



*CRS is partnering to train dozens of Liberian health trainers in safe Ebola screening and care. Photo courtesy of Mother Patern College of Health Sciences*



*Yazidi families flee targeted Kurdish areas in northern Syria. Photo by Sam Tarling for Caritas*



*In South Sudan, CRS is working to provide relief to hundreds of thousands of people. Photo by Ric Francis for CRS*

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*Catholic Relief Services teams and partners are responding to quickly evolving crises across several continents. With conflict escalating in the Middle East and a health crisis gripping parts of West Africa, CRS is ramping up our emergency response. Here's what we're doing to address the most pressing humanitarian crises today:*

**Asia:** This month marks the anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan, which left entire communities in the Philippines in ruins. Today, people are rebuilding their homes, jobs and lives. The signs of recovery are remarkable.

**West Africa:** Ebola continues to spread across West Africa. The death toll was 4,960 as of November. CRS and its partners are working with communities to stop the virus from spreading, and we're helping people in the affected countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea to heal.

**Iraq and Syria:** Hundreds of thousands of families in northern Iraq and Syria have fled targeted attacks by the terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, which has taken control of swaths of both countries. For Syrians, this turmoil comes amid a devastating, 4-year civil war. CRS is expanding its support for displaced families.

**Gaza:** Fifty-two days of intense fighting this summer between Israel and Palestinian militants killed more than 2,200 people and damaged or destroyed infrastructure throughout the Gaza Strip. CRS is working with communities to rebuild homes, infrastructure and livelihoods, and supporting children as they go back to school.

**India Cyclone and Flood Response:** India is responding to two back-to-back natural disasters that struck in September and October, and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. CRS is providing emergency shelter and relief to thousands.

**Ukraine:** In eastern Ukraine, CRS is partnering with Caritas Ukraine to scale up support for thousands of people displaced by ongoing unrest. Relief includes living supplies and safe housing before winter sets in and temperatures drop below zero.

**Central African Republic:** Nearly 2 years into violent civil strife, millions of people are struggling to survive with depleted food reserves and in dangerous living conditions. CRS teams and partners continue to work bravely to provide relief and care for thousands of people in need.

**South Sudan:** Since December 2013, the people of South Sudan have had to confront the reality of fragile, inter-ethnic relationships and a country loosely held together without a unifying national identity. These weak relationships coupled with destabilizing political jockeying have given way to large-scale fighting that has displaced people in the world's newest nation. Although CRS is responding with emergency food and other support, concerns loom about a possible famine.

## PHILIPPINES TYPHOON HAIYAN: ONE YEAR LATER



*Shelters designed by CRS engineers are adaptable to people's needs as their lives change and improve, with the ability to add rooms and floors. Photo by Jen Hardy/CRS*



*Markets are back in business as farmers, fisherman and others who lost their livelihoods in Haiyan received grants, skills and tools to return to work. Photo by Jen Hardy/CRS*

### **Context**

November marks 1 year since Super Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippines, claiming 6,201 lives and leaving entire swaths of Leyte and Samar islands in ruins. Haiyan left 1.1 million homes damaged or destroyed. Communities struggled to recover as streets and drains were clogged with mountains of debris, water systems were broken, and water sources were contaminated.

In advance of Haiyan, CRS redeployed staff to areas under threat, and mobilized resources to be at the ready or on their way to support local partners. Our emergency response and recovery efforts haven't stopped. Homes are being rebuilt, water systems are in place, farmers and others are getting back to work, and markets are thriving. Although the road to full recovery is long—probably 3 to 5 years—the spirit, strength and resilience of the Filipino people are evident in the dynamic improvements underway.

An outpouring of generosity by people across dioceses, communities, organizations and partners made the following results possible:

### **CRS Commitment**

CRS is supporting 100,000 families—500,000 people—with shelter, living supplies, water, sanitation and hygiene, debris clearing and income recovery. CRS is focusing on Palo, Tacloban, Ormoc and Eastern Samar. Recovery will likely take 3 to 5 years and cost \$50 million.

### **Impact**

#### ***Emergency phase (first 3 months):***

CRS supported 40,000 families—200,000 people—with emergency shelter, clean water and sanitation. Collaborating with communities and Caritas partners, CRS has provided:

- Materials for 42,921 emergency shelters
- 35,620 water, sanitation and hygiene kits
- Water taps and bladders for 13,120 people
- Cash-for-work that paid people to remove 3,991 tons of debris and cleared 111,135 feet of drains

#### ***Transitional Phase (years 1 and 2)***

***Shelter:*** 3,178 homes completed and 5,215 under construction

***Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:*** 2,832 household latrines built or repaired, and 3,026 under construction; 34,861 people attending CRS hygiene promotion trainings or campaigns; 146 hand pumps installed in Palo and Tacloban; 40 schools with hand-washing stations

***Livelihoods:*** 4,281 families (the goal is to reach 9,000) getting back to work with cash assistance and technical support to participate in training that will lead to employment in one of the following areas they choose: small businesses, agriculture, livestock production, fishery and aquaculture, or gardening.

## EBOLA CRISIS



CRS staff in Sierra Leone deliver Ebola prevention and treatment information to communities. Photo by Michael Stulman/CRS



### Context

Just 7 months after the first report of Ebola in the West African country of Guinea-Conakry, the World Health Organization has reported 13,567 cases of Ebola and 4,960 deaths. The World Health Organization warned that the number of new cases could reach 10,000 a week in less than 2 months.

Because medical services are overwhelmed dealing with the virus, communities are also experiencing more illness and mortality from conditions not related to Ebola, including malaria and childbirth. Out of fear, many families reject relatives who are ill, even when the sickness is unrelated to Ebola. People who are sick with Ebola—as well as survivors, orphans and health workers—have faced community rejection. Local economies are suffering because people have lost jobs and purchasing power. Restrictions on movement have made it difficult for people to access markets.

*“We have seen firsthand how locally tailored information delivered face-to-face in a way that engages the audience can be effective.”*  
—Meredith Stakem,  
CRS Regional Technical  
Advisor for Health

Ebola is a hemorrhagic fever caused by a virus. It spreads through contact with bodily fluids of an infected person. Fruit bats are considered a likely host of Ebola. Outbreaks usually begin in heavily forested areas and rural communities.

### CRS Commitment

CRS is supporting emergency programs in the three most affected countries—Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone—to respond to the immediate crisis as well future needs. CRS support includes food and hygiene supplies; access to basic health services; training for health care professionals; promoting prevention and hygiene; and providing counseling and other emotional support to families. CRS and our partners have already reached more than 2 million people with awareness messaging. We are training 3,000 health workers and providing personal protection equipment at community care centers to help provide access to routine health care for an estimated 3 million people.

### Priority Activities

**Safe, Accessible Health Care:** Provide personal protection equipment and cleaning supplies to workers at church health facilities. Train health care workers on safe screening, care of suspected Ebola patients and risk-prevention practices.

**Lifesaving Hygiene Practices:** Distribute household hygiene kits in hot spots and install public hand-washing stations in markets, churches, mosques and other locations. Support staffing, medicines and supplies at health facilities for routine health care.

**Awareness and Social Mobilization:** Conduct house-to-house visits to discuss preventing Ebola through safe practices. Develop educational messages for radio and television. Organize and train parish volunteers to conduct grassroots awareness campaigns. Involve priests and imams in educational outreach in churches and mosques.

**Food Assistance and Livelihoods Support:** Provide food assistance. Develop agriculture programs, likely to include access to seeds and tools, to provide local food and income.



## IRAQ & SYRIA HUMANITARIAN CRISES



*A Yazidi woman displaced from her home in northern Syria. Photo by Sam Tarling for Caritas*

### Context

In **Iraq**, millions of people remain in peril as ISIS continues to control key parts of the country. A reported 1.8 million people need emergency assistance, including 580,000 people who need shelter. Winterization help is urgently needed in the northern areas in and around Dohuk, a mountainous and remote region where snow and potential roadblocks are imminent.

In October, ISIS launched new attacks in northern and central Iraq, causing more people to flee their homes. Recent reports suggest that insurgents are changing tactics to avoid coalition airstrikes by becoming less visible and moving fighters into residential areas. ISIS still controls other large areas and cities in the province, including the city of Mosul and the Badush Dam. The local government has prioritized reopening schools for children, but hundreds of thousands of people with no other place to go are currently living in schools.

In neighboring **Syria** in late September and early October, escalating ISIS attacks pushed a flood of 160,000 refugees into Turkey in just days. Now in its 4th year, the Syrian civil war continues to devastate people's lives. The brutal war has killed 140,000 people, displaced 7 million people within Syria and forced 2.5 million to flee to other countries.

### CRS/Caritas Response

In **Iraq**, CRS is working in close partnership with Caritas Iraq to support 10,000 families in northern Iraq. To date, we've provided food, living supplies and winter materials to 4,200 families. Over the next 3 months CRS will reach an additional 3,000 families with winter supplies and provide transitional shelter support to 3,000 families living in unfinished or abandoned buildings. CRS and Caritas Iraq have opened joint offices in Erbil and Dahuk.

CRS is assisting 350,000 war-affected **Syrians**—primarily in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt—with shelter, living materials, food, medical care, trauma counseling and education.

**Highlight:** CRS President & CEO Carolyn Y. Woo, Board Chairman Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, and Chief Operating Officer Sean Callahan visited Iraq in early October.

### Priorities

**Food and Living Supplies:** Food baskets, blankets, bedding, clothing, living supplies, heaters and cookers

**Shelter and Winter Supplies:** Shelter materials, rent assistance, construction or repair of shelter, and winter materials

**Trauma Healing:** Counseling for children, adults and parents (underway for Syrian refugees; scheduled to begin for Iraqis)

**Education:** Education, tutorial and child care programs, and support to schools for capacity and materials

**Hygiene and Sanitation:** Soap, laundry detergent, diapers buckets and other hygiene materials to prevent illness

**Medical Assistance:** In Jordan and Lebanon, treatment for injuries, illnesses, chronic diseases, and maternal and child care

## GAZA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



*CRS is helping children return to school and families to rebuild their homes. Photo by Shareef Sarhan for CRS*



### Context

Fifty-two days of intense fighting last summer between Israel and Palestinian militants caused massive loss of life and infrastructure damage throughout the Gaza Strip. Along Gaza's eastern border, entire neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble. The conflict took a heavy toll on civilian and community life:

- 2,186 Palestinians were killed (69 percent civilians), including 516 children.
- 66 Israeli soldiers and 5 civilians in Israel were killed.
- 108,000 people lost their homes.
- Electricity and water shortages continue to affect most people.

### CRS Response

The CRS Gaza office is fully functioning. CRS has provided hygiene kits to 7,000 families, emergency relief packages to 6,000 families, and unconditional food vouchers to 400 families. CRS restocked medical supplies at Gaza's Ahli Arab Hospital and Caritas Jerusalem's network of clinics. And 10,000 middle school students received backpacks and school supplies.

Using cash-for-work, CRS is repairing 30 damaged kindergartens and helping 365 farmers rehabilitate their land. Communities affected by the conflict, including CRS staff and partners, can receive counseling and therapeutic sessions. CRS is also building transitional shelters for families in border areas where homes have been destroyed.

**Highlight:** CRS President & CEO Carolyn Woo, Board Chairman Archbishop Paul Coakley, and COO Sean Callahan visited Gaza in October.

### Priority Activities

**Shelter Repair and Reconstruction:** CRS architects are working with vulnerable families and communities to build transitional homes. A successful model home constructed in southern Gaza in October will be replicated.

**Livelihoods:** Cash-for-work programs to repair kindergartens and rehabilitate farms will provide immediate income opportunities. The agricultural work will also help farmers restart production on their damaged land.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Distribution of water for drinking and domestic use will help families who have lost their water tanks and running water.

**Education:** CRS is providing displaced families with backpacks and school supplies for their children and repairing school buildings damaged by shrapnel and gunfire to create safe, healthy and welcoming environments.



*"When my 6-year-old saw our house in rubble he said, 'Don't worry, Mom, I will take this all away and rebuild it for you,'" says Fadwe Almasre. Photo by Shareef Sarhan for CRS*

## INDIA & PAKISTAN FLOOD / INDIA CYLONE



*Kashmir home destroyed by floods.  
Photo by CRS staff*



*Map of areas affected by the floods.*

### Context

In mid-September, heavy rainfall in the Jammu and Kashmir state caused some of the region's worst flooding in 60 years. The death toll rose to 480 (280 people in Pakistan and 200 in India) and many villages were marooned for days. The Indian national army and government struggled to reach the remote pockets of Jammu on foot through mountainous terrain. Officials asked CRS to focus on these areas, which are among the poorest communities, as well as some of the worst affected areas of Kashmir.

In mid-October, a devastating cyclone made landfall in India's Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states, killing a reported 46 people and forcing 60,000 people into relief camps in Andhra Pradesh. Cyclone *Hudhud* barreled down on India's eastern coast, making landfall on October 12 near the city of Visakhapatnam, where it uprooted trees and destroyed infrastructure. With winds of 120 mph, the storm forced 400,000 people to evacuate and destroyed tens of thousands of homes in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Approximately 1.74 million people were affected in Andhra Pradesh alone.

India's eastern coast is routinely hit with strong storms. In 1999, a super cyclone killed more than 10,000 people in Odisha. Last October, cyclone Phailin prompted the evacuation of 500,000 people in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. CRS can respond quickly and effectively to disasters like these because of our generous donors and our years of experience.

### CRS Response

***Floods in Jammu and Kashmir:*** CRS has provided 1,058 families (5,425 people) with emergency relief in Reasi and Jammu districts and in Kashmir's Bandipora district. Partnering with the Jammu Srinagar diocese, and Catholic Social Service Society, CRS has provided tents, bedding, blankets, and kitchen supplies in both regions, with additional corrugated iron sheets for shelter support in Kashmir.

***Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha:*** CRS has supported 3,653 families (18,265 people) across Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. We were already working in in Odisha's affected areas, so CRS and our partners were able to help evacuate people and begin relief activities within 48 hours.

***Highlight:*** CRS used innovative communication technology for rapid registration, efficient distribution of materials, and laborsaving data collection.

### Priorities

***Living and winter supplies:*** tents, bedding, cooking supplies, mattresses and blankets (Jammu & Kashmir floods).

***Shelter, water and hygiene:*** pre-positioned shelter materials, water purification supplies, hygiene kits, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, flashlights and blankets (Odisha and Andhra Pradesh cyclone).

## UKRAINE



Families attend a funeral in Kyiv, Ukraine. Photo by



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### Context

Since conflict began in the eastern Donbas Region of Ukraine in April 2014, at least 379,059 people have been displaced within the country and 426,995 people have fled to neighboring countries, primarily Russia. A reported 3,724 people have been killed in eastern Ukraine. An estimated 5.1 million people continue to live in conflict-affected areas.

Although the warring factions signed a cease-fire in September, the agreement is fragile, and gunfire and shelling happen daily in the disputed provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk. Four people were killed in the shelling of a school in Donetsk on October 1—the first day of school. The same day multiple people died after a bus in Donetsk was shelled. The following day, more shelling in Donetsk killed a Swiss delegate from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Semi-autonomous governments—Donetsk People’s Republic and the Luhansk People’s Republic—have been established in the disputed oblasts. Some social services have been restored in these areas and United Nations efforts to establish contact with the leadership there have been successful.

Displaced and vulnerable families need supplies and shelter for winter. Many displaced families have spent the past few months in camps they will soon be forced to leave. Also, local community assistance—which was stronger in the early phases of this crisis—has started to lag. Communities are growing resentful of male refugees who they believe should return to disputed areas to fight separatists.

On October 20, the Ukrainian parliament adopted a long-awaited law simplifying the process for uprooted families to access social services. They have struggled to get help without their IDs and passports, which many left behind when they fled attacks. Displaced families who relied on social services in hard-hit areas like Donetsk haven’t received their pension payments for several months, and won’t be able to get them retroactively. Families in the disputed areas lack basic services and humanitarian assistance. The United Nations reports that Ukraine’s pharmaceutical supply is nearly gone.

### CRS Response

In coordination with Caritas Europa, CRS is supporting emergency programs in the east and west to assist 1,400 uprooted families with emergency living supplies, potable water and food baskets. CRS is supporting Caritas Ukraine to bring new staff onboard, train existing staff in emergency techniques, and establish key procedures and relationships to carry out a critical winter support program for 3,100 families funded by the U.S. Government Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

### Priorities

**Food, Water & Living Supplies:** Many people on the move have no means to purchase the basics. CRS is providing food, water and living supplies.

**Shelter Supplies and Support:** CRS and its partners are providing shelter materials, rent assistance, construction or repair of shelter, and winter supplies

**Psychological and Social Support, and Trauma Healing:** Emotional trauma is high. CRS will provide trauma healing, conflict resolution and peacebuilding services.

**Preparation for Long Term:** CRS is helping people resettle in new locations, and prepare for winter with supplies. We’re also providing cash-for-work programs so people can support their families.



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



CRS provides firewood to thousands of families in Boda who have been trapped in their neighborhood for several months. Photo by Erin Lewis/CRS

### Context

Far from the international spotlight, the lives of Central Africans remain in turmoil. Nearly 2 years of violent civil strife between two groups battling for political control has paralyzed community life with fear, grief and attacks on civilians. It has also depleted sources of food and income. CRS teams and partners continue to work bravely in dangerous conditions to provide relief and care for thousands of people.

More than 5,000 people have been killed since the army and the rebel alliance Seleka began heavy fighting in late 2012. A coup by the Seleka in March 2013 led to widespread pillaging and looting by Seleka and rogue fighters. In response, groups of fighters known as anti-balaka came together to protect communities and avenge the attacks. Both the Seleka and anti-balaka have carried out gross human rights violations. Attacks on innocent civilians have displaced nearly 1 million people. Entire villages have emptied. Many of the country's Muslims fled the country fearing retribution for the acts of the Seleka, while others are trapped in neighborhoods. If they leave their homes, they might be killed. In January 2014, Catherine Samba-Panza, the former mayor of the capital, Bangui, assumed the presidency, but the fighting continues.

*“Some 7,000 men, women and children have effectively been imprisoned within a few square blocks of Boda, cut off from commerce, travel, food and freedom.” —Chris Hennemeyer, CRS Lobaye*

CRS is responding with shelter, food, nutrition, living supplies, agricultural recovery and efforts aimed at peacebuilding and reconciliation.

### Impact

- Emergency food supplies for 2,400 families; seeds and farming tools to 8,172 families
- Shelter kits for 2,437 families and construction of model shelter
- Conflict resolution training and trauma healing workshops for 800 interfaith and civil society leaders
- Technical training for 250 families on how to prepare land for rebuilding and place latrines
- Living supplies for 10,723 families
- Firewood to 700 families in the Muslim enclave in Boda
- Support for logistics, distribution, staff training and other infrastructure improvements for Caritas partners
- Construction startup of a community health center and community radio
- Advocacy nationally and internationally for peace and disarmament

### Priorities

**Living and Shelter Supplies:** Supply sleeping mats, tarps, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and essential living supplies.

**Shelter Reconstruction:** Repair and/or reconstruct damaged or destroyed homes in Ouham and Lobaye provinces.

**Agriculture and Livelihoods Recovery:** Distribute seeds and tools to help farmers resume planting and improve nutrition.

**Strengthen Capacity of Caritas:** Support partner staff with training, office supplies, fuel, vehicles and generators.

**Peace and reconciliation:** Train interfaith civil society leaders and government officials on principles to promote grassroots and national reconciliation through a nationwide dialogue.



## SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL STRIFE AND POTENTIAL HUNGER CRISIS



CRS is collaborating with the World Food Program to airlift and distribute 7,000 metric tons of food for 100,000 people in Jonglei State over several months. Photo by Donal Reilly/CRS

### Context

Conflict in South Sudan has created a humanitarian crisis that borders on catastrophe. Thousands of people have been killed and 1.7 million have had to flee their homes since December. Unable to plant crops, people's food supplies are dwindling, raising concerns that some may starve. Some 450,000 people have fled to Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

CRS and other aid agencies are warning of a possible famine in South Sudan next year. Parts of South Sudan—already experiencing the world's worst food crisis—could fall into famine early next year if the 9-month-old conflict escalates as expected. Tensions within the South Sudanese government escalated in July 2013 when President Salva Kiir reshuffled the cabinet and dismissed Vice President Riek Machar. In December, political infighting within the national army escalated into violence in Juba and spread to other states. The political conflict soon expanded to fighting among ethnic groups.

Families have been forced from their homes in the Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states, and farmers haven't been able to plant. Meanwhile, heavy rains have washed out roads, so large areas of the country are inaccessible. The United Nations has warned of widespread famine.

With its long history in Sudan, CRS is front and center in communities at great risk. Our teams are working in close collaboration with the Catholic Church, which has long been a humanitarian lifeline and peace negotiator.

### CRS/Caritas Commitment

CRS is supporting tens of thousands of people in Jonglei and Awerial states with emergency living supplies and shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene; food, vegetable seeds and staple crops; and peacebuilding and reconciliation.

### Impact

- Distributed 566 metric tons of food to 22,595 people, and seeds and tools to 2,405 families
- Gave nutritional supplements to 3,625 pregnant and nursing mothers, and children under 5
- Provided emergency shelter supplies to 10,603 families; constructed 693 shelters (Awerial)
- Promoted hygiene and safe drinking water to 78,003 individuals; built over 80 emergency community latrines with hand-washing stations; drilled six boreholes and repaired eight boreholes

### Priorities

**Transitional Shelter:** While providing shelter kits with essentials for transitional homes, CRS is studying shelter models and typography to develop a durable and weather-resistant housing solution for the rainy season.

**Emergency Living Supplies:** Cooking sets, blankets, mosquito nets and buckets are being provided to uprooted families.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** We're providing clean water, hygiene supplies, latrines and water taps to prevent illness.

**Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding:** We're supporting the Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation(CNHPR), led by Archbishop Daniel Deng from the Episcopal Church of Sudan and Catholic Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban. CRS supported CNHPR in the training of 76 peace mobilizers who will boost reconciliation efforts throughout the country.

*"The crisis and violence that have wracked this country have had an impact on everyone. The majority of CRS staff implementing the food distributions have been themselves displaced ... At great personal risk they walk for days, sometimes wading through knee-deep water, to reach food distribution points."*

*—Brigid O'Connor, CRS South Sudan*