



## West Bank/Gaza

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### BACKGROUND

The 4.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, a quarter of whom live in poverty, face significant governance, economic and humanitarian challenges. Food insecurity and unemployment are widespread; an economy hampered by conflict and occupation mean humanitarian needs are vast. Further, coronavirus (COVID-19) has spread in Gaza at an alarming rate due to a combination of vulnerability and lack of preparedness.

CRS' strategic focus in the West Bank and Gaza is to build food security, strengthen civil society and provide life-saving humanitarian assistance. CRS' work is carried out in close partnership with an extensive network of local civil society organizations and in regular consultation with the local Church.

CRS has also operationalized an innovative COVID-safe mechanism to provide thousands of vulnerable families at risk of infection with COVID-19 risk communication messaging and critical hygiene items to protect themselves and their families and

to mitigate the spread of the virus further in communities.

### BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION, OUR POLICY PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Ensuring USAID programming is robustly funded and staffed.
- Supporting local and international NGOs and faith-based organizations operating in the region.
- De-politicizing humanitarian assistance.
- Reenforcing the United States' commitments to a two-state solution, international law, and human rights.