This report highlights the collective efforts to provide shelter, WASH and infrastructure to vulnerable communities affected by humanitarian emergencies in Fiscal Year 19. In this report, you will find compiled data, analyses and latest trends across the three program sectors. These efforts are the result of meaningful collaboration and leadership of country programs and local partners.

**GLOBAL PRESENCE**

In Fiscal Year 2019, CRS supported crisis-affected communities with a range of shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and infrastructure programs. Of the 100 countries in which CRS carries out programming with its partners, 31 countries benefited from shelter support; 35 countries benefited from WASH programs, and 15 benefited from infrastructure support. Integrated Shelter and WASH responses took place in at least 14 countries, while another nine countries benefited from the combination of shelter, WASH and infrastructure.

CRS increasingly strives to integrate its efforts to meet people's diverse needs in crises. As part of its 2030 Agency Strategy, CRS states:

**Our goal is to help all people survive and thrive in the face of disasters**

This goal calls us to take a broad view and holistic approach to families and their individuality. As such, CRS’ Shelter, WASH and Infrastructure assistance forms the foundation for safe, dignified homes and communities – places where one feels safe and has a sense of belonging, space to heal from loss and trauma, and the means with which to rebuild their lives.

**MORE INTEGRATION**

CRS’ experience shows that integrated responses in shelter, WASH and infrastructure strengthen the opportunity and ability of families to live in safer, dignified homes and communities. In our strategic goals for 2030, CRS and our partners will ensure safe, dignified homes and communities for 1.5 million people affected by crisis. This increase in our direct programming is a big challenge, yet it allows us the opportunity to demonstrate and influence local approaches that can be adopted around the world.

With our 2030 vision for transformational change at scale, we will seek to influence peer agencies, local responders, stakeholders and governments to implement new, innovative approaches to improve efficiencies in the humanitarian system. This will benefit 10 million people through three workstreams:

**Promoting sustainable solutions**

Our responses will develop and promote environmental, financial and social sustainability beyond the emergency.

**Advancing localization**

Local partners will increase their capacity to lead humanitarian responses with our technical guidance.

**Encouraging greater collaboration and coordination**

CRS will seek to influence efficiency of the humanitarian system by taking lead coordination roles, fostering alliances and working with the private sector.
SHELTER

DIVERSIFIED SHELTER ASSISTANCE
In Fiscal Year 2019, CRS and partners assisted 180,412 households with diverse shelter assistance options, including household items, shelter kits, transitional and durable shelter solutions. Of the total, 18.8%—or 34,000 households—benefited beyond emergency shelter distributions. Temporary shelters, transitional shelters, reconstruction and rebuilding comprised 80% of this assistance, followed by rental assistance, repairs, retrofitting and core housing (Fig. 2).

CRS and partners supported these solutions across various stages of emergency response, with 54% during the emergency phase, 44% during the transitional phase, and 2% during the permanent reconstruction phase. In terms of context, 53% of shelter programming took place in conflict backdrops, while 45% were in response to natural disasters. The remaining 2% was in the backdrop of complex crises.

In terms of diversity in implementation options (Fig 4), assistance in-kind was the most used at 48%, followed by financial support at 25.9%, and smaller percentages for commissioned labor and social technical assistance. The level of financial support is notable, as it illustrates CRS’ preference, when possible, for market- and cash-based responses.

On the other hand, despite working with partners in many countries, we face a share of 0.4% under Capacity Building and Strengthening. This invites us to do our best to sustain the meaningful leadership of partners and nurture their capacity in their support of the most vulnerable.

INFLUENCE AND BEYOND
Over the past decade, CRS is proud to have grown its role and influence as a global stakeholder in the shelter sector. From initial shelter efforts for 3,200 families in 1995 after the Balkan war, CRS’ reach has peaked after large responses such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake, Syrian refugee crisis starting 2012, the 2013 Philippines typhoon Haiyan, the Bangladesh Rohingya crisis in 2017 and recently the 2019 cyclone Idai response, with Asia and SARO regions the most shelter-active in FY19 (Fig.3).

As a lead shelter agency CRS is expected to continue to build evidence and influence at global and national levels, working through the Caritas Internationalis network, the Global Shelter Cluster and contributing to responsible governments’ pursuits. For more on our influence work, explore our Shelter and Settlement Newsletter—June 2019.

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WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

GLOBAL CONNECTION
A commitment to increase access to water, improve sanitation and promote hygiene during humanitarian response efforts is part of CRS’ 2030 Water Security Strategy, which is combined with long-term development efforts.

The strategic approach aims to better use resources and capabilities, in order to reduce the level of need and help to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal #6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

With this as a basis, CRS therefore promotes integrated, innovative and sustainable solutions designed for emergency programs to transition easily into longer-term and development-oriented activities.

WASH ACROSS THE WORLD IN 2019
At present, a total of 125 programs are being implemented in 35 countries (Fig. 5), with the majority focused on improved sanitation (Fig. 6) and access to water and hygiene promotion. CRS’ Humanitarian Response Department WASH team supports these efforts, either as stand-alone interventions, integrated with shelter or market-based programs, or embedded in long-term nutrition, education and food security projects.

INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Nigeria
In this protracted crisis, a collaborative analysis between HRD WASH and Markets teams and the country program explored the public and private water market, examining the causes of its weak governance and finance that hinders structural improvements and delivery of quality water. The succeeding project targets private water providers to improve delivery and quality, and boost coordination with water regulatory institutions.

Uganda
In Bidi Bidi refugee settlement, CRS started a fecal sludge management program with the primary focus of creating livelihoods for South Sudanese refugees. The initiative brings together refugees, desludging entrepreneurs and local government. With other stakeholders, the next phase aims to establish a co-managed fecal sludge treatment plant.

Brazil
To better support Venezuelan migrants living on the streets, CRS assists the National Caritas to implement sustainable solutions that treat and reuse grey water to feed a Caritas-managed industrial laundry co-powered through solar panels. Additionally, water from toilets is treated to decrease soil and ground water contamination and hygiene promotion has been adapted to the specific context.

2019 QUICKFACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of country programs actively engaged in WASH</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people assisted with sanitation solutions</td>
<td>177,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply solutions completed</td>
<td>93,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People receiving hygiene promotion</td>
<td>835,408</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 5. Regions, countries and percentage of WASH programs

Fig. 6. Type, number of countries, and percentage of WASH programs

2020 AND ONWARDS
Based on the experiences from 2019, the CRS Humanitarian Response Department will continue to support country programs and partners with high quality technical inputs, and help establish strategic partnerships with other international organizations, social enterprises and academia.

To increase dignity for the most vulnerable, CRS plans to excel in sustainable sanitation solutions, particularly in urban areas where issues of space and cost impede the implementation of traditional sewage systems with negative public health consequences. Water security will remain a high priority—with water solutions designed to avoid depletion of aquifers and promote greater governance through close collaboration with states, municipalities and the private sector.

Finally, as we assist those in need, CRS will contribute to bridging the evidence gaps around integrated responses in rapid and protracted emergencies. Our influence will continue to expand these ideas at global and national levels, through the Global and National WASH Cluster, Operational Research and internal and external teams.
INFRASTRUCTURE

2019 QUICKFACTS

| Country programs actively engaged in infrastructure | 15 |
| Reported programs engaged in infrastructure | 42 |
| Top 4 types of infrastructure executed (Fig. 9) | Playgrounds (14%)  
Classrooms (10%)  
Footpaths (10%)  
Bridges (9%) |

PROVISION IN CONFLICT AND NATURAL CRISIS

With “home” at the core of CRS’ new 2030 agency strategy, we are called to consider social and economic community infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, roads, irrigation canals, sanitation and water facilities, markets, child-friendly spaces, playgrounds, community halls and more.

These are vital to the recovery of individuals and families in affected areas, and for the host communities who welcome them after conflict or natural hazards. They help bridge relationship gaps and increase social cohesion between affected families, host communities, government agencies and private sectors.

MORE COMPLEX IMPLEMENTATION AND NEED FOR GREATER COLLABORATION

Infrastructures efforts have been widely diverse (Fig. 7) and frequently merged into bigger initiatives such as large emergency shelter programs, construction of permanent houses, food for education/peace initiatives and health strengthening plans, among others. Spread across wide geographical areas, they involve many stakeholders, notably government institutions with varying policies & regulations, and often present unique challenges.

To meet these challenges for supporting family and community recovery, CRS and partners in 15 countries have experienced success with infrastructure rebuilding thanks to reinforced collaboration with community-based organizations, national and local government agencies and the private sector, among others. These countries also recognized the need for specialized knowledge and essential skills in construction management.

COMMISIONED LABOR AND CONTRACTS ARE THE MAIN MODALITY, ALTHOUGH OTHERS EXIST

From the multiple modalities (Fig. 8), commissioned labor and contracting proved to be the most common (at 52%) to implement infrastructure, and demonstrated better guarantees to meet the expected quality and completion date. In these cases, CRS more often than not managed the contracts directly by employing technical experts. To a lesser extent (16%), our work is carried out through financial or in-kind assistance that helps empower communities or partners to lead the process with limited risks.

Alternatively, CRS provides technical guidance and backing to competent stakeholders—such as local or national governments—as they implement their own infrastructure programs to help their communities recover.
INTEGRATED SHELTER, WASH AND INFRASTRUCTURE
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
HAITI

INTEGRATED SHELTER AND WASH
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ETHIOPIA
INDIA
INDONESIA
JERUSALEM/WEST BANK/GAZA

SHELTER
BANGLADESH*
BULGARIA
BURUNDI
AFGHANISTAN
BENIN*
BRAZIL
CAMEROON
KENYA
GUINEA

WASH
LAOS*
MICRONESIA
MYANMAR
SOMALIA
SOUTH SUDAN

INFRASTRUCTURE

*Country including infrastructure activities.