



**At Catholic Relief Services,  
we build safe, dignified  
homes and communities  
to help all people  
survive and thrive in  
the face of disaster.**



STRATEGIC CHANGE PLATFORM

### **Building Safe and Dignified Homes and Communities**

To be bolder and more focused in our ambition to be catalysts for transformational change *at scale*, we are investing in six strategic change platforms as part of our Vision 2030 agency strategy.

Each of the six platforms share a common objective: to achieve results at scale.

Recognizing that the concept of home extends beyond physical structures, this platform expands our approach and global influence from shelter and settlement to creating homes and communities as foundations for long-term health and prosperity.

# Building a lasting foundation for family.

Home and community are the starting points for safety, stability, identity and love. Losing a home due to any number of factors, including natural disaster or conflict, can fracture a family and impact economic and emotional well-being, as well as dignity. The loss of a home can also precipitate other life-altering challenges: separating people from their loved ones and support network, limiting access to food, water, health and social services, education and livelihood options. More than 100 million people worldwide have been displaced from their homes. In response, Catholic Relief Services, building on decades of experience, is expanding our approach from shelter and settlement to creating homes and communities, foundations for long-term health and prosperity.

## The Challenge

Around the world, an increasing number of people have been displaced by climate change, disasters, population growth, economic inequality and conflict. Our challenge is to support people and communities to survive and recover from crisis by helping to meet their immediate needs for survival, as well as providing long-term support for rebuilding their homes and lives. We work in partnership with especially vulnerable communities to strengthen preparedness, mitigate impact and loss, and build resilience.

## The Opportunity

We recognize the interconnection of the spiritual, human, social, political, financial, natural and physical aspects of people's lives. In times of crisis, these holistic elements can be disrupted or destroyed. Safe homes are the first step for uprooted families to rebuild their lives.

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***For 100 million people, it's urgent that we  
provide comprehensive solutions that enable  
families and communities to recover and flourish.***



## Our Approach

CRS is undertaking a transformational shift from a focus on Shelter and Settlement—the building of roofs and walls—to Homes and Communities, the foundation around which life is centered. We are committed to efforts that promote lasting recovery. Our two-pronged approach is designed to have a transformational impact where needed most:

1. Expand the reach of CRS programming to support more people in need, assisting 1.5 million people directly. This activities will include:
  - Safe and dignified shelter, water and hygiene in the aftermath of crisis.
  - Timely and dignified support throughout recovery, with emphasis on bolstering local economies.
  - Protection of children’s developmental and mental health.
  - Increased resilience capacities to cope with future crises.
  - Improved humanitarian response capacity of local institutions.
2. Bring about systems-level change by influencing key stakeholders—governments, international and local nongovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies and others—to adopt safe and dignified approaches. In this way, we will extend our impact beyond our direct programming, and assist 8.5 million people to achieve safe and dignified homes and communities.

Collectively, our efforts will ensure safe, dignified homes and communities for 10 million people by 2030.

## Core Practices and Tenets

Rebuilding a home offers families stability to rebuild other portions of their lives. CRS addresses people’s immediate and recovery needs by:

- Promoting and establishing sustainable solutions.
- Increasing local and national leadership and capacity, supporting the ability of local organizations to directly access donor funds, and empowering communities to leverage funding and support from their governments.
- Encouraging greater collaboration and coordination among stakeholders by promoting area-based approaches, leading inter-agency collaborative initiatives, and initiating and developing strategic alliances for scaling innovation.
- Engaging with housing market systems to support ability for families to purchase the necessary products and services to rent, build, repair, renovate or incrementally improve their homes. An intentional engagement of market actors—public and private—can bolster and sustain the housing market for families to maintain their homes.

## Where We Work

In 2022, CRS carried out activities Homes and Communities activities in **Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal, Vietnam, Malawi, Uganda and Greece—and supported 918,143 people** (350,994 in direct programming, and 558,149 through influence and scaling efforts). In the first two years of the this strategic initiative, CRS has reached 1.2 million people - 611,501 people in direct programming, and 649,867 through scaling efforts. With nearly 80 years of experience across more than 100 countries, CRS has built rich partnerships at the grassroots, national and international levels, and developed innovative practices that can be replicated globally for extended, lasting impact.

**We believe in transformation on a global scale.**  
**Learn more at [crs.org/safehomes](https://crs.org/safehomes).**

