OCRS.

Together, we can move mountains

2024 Annual Report



There is no limit to what we can achieve with abiding faith and collective action.

The mountains we face are formidable: poverty, hunger, preventable disease, extreme weather. But working together and with God's grace, nothing is impossible. Grounded and guided by Catholic social teaching, we work closely with partners, program participants, donors and advocates to accomplish more than we could alone. For 82 years, we have tackled the world's most pressing humanitarian issues. And we won't stop until all our sisters and brothers can fulfill their God-given potential in thriving families, communities and a flourishing common home.

Our Mission

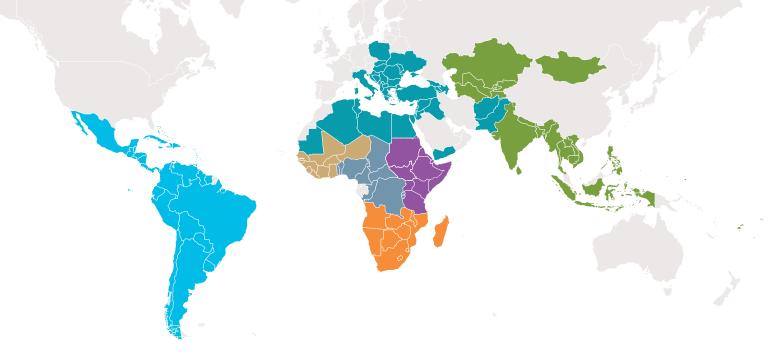
Catholic Relief Services carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching as we act to:

PROMOTE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies.

SERVE CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES as they live their faith in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, we work with local, national and international Catholic institutions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

Approved by the Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors on September 11, 2008.



Our Mission To Uphold Human Dignity

At Catholic Relief Services, we envision a world in which all people live in just and peaceful societies. A world where people thrive in the face of disasters and have dignified work to support their families. A world in which children and young people have nurturing families and opportunities to succeed. These goals are ambitious and take time. However, with the shared commitment, resources and expertise of our global community and the local communities we serve, we can make them a reality. Together, we can move mountains.

> Working in 134 countries with 1,978 local partners to help 198 million people* improve their lives.



AGRICULTURE

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

5M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

113 | PROJECTS 47 | COUNTRIES



1.4M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

219 | PROJECTS

64 | COUNTRIES



EDUCATION

11M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 93 | PROJECTS 48 | COUNTRIES



EMERGENCY

17M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 217 | PROJECTS 68 | COUNTRIES



138M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 107 | PROJECTS 42 | COUNTRIES



JUSTICE & PEACEBUILDING

13M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 53 | PROJECTS 41 | COUNTRIES



MICROFINANCE

3M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 85 | PROJECTS 45 | COUNTRIES



WATER & SANITATION

9M | PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 96 | PROJECTS **39** | COUNTRIES

Letters from our Board Chair and President & CEO



The needs in our world are great, and I am honored to serve alongside Catholic Relief Services, which provided lifesaving and dignity-affirming assistance with a profound and inspiring impact in 2024.

CRS is living out our Gospel call to help our most vulnerable sisters and brothers: from providing food, shelter and other necessities in emergencies to increasing access to education, health care and livelihood opportunities for marginalized communities. I am also proud of our land restoration efforts. Our stewardship of God's creation is benefiting thousands of farmers, their families and communities around the world.

I give immense thanks to our donors, whose contributions made this work possible. Your generosity and commitment are true expressions of faith in action and solidarity with our global family.

At CRS, we are a people of hope. We work and pray that our efforts bring comfort to those who are suffering. As we join in this challenging but necessary work, we draw strength from our faith and shared call to serve.

God bless you,

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Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia

Chair, CRS Board of Directors | November 2022 to present



This past year our world has experienced incredible challenges, including humanitarian crises in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti and far too many other places. Amid such heartbreak, I still feel hope and gratitude. Each day, I witness our colleagues, partners and supporters working with local communities to fulfill our joint mission to recognize and uphold the dignity of our sisters and brothers most in need.

With your support and partnership, CRS reached nearly 200 million people with critical and life-changing assistance in 2024. I thank you and all who have helped us achieve these extraordinary results. I am also thankful for the support of American taxpayers through U.S. government funding, which enables our work at a global scale. Together, through quality programming, accountability, stewardship and impact metrics, we are creating a future where families and communities can thrive.

Our vision is to build a more peaceful and just world—a world in which all people can reach their full God-given potential. This vision is ambitious. It will take time and perseverance. We will face more challenges, but we will not give up. We continue to find opportunities to fulfill our Gospel mission and achieve transformational change for our global family. Thank you for all that you do to turn our hopes for the world into reality.

Peace and light,

Sean L. Callahan

President & CEO | 2017 to present

I Callah



Our Commitment Knows No Bounds

Our global problems can often feel insurmountable. But over time, with faith, partnership and perseverance, we can have a far-reaching, positive impact. In 2024—amid rising levels of hunger and conflict and more frequent and devastating weather events—we made a difference for nearly 200 million people. We fostered peace in conflict-torn communities and improved access to clean water. We helped more children attend school and partnered with young people so they can secure bright futures. Together, we delivered transformative change on an increasing scale.

Global Results

Introduced in 2020, CRS Global Results demonstrate how each program, country and region contributes to our global impact, making our process transparent and accountable. These numbers allow us to measure how we are achieving desired outcomes across all our programs.



Follow this icon for the 2024 Global Results in each goal area.



Photos by Grace Yakubu/CRS

Building Peace in Nigeria



1,545,449 community members participating in

collective actions

C This issue would have escalated ... if not for the intervention of the peace ambassador."

> AYUBA KONDOKWARA. A CRS STAR PROJECT PARTICIPANT IN NIGERIA

In Nigeria's Lake Chad Region—where prolonged conflict has affected thousands of people-the Stabilization and Reconciliation project, or STaR, is paving the way for peace and stability. The CRS project, funded by the KfW Development Bank, helps nearly 60,000 people access employment opportunities and basic services like water, health care and education. It also trains community members to act as peace ambassadors, preventing conflict before it even begins.

The STaR project stresses the importance of social cohesion, promoting conflict resolution and inclusion for marginalized people. Peace ambassadors in Shelleng, a farming community in Adamawa State, work toward unity—and help others find it as well.

When two farmers, Ayuba Kondokwara and Aminu Gamanayilu, found themselves in a dispute, Silas Titus, a trained peace ambassador, facilitated a resolution between them. "It's very good to have this kind of system," Silas says. "The role we play, preaching the messages of peace, goes to promote peace and unity in the community."

"I am happy with the way the ambassadors helped me resolve the conflict," says Ayuba. "This issue would have escalated to our family and friends if not for the intervention of the peace ambassador. I am grateful."



CRS STaR project officer Harry Bwala, far left, and Shelleng community peace ambassadors with Aminu and Ayuba, far right.



Education **Gives Hope to Refugee Children** in Lebanon



729,455

children accessed safe and supportive environments

ff I am happy that I can read and write, and I like to play with my friends at school."

> SIDRA AL-HASSAN. AN 8-YEAR-OLD REFUGEE STUDENT IN LEBANON

In Lebanon—a country that continues to experience much conflict—the Good Shepherd Sisters' education center inspires hope for refugee families.

Muntaha al-Hassan was eight months pregnant with her daughter Sidra when their family fled their home in Syria after an airstrike reduced their house to rubble. In 2016, they crossed into Lebanon. Muntaha's family eventually settled in Deir al Ahmar, a small farming village surrounded by vineyards in the Bekaa Valley, where Sidra was born under a canvas tent.

None of the children were able to attend public school in Lebanon, and the process to register as a refugee family was difficult. Two years after arriving in the country, Muntaha discovered the Good Shepherd Sisters' education center, a CRS supported school in the village. Run by Sister Rita Hadshiti, the center provides education to Syrian children unable to otherwise attend public schools. In 2024, 210 Syrian children were enrolled and taught by a dedicated team of teachers.

"Now, what makes me happiest is watching my youngest, my only daughter, go to school," Muntaha says. "She started in first grade and will be able to complete her education here. She's my hope for the future."



Sidra was born a refugee in Lebanon. Unable to attend Lebanon's public schools, she enrolled at the Good Shepherd Sisters' education center, which is providing education to 210 Syrian children.



Restoring Landscapes and Livelihoods in Ghana



More than **185,000**

hectares of land— 457,569 acres—were under restoration through improved practices

of CRS, we have undertaken a lot of activities which use nature-based solutions, supporting adaptation in the communities where we have challenges in terms of the non-availability of water."

MAWULI LUMOR, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF GHANA'S WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

"Without water, there are no human beings. Water is critical for human survival." Mawuli Lumor, the acting director of water resources planning and management for Ghana's Water Resources Commission, shares this universal truth while discussing a new integrated watershed protection program in Ghana's Northern Region. A Catholic Relief Services project there—in partnership with Ghana's Water Resources Commission and other local organizations—helps communities access clean water and adapt to changing climates.

Adam Abdul-Latif, a local farmer, is strengthening his livelihood by participating in the project. In addition to learning climate-resilient farming practices, Adam and other farmers are restoring Ghana's White Volta River Basin by planting trees and other vegetation along the riverbank. The plants help prevent flooding, protecting farms and homes. The project also provides the farmers with access to pumps that draw water for their fields—especially critical during the increasingly long dry seasons.

"This year, for about two to three months, we didn't get rain," Adam says. "Most farmers didn't get any crops. If things continue with the support of government and other organizations, I think in our future there will be better living. With education, the future will be good."



Mawuli works as the chief basin officer for Ghana's Water Resources Commission, which is partnering with CRS to improve communities' access to clean water.



Providing Healthy Meals for Children in Laos



3,333,067

students enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools

11 The children eat everything on their plates, enjoying the healthy food every day."

> HONGKHAM PHENGSAPHONE, **VOLUNTEER CHEF IN LAOS**

In the heart of a school's bustling kitchen, the aroma of freshly cooked rice porridge fills the air as Hongkham Phengsaphone prepares lunch for more than 100 students from her local village in Savannakhet province in southern Laos.

Hongkham's passion for cooking led her to volunteer at her children's school kitchen to cook school lunches offered through Catholic Relief Services' LEAPS project—Learning and Engaging All in Primary School. Using staple foods like rice and lentils grown by American farmers, each meal is carefully prepared and served with fresh vegetables harvested daily from the school garden.

Implemented by CRS in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports in Laos, the LEAPS project ensures students receive balanced and nourishing meals, which are vital for their growth and development.

The third phase of LEAPS addresses food insecurity by providing more than 30,000 students across 302 schools in Savannakhet province with access to nutritious lunches. Through effective collaboration between government entities and local communities, the LEAPS project demonstrates a commitment to supporting the health and future opportunities of Laos' children.

Hongkham's dedication in the kitchen has not gone unnoticed. "Parents thank me for helping the school and cooking for their children. I'm happy to support the children and the community," she says. "Most of the children love the rice porridge. Every time they eat it, they are happy and joyful, and compliment me, saying 'it's so good.' Some even come back for seconds."



Hongkham Phengsaphone serves healthy meals to children at a school in Laos as part of CRS' LEAPS project.



Entrepreneurship and Agriculture in El Salvador



70,438

young people obtained employment or self-employment

66 There is no better place to cultivate the land. If it weren't for this venture, I might have emigrated. This has given us a new opportunity."

> JOHN RODRIGUEZ. AN AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEUR IN EL SALVADOR

In a remote, rural community in El Salvador, brothers John and Esteban Rodríguez* run a thriving vegetable business. Starting a business wasn't initially on their radar. Like so many others in their community, John, 19, and Esteban, 22, experienced family separation when their parents migrated for work. The young men had intended to join their parents, as limited access to education and lack of employment opportunities gave them few choices for success in their hometown.

"Most young people choose to emigrate abroad," says John. "Due to the lack of economic resources, they do not continue studying. There is no other option."

Several programs changed John and Esteban's plan. First, two local El Salvador organizations gave them a donation to build a greenhouse. John and Esteban then joined a CRS project called Youth Creating Alternatives to Migration funded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where they learned sustainable agriculture practices and entrepreneurship.

The brothers were able to apply their new knowledge and business skills to start and grow their business. Despite the region's high temperatures and degraded soil, they produce high-quality chiles, tomatoes and cucumbers, which they sell near their community in San Antonio de las Iglesias. With their parents' support, the brothers now envision a prosperous life together in their home country, something that seemed impossible for them in the past.



John, left, tours a greenhouse with other young entrepreneurs near their community in El Salvador. John and his brother learned about sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship through a CRS program that has helped their vegetable business thrive

^{*}Names have been changed.



18 Photo by Jean-Michel Kpakpo/CRS

Confronting Global Poverty Through Collective Action



Priests and deacons from the CRS Global Fellows program gathered in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress and their staff.

As God's children, we should all have the opportunity to thrive. Instead, millions struggle to survive—afflicted by poverty, hunger, conflict and other affronts to human dignity. CRS is committed to transforming this reality by bringing lifesaving and life-affirming assistance to the world's most vulnerable people. But this work would not be possible without addressing systems and structures that impact global poverty.

Our advocacy work in the United States seeks solutions to global poverty and its root causes. We leverage on-the-ground expertise, Church teaching and a network of supporters to advocate for laws that can help our global family navigate environmental challenges, such as natural disasters like drought and storms, and human-made challenges, including social inequities, conflicts and health crises.

Building bipartisan support is at the heart of our approach. It starts with policy analysis rooted in our programming. We then identify legislative and other policy priorities that CRS staff and supporters advocate for. As in previous years, this work has helped shape key policy outcomes that affect millions of lives.

Whether through face-to-face meetings with legislators, personalized emails or phone calls, when staff and supporters share stories about CRS' work and why international relief and development issues are important, it increases our credibility and influence with decision-makers. These relationships are the foundation for advancing our goals and creating transformational change.

CRS staff and our supporters play a vital role in bridging partisan divides and providing moral clarity on the importance of lifesaving humanitarian and development funding to lawmakers. According to the Congressional Management Foundation, "organizations with active advocacy networks have almost four times more influence on congressional decisions than congressional leaders."

IN 2024:



CRS staff and our supporters conducted more than **700 meetings** with policymakers.



CRS supporters delivered more than **60,000 emails** and made nearly **3,600 phone calls** to members of Congress.

Where We Work



ASIA

Bangladesh Cambodia

Federated States of Micronesia

Fiji Indonesia Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan

Laos Mongolia Myanmar Nepal Philippines Samoa Sri Lanka

Tajikistan Thailand Timor-Leste Tonga

Turkmenistan Uzbekistan Vietnam



EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan Albania Algeria Armenia Azerbaijan

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Egypt Georgia Greece Hungary Iraq Italy

Jerusalem, the West Bank

and Gaza Kosovo Lebanon Libya

Macedonia

Mauritania

Jordan

Moldova Montenegro Pakistan Poland Romania

Serbia Slovakia Tunisia Turkey Ukraine Yemen



LATIN AMERICA AND

THE CARIBBEAN

Antigua & Barbuda Argentina

The Bahamas Barbados Belize Bolivia Brazil

Cayman Islands

Chile Colombia Costa Rica Cuba Curacao Dominica

Dominican Republic

Ecuador El Salvador Grenada Guatemala Guyana Haiti Honduras Jamaica Mexico Nicaragua Panama Paraguay Peru

St. Kitts-Nevis St. Lucia St. Vincent & the Grenadines Suriname Trinidad & Tobago

Turks & Caicos Uruguay Venezuela



CENTRAL AFRICA

Benin Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Chad

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Nigeria

Republic of the Congo

Rwanda Togo



EAST AFRICA

Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Somalia South Sudan Sudan Tanzania Uganda



SOUTH AFRICA

Angola Botswana Eswatini Lesotho Madagascar Malawi Mozambique Namibia South Africa Zambia Zimbabwe



WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso Cape Verde Côte d'Ivoire The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Liberia Mali

Niger Senegal Sierra Leone

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2024 Financial Summary

Catholic Relief Services ensures that the funds you have so generously entrusted to us go where they are needed most. In the interest of stewardship, only summary financial information is provided in the annual report.

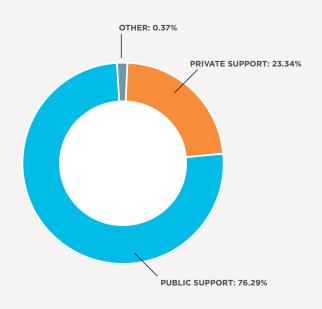
For complete financial statements, including auditor's notes, please <u>view our 2024 financials</u> or call 888-277-7575.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (in thousands)

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUE	\$	\$
	Total Funds	Total Funds
Private support	303,531	284,098
Public support	992,148	1,176,089
Investment and other income	4,745	1,434
Total	1,300,424	1,461,621
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program services	1,242,234	1,398,395
Supporting services	88,875	88,622
Total	1,331,109	1,487,017
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	(30,685)	(25,396)
NON-OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES	33,370	31,681
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	2,685	6,285
Net assets, beginning of period	298,972	292,687
Net assets, end of period	301,657	298,972

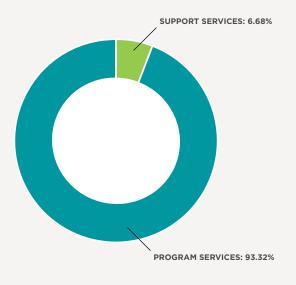
REVENUE (in thousands)

PRIVATE SUPPORT	\$	%
Other private contributions	149,455	11.49
Foundation and other private grants	83,400	6.41
Bequests	54,483	4.19
CRS Rice Bowl	8,254	0.64
CRS collection	7,939	0.61
Total	303,531	23.34
PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$	%
Donated non-financial assets	285,897	21.98
USG grants	547,865	42.13
Other public grants and contributions	158,386	12.18
Total	992,148	76.29
OTHER	\$	%
Investment and other income	4,745	0.37
TOTAL	1,300,424	100



EXPENSES (in thousands)

PROGRAM SERVICES	\$	%
Agriculture and Livelihoods	124,196	9.33
Education	126,987	9.54
Emergency	616,185	46.29
Health and Social Services	289,812	21.77
Justice, Peacebuilding and Youth	37,010	2.78
Partner Capacity Strengthening	27,603	2.07
Small Enterprise	3,319	0.25
Water	17,122	1.29
Total	1,242,234	93.32
SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$	%
Management and general	48,293	3.63
Public awareness	9,709	0.73
Fundraising	30,873	2.32
Total	88,875	6.68
TOTAL	1,331,109	100







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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Learn, engage and share to support human dignity.









