



# CRS South Sudan Country Program Strategy

2024-2028

*Since independence in 2011*, South Sudan has experienced a protracted crisis as instability and varying levels of conflict continue to undermine the young country's roadmap to peace. Meaningful progress toward sustainable and equitable development remains elusive. Twelve years after independence and five years after the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. In 2023, 9.4 million people, over 75% of the total population of 12 million people, will need humanitarian assistance, the country's largest-ever humanitarian caseload. Social and political instability; insecure and inadequate livelihoods; lack of access to basic services; and frequent overlapping shocks such as violence, flooding, and displacement make South Sudan a complex and highly volatile context.

*Despite these immense challenges*, CRS is inspired by the resilience, strength and perennial hope of the South Sudanese people. Building on our rich history, deep relationships and expert team of South Sudanese and international staff, this strategy expresses a renewal of our commitment to accompany families and communities on their journey toward a brighter future. CRS recognizes many incredible opportunities to empower communities and enhance effective local leadership to save lives, reduce suffering, and accelerate peace, justice, equity and sustainable development. We believe that transforming these opportunities into sustained impact depends upon protecting all members of the community, especially vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities and empowering them to fully participate and lead their own development.





**CRS South Sudan's flagship programming approach** focuses on building community resilience through integrated and layered interventions in food security, agriculture and livelihoods, social cohesion and access to essential services. CRS builds acceptance through long-term presence in the communities we serve, working across the peace-humanitarian-development 'triple nexus', and pivoting effectively between emergency response, recovery, and resilience-building to support communities on their journey towards self-reliance. Within this framework, the CRS country program (CP) in South Sudan will prioritize the following four Signature Program Areas (SPAs) and four Crosscutting Priorities (CCPs) in fiscal years 2024-2028.

## VISION STATEMENT

*Women, men, girls and boys thrive in cohesive and resilient communities where they have equitable access to services and opportunities to achieve their full health and development.*

### SIGNATURE PROGRAM AREAS



#### SPA 1: Agriculture, Livelihoods and Resilience

CRS uses its leadership to drive sustainable impact by building food secure and resilient families and communities.



#### SPA 2: Emergency Response

High quality and timely emergency response implemented within operational areas saves lives, reduces suffering, and promotes resilience.



#### SPA 3: Social Cohesion

Communities and local institutions are empowered to reduce and prevent intra and inter-communal violence, enhance stability and cohesion, and strengthen tolerance and respect for diverse groups, leading to more just, peaceful and resilient communities.



#### SPA 4: Equitable Access to Basic Health, Nutrition, and WASH Services

Communities have equitable access to essential social services contributing to the realization of their full health and development potential.

### CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES



#### CCP 5: Gender Integration

CRS programs implement gender responsive and transformative approaches to promote gender equality and women's empowerment within the communities we serve as preconditions for effective and sustainable development.



#### CCP 6: Youth Engagement

Young people are economically empowered and engaged to participate more fully in their communities and society by acting positively on issues that they define as important.



#### CCP 7: Cash and Market-based Programming

Effective and innovative use of cash and market-based interventions at scale across sectors enables the most vulnerable to access services and support while strengthening agency and resilience.



#### CCP 8: Safe and Dignified Programming

Project participants in CRS South Sudan's programs have safe and dignified access to assistance and support.



## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

CRS will build on our strengths by continuing focus on two key areas:

1. Cultivating a diverse and experienced team across South Sudan by strengthening the culture of Respect, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI); enhancing national staff skills and knowledge; cultivating local leadership; and prioritizing the safety and security of our staff, partners and project participants.
2. Strengthening effectiveness and efficiency of systems for management quality, with emphasis on strong stewardship, mitigating environmental impact and building partner capacity.



## PARTNERSHIP AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

CRS will work to expand partnerships with effective national and local partners who complement our strengths. To strategically expand the reach and impact of our work, CRS will actively transition toward expanded implementation through local actors and invest in strengthening these actors' capacity.



## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

CRS must mobilize resources to sustain multi-year, multi-sector programming that allows CRS to work across the Triple Nexus to be responsive to communities' needs, build their resilience and foster peace. The overarching strategy is stability: sustaining the overall scope and scale of recent programming, while gradually shifting program design and implementation to local partners.

## CAPACITY

CRS has operated in South Sudan since 1983, supporting the people of South Sudan for over 40 years with emergency assistance and conflict mitigation amidst a period of prolonged civil war. In advance of the country's independence in July 2011, CRS increased assistance to basic service delivery while scaling up its efforts to strengthen civil society and reduce the potential for conflict around the 2011 referendum. Following independence, CRS programming focused on recovery and development. Today, CRS implements an integrated, multi-sectoral portfolio of humanitarian and development assistance. Current programs in South Sudan address food security and livelihoods; water, sanitation, and hygiene; health and nutrition; microfinance; adult literacy; trauma awareness and social cohesion; disaster risk reduction; and emergency response. CRS is among the largest INGOs in South Sudan and in recent years has mobilized \$40-80 million each year to assist over 1 million people. CRS has more than 400 staff with approximately 30 field locations across Jonglei, Lakes, Eastern Equatoria and Central Equatoria States and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.







Catholic Relief Services | 228 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA | [crs.org](https://crs.org) | [crsespanol.org](https://crsespanol.org)  
South Sudan Country Program | Palica Street, Hai Jerusalem, Juba, South Sudan  
For more information, contact [email@crs.org](mailto:email@crs.org).