



In Benin, Farid's daily nutritious lunch from a now terminated USDA McGovern-Dole program gave him the energy to excel. Photo by Jennifer Lazuta / CRS.



# Protect Lifesaving and Life-Affirming International Assistance

*A Catholic pro-life approach to U.S. international assistance goes beyond charity. It is a strategic investment that has a profound impact on human life, dignity and global stability.*

**Catholic Relief Services** stands ready to build on a strong history of successful collaboration with the U.S. government and enhance the Church's expression of charity and the American values of leadership and service.

***Please protect international assistance by maintaining poverty-reducing accounts in fiscal year 2026 appropriations and opposing the rescission of funds for lifesaving and life-affirming programs.***

**With intention and consistency, international assistance achieves significant results.**

**The *Shared Future* program in Iraq supported the return of religious and ethnic minorities who fled formerly ISIS-controlled areas.** By providing business development alongside the tools for diverse groups to rebuild trust, the project increased residents' intention to stay in their villages from 70% to 92%, ultimately advancing stability. Regrettably, the program's termination—in its final year—disrupted the codification of these gains.

**In Latin America, CRS' efforts to support local Church partners have enabled lifesaving assistance to reach over 284,000 people.** Across five countries in Central and South America, locally led emergency response teams have found that the percentage of households able to meet their own basic food needs has increased from 16% to 71%. Unfortunately, several of the awards catalyzing these changes were recently terminated.

**Rescissions and reductions to international assistance accounts threaten the long-term viability of crucial lifesaving and life-affirming programs and undermine decades of work to establish the U.S. as a leader in serving the global community and fostering a more peaceful and prosperous world.**