



A family displaced by conflict receives emergency assistance from a staff member through the CRS Kisili project. Photo by CRS staff

CRS in Emergency Response & Recovery

RESPONDING WITH CRITICAL RELIEF TO MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES ACROSS MALI

CRS emergency programming ranges from rapid life-saving responses to longer-term recovery efforts addressing both conflict and natural disasters. Mali continues to face compounded crises with the escalation of conflict-induced displacement in the insecure north as well as seasonal flooding and persistent drought. CRS leverages its broad expertise to quickly and safely address the unique needs of vulnerable populations, including internally displaced people, repatriates, pastoralists, malnourished children and pregnant women.

Despite limited access for humanitarian agencies to high-risk areas in the volatile security context, CRS helps displaced and flood-affected people secure their basic needs—including food, water and shelter—with funding from various donors including the US and Canadian governments. Longer-term recovery projects develop local resilience to disasters through water point rehabilitation, “building back better” shelter demonstrations, and the strengthening of community-led nutrition and hygiene activities. Utilizing information and communications technology for emergencies, CRS increases the efficiency of rapid needs assessments; promotes transparency and participant choice during distribution responses; enhances humanitarian information sharing; and enables remote monitoring. CRS also takes an active role in humanitarian leadership and advocacy in Mali as a member of the Humanitarian Country Team and via participation in UN Clusters and FONGIM, the Forum of International NGOs in Mali.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED
DIRECTLY BY CRS AID
IN 2016

25,030

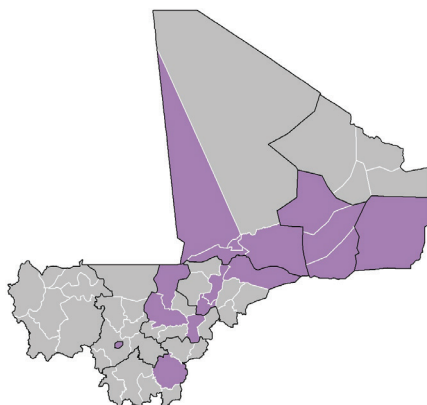
VALUE OF CRS EMERGENCY
RESPONSE PROGRAMMING
IN 2016

\$2.2 million

NUMBER OF RAPID NEEDS
ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED
IN 2016

10

CRS MALI EMERGENCY PROGRAMMING AREAS



Emergency rapid response mechanism

CRS formalized a country-wide emergency rapid response mechanism in July 2016 through the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance-funded Kisili project. Kisili fills a gap in the timely assessment of needs by launching rapid evaluations after crisis alerts—of displacement, flooding or drought—and recording the urgent needs of each crisis-affected household. Shared on the Kisili website, assessment reports include an evaluation of the local market functionality and security context, and are disseminated within Mali's humanitarian community to prompt immediate life-saving assistance. When support is not available, CRS assists communities to treat their drinking water, restore essential household goods to ensure safe shelter, participate in cash-for-work activities to repair communal infrastructure, or receive cash assistance to address their unique immediate needs. In its first year, the project recorded and shared the emergency needs of over 35,000 people across 13 unique crises. Recently extended for an additional year, and now with additional funding from the USAID Office of Food for Peace to enable critical food assistance, the project will continue to evaluate and respond to disasters across Mali through July 2018.

Flooding mitigation and relief

With Start Network support and private funds, CRS responded to flood emergencies across the country during the 2016 rainy season, when the Niger River reached a height unseen in 50 years. In addition to providing cash assistance, CRS taught those affected by floods how to build back better through shelter demonstrations, delivered key hygiene messages to prevent water-borne diseases, and offered cash-for-work opportunities to drain water from flooded villages. In anticipation of continued flooding, CRS convened a consortium of humanitarian actors in mitigation efforts launched in less than 45 days across 4 regions. Communities installed flood warning posts to signal necessary evacuation, local early warning groups were trained, youth learned first aid skills, and key flood-readiness messages were broadcast on local radio and reinforced by shelter protection posters. Communities led efforts to drain irrigation canals and restore dykes, preventing the impact of continued flooding. Making the link to resilience programming and livelihoods support, CRS also distributed seeds that thrive in recessional waters to help farmers overcome anticipated crop loss and food insecurity. At project closure, 94 percent of targeted households reported employing a shelter protection technique and 79 percent of local authorities said their community was less vulnerable to flood damage.



Community members protect their waterpoint before flooding during an emergency mitigation project supported by the Start Network.
Photo by CRS staff

Innovative approaches to treating malnutrition

More than 14 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months experienced acute malnutrition in the drought- and conflict-affected region of Timbuktu in 2016. With Canadian International Humanitarian Assistance and private funding, CRS rehabilitated 31 water points, reducing the lack of clean drinking water as a contributing factor to malnutrition. Community leaders, 49 percent of whom were women, were trained as water management committee members charged with infrastructure maintenance. CRS also trained community health volunteers to regularly hold malnutrition screenings at the village level, and established linkages to health centers to provide treatment. Community members participated in nutritional cooking demonstrations and discussions about essential nutrition to actively prevent malnutrition. The families of 200 children with severe acute malnutrition received transportation and lodging support to see their children through the necessary treatment outside of their village. In addition, animal fodder was distributed to 2,000 households, de-escalating the pastoral crisis and ensuring families could meet their food needs.

OUR WORK IN MALI

Placing partnership at the core of our programming, CRS works closely with counterparts in relevant Government of Mali ministries at the national, regional and district levels, as well as with local civil society partners in nearly every program. Working in Mali since 1999, CRS has proven experience coordinating complex, multi-stakeholder emergency and development projects, and has established offices in Bamako, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao, and programming in all regions of the country, except Kidal.

