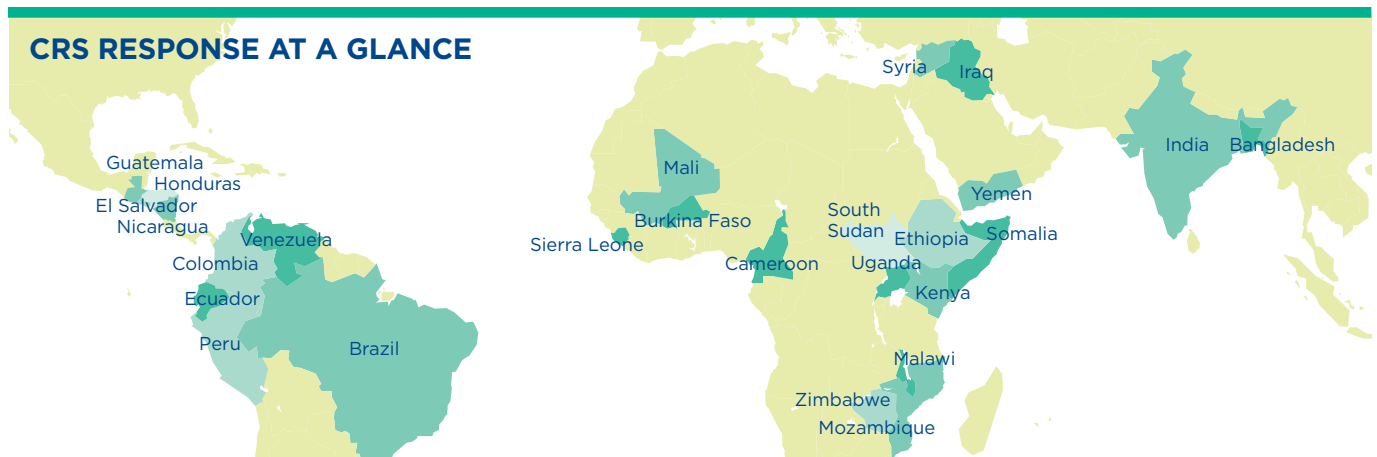


GLOBAL EMERGENCY UPDATE

Read the latest report on 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

EAST AFRICA The most recent rainy season was among the driest on record. Catholic Relief Services is helping communities recover by providing food and nutritional assistance, water and sanitation, and agriculture and livelihoods support.

THE SAHEL Ongoing conflict has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.

CRS and our partners are working with both displaced people and the communities that host them.

MOZAMBIQUE Two tropical cyclones struck within six weeks in March and April, wreaking massive destruction and endangering the lives and livelihoods of more than 2 million people. CRS and our partners are responding with relief and recovery efforts.

UGANDA Refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are entering Uganda to escape fighting. CRS is assisting vulnerable families in refugee and host communities.

SIERRA LEONE Heavy rainfall caused massive flooding in the capital of Freetown. CRS is working with Caritas Sierra Leone to provide comprehensive relief.

EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS The Syrian conflict has uprooted more than half the country's population and forced millions to flee to neighboring countries. CRS and our partners in Lebanon and Jordan are providing comprehensive support for communities, including education, counseling, shelter, food, medical assistance, sanitation and hygiene.

IRAQ As of January 2019, 4 million Iraqis had returned home, while 1.9 million remained displaced.

CRS and Caritas Iraq have served over 300,000 people since 2014 with education and psychosocial support, shelter, water and sanitation, living supplies and cash grants, and livelihoods support.

YEMEN War and a supply blockade have triggered a humanitarian disaster, leaving 70% of the population urgently in need of aid. CRS is supporting our partner Islamic Relief Yemen to help families with safe water and critical sanitation amid cholera outbreaks.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

VENEZUELA Amid an economic crisis, millions of Venezuelans have migrated. CRS and our partners are providing support within Venezuela, as well as for refugees.

CENTRAL AMERICA CRS and our partners are responding to help communities ravaged by drought.

ASIA

INDIA AND BANGLADESH CRS and our partners are providing relief to families affected by monsoon flooding.

BANGLADESH CRS and Caritas are expanding support to Rohingya refugees.

VENEZUELA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

OVERVIEW

Since 2015, Venezuela has been in economic and social crisis. A drastic fall in the price of oil, its main export, led to a progressive decline in local production capacity, resulting in food shortages, hyperinflation, the collapse of the health system and social unrest.

The average Venezuelan has lost 24 pounds since 2017. And of 15,000 children under age 5 being monitored by Caritas Venezuela over the past year, 76% showed signs of a nutritional deficit, and another 13% are living with acute malnutrition. As much as 87% of Venezuela's population has been pushed below the poverty line. The situation has also taken a toll on small and medium-sized businesses, which can no longer afford to pay salaries.

4 million

**VENEZUELANAS HAVE FLED TO
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES**

Amid scarcity, neighboring countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Curacao, Aruba, Ecuador and Peru are facing increasing flows of Venezuelan refugees. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that 4 million Venezuelans have already left the country, with Colombia accounting for about 1.3 million.



Migrants stand in line at a Church charity to receive free meals and basic medical aid in Cucuta, Colombia. CRS and our partner organizations offer up to 8,000 free meals a day in the border town. *Photo by Nicolò Filippo Rosso for CRS*

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

Across 14 dioceses in 10 states, and in the capital of Caracas, Caritas Venezuela supports health and nutrition. In 2019:

- 14,163 children under age 5 and 329 pregnant women were screened for malnutrition.
- 12,000 pregnant women and malnourished children under age 5 were provided food and medicine.
- Food supplements like Plumpy'Nut and Plumpy'Sup were imported and distributed for treatment of thousands of severely or moderately malnourished children.
- 9,802 people received medical consultations, along with essential medicines.
- Hundreds of mobile health clinics were organized, serving tens of thousands of people.
- 1,710 families received cash assistance to buy food.
- Medication was stocked across 14 dioceses.
- Health and nutritional awareness was provided through community promotion activities.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene supply kits, as well as living supply kits, were distributed.
- Advocacy activities were organized to raise the awareness of government and donor agencies on the details of the emergency and the needs of refugees.

- Capacity strengthening was provided to Caritas Venezuela, and the participating dioceses and their parishes.

In May, Catholic Relief Services and Caritas Venezuela piloted the use of e-vouchers to enable vulnerable families in Caracas to access food. We are now expanding to other areas, and about 1,700 families with children are participating in Caritas Venezuela's nutrition rehabilitation programming. Each family receives \$15 weekly over 20 weeks to buy food from local shops. Over the next 12 months, CRS and Caritas plan to scale up the program to benefit 12,000 families, as well as participating business and shop owners.



Children are receiving health and nutrition checkups and support at Caritas Venezuela centers. *Photo courtesy of Caritas Venezuela*

CRS REGIONAL SUPPORT OF CARITAS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

Colombia CRS has provided technical support and training to Caritas Colombia in its assistance to 9,000 Venezuelan migrants. Since February, Caritas Colombia has provided shelter support to 2,928 families, and legal protection and counselling to 861 people.

Brazil Caritas Brazil is increasing water, sanitation and hygiene efforts at four existing Church facilities for refugees living on the streets. Improvements include potable water supply, toilets, showers, hand-washing and laundry stations. They are also distributing prepaid cash cards to Venezuelan families to buy food, hygiene items

and critical supplies. At Caritas Brazil's assistance center, 100 Venezuelans receive daily legal aid and psychosocial support, including legal support for residency or asylum applications, as well as social services or referrals for malnutrition, health, mental health and incidents of exploitation.

Trinidad and Tobago CRS partner Living Water Community in Trinidad is providing food and cash assistance to help refugees meet their diverse needs. It has also upgraded rental homes in a CRS-funded shelter program for refugees and community members affected by recent floods.

Ecuador CRS has assisted Caritas Ecuador with a range of support including housing for more than 500 people in shelters and hostels; provision of food rations, hygiene kits and living supplies like mattresses, bedding and kitchen sets; medical exams, emergency care and medicine; transportation support; and advocacy training among adults and—as appropriate—children and adolescents on human, children and women's rights.

Peru Caritas Peru operates four information centers for migrants, and is opening four new shelters. Caritas has delivered 457 cash transfers using debit cards to vulnerable Venezuelan migrants for multipurpose use.

Good News Spotlight

Caritas Venezuela director receives humanitarian award

InterAction, the largest alliance of international humanitarian agencies and partners in the United States, has awarded Caritas Venezuela Director Janeth Marquez its 2019 Humanitarian Award. Marquez led the largest humanitarian response in the country. Facing food shortages, a devastated health system and social unrest, Caritas Venezuela and its staff of 100 have overcome personal and professional obstacles to bring critical—and in some cases, lifesaving—food and medicine to Venezuelans across 10 states and the capital, including 16 dioceses and 99 parishes.

Few nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs, are operating in the country, and civil society organizations are not used to responding to humanitarian crises of this nature. Yet Caritas has upheld humanitarian principles despite political pressures, operational hazards, a decentralized supply chain, government interference and an ailing banking system.

Data captured at Caritas malnutrition screenings informs actors both inside and outside Venezuela, and Marquez and her team have guided visiting donors,



Caritas Venezuela Director Janeth Marquez. Photo courtesy of Caritas

NGO representatives and journalists. Working across multiple states, she is recognized as speaking for the people.

Caritas Venezuela is helping people at a time of great despair. It is one of the few NGOs offering help at this scale. The support is not only material but spiritual—grounded in the dignity of the human being. At Caritas kitchens, community members can be seen coming out of their houses with bowls, cooking alongside each other and sharing meals together.

Watch this short [message of gratitude](#) from Caritas Venezuela Director Janeth Marquez that was shown at the 2019 InterAction Humanitarian Award ceremony.

This short YouTube clip, [Small Victories: Malnutrition Awareness](#), highlights CRS and Caritas health and nutrition activities underway in Venezuela.

CENTRAL AMERICA DROUGHT

CONTEXT

Hundreds of thousands of families living in Central America's Dry Corridor are facing increased food shortages as recurring droughts ravage crops. Last year was particularly devastating, as a prolonged dry spell in June and July led to significant yield reductions for rainfed crops. Just over 70% of agricultural land in Central America relies on rainfed production systems, and that number is even higher when disaggregated for small farm systems. These systems provide 65% of the region's food, which is why so many are now struggling to feed themselves.

- In **Guatemala**, the lack of rainfall has led to reported crop losses among 300,000 subsistence farmers, and consistently poor harvests, low reserves and minimal demand for day labor.
- The government of **Honduras** issued an emergency declaration in August 2018, identifying 74 severely affected municipalities in eight departments where 65,000 farming families suffered average crop losses of 80%.
- In **El Salvador**, 40 consecutive dry days were reported in June and July 2018, affecting harvests. The departments of San Vicente, Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión—all of them located in the Dry Corridor—were the most affected.
- In **Nicaragua**, small-scale farmers in the municipalities of Somoto, Totogalpa, Yalaguina, Telpaneca and Palacaguina are already showing signs of crop losses of between 60% and 95% for 2019.

To cope, many affected families have had to resort to eating fewer meals or even consuming grain intended for use as seed in the next season, and selling key assets, like livestock and poultry.



Silverio Mendez uses techniques he learned through CRS to help soil retain water on his land in the Dry Corridor of Guatemala. Photo by Julian Spath for CRS

Conditions are particularly difficult in eastern Guatemala, where it is anticipated that food insecurity will likely reach emergency levels without assistance. Much of the assistance that has helped stabilize food security in the area, including an \$11 million

planned project with Catholic Relief Services, has come from the U.S. Agency for International Development Food for Peace program, but is in question due to administration blocks on U.S. government funding going to the country.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

In all four countries, CRS and local partners have a strong presence and relationships in affected areas. In Guatemala, CRS has been providing 4,500 families with cash to buy food in local shops or at fairs that connect people directly with local suppliers of food, seed and livestock. CRS also tracks acute child malnutrition and provides case follow-up.

For several years, CRS and our partners across all four countries have been working with small-scale farmers to develop a comprehensive approach to long-term management of soil moisture and nutrients—referred to as water-smart agriculture—to improve crop productivity, especially during moderate to severe drought. After the 2018 dry spell, CRS staff in several countries conducted simple surveys to track the impact of these practices on drought-affected farms and noted that farmers implementing them fared better than neighbors who had not yet adopted the approaches.

Leveraging these relationships in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, CRS identified the most vulnerable families in affected areas, and supported them to meet urgent food needs or recover livelihoods. Support varied by country, tailored to the local context.

In addition to cash and food transfers and improved farm practices for drought resilience, CRS is urgently exploring cost-effective options for improving farmers' water access in areas at risk of facing even longer periods without rain. While the water-smart agriculture approach significantly reduced losses on farms that faced up to 30 days without rain, farms that faced 35 to 55 consecutive days without rain lost their entire crops. CRS is examining options such as water harvesting and irrigation systems to help farmers access even small amounts of water for irrigation to allow crops to survive prolonged dry spells.

MOZAMBIQUE CYCLONES

CONTEXT

Cyclone Idai made landfall in Mozambique on March 14 along the coast of Sofala province, causing devastation across the country, and continuing through neighboring Malawi and Zimbabwe. Five weeks later, on April 25, Cyclone Kenneth struck Mozambique causing extensive damage in much of the northern province of Cabo Delgado. Hundreds of thousands of people suffered loss and trauma.

The cyclones had high winds of up to 136 mph, and days of torrential rain that burst riverbanks and submerged villages. Flooding spanned 1,158 square miles. The cyclones destroyed the main harvest, a critical income source for a population that relies heavily on agriculture. Crops were devastated or washed away, as were families' assets and water and sanitation infrastructure, leading to cholera outbreaks. About 640 people died and 430,000 people were displaced from their homes. As many as 277,000 houses were damaged or destroyed.

Food security was already strained before the cyclones, with 815,000 people living without enough food due to droughts in southern and central Mozambique. The cyclones cut short the second planting season and another harvest will not take place for another full year.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

Catholic Relief Services is working with local partners in all three countries affected by Cyclone Idai to provide support for full recovery. In Mozambique, CRS and Caritas have served 61,202 families with a range of relief. The rapid CRS response was possible thanks to the partnership with the local Church, which provided accommodation, office space, volunteers, community outreach and deep local knowledge. CRS and Caritas efforts focus on homes, water, sanitation and hygiene, food, and agriculture and livelihoods. Issues of protection and disaster risk reduction are woven into most activities.



Sophia Joao Vincente, top right, and her family in Quelimane, Mozambique. She was seven months pregnant when they had to leave their home in the middle of the night because of flooding. CRS is supporting families with food, hygiene materials, kitchen utensils, cholera prevention kits, emergency shelter supplies, seeds and farming tools. *Photo by Dooshima Tsee for CRS*

Support included the following:

Food, agriculture and livelihoods

28,458 families received food—beans, sugar, oil and grain—as well as seeds and farming tools. Long-term support will include:

- Seeds and tools distributed directly or through electronic vouchers, as well as seed fairs that bring together local suppliers and farmers.
- Technical support on cassava seed multiplication, irrigation, water conservation practices, mulching, composting and crop rotation.
- Provision of watering cans and foot pumps for irrigation.
- Cash for work for people to clear irrigation channels and rehabilitate critical agricultural infrastructure.
- Provision of chickens for families who lost food and assets.
- Assistance for community members to form micro-savings groups for strengthened financial capacity.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

32,949 families received hygiene, water and household kits, including bedding, kitchen sets, buckets and soap. Locally available chlorine solutions have effectively eliminated cholera outbreaks, and trained promoters are sharing information on hygiene practices. Long-term recovery efforts include:

- Improved water supply.
- Construction of community water infrastructure and systems, and household latrines.
- Technical support on household latrine construction.
- Ongoing dissemination of hygiene and sanitation information.

Emergency shelter, repairs and reconstruction

17,314 families received tarps and, where possible, nails and construction tools, as well as guidance on safe construction techniques. The rate of self-recovery is rapid, as families are building simple frames and roofs.

Long-term shelter recovery

CRS and Caritas Mozambique are taking a community-led approach and developing an incremental shelter model to facilitate the reconstruction of homes with shelter kits and local materials for safe construction. The strategy will demonstrate housing that is affordable, resilient and appropriate for the local context. Families will receive materials and trainings on safe, improved building practices. Local labor and the use of local materials will inject much-needed cash into the economy. CRS and Caritas will offer guidance on the importance of considering soil type, water table level, ground elevation of foundations, and use of materials less vulnerable to water, such as stone or fired bricks. Incremental shelter pilots will begin in Beira and Quelimane, and scale out to permanent shelter solutions in other locations in the coming 6 to 12 months.

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT

CONTEXT

Since South Sudan gained independence in 2011, fighting between government and opposition forces has uprooted more than 1.8 million people from their homes. Nearly 2.3 million South Sudanese have fled to neighboring countries, with more than 833,000 fleeing to Uganda. At the same time, 353,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC, have crossed into Uganda seeking refuge from the ongoing violence and unrest in their country.

Catholic Relief Services is working in the Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement in northwest Uganda—one of the largest in the world. There are significant gaps in support in Bidi Bidi, and agencies are trying to respond to families' critical needs. Uganda is unique in its openness and hospitality toward refugees, but its resources are stretched.

CRS RESPONSE

CRS is assisting vulnerable people and those with specific needs, including the elderly and people with disabilities or serious medical conditions, as well as vulnerable families in both refugee and host communities. Support is comprehensive, and includes shelter, water and sanitation, education and income opportunities. Our support is taking place in Bidi Bidi for primarily South Sudanese refugees and the local community, and in two further settlements—Kyangwali, with refugees primarily from DRC, and Kiryandongo, with refugees mostly from South Sudan, and a small number from the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Sudan.

School construction

- Ayivu Primary School was constructed, and the completed and furnished facilities were handed over to the local government for use, operation and maintenance.
- Ariwa II Primary School was constructed, consisting of three buildings with nine classrooms as well as an administration building, teachers' residences and latrines.



The CRS-built Ayivu Primary School opens new classrooms in the Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement. Photo by Karin Bridger for CRS

- Three primary schools in Lokopio, Kena Valley and Koro are in development, with the contractors identified, and layouts drafted and shared with the stakeholders. Construction is expected to be complete in November.
- A launch meeting and site visit have taken place for the development of a new school in Kyangwali.

Livelihoods Bidi Bidi

- Seven demonstration gardens were planted, as well as 35 group gardens. CRS provided skills training for 60 farmer groups, with a focus on growing crops on a commercial scale. All participants received seeds and supplies.
- 60 farmer groups were trained in skills to enable refugees to negotiate with host communities for arable land. Host farmers can use these skills in farming and off-farm businesses.
- Microfinance instruction and monitoring are ongoing for trainers of micro-savings field agents who specialize in group engagement and management, financial management, marketing basics, natural resource management and innovation. Training has reached 1,200 group members. The members—80% of whom are women—have engaged in small-scale enterprises like agricultural production and food sales.
- *Climate Smart and Nutrient Sensitive*, a visual training handbook on climate-smart agriculture, has

been developed and distributed for use in the lead farmer trainings.

- 12-week vocational skills and business courses have been held for 1,400 refugees and host community members, with a focus on carpentry, tailoring, masonry, catering and hotel management, hairdressing or car mechanics.

Shelter and infrastructure

- In Bidi Bidi, CRS renovated a temporary overnight shelter at Goboro border post collection center and started a second shelter.
- In Bidi Bidi, CRS has renovated six health center staff accommodations.
- In Bidi Bidi and Kyangwali, CRS and partner Caritas Hoima launched a shelter project to build 250 homes.

Kiryandongo and Kyangwali

- Staff conducted technical and community assessments to inform the renovation of four teacher accommodations and a health center ward, plus five unfinished buildings and blocks of seven latrines.
- CRS mobilized and trained skilled labor crews of men and women, refugees and host community members.
- CRS completed assessments on the repair and restoration needed for infrastructure, including teacher and staff housing, latrines, washrooms, temporary shelters at reception centers, and in-patient wards.

THE SAHEL DISPLACEMENT

CAMEROON

Since November 2016, fighting has been ongoing between government security forces and separatist armed groups in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. The conflict has resulted in serious human rights violations and abuses against civilians, including killings, abduction, arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention, extortion, physical and gender-based violence, extrajudicial executions and targeted assassinations, as well as the forced recruitment of child soldiers by various armed groups.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that 444,213 people are displaced in the regions, with 248,030 of these in the Northwest region. The World Food Program estimates that half of those displaced in the Northwest region, as well as the communities that host them, don't have enough food.¹ Conflict and insecurity persist, as the original tensions between separatists and government forces are compounded by a proliferation of other non-state armed groups, or NSAGs, who are known to traffic arms, kidnap for ransom, and sow discord and additional insecurity for displaced and host communities alike. Humanitarian access is challenging.

CRS RESPONSE

Catholic Relief Services is providing food and living supplies through e-vouchers for displaced families and the host community in Bamenda, the capital of the Northwest Region. An initial pilot project tested the technology for this assistance, with the plan to scale-up to reach more people through February 2020. CRS plans to support 4,000 crisis-affected families with assistance to buy critical food and living supplies.

1. World Food Program, [Emergency Dashboard 2019: Cameroon North West and South West Crisis](#), April 2019.



Women in Niewa, Eastern Cameroon, collect water from a borehole constructed with CRS support. Photo by Michael Stulman for CRS

BURKINA FASO

Communities in Burkina Faso—mainly in the Sahel and Central North regions—face recurring violence, causing families to flee their villages for fear of attack. In June, nearly 2,000 people, including mostly women and children, fled the Soum Province of the Sahel Region to take refuge in the capital city of Ouagadougou in schools, mosques, churches and other institutions.

The number of internally displaced people has reached an estimated 172,790. With the start of the rainy season in June, the situation has become more challenging due to flooding in camps and damaging strong winds. Families need safe shelter.

CRS RESPONSE

CRS has provided more than 2,000 displaced families in camps in the Central North Region with vital food and living supplies, using cash assistance to enable flexibility and support local markets. CRS is expanding its support to prioritize safe shelter, cash assistance for families to meet a variety of pressing needs, and the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene solutions.

MALI

Previous conflicts between farmers and pastoral communities or livestock traders have largely been resolved peacefully. However, since the 2012 crisis resulting from the occupation of the north of the country by armed groups, and a military coup, insecurity has increased. As many as 147,861 people are displaced, and the deteriorating security has resulted in the closure of 17% of health centers and 926 schools, affecting 300,000 children. Local markets have also been affected. It is anticipated that 3.8 million people are facing severe food shortages—among them, about 524,000 people are in the crisis phase of food insecurity.

CRS RESPONSE

CRS' Kisili Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism, launched in 2016, coordinates a network of local service providers to respond to sudden-onset crises. To date, the Kisili project has supported 172,609 people with food, emergency shelter supplies, living supplies, and water, sanitation and hygiene. CRS works to enhance the efficiency of emergency coordination through an online platform of humanitarian response data, and to strengthen the capacity of the government and local partners to assess crises and mobilize responses.

EAST AFRICA

FOOD INSECURITY

CONTEXT

Following a major drought across the Horn of Africa in 2016–2017, the most recent rainy season was among the driest on record. As families in Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia run out of food—especially those in rural areas where pastures and livestock have had little time to regenerate—many are forced to sell their assets to meet basic needs. And as crops wither and food prices rise, continued drought threatens widespread hunger. This, combined with ongoing political and economic conflicts that have displaced or disrupted the livelihoods of an estimated 23 million people, is likely to trigger a major humanitarian crisis if urgent action is not taken.

In Kenya, livestock are under threat due to climate conditions that aggravate disease and reduce their supply. Insect infestations are also contributing to crop destruction.

In South Sudan, social unrest has led to instability, with access to humanitarian assistance limited by insecurity. Famine has also remained a persistent threat. A projected 6.97 million people, or 60% of the South Sudan population, will face acute food insecurity in the coming year.

In Ethiopia, consecutive failing rainy seasons have impacted harvests, increasing the prices of staple foods in markets across the country by as much as 36%. Also, 1.8 million formerly displaced Ethiopians who have returned to their villages are in dire need of shelter, food and living supplies.

And in Somalia last year, four consecutive below-average rainy seasons left about 6.2 million people in need of emergency aid such as food, water and shelter.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

Catholic Relief Services is working with partners across all four countries to reach the most vulnerable people with lifesaving food, water and sanitation, livelihoods support and agricultural assistance for farmers.



At a nutrition center in Lakes State, South Sudan, CRS nutrition assistant Daniel Anyidi Ajak checks a child's mid-upper arm circumference, a measurement to determine malnutrition. Photo by Will Baxter for CRS

Emergency food

In Ethiopia, CRS' Joint Emergency Operation Program distributes wheat, yellow split peas and cooking oil to targeted beneficiaries. In 2018 alone, funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development helped CRS and our partners provide emergency food assistance to more than 1.5 million food insecure people, plus another 506,000 people displaced in southwestern Ethiopia due to ongoing security issues.

In South Sudan's Eastern Lakes State, CRS is working with the U.N. World Food Program to treat poor nutrition among mothers and children, supply school meals and distribute food to vulnerable families. This critical assistance is reaching 97,000 families. CRS teams are proactively monitoring the environment to prevent and respond to conflict that could be exacerbated by drought.

Nutrition

In Ethiopia, CRS provided rapid-response grants to two local Church partners, the Hawassa and Nekemte dioceses, to respond to acute food and nonfood emergency needs and critical medicines, including nutrition supplements for children.

Livestock support

In Kenya, CRS seeks to improve animal health, and work with partners to provide nutritious feed and essential veterinary services. Healthier livestock will have increased reproductive capacity, and improve household milk supplies. We will concentrate on small

livestock such as sheep and goats, which are drought-resilient and a steady source of household income.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In Kenya, CRS is working with local partners and county governments to rehabilitate community water sources including boreholes and wells, and develop roof water catchment systems at schools and hospitals. We are supporting the establishment and training of water-user committees—that will include both women and men—to oversee the maintenance and efficiency of these systems. These activities are bolstered by hygiene promotion campaigns to prevent contamination and encourage safe food preparation and consumption.

In Somalia, CRS supports its partners to provide vital health, nutrition, water and sanitation, as well as protection for 30,000 people who have been internally displaced from areas devastated by drought and poverty. Assistance includes the distribution of hygiene kits and supplies across 18 camps for displaced people, the training of community leaders in hygiene practices and the provision of clean water in 19 displacement camps outside the capital, Mogadishu.

Agriculture and livelihoods

In Kenya and Ethiopia, CRS and its partners are promoting drought-resistant crops, as well as the growing and consumption of nutrient-rich vegetables. These campaigns take place through both farmers' and women's groups.

SIERRA LEONE FLOODING



Recent flooding and the resulting fires have devastated homes and infrastructure across Freetown. Photos courtesy of Disaster Management Committee, Freetown, Sierra Leone

CONTEXT

July and August are the peak of rainy season in Sierra Leone. In early August, heavy rain caused massive flooding in the capital of Freetown and the eastern area of Kailahun. Bridges and roads have been damaged, and families across at least 40 communities are reporting severe flooding, and devastation of their homes. Immediate needs are water and sanitation, food rations and living supplies—including bedding, clothing and kitchen sets.

At least 8,215 families—an estimated 39,783 people—are affected: 5,318 people are displaced, 450 houses are destroyed, and another 12,228 homes are damaged.

The risk of landslides in mountainous areas has increased. Freetown is particularly vulnerable, due to rapid and unplanned urban expansion and deforestation.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

Catholic Relief Services is working with Caritas Sierra Leone to provide comprehensive relief. To date, CRS has distributed blankets, water and a weekly food ration to 877 families living in six public shelters serving the affected areas. Planned support will include the following:

Food and living supplies

CRS will continue to distribute food items, blankets and mattresses to displaced families living in public shelters.

Cash assistance

CRS will provide displaced families who are unable to return to their homes with cash assistance to meet their diverse needs.

Safe homes and communities

- Repair damaged houses and other facilities, such as local health clinics.
- Repair damaged infrastructure, including water pipes, bridges and roads.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- Deliver water to central community water points.
- Repair broken pipelines linking water storage tanks to local water taps.
- Repair, decontaminate and chlorinate shallow wells.
- Provide water purification tablets.
- Clean drains and waterways.
- Fumigate against mosquitoes, other insects and rodents.
- Provide hygiene kits to people in public shelters, complemented by hygiene promotion to avoid outbreaks of diseases, such as diarrhea and cholera.

 **CRS** faith. action. results.

SYRIA

While some areas of Syria have stabilized and communities are trying to recover from eight years of devastating war, others continue to be subject to heavy rocket and mortar attacks. More than half of the population has been uprooted from their homes since the crisis began in 2011, with 5.1 million Syrians fleeing to the neighboring countries of Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt. Within the country, life expectancy among Syrians has dropped by more than 20 years, while school attendance has dropped more than 50%. Four out of five Syrians live in poverty. CRS and our partners help refugees who have fled to other countries regain a sense of stability, heal from loss, and have a semblance of peace and security for whatever comes next.

CRS RESPONSE

Since 2012, CRS has worked closely with our partners across the region to support Syrian refugee families, adapting programming and assistance to meet their evolving needs—from emergency shelter, medical assistance and food supplies to education, counseling and livelihoods support. Recognizing that Syrian refugee families—particularly the children—need comprehensive support to prepare for life after the conflict, CRS has invested significantly in education, counseling, life skills, and specialized emotional and social care.

“

Syrians are kind. We are hospitable. It is a beautiful country, and we will be happy to get back there and to rebuild. But right now we wish for more attention on our kids. We wish that nobody will see what they have seen.

Hanan, a young mother and refugee from southern Syria, whose son receives education and care at a Caritas Jordan center in Zarqa



SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS DISPLACEMENT

CRS partners with the Good Shepherd Sisters to provide educational opportunities to critically vulnerable families in 20 informal settlements in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Photo by Ismail Ferdous for CRS

LEBANON AND JORDAN

The influx has strained public services, especially schools, and refugees have limited livelihood and education opportunities. Many children have been out of school for years, making it hard for them to integrate back into the classroom. Stress and trauma also interfere with their learning.



Children in conflict

Watch [this animation](#) that illustrates the experience of displacement from a child's perspective. Many of the visuals reflect the drawings of children we have served. With a belief in their resilience, CRS and our partners promote holistic, comprehensive care for their healing, stability and growth—ideally helping to shape the healthy and productive adults they can become.

CRS RESPONSE

CRS and our partners in Lebanon and Jordan continue to provide comprehensive support for communities and families, including the following:

- **Education:** Kindergarten, remedial tutoring, teacher training and parental engagement.
- **Psychosocial support:** Classroom activities, counselor training, group counseling and infrastructure improvements to schools.
- **Shelter and rent assistance:** Monthly rent stipends for refugees.
- **Living supplies:** Kits of bedding, stoves, buckets and other household items for new arrivals.
- **Food:** Cash and vouchers to help people buy vital food and living supplies.
- **Medical assistance:** Immediate care for both life-threatening injuries and chronic conditions.
- **Sanitation and hygiene:** Vouchers for key hygiene and sanitary supplies.

IRAQ

DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN

CONTEXT

As of August 2019, more than 4 million Iraqis have returned home since ISIS first captured Mosul in 2014, uprooting 5.9 million people. Following an intensive operation, Iraqi forces retook most ISIS-held areas in 2018. Still, an estimated 8.7 million people need help—some who continue to be displaced, and others who are returning home. Major priorities are for children's education, the repair or rebuilding of homes destroyed in the conflict and developing livelihood options in areas of return.

Livelihood opportunities are limited and, for returnees, the relief of returning after years of displacement is tempered by the challenge of rebuilding their lives. Returning safely and with dignity to areas retaken from ISIS will also require land mine removal, significant investment in infrastructure and the rebuilding of local economies. The years of conflict have created instability and destroyed infrastructure. Iraq's education system has been deeply affected—an estimated one in four schools was destroyed, and many more damaged. There is a struggle to find enough space and provide appropriate, quality instruction for displaced students.

CRS RESPONSE

Since 2014, CRS has been working closely with Caritas Iraq and other partners to assist Iraqis in need across devastated areas of the country. This effort continues and is evolving as CRS assists families in rebuilding their lives in Mosul, Fallujah, Hawija and Nineveh Plains. We engage deeply with local communities and their leaders to help communities take steps toward their own lasting recovery from displacement. CRS and Caritas Iraq have excellent working relationships across communities, including with Muslim, Christian and Yazidi people and their leaders. We carefully consider the dynamics among people of various religious and ethnic backgrounds.



AFTER
CRS renovated this damaged school in Bartella, on the Nineveh Plains of northern Iraq. Photo by Fadi Salam Iliya for CRS

Safe shelter and household water, sanitation and hygiene

Catholic Relief Services has supported 100,000 people with this programming to date, with an additional 20,000 to benefit in 2019. CRS and Caritas are supporting families with cash and technical assistance to repair their damaged homes. CRS has piloted transitional core housing units, to provide basic shelter to families while they rebuild. For thousands of families who remain displaced, CRS continues to support their safe, dignified shelter through the repair of and improvements to buildings and settlement areas.

Livelihoods

CRS and Caritas are supporting families who lost their businesses in the conflict to resume their livelihoods, through cash grants and relevant business trainings. By the end of 2019, CRS will have reached at least 1,100 families with this support. CRS is also supporting returnee youth with trainings in life and job skills so they can find sustainable employment.



BEFORE

Education and psychosocial support

In the past four years, CRS support has reached more than 25,000 primary and secondary students, specifically with:

- **Building upgrades:** CRS upgrades buildings and play areas, as well as furniture, outdoor lighting and fences, and equipment to help children with disabilities.
- **Teacher training:** CRS trains teachers in student-centered, active learning techniques that emphasize the emotional needs of conflict-affected students, and provides child protection training. CRS also distributes interactive learning materials.
- **Supporting parents and students:** CRS reinforces school-parent engagement to encourage parents to get to know school staff, witness their children's achievements and engage regularly with their children's learning.

TRANSCENDING ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS TENSIONS

CRS partner Caritas Iraq is providing emergency support for vulnerable people of diverse backgrounds as the country and its people heal from the ISIS conflict. Caritas Iraq's partnership with the Sunni Endowment and Shia leadership is particularly relevant in a conflict where ethnic and religious tensions are deeply rooted and intensely personal. In addition to shelter, water, and job and education assistance for 300,000 people, CRS and Caritas support workshops, dialogue and community-led projects that foster mutual understanding, tolerance and trust.

YEMEN
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

CONTEXT

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains among the worst in the world. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, nearly four years of conflict and severe economic decline are driving the country to the brink of famine. The severity of humanitarian need is deepening—the number of people in acute need is a staggering 27% higher than last year.

Yemen is being devastated by war between forces loyal to the government—backed by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition—and Houthis rebels. Tens of thousands of people have been killed since March 2015. The conflict and a supply blockade have triggered a humanitarian disaster, leaving 80% of the population—24 million people—in need of aid. Eight million people depend on food aid for survival and the United Nations has warned that about 14 million are on the brink of starvation. More than 1.8 million children under age 5 are acutely malnourished, with 500,000 suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Thousands of Yemenis have fled to neighboring countries. Compounding the crisis, Yemen has been facing the worst cholera outbreak in its history. According to the World Health Organization, since 2016, cholera has affected 1.7 million people and claimed 3,502 lives.

The capacity of the health system has been crippled by conflict and import restrictions. Health infrastructure has collapsed, hampering water, sanitation and hygiene services. Some high-risk areas are inaccessible to humanitarian aid, and there is a shortage of laboratory supplies and rapid diagnostic test kits. Communities need access to clinics, training, and staff payment and support. A significant ongoing response to cholera is needed, along with the identification of contaminated water sources, sample collection, chlorination and clinics with lifesaving equipment.



Islamic Relief Yemen staff train water management committee members and volunteers to operate and maintain new water systems. *Photo courtesy of Islamic Relief*

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

Water, sanitation and hygiene, and cholera prevention

CRS will support Islamic Relief Yemen across the Sana'a governorate to provide families at risk of cholera with safe water. Key activities will include:

- Procuring and distributing cholera medicine and supplies.
- Rehabilitating water sources serving 10,500 people.
- Constructing and rehabilitating ponds.
- Forming and training water management committees.
- Testing water quality and promoting hygiene practices.

Medical staff and jobs for unemployed young people

- Partnering with medical facilities to implement apprenticeships.
- Targeting up to 400 qualified vulnerable unemployed youth with formal training in a field relevant to healthcare.
- Providing training in soft skills as well as on-the-job technical training.
- Identifying job openings and the desired qualifications, as well as young people's skills and preferences. We hope to exceed an 85% job placement rate and 85% job retention rate, and follow up regularly with program participants and employer partners.

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We receive many cholera cases daily. We lacked medicine. We thank Islamic Relief for providing cholera medicine. It is a generous support and lifesaving aid for the affected population who are in severe need and can't pay for cholera treatment.

Daris Abu Talib, M.D.
Sana'a Governorate

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Education for refugee Yemeni youth in Egypt

- Supplementing financial assistance to cover 100% of the average education expenses per child, for children enrolled in public schools. This will help mitigate the financial barriers that prevent children from staying in school.
- Preparing Yemeni refugee children and youth to enter public school and supporting them to enroll and succeed there.
- Targeting Yemeni refugee students in public schools who need tutoring to reduce their risk of dropping out.
- Providing emergency cash assistance for students who have university tuition debts and are experiencing threats of dismissal for financial reasons.

INDIA AND BANGLADESH FLOODING



In India's northeastern state of Assam, 4.3 million people have been affected by monsoon flooding. *Photo by Xinhua/Alamy*

CONTEXT

Monsoon rains have devastated India's northeastern state of Assam, and Bangladesh's Bandarban district. Incessant rain since early July in neighboring countries has resulted in rivers overflowing and homes being submerged, with water reaching roof levels in most places. Devastating landslides have taken place, and roads are inundated, marooning villages and forcing people to use boats. In Bangladesh, the local administration has reported that nearly 10,000 homes are under water and 50,500 people have been affected. Electricity has been cut off and people have been unable to access clean water due to the contamination and flooding of water infrastructure.

Markets have also flooded, forcing people to seek food and supplies elsewhere, and driving up prices. Most people have moved to higher ground, roads and embankments with their livestock. With monsoon rains continuing through September, flood levels are expected to remain constant or rise. CRS anticipates families will remain displaced for the next two months. There is an urgent

need for safe, dry shelter and basic hygiene supplies like soap, storage containers and clean water.

In India, about 4.3 million people are affected, with 83,180 sheltering in government relief camps. But many

families prefer to stay close to home to keep an eye on their belongings. In Bangladesh, where millions are also affected, the government has opened 131 shelters and formed special teams to provide food and health services.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

In **India**, CRS and its local partners will meet the immediate needs of affected communities, especially the most vulnerable who have not been able to move to the government relief camps. CRS will support 2,750 families with the following provisions:

Water, sanitation and hygiene:

Hygiene kits will include two 5-gallon buckets with lids, a mug, a cloth for water filtration, 10 bars of laundry soap, 12 bars of bath soap, a half-gallon of antiseptic liquid, and sanitary napkins. Chlorine tablets provided by the government will also be part of this kit. CRS and our local partners will also provide hygiene information to help prevent the outbreak of diarrhea and cholera.

Shelter: Shelter kits will include one 19-by-13-foot tarp, a 32-foot plastic rope, two plastic mats, two medicated mosquito nets and a flashlight. Locally available materials will be used, such as bamboo for constructing a shelter frame, which will be provided by the community.

In **Bangladesh**, CRS' emergency team has carried out an extensive humanitarian response, as well as disaster preparedness efforts. We are coordinating closely with local government and responders to provide critical emergency support not covered by the government, and based on the shelter, water and sanitation, and supply needs of people in the most heavily affected areas.

BANGLADESH DISPLACEMENT

CONTEXT

For nearly two years, the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh has been the center of a sudden, large-scale refugee response. From August 2017, widespread violence in their home state of Rakhine, Myanmar, caused 700,000 Rohingya people to flee to Bangladesh, bringing the total Rohingya refugee population to an estimated 909,000.² About 628,000 live in Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site, the world's largest and most densely populated refugee camp. Initially the site was haphazard and crowded, and the hilly area was quickly deforested. Efforts have been made to improve existing sites, as well as to resettle families in better planned and less congested areas. The context is challenging, with scarce physical space to construct shelters and communal facilities.

While conditions in the camps have improved, congestion increases the risk of fire and disease. Security and protection issues, including gender-based violence, are also ongoing challenges. Humanitarian agencies and coordinating organizations are continuing to appeal to the government for more land to allow for safer and more dignified living.

CRS AND CARITAS RESPONSE

Catholic Relief Services is supporting Caritas Bangladesh as it provides comprehensive support to more than 263,000 people in the settlements. Humanitarian efforts have included the following:

Site improvement

CRS and Caritas Bangladesh engage the community to map hazards and prioritize improvements to reduce risks to health and safety. Maps are then digitized for planning and implementation. Improvements include repairing drainage, building paths and retaining walls, planting vegetation and installing street lights.

2. Inter Sector Coordination Group, ISCG [Situation Report: Rohingya Refugee Crisis](#), March 2019.



With the help of local carpenters, CRS is helping Caritas Bangladesh provide Rohingya refugees with safe, dignified shelters. *Photo by Ismail Ferdous for CRS*

Shelter

CRS and Caritas Bangladesh have completed the construction of 327 midterm shelters built in newly designed settlement areas. Together with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, we expanded the size of the shelters to accommodate cooking and bathing spaces. The design was approved and endorsed by the government, and CRS and Caritas Bangladesh are now awaiting site plan approval to extend construction of the larger shelters to new locations.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- CRS continues to provide operations and maintenance support for water projects and systems, including latrines, bathing spaces and water taps.
- Hygiene kits have been distributed and hand-washing and safe water handling are being extensively promoted.
- Community participants in cash-for-work activities such as cleaning latrines and bathing spaces, repairing wells and managing solid waste, have received supplies and training.

Protection

- Caritas Bangladesh is running 11 child-friendly spaces to provide counseling to children and families, recreation and meeting spaces. New activities with a focus on psychosocial care—using puppetry and videos—will be rolled out.

- Caritas Bangladesh has also started women-friendly spaces, which provide safety, counseling and life skills activities for women who have suffered violence or abuse, as well as space for meetings and conversations with other women.
- Rohingya volunteers, both women and men, are receiving training for the Barefoot Counselor project, which offers protection and counseling support, with a focus on addressing gender-based violence. They have also been trained to facilitate awareness-raising sessions on trafficking and early marriage.
- Construction of a community center for counseling and other activities has been completed.

Disaster risk reduction and livelihoods in host communities

CRS and Caritas Bangladesh are launching a disaster risk reduction and livelihoods project to support host communities in mitigating risks related to cyclical natural disasters. Through a series of facilitated meetings, the community will identify potential hazards, vulnerabilities, capacities and risks, and then develop risk reduction action plans. The project connects communities with local government disaster management committees, so that the action plans can continue to be implemented beyond the life of the project. Major activities will include cash for work to construct roads and repair individual shelters and latrines, and providing cash support for income-generating activities.