

International Poverty-Reducing Development and Humanitarian Accounts



Photos by Luis Cocón/CRS, Michael Stulman/CRS, Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS.

PROMOTING DIGNITY, ADVANCING SOLIDARITY AND ENHANCING HUMAN SECURITY

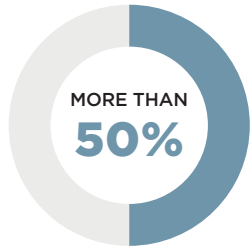
“Let us live by the ‘principle of placing the human person, rather than the mere pursuit of power or profit, at the very center of public policy.’”

Pope Francis

The Catholic Church views international assistance as an essential tool to promote human life and dignity, advance solidarity with low and middle-income nations and enhance human security. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services prioritize the U.S. accounts outlined in the [CRS/USCCB chart of accounts](#) because they are the international accounts in the U.S. federal budget most focused on saving lives and reducing poverty. This international humanitarian and development assistance is just over one-half percent of the U.S. federal budget. CRS operates in over 120 countries and is a key implementing partner of the United States government bringing the expertise of our country programs and local partnerships to the implementation of life saving interventions. The objective of this document is to provide examples of the impact of U.S. funding in programs CRS has implemented or continues to program by each key account. Where possible, a CRS story about the project is also included.



Maternal and Child Health Account



In 2016, more than half of pregnant women in the Volta Region in western Ghana gave birth without a skilled health provider.

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID Mission Ghana	\$5,256,074	2018-2021	Ghana

Ghana continues to experience high maternal and newborn mortality rates despite a well-organized, decentralized health care system. The Acute Care and Emergency Referral project, funded from 2018-2021, aims to contribute to the improvement of maternal and newborn health survival by increasing pregnant women's use of caregivers and improving caregivers' supply of quality emergency obstetric and newborn care services in Ghana.

ACERS works at the clinical care and policy levels to improve the overall health system response to obstetric emergency care. ACERS works to ensure emergency services for obstetric and neonatal care are available and known about in Ghanaian communities. Integrated approaches to improve maternal and newborn care service delivery aim to prevent maternal and newborn illnesses and mortalities.



Nutrition Account

Nearly 2.5 million Rwandans reached

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID Mission Rwanda	\$27,598,500	2015-2021	Rwanda

Rwanda has made substantial progress in stabilizing and rehabilitating its economy, which is predominantly based in agriculture, to levels seen before the 1994 genocide. Nonetheless, about 44% of the country lives below the poverty line. As the lead implementing agency of USAID's Gikuriro project, CRS supported the Government of Rwanda, or GoR, to improve the nutrition of half a million children. CRS led seven NGO partners in the implementation of different parts of the project, such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, WASH programming, collaborated with GoR at national and local levels and engaged with over 10,000 volunteers to scale up USAID's and GoR's nutrition strategies across eight districts.

The Gikuriro project has reached nearly 2.5 million Rwandans. At the national level the project supported the GoR to create key policies—including the national Early Childhood Development policy—and strategies—including the national Social Behavior Change Strategy for Integrated Early Childhood Development, Nutrition and WASH—and strengthened GoR monitoring and evaluation systems.

The project catalyzed adoption of nutrition behaviors at scale. In target districts, prenatal care increased from 79% to 97% and children who have a minimally acceptable diet increased from 6.1% to 29%. [Read more about the Gikuriro project.](#)



Childcare institutions in Kenya were ordered by the government to return all children with living relatives to their families due to COVID-19 precautions put in place in March 2020. This family is being supported by *Changing the Way We Care*.SM Photo by Will Baxter/CRS



Vulnerable Children Account

CHANGING THE WAY WE CARESM

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID, MacArthur Foundation, and an Anonymous Private Donor. USAID and MacArthur participate in a Global Development Alliance with the GHR Foundation.	\$9.2 million (Kenya)	2018-2023	Kenya

Disease, disabilities and poverty are making Kenyan children and families vulnerable. Strategic investments in parents, children and families can mitigate the effects of adversity and produce gains for families and communities. Together with local partners, *Changing the Way We Care*SM Kenya is strengthening systems and communities, training caregivers, working with families and making sure they have access to essential social services to improve the care of children. CTWWC ensures Kenyan parents, like Fransisca Masika, can provide for their children. Fransisca's children, like others, were sent home from the institution they were living in when the government of Kenya ordered the closure of all charitable children's institutions due to the COVID-19 pandemic; children from families who are poor may be placed in orphanages as parents who cannot afford to pay school fees or provide nutritious foods believe this is in their best interest.

CTWWC is helping with Fransisca's family's reintegration process, providing economic support payments to help buy food and build small businesses and providing monthly household visits and parenting sessions from the project. CTWWC receives a portion of its funding from the Vulnerable Children account. Read more about the work of CTWWC in Kenya, Guatemala, Moldova and India with [Stephen Ucembe's story](#) and [Delilia's story](#).



U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR Account

MAKING WELL-INFORMED EFFORTS TO NURTURE DISADVANTAGED ORPHANS

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID Mission Kenya	\$72,879,012	2017-2021	Kenya



A widow caring for five children received training in how to establish a kitchen garden from CRS partner agency as part of the Mwendo project. Photo by David Snyder/CRS

Kenya, alongside Tanzania, has the joint third-largest HIV epidemic in the world with 1.4 million people living with HIV in 2020, according to UNAIDS. In 2020 alone, an estimated 19,000 Kenyans died from AIDS-related illnesses. A Kenyan program, Making Well-informed Efforts to Nurture Disadvantaged Orphans, MWENDO, helps parents and other caregivers provide support to children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS in Kenya. The project focuses on improving access to education, health, particularly HIV care and treatment and reducing violence against children. The project also supports families to improve their economic stability by linking them to social protection programs, participation in community savings groups, and development of small family businesses. The project also strengthens the ability of the local government and institutions to respond to child welfare and protection needs. Read more about MWENDO through [Zawadi and Samuel's story](#), [a story of Wellness for Vulnerable Children in Kenya](#) and [Mary's story](#).



Development Assistance Account

COMMUNITIES LEADING DEVELOPMENT

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID	\$50 million	2016-2021	Guatemala

\$20 Million in new investments from private and public sector partners

The Communities Leading Development project works with marginalized groups—women, indigenous communities and youth—in Guatemala's Western Highlands, an area with high rates of poverty, malnutrition and migration, to design development projects that respond to their needs.

Leveraging \$20 million in new investments from private and public sector partners, the project has engaged over 27,650 people from the highlands of Guatemala to participate in the creation of plans that help the community increase access to schools and community centers, expand drinking water supplies and expand sanitation services. It has supported 11,641 people gaining access to water in their homes and helped farmers like Edgar Recinos, a former migrant turned small-scale coffee grower, to sell in more profitable markets as a result of specialized business and agriculture training. Read more about the Communities Leading Development project with this [CRS Study](#).



Development Assistance Account

CLIMATE RESILIENT CITIES PROJECT

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID	\$15 million	2021-2026	Philippines

In the Philippines, the Climate Resilient Cities project works to advance urban climate resilience in six cities by improving their capacity to adapt to, mitigate and manage the impacts of climate change. The project supports local government units and other stakeholders to better understand, use and disseminate climate information to local communities. The project also helps cities and nongovernment organizations access climate financing to support local communities in strengthening resilience, improving their economic and social development and supporting natural climate solutions. The project supports the Philippine government's National Climate Change Action Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Roadmap.



Green Climate Fund

SECURING AND PROTECTING INVESTMENTS AND CAPACITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
Green Climate Fund via Conservation International	\$42,403	2018-2028	Madagascar



A table displaying the variety of crops that are grown through CRS' SPICES program.

Photo by Laura Elizabeth Pohl/CRS

In eastern Madagascar, the SPICES program—Securing and Protecting Investments and Capacities for Environmental Sustainability—supports biodiversity by implementing climate-smart practices for better, more sustainable agricultural yields. Through this program, CRS is scaling a wide-reaching land restoration effort that engages local communities, governments and businesses to improve environmental stewardship, increase youth livelihood opportunities and improve the education and health of local farmers. The project focuses specifically on vanilla, cinnamon, cloves, pepper, turmeric, ginger and cocoa to protect these crops and generate increased revenue for farmers. Households use the additional income to invest in education, nutrition and health care. CRS is working with seven dioceses in five regions of the country to reach over 20,000 households.



CRS is assisting Caritas Bangladesh in providing Rohingya refugees with comprehensive support. Photo by Ismail Ferdous for CRS



International Disaster Assistance Account

REFUGEE CAMP IN BANGLADESH

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID BHA	\$5 million	2019-2021	Bangladesh

Over 1 million Rohingya refugees arrived in Bangladesh in 2018, fleeing persecution in neighboring Myanmar. CRS is helping Rohingya refugees transition to sturdier shelters where they can access services necessary to begin the process of healing and rebuilding their lives. Read more with this [story about Rohingya refugees building homes and communities amid crisis](#).



International Disaster Assistance Account

ENVISION GAZA 2020

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID	\$50 million	2016-2022	West Bank Gaza



Zayed Sameer Zayed Almasry, 28, tends to his chickens on the poultry breeding farm he started with help from the Envision Gaza 2020 project.

Photo by Mohammad Alreefi for CRS

The Envision Gaza 2020 Project aims to sustain the lives of conflict-affected Palestinians in Gaza and contributes to their resilience. This project is in part funded through the International Disaster Assistance Account. Read more about the Envision Gaza 2020 Project with [Masoud Meqdad's story](#).



From left: Girls fetch water at a borehole in South Sudan. A Water Management Committee supported by the CRS led RFSP looks after the well. / Fishermen check their nets and lines at a pond in South Sudan. They are part of a fishing group that is supported by the CRS led RFSP. / As part of the CRS led RFSP, communities can take part in food-for-assets projects aimed at building or fixing infrastructure in their communities. In return for 20 days of working 4 hours per day, project recipients receive a stock of sorghum, yellow split peas and cooking oil.

Photos by Will Baxter/CRS



Title II Food for Peace

RESILIENCE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID BHA	\$110,347,751	2017-2022	South Sudan

The Resilience and Food Security Program in South Sudan seeks to improve food security and helps conflict-affected communities in Jonglei state build up resilience to challenges such as floods, drought and conflict. Among other activities, the project helps vulnerable families build and grow assets that generate profit, which can provide a level of insurance against potential financial hardships; supports groups of mothers, fathers and mothers-in-law to engage community members in learning and sharing modern maternal health and child nutrition practices; and helps young people cope with the impacts of trauma, teach self-healing, and foster social cohesion within their communities. Read more about the Resilience and Food Security Program in South Sudan with [Nganichi Kiringn's story](#), [Mary Mano's story](#), [Lochia Mama Kudumoch's story](#) and [Peter Mothi's story](#).



Title II Food for Peace

FIRANGA II PROJECT

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USAID BHA	\$10 Million	2021-2022	Madagascar

CRS has provided 10,000 metric tons of food to more than 220,000 people

CRS collects and shares real-time data on shocks in southern Madagascar, which provides evidence that the COVID-19 lockdown worsened food security in the southern part of the country. In addition, climate change and unpredictable rains have led to over 1 million people in need of urgent assistance. People have resorted to various coping strategies including missing meals, selling assets and migrating.

Since January 2021, CRS has provided 10,000 metric tons of food to more than 220,000 people. The Firanga II project, funded by USAID, will help drought-affected households cover their food needs to protect themselves from malnutrition and loss of assets, such as livestock and tools, that can help generate profit. It will also ensure the nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old is improved and maintained. Vulnerable households will be supported to save and manage their assets and access information through literacy training. Read more about the Firanga II project with this [CRS one-pager](#).



McGovern-Dole Food for Education

MCGOVERN-DOLE FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
USDA	\$32 million	2015-2021	Honduras



María Ana Gómez Pérez, 16, is a student from José Suazo Córdova School in Intibucá, Honduras. Her teachers describe her as a good student who wants to keep studying to become a nurse.

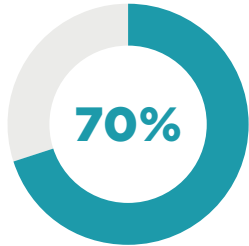
Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

In Intibucá department, Honduras, nearly half the children are stunted by malnutrition. In Honduras, McGovern-Dole Food for Education helps reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education by providing school meals, teacher training and other technical support. Involving parents and communities is critical for improving children's performance. CRS helps form and strengthen Honduran parent-teacher associations and school management committees, and CRS works with them to garner support for their schools, create tutoring programs and improve school infrastructure.

CRS has seen a 7.4% increase in the number of second graders able to read at their grade level in Intibucá department. In 2019, the department had the lowest dropout rates for first through sixth graders nationwide. Read more about the McGovern-Dole Food for Education program in Honduras with [Maria Ana's story](#).



Bureau of International Labor Affairs



A year after completing the program, 70% of Youth Pathways graduates returned to school, started a job or began their own business.

YOUTH PATHWAYS

Donor	Funding	Duration	Location
Department of Labor-Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB)	\$17 Million	2015-2021	El Salvador and Honduras

Employed youth are more likely to stay in the workforce long-term and access rising wages. CRS' Youth Pathways project builds the vocational and life skills of marginalized young people, aged 12-20, from urban areas with high rates of violence and migration in El Salvador and Honduras. Using CRS' proven youth development model YouthBuild—which has reached nearly 10,000 young people since 2009—it provides vocational training based on local labor market demands, coupled with intensive job placement services. Key to project success is afterschool clubs that develop academic skills and increase student motivation. Finally, the project supports essential interpersonal and life skills—such as conflict resolution, self-esteem and teamwork—and creates opportunities for community service.

The results are remarkable. A year after completing the six-month program, 70% of Youth Pathways graduates returned to school, started a job or began their own business and, 24 months later, the achievement was sustained. This is significant considering only 30% percent had some work or study experience when they started. Their average daily salary rose from \$7.70 to \$11.40, and 38% were able to find acceptable work. Given that over 70% of jobs in El Salvador and Honduras are informal, these achievements are well above labor market figures.