communal latrines have been decommissioned.

Cash-for-work

To improve youth self-reliance, CRS has engaged 540 laborers, both women and men, from refugee and host communities, in slab production, bricklaying, decommissioning latrines and other hygiene-promotion activities.



* The supply of material will be sufficient to construct a minimum-sized core shelter to meet Sphere standards.



ETHIOPIA

DROUGHT + FOOD INSECURITY

8.5 million

**PEOPLE NEED EMERGENCY
FOOD ASSISTANCE**

Women gather to pray for rain. Photo by Petterik Wiggers for CRS

CONTEXT

In Ethiopia, 8.5 million people need emergency food assistance, nearly half in the southern drought belt. Eighty-five percent of Ethiopians are farmers, completely dependent on rainfed agriculture. There has been some rain but it is insufficient, and many families have been obliged to sell their livestock—often their most valuable asset—at very low prices to buy food and basic supplies, like clothing for their children. Some migrate or send older children to cities to find work. Many tell CRS about eating fewer meals per day, and lacking nutrition.

At least 375,000 children need treatment for severe malnutrition, while 3.6 million suffer from moderate acute malnutrition.

10.5 million

PEOPLE NEED SAFE DRINKING WATER, SO CRS WILL SCALE UP ITS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE ACTIVITIES

CRS RESPONSE

CRS programs in Ethiopia focus on community resilience and livelihood strengthening. CRS and partners help families reduce their risk of disaster, and provide extensive water infrastructure and large quantities of seed for agricultural recovery.

Emergency food Throughout last year, emergency food was provided for 3 million people every month through the Joint Emergency Operation, a CRS-led consortium funded by USAID's Office of Food for Peace. In January this year, emergency food assistance was provided to 882,000, but that number has almost doubled to 1.55 million due to the severe drought.

Access to water Some 10.5 million people need safe drinking water. CRS will scale up water, sanitation and hygiene activities to ensure people have sufficient access to clean drinking water, as well as water for their livestock and irrigation.

Livelihood groups Participants will learn about career planning, life and employment skills, leadership, networking and mentoring. The groups also help people efficiently manage household budgets and understand terms and conditions of loans, and requirements for establishing small businesses.

Agriculture support CRS will provide seeds via cash grants and vouchers for farmers where seeds are not available, engaging both commercial seed firms and local seed traders.

Natural resource management CRS will teach communities to prevent soil erosion, deforestation and flooding, and engage farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices, such as growing more drought-resistant crops. Opportunities will also be provided for people to earn incomes while improving their land through activities such as terracing hillsides, repairing roads and building irrigation systems.

Microsavings groups CRS will help communities recover their assets and livelihoods through small business activities and by joining microsavings groups.

Improved nutrition CRS will work with communities to improve maternal and child nutrition. CRS educates pregnant and new mothers, and increases the quality and coordination of local health and nutrition services through training, coaching and supervision.





LAKE CHAD BASIN

CONFLICT + DISPLACEMENT

Hauwa Mohammed's baby, Falmata, is ill less often since CRS has helped this community in Northeast Nigeria with water and sanitation. *Photo by Dooshima Tsee/CRS*

CONTEXT

More than 10 million people in one of the world's poorest, most drought-prone regions have been affected by the Lake Chad Basin crisis, now in its seventh year. Across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency has killed thousands of people and 2.3 million have fled.¹

With the lean season underway, 7.2 million people are estimated to be critically short of food. Ongoing military operations and attacks by armed groups have severely limited access by humanitarian organizations. They have also triggered new waves of displacement, particularly in Nigeria's Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, and Cameroon's Far North, as well as on the Niger-Chad border.

Between January and April, at least 164 hepatitis E cases, including 25 deaths, were reported in Niger's Diffa region.

CRS is responding with emergency relief in all four countries.²

1. OCHA. www.lcb.unocha.org

2. CRS areas of intervention include: Logone-and-Chari Region (Cameroon), Lac Region (Chad), Diffa Region (Niger) and Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states (Nigeria).



CRS RESPONSE

As outlined in CRS' comprehensive [Lake Chad Basin strategy](#), priority activities include:

CAMEROON

- Provided 21,840 people with agricultural seeds and tools.
- Provided 800 families with cash-for-work activities, and 2,600 families with cash grants to meet diverse household needs.

CHAD

- Trained families in nutrition as a complement to food distributions and agricultural activities.
- Arranged food fairs for 1,300 families with vouchers for staples.
- Distributed maize seed to 400 farmers and vegetable seeds to 850 farmers.
- Trained 400 farmers in post-harvest seed conservation.
- Distributed fishing kits to 400 fishing households.

NIGER

- Provided 1,200 families with rations of rice, cowpeas and vegetable oil.
- Provided 5,600 families with grants for living and household needs.
- Supported 1,800 women's livelihood groups through small ruminant fairs.
- Organized seed fairs for 2,860 families.
- Built 2,500 emergency latrines and 975 taps, and 4 solar-powered wells and cisterns for rural farming communities.
- Organized winter supply fairs for 1,100 families, and rainy season supply fairs for 1,500 families.

NIGERIA

Food assistance and nutrition

- Provided assistance through vouchers to 105,100 people.
- Screened 20,430 children under age 5 for malnutrition.
- Arranged follow-up visits to 16,970 caretakers of malnourished children.

Shelter and living supplies

- Supported 2,550 families with emergency and transitional shelter construction.
- Provided vouchers for living supplies to 3,750 families.
- Distributed sanitary kits to 1,500 women and girls.

WASH

- Constructed 260 latrines and hand-washing stations, as well as 8 water points and 1 water tank.
- Distributed water purification tablets to 5,000 families.
- Promoted hygiene among 100,000 people.
- Organized 27 cleanup campaign events involving 1,800 people.

Agriculture

- Trained 530 farmers and gardeners.
- Provided vouchers to 10,160 families to buy seeds and tools.
- Supported the organization of 200 local farmer groups.
- Established 30 demonstration plots and 48 demonstration farms.

Social cohesion

- Trained 500 community members in conflict resolution.

Livelihoods

- Organized seeds and tools fairs, and livestock fairs, with free training.

WASH and non-food items

- Constructed communal latrines and installed taps.
- After the hepatitis E crisis, distributed soap and water purification tablets, and reached 952 families with hygiene awareness sessions.
- Organized fairs for winter living supplies, supporting 1,100 families.

INDIA

FLOODS

CONTEXT

Heavy monsoon rains over the sub-Himalayan region and northeastern states have caused floods and landslides that have killed an estimated 600 people and displaced hundreds of thousands. The states of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are most affected.

More than 9 million people have been impacted. Many families have suffered major setbacks, with more than 63,000 homes damaged or destroyed, nearly 25,000 cattle perishing, and 691,600 acres of crops affected. Roads and rail networks are flooded, and the government has stopped road and rail transport in several areas.

63,000+

HOMES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED OR DESTROYED



More than 63,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed by flooding. This image was taken during earlier flooding. Photo by Francois Poidatz for CRS

CRS RESPONSE

CRS and its local partners have initiated responses in Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. We are prioritizing shelter, hygiene supplies, drinking water, and food. Most targeted beneficiaries are from marginalized groups.

In **Bihar**, CRS provided shelter kits, and water treatment and hygiene kits, to 1,500 extremely vulnerable households. Distributions will continue to at least 5,000 families. In **Uttar Pradesh**, CRS has reached 920 families with shelter kits, and

water treatment and hygiene kits, while 500 households have received cash grants to replace household items. In **Assam**, CRS and its partners are constructing 40 toilets and 20 bathing areas for 400 families, and providing plastic mats and solar lamps to 2,400 families. Fifteen toilets have been constructed, 20 are partially constructed, and 11 bathing spaces have been completed. The response in Assam is in an area where CRS will begin a disaster risk reduction project later this year.

CONTEXT

Fighting broke out in Marawi City on the island of Mindanao on May 23. The Maute armed group has engaged in violent clashes with government troops since early 2016, and has reportedly pledged allegiance to ISIS. On May 23, President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law on the island.

Because of the violence, Marawi residents were evacuated to Iligan City and surrounding areas, but about 18,400 civilians remain in Marawi City and an estimated 500 residents are still trapped in the conflict zone. The urban setting

is making it difficult and dangerous for the military to safely evacuate civilians from the conflict area.

As of late June, 383,400 people, or 83,000 families, had been displaced. The majority are staying with host families and friends. An estimated 17,700 people are in evacuation centers in Saguieran, Lanao del Sur, Balo-i and Iligan City. Evacuation centers are separated by mountains, interfering with phone and two-way radio communication. Data access is limited in some sites, restricting the ability to provide real-time reporting.

PHILIPPINES

CONFLICT

CRS RESPONSE

CRS distributions in Iligan and Balo-i have included critical supplies for volunteers from partner organizations. Relief supplies—including household and hygiene kits, and jerry cans—reached 2,370 displaced families. Private funding allowed CRS to meet immediate needs, and leverage longer-term resources from the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance focused on transitional shelter, counseling and peacebuilding.