

November 2017

# GLOBAL EMERGENCY UPDATE

This is the latest snapshot of Catholic Relief Services' ongoing emergency response and recovery activities around the world. Our work is possible thanks to the generous support of private and public donors, the dedication of local partners, and the unwavering presence of Caritas and the local Catholic Church.



## EAST AND SOUTH ASIA



Mohammed Karin, right, helps carry an elderly woman from his village across the Myanmar border into Bangladesh after they arrived by boat. Photo by Mahmud Rahman for CRS/Caritas Bangladesh

**"My cousin was killed because she was pregnant and couldn't run fast enough. They poured petrol on the house and set it alight, but she wouldn't leave without her son. I cry for her son because I delivered him. I named him. I still dream of him."**

Shetara, midwife, Moynarghona Camp, Bangladesh

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**MEXICO** Two earthquakes just 11 days apart killed nearly 500 people, destroyed homes and other buildings, damaged infrastructure, and knocked out water and electricity supplies. Many people have been displaced, and aftershocks cause continued concern. CRS is providing emergency shelter support, key living supplies and hygiene kits, communal cooking facilities, and counseling for families.

**VENEZUELA** Rising inflation and political violence are leaving communities without food, medical care or basic government services.

An estimated 4 million people are eating only twice a day. CRS is supporting Caritas Venezuela to focus on the needs of children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and the elderly.

**THE CARIBBEAN** Hurricanes Irma and Maria have resulted in loss of life, property and infrastructure, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. CRS is providing food and shelter, water and hygiene kits, and, in the British Virgin Islands, has set up a database to register government-approved beneficiaries.



Damage on Tortola, the largest of the British Virgin Islands, after Hurricane Irma. Photo by CRS staff

## AFRICA



Turkana, in northern Kenya, has been hit by severe drought. Photo by Nancy McNally/CRS

**LAKE CHAD BASIN** More than 10 million people in one of the world's poorest, most drought-prone regions are estimated to have been affected by the Lake Chad Basin crisis, now in its seventh year. Across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, Boko Haram has killed thousands of people and 2.4 million have fled their homes. CRS is responding with emergency relief in all four countries.



Displaced families receive food in Duk County, South Sudan. Photo by Nancy McNally/CRS

**KENYA** Nearly 73,000 children are severely malnourished and at risk of dying from drought-related hunger without immediate aid. Kenya is also battling outbreaks of cholera and dengue fever, with more than 1,000 cases of each since January. CRS expects to support 15,500 families with access to water and improved hygiene, livestock health and livelihoods recovery.

**SOMALIA** About 1 million people have been forced from their homes by hunger and violent conflict, and an estimated 3.1 million need emergency assistance. A lack of clean water has led to a severe outbreak of cholera. CRS efforts will include water and hygiene services, mobile clinics and training community health workers to prevent and treat malnutrition and communicable diseases.

**SOUTH SUDAN AND UGANDA** The South Sudan refugee crisis is the largest in Africa and the fastest growing in the world. Nearly 1.9 million people are internally displaced, and another 2 million have fled to neighboring countries. More than 1 million South Sudanese refugees are living in Uganda. CRS is focusing on emergency water, sanitation and hygiene services for refugees and host communities.

## EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

**IRAQ** More than 3 million Iraqis have been uprooted in the last 3 years, including recent waves of displacement as Iraqi forces retake territories previously under ISIS control. CRS and Caritas Iraq are expanding support for newly displaced families, as well as those returning to their communities.

**SYRIA** Since the catastrophic war began in Syria, 5 million refugees have sought safety in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and other countries. Inside Syria, many people remain in danger. CRS and our local partners provide critical, comprehensive support to more than 1 million Syrians across the region.



"I believe education is the most important thing for my kids and for their future," says Syrian refugee Reem, pictured with one of her three children in her home in Zarqa, Jordan. Photo by Oscar Durand for CRS

**EUROPE** Across Greece, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bulgaria, CRS and our partners provide a range of programs—from meeting the urgent needs of newly arriving refugee families, to helping thousands of longer-term refugees build new lives.

**UKRAINE** Fighting has led to the displacement of more than 1.7 million people and the evacuation of an estimated 1.1 million to neighboring countries. About 4 million people in Ukraine, many of them displaced, need humanitarian assistance. CRS and its partners are providing assistance to 400,000 people.

## BANGLADESH

### VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT

Bangladesh is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in its history due to the unprecedented influx of refugees from Myanmar. In 3 months, more than 600,000 refugees have arrived, escaping horrific violence.

In Myanmar's Rakhine State, conflict involving the military and the Muslim minority has led to more than 60 percent of the population of northern Rakhine State fleeing their country—and the numbers continue to rise. The violence they have endured, reportedly by Myanmar government forces, is described by the United Nations as "textbook ethnic cleansing." Tens of thousands are internally displaced and are reportedly trying to flee.

At least 120,000 members of the Muslim minority group are in camps in central Rakhine State, where they have been since 2012. They are dependent on humanitarian aid and are unable to leave due to government restrictions.

The needs of the Rohingya refugees are dire. They arrive in Bangladesh hungry, exhausted and depleted of any resources. Boats cross the Naf River with families, children, the elderly and people who have spent significant funds to pay for the crossing. Many have faced horrific torture and lost loved ones, including children, in the violence. Their escape often involved fleeing a direct attack, watching their houses burn, hiding in the bush for days as they walked, going hungry, and crossing rivers filled with bodies. The human needs—emotional and physical—are immense. Children make up more than half of the Rohingya refugees.

Refugees are living in crowded, unsanitary camps, completely dependent on aid to meet their most basic needs. By the time they reach the camps, families have used most of their savings on their transportation and shelters, often made out of no more than bamboo and recycled plastic sheets.



At Shabnur Harbor in Teknaf on the Bangladesh border, Rohingya refugees gather after arriving by boat from Myanmar. Photo by Mahmud Raman for CRS/Caritas Bangladesh

In Myanmar, humanitarian access to northern Rakhine State is extremely limited, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without any help, and in crucial need of protection. There are widespread reports of burned villages, extrajudicial killing and crimes against humanity.

The ethnic Rakhine community, the majority of the population of Rakhine State, suffers from a lack of access to services, and poverty worsened by conflict. The lack of international assistance risks further entrenching the area in poverty.

Whether the Rohingya people will be granted refugee status and given the opportunity to support themselves in Bangladesh has yet to be determined. The likelihood of a peaceful return to Myanmar—what many refugees describe as their preference—is also unknown. "The uncertainty," as one refugee said, "is eating away at us."

Watch these recent bulletins from camps in Bangladesh:

- [Arrival of refugees at the border](#)
- [Food distribution](#)

**"There were a lot of people like me who couldn't afford the boat fare, and were very hungry. I think many must have died there from hunger."**

**Sanamula, Thangkhali Camp, speaking about the people he left behind at the Myanmar border before taking a boat to Bangladesh**

### CRS RESPONSE

**BANGLADESH:** CRS is supporting Caritas Bangladesh as it provides relief to Rohingya refugees across camps in Cox's Bazar. Emergency support includes a 2-month supply of food and kitchen supplies for 10,000 families—nearly 70,000 people. There are plans for ongoing assistance, including food, emergency shelter, living supplies, water and sanitation, protection services, and potentially design and infrastructure support for new camps. In coordination with other actors, CRS and Caritas will provide integrated shelter, WASH, protection

and site development assistance to 1,500 families at one of the identified sites. Caritas is procuring living supplies—such as floor mats, bedding and clothes—to assist 10,200 households.

**MYANMAR:** CRS is supporting the national Caritas and its 16 dioceses with emergency and development programs, including those for conflict-affected people in Kachin and northern Shan states. Neither CRS nor Caritas are working in Rakhine State, as CRS does not have permission from the Myanmar government to do so.

## PHILIPPINES

### SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN

#### CONTEXT AND CRS RESPONSE

November marks 4 years since Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, claiming more than 6,000 lives and devastating property and infrastructure on the islands of Leyte and Samar, including 1.1 million homes. Since then, CRS has focused emergency recovery programs in the hard-hit areas of eastern Samar and Leyte, including Tacloban City. Recovery activities are expected to be completed in or before 2018. An outpouring of generosity by people across dioceses, communities, organizations and partners has made the following possible.

##### ▪ **Emergency phase, first**

**3 months:** CRS supported 40,000 families—200,000 people—with emergency shelter, clean water and sanitation.

**▪ Transitional phase, years 1 and 2:** CRS helped build or rebuild homes through technical training, materials, cash assistance and construction. We taught carpenters how to build safe, disaster resistant houses and supplied them with essential tools. The shelter design incorporated latrines and septic tanks to ensure sanitary environments. More than 20,000 families—100,000 people—received support for their homes, and 17,600 families now have latrines.

##### ▪ **Recovery phase, year 3+:**

CRS' disaster risk reduction efforts help communities prepare for future emergencies. CRS also helps improve local infrastructure for protective buffer zones between the coast and homes. CRS' shelter and neighborhood resettlement work helps families who lived in dangerous areas along the coast relocate nearby.



CRS has helped communities who lived in vulnerable coastal locations, like this one in Tacloban City, resettle in safe areas. Photo by Dooshima Tsee/CRS

#### ANIBONG RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Among the areas most devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan was the coastal district of Anibong on the island of Leyte. The damage was so severe that the Philippine government declared it an unsafe place to live. As part of the local government's plan to resettle 14,000 families, CRS has collaborated closely to help 900 families build safe, sustainable communities 4.6 miles from Anibong.

##### ▪ **Community participation:**

CRS has involved 100 percent of the project's beneficiaries in the urban planning and site design process, including 100 youth aged 7 to 17, to ensure CRS captures the vision and ideas of younger generations.

##### ▪ **Livelihoods preparation:**

To help families develop a plan for how they will earn a living, CRS launched a comprehensive market analysis to identify the most relevant income-generating activities on the resettlement site. CRS is providing men and women with guidance on training and skills development courses. CRS is also enrolling all 900 families in a 9-month savings program.

##### ▪ **Gender and protection:**

CRS conducted a 2-month community-wide gender and protection analysis, which informed a gender and protection strategy for the project.

**▪ Land tenure:** CRS partnered with a local affordable lending institute to enroll each family in an affordable housing program with low interest rates and minimal monthly payments.

**▪ Information and communications technology for development:** CRS used an online platform to assign a plot of land to each family. CRS cross-referenced data on the families' preferences on location, plot size and neighbors.



Rowena Bohol, a community leader, presents the results of the social and resource map made during community consultation activities. Photo by Ronald Guinn for CRS



CRS distributes emergency shelter materials to earthquake-affected communities in Oaxaca. Photo by Keith Dannemiller for CRS

## CONTEXT

On September 7, an 8.2-magnitude earthquake struck southern Mexico causing nearly 100 deaths and damaging 110,000 buildings in Oaxaca and Chiapas. Just 11 days later, buildings across Mexico City collapsed during a 7.1-magnitude earthquake, killing 220 people in the city and 140 people in surrounding states.

The earthquakes caused structural damage to homes and other buildings, bridges, roads, water supplies and the electrical grid. The first earthquake damaged 110,000 buildings in Oaxaca and Chiapas. More than 7,000 aftershocks, including 2 significant ones, worsened the damage.

People in Oaxaca and Chiapas have ongoing uncertainty due to the continuing aftershocks. Some families continue to travel between their communities and the established shelters and canteens. Others have decided to stay close to their collapsed homes to protect their remaining belongings and to receive support from the Mexican government.

In the Isthmus of Oaxaca, about 800,000 people were affected across 115 municipalities. Dozens of small towns were severely damaged, and ongoing heavy rain is exacerbating the situation. Catholic dioceses report that up to half of homes have collapsed. Uprooted families who are unable to move to camps are exposed to the elements.

Water systems in many communities were damaged or destroyed, and sanitation facilities were lost. Many small, isolated towns still report electricity cuts and no running water.

The Mexican government and Church authorities report that families, particularly children, are traumatized. Communities need food, clothing, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.

In Mexico City, at least 45 buildings collapsed and 2,000 were condemned. Most of the aid from the Mexican government was initially focused on the city, although efforts are now underway in Puebla, Morelos and the State of Mexico. Hospitals are open and clinics have been established in shelters and open spaces where affected families have been camping. Most schools and businesses have returned to normal in almost all districts.

**Uprooted families that are unable to move to camps are exposed to the elements. Families, particularly children, are traumatized. Communities need food, clothing, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.**

## CRS RESPONSE

CRS, Caritas Mexico, Tehuantepec Diocese and Missionaries of Jesus Christ Resurrected are responding. The response strategy for Oaxaca, Chiapas and Morelos includes:

- Distribute 2,500 tarpaulins
- Provide key living supplies, including 570 kitchen sets, and 120 locally made clay cooking pots
- Provide hygiene kits and organize hygiene promotion activities
- Set up 15 communal cooking facilities to ensure a daily hot meal to supported communities
- Construct 30 temporary shelters for extremely vulnerable families
- Train counsellors to reach out to families dealing with grief, distress and trauma

The following program activities are under discussion, pending further assessments and taking into consideration planned support from the Mexican government:

- In smaller communities, complement government support to improve access to water and provide vouchers to help small businesses repair infrastructure.
- Support families with construction guidance; they are receiving cash from the government to rebuild but have no technical support so this will help them "build back safer" with housing that is more resilient to future shocks.

## THE CARIBBEAN

### HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA

#### CONTEXT

Across the Caribbean, catastrophic Category 5 Hurricane Irma claimed at least 34 lives and affected half a million people in early September. The hurricane made landfall on the Leeward Islands, and then again on the northern coast of Cuba, before turning toward Florida. Most of the deaths and severe damage took place on the small islands of Antigua, Barbuda, Saint Martin and San Bartolome in the Leeward Islands, and on the northern coastal provinces of Cuba.

**British Virgin Islands:** At least 6,300 people have been displaced, with 25 percent of homes reportedly uninhabitable. Damage is estimated at \$3 billion, and a third of the population have been left without jobs.

**Cuba:** Hurricane Irma damaged nearly every region, including Havana, after sweeping over 1,240 miles of the northern provinces. At least 187,000 homes, 1,600 health centers and 1,400 schools were damaged or destroyed, and an estimated 98,400 people have been affected. Priority needs include house repair, living and hygiene supplies and clothing.

**Dominica:** Ten days after Hurricane Irma struck the region, another Category 5 storm, Hurricane Maria, hit the island of Dominica. Reaching speeds of up to 160 miles per hour, Irma was the first Category 5 hurricane to have made landfall there. The whole island was affected, suffering dozens of landslides and flooding. The official death toll stands at 38. Many roads are now cleared, but heavy rains have caused additional landslides. Schools have been used as shelters. Food, water and electricity are still in short supply.



A quarter of homes are reportedly uninhabitable in the British Virgin Islands, where CRS is helping register vulnerable households. Photo by CRS staff

**Dominican Republic:** Although it was not hit by Hurricane Maria directly, homes and farmland in many areas of the Dominican Republic experienced severe flooding. In the sugar mill settlements, where many Haitian migrants live, shelters were destroyed.

The danger of waterborne diseases and other health risks remain high. The Dominican government has been assisting with road repair, shelter needs and house reconstruction, but many outlying communities have yet to be reached.

#### CRS RESPONSE

**British Virgin Islands:** The British Virgin Islands government has officially approved the Joint Cash Platform, an electronic system for registering beneficiaries. It was set up by CRS, Caritas Antilles and the British Red Cross as part of their Household Assistance Program. More than 50 social workers have been trained to use this tool, and deployed to more than 15 stations around the country. As of October 25, 965 households had been registered. Communications were managed through radio, mass messages, outreach by community leaders and door-to-door visits to pre-identified vulnerable households.

**Cuba:** CRS helped Caritas Cuba distribute hygiene kits to more than 300 families in Havana, and supported a total of 2,720 families with food, water and hygiene kits in Camaguey, Ciego de Avila and Santa Clara. Caritas Cuba is now looking for opportunities to provide scarce construction materials that would need to be imported, and will support this in Santa Clara.

**Dominica:** CRS and its partner, Caritas Antilles, have distributed 750 hygiene kits, 1,590 tarps, 920 buckets and 660 water filters to more than 600 families in 4 communities in

the hardest hit southeastern region. Hygiene kits include soap, tubs, sanitary kits for women, folding jerry cans, laundry soap, sarongs, whistles and solar lights.

CRS and Caritas Antilles are planning to support 400 families with shelter repair, and 50 families whose homes were totally destroyed with transitional shelter. CRS and Caritas have bought large water storage containers and are coordinating with the local water board and the United Nations Children's Fund to identify the neediest areas in southern Dominica. So far, Tete Morne, Pichelin and Grand Bay are being targeted for these interventions, but the number of communities is expected to grow.

**Dominican Republic:** With support from CRS, Caritas Dominican Republic has provided 590 families with vouchers to buy food, hygiene and living supplies, as well as 150 families with hygiene kits. To date, CRS partners have reached more than 1,000 families with assistance. Caritas has mobilized volunteers to assist with distributions across the dioceses. Our partner teams have also begun hygiene and health messaging in close coordination with the Dominican Ministry of Health.

## LAKE CHAD BASIN DISPLACEMENT

### CONTEXT

Now in its seventh year, and spanning Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, the Lake Chad Basin crisis has been estimated to affect 10.7 million people in one of the world's poorest, most drought-prone regions. Thousands have been killed and 2.3 million people have fled their homes, a number that has tripled over the last 2 years. With the lean season underway, about 7.2 million people are critically short of food.

Ongoing military operations and attacks by armed groups have severely limited access by humanitarian organizations and triggered new waves of displacement, particularly in



In the village of Rara, Nigeria, children fetch clean water from a borehole rehabilitated with support from CRS, and our partners and supporters. Photo by Michael Stulman/CRS

Nigeria's Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states; Cameroon's Far North Region, including the department of Mayo Sava; and on the Niger-Chad border.

From January through April, 164 hepatitis E cases were reported in Niger's Diffa Region. Most cases were among women, and all 25 fatal cases were among pregnant women.

### CRS RESPONSE

CRS continues to respond across all four countries. As outlined in CRS' [Lake Chad Basin strategy](#), priority activities include:

#### CHAD

- Voucher fairs supporting 1,030 families with food

#### NIGERIA

##### Food and nutrition

- Electronic food vouchers for 120,000 people
- Malnutrition screening for 23,100 children under age 5
- Follow-up visits to 23,300 caretakers to provide guidance on nutrition and feeding for malnourished children

##### Shelter and living supplies

- Shelter construction support for 2,600 families
- Vouchers for living supplies for 4,500 families
- Hygiene kits for 1,500 women

##### WASH

- Water purification tablets for 7,150 families
- Construction of 270 latrines and hand-washing stations, 8 water points and 1 water tank
- Hygiene promotion for 395,100 people
- Organization of 27 events involving 1,800 people, to ensure the cleanliness of communal spaces

#### Agriculture

- Training for 4,400 farmers
- Vouchers for 10,100 families to buy seeds and tools from local vendors
- Formed 275 local farmer groups
- Established 33 demonstration plots and 48 demonstration farms

#### Social cohesion

- Conflict assessment in Yobe and Borno
- Trained 635 community members in social cohesion and 390 in trauma healing

#### CAMEROON

- Provided 21,840 people with seeds, tools and training; cash for work; and unconditional cash grants

#### NIGER

##### Food

- 1,050 metric tons of staple foods for 1,200 households

#### Protection

- Formed 42 protection committees
- Trained 140 people in community action plans
- Broadcast protection radio messages to 36,500 people

#### Livelihoods

- Supported 1,800 women's livelihoods through small ruminant fairs
- Goat feed and salt licks for livestock in 2,000 households
- 3,000 plants for hedgerows to protect communal gardens
- Seed and tool fairs for 2,860 households
- 494 acres of land rehabilitated through cash for work
- Cash transfers and cash for work totaling \$729,400 for 5,600 households

#### WASH

- Built 1,250 emergency latrines and 975 tippy-taps
- Built 4 solar-powered wells
- Broadcast hygiene promotion radio messages to 36,500 people
- 37 villages certified in compliance with CRS sanitation standard, including use of latrines
- Distributed soap, and water purification tablets, and promoted hygiene among 950 households
- Distributed hygiene kits to 3,250 women and girls

#### Shelter and household items

- Winterization fairs for 1,100 households
- Rainy season fairs for 1,500 households

## CONTEXT

The refugee crisis in South Sudan has become the world's third largest, after those in Syria and Afghanistan. As of mid-August, there were more than 1 million South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, according to UNHCR, more than 85 percent of them women and children.

To date, Bidi Bidi refugee camp in Uganda has received more than 285,000 South Sudanese refugees, making it the world's largest refugee settlement. The huge influx of refugees has led to the opening of several new settlements in the West Nile region.

## CRS RESPONSE

Activities to date include:

### **Shelter**

CRS will build 725 semi-permanent shelters. CRS is providing support in the neediest and more newly populated areas of the settlement, Zones 4 and 5, as well as other zones in need. Support includes supplying tools and construction materials, as well as technical assistance to ensure homes are built using disaster-resilient techniques.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

#### **Borehole motorization**

- To increase the water supply in Zone 5, CRS works with Oxfam, Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister and the UNHCR on borehole motorization.
- CRS raises awareness with refugee and host community leaders on their roles and responsibilities. These included participating in trench excavation, mobilizing local materials and clearing debris.

#### **Community mobilization**

- Organized community awareness activities and monitored hygiene promotion with families.
- Held community meetings to raise awareness of hygiene support.
- Addressed community concerns about the need for latrine-digging tools, brick molds, the cleaning of water tanks and other support for latrine construction.



CRS employs skilled labor from both refugee and host communities to help build shelters for vulnerable households in Uganda's Bidi Bidi refugee camp. Photo by Hugh Rutherford/CRS

**"We heard gunshots at our neighbor's and quickly ran away into the bush. We left with nothing and spent 2 days walking, without food or water. Now we are here, but still we face challenges."**

**Ruth Asimtai, a mother of eight, in Bidi Bidi refugee camp**

### **Hygiene and sanitation training**

CRS has a team of 37 trained community hygiene promoters who teach people about good hygiene practices in the settlement.

### **Production of latrine slabs**

CRS and our partners have trained masons, carpenters, other workers and volunteers in latrine slab production. The domed slab forms the basis of a space families can use as a bathing area and latrine. To date, 300 slabs have been produced by youth from refugee and host communities.

Since Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister and the UNHCR have adjusted their targeting policy for latrines, CRS is now focusing about half of its latrine efforts on meeting the needs of people with disabilities. In addition to the latrine slab and digging toolkit provided to all latrine beneficiaries, CRS is providing labor and additional construction materials for the superstructure of the latrine, as families are not able to build the latrine themselves.

### **Distribution of latrine-digging kits**

CRS has distributed 80 latrine-digging kits to families in Ayivu and Yangani.

### **Decommissioning communal latrines**

CRS trained a team of 18 youths, and equipped them with lime, bleach and cleaning materials to ensure proper and safe latrine decommissioning. To date, 277 communal latrines have been decommissioned.

### **Livelihoods**

CRS is now supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable refugees and host community members. The focus is on supporting families with:

- Training, and distribution of seeds and supplies to increase agricultural production
- Training and provision of start-up capital to engage in sustainable micro-enterprises
- The establishment of groups using CRS' microsavings methodology

### **Cash-for-work**

To improve youth self-reliance, CRS has engaged 540 laborers, both women and men, from refugee and host communities, in slab production, bricklaying, decommissioning latrines and other hygiene-promotion activities.



Turkana, in northern Kenya, has been hit by severe drought, and food security is deteriorating.  
Photo by Nancy McNally/CRS

## KENYA CONTEXT

Drought in the arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya remains dire, although water availability and vegetation has improved in the few regions where rain fell in May and June. In the pastoral areas, food security is deteriorating further. Below-average milk production and low livestock prices have resulted in household food shortages. Drier than normal conditions have caused atypical livestock migration, leading to conflict over resources. The country is also battling outbreaks of cholera and dengue fever, with more than 1,000 cases of each since January.

Nearly 73,000 children are severely malnourished and at risk of dying of hunger without immediate aid. In Turkana alone, severe acute malnutrition rates—the most life-threatening form of hunger—are up nearly fourfold in just 1 year, from 2.3 to 8.3 percent. Nearly 40,000 pregnant and nursing women are malnourished. As the dry season unfolds, conditions will deteriorate and drought interventions must be scaled up. A key issue is the onset of the short rains season, since any delay will have significant consequences for food security and wellbeing.

## CRS RESPONSE

CRS is responding to the drought in five counties—Kwale, Kilifi, Turkana, Isiolo and Samburu—by supporting access to water for households and livestock, hygiene promotion, improved livestock health and livelihood recovery efforts. The project is being implemented through our local Church partners and the county governments. We expect to reach 15,500 families. Completed and ongoing support includes:

- Reached 7,000 people with hygiene support, training 100 community leaders and sharing radio messages, posters and other communication materials; hygiene promotion will continue for 6 months
- Distributed hygiene kits and water purification tablets to 2,150 households, including 1,810 female-headed households, reaching a total of 12,900 people
- Repaired and maintained water infrastructure, for 1,500 families
- Helped communities repair and rehabilitate rainwater collection points and install underground storage tanks
- Prepared to install and rehabilitate water points
- Bought and distributed high-quality feed to 5,600 livestock farmers in 5 counties
- Prepared seed fairs to reach 6,000 farmers
- Identified farmers to be supported with restocking later in the year
- Began plans to support farmers with small-scale irrigation systems; water system rehabilitation includes plans for livestock watering points
- During the October-December quarter, veterinary care is being provided to livestock, including disease control and deworming

## KENYA AND SOMALIA

### HUNGER AND DISEASE

#### SOMALIA CONTEXT

Three consecutive below-average rainy seasons have resulted in persistent drought, projected to last until at least next year. About 1 million Somalis have been forced from their homes by hunger and conflict, and an estimated 3.1 million people are in need of emergency assistance. A lack of clean water has led to a severe cholera outbreak, which peaked at more than 75,000 reported cases, many of them fatal. The most pressing need is for clean water, sanitation and hygiene support.

Uprooted communities continue to arrive in urban centers, especially Baidoa, Mogadishu and an area outside Mogadishu called the Afgooye corridor, where CRS has targeted its efforts. The corridor is the site of huge informal displacement camps. They serve people fleeing conflict in their communities or searching for help after the loss of their livestock or crops due to drought. Many families brought only what they could carry when they fled on foot. Camp conditions are extremely poor, and many more people arrive each day.

#### CRS RESPONSE

CRS is providing the following support:

- Safe drinking water, hygiene kits that include soap and detergent, cooking utensils, storage containers for clean water, living supplies and vouchers for supplies
- Outreach sessions, radio messages and posters to teach people about hygiene; some community members have also been hired as hygiene promotor
- Food assistance for 9,000 families through cash grants paid via mobile money
- Mobile clinics and training for community health workers to treat acute malnutrition, and prevent and treat communicable diseases
- Cash-for-work opportunities
- Crisis centers to help survivors of gender-based violence

## CONTEXT

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq has uprooted more than 3 million Iraqis since 2014, including recent waves of displacement from Mosul, Hawija and western Anbar, as Iraqi forces retake territories previously under ISIS control.

The Hawija operation is now complete, and the final Anbar operation is ongoing. In the first half of this year, displacements included families that had lived under ISIS control for more than 2 years. They often faced torture or risked death when attempting to flee. Many families have been separated and have lost loved ones, and children and adults alike have seen and experienced horrific brutality.

Humanitarian access is currently blocked in Kirkuk Province, and constrained in the southern areas of Ninewa Province.

On July 9, the Iraqi security forces announced that they had retaken Mosul. By mid-August, an estimated 840,000 people had been displaced during this operation and others to retake ISIS-controlled areas. The humanitarian consequences are significant, especially in western Mosul, where the Old City is uninhabitable and explosive devices that remain make return risky. As the Iraqi government's military offensive has shifted focus to other geographical areas, humanitarian groups are preparing for further displacement.

The safety and dignity of families returning to areas retaken from ISIS will require mine removal, significant investment in infrastructure, and the rebuilding of education systems and local economies. People have endured torture and abuse, and are grieving. They need counseling to help them heal.



Lavina and her sister Julianne wear clothes bought with vouchers from CRS partner Caritas in Mangesh, near Dohuk. They fled their home when ISIS militants overran their town. Photo courtesy of Sam Tarling/Caritas

## CRS RESPONSE

CRS has been working closely with Caritas Iraq to provide urgent relief since the crisis began. With 70 staff, primarily Iraqi, CRS has partnered with Caritas Iraq to help 300,000 people with a range of support to meet evolving needs in the rapidly

changing context. CRS and Caritas programming in Dohuk, Baghdad and Anbar is ongoing, including the provision of critical relief items, shelter, water and sanitation supplies, and education and counseling support for displaced children.

## PRIORITIES

**Shelter** This includes upgrading unfinished buildings where families have taken refuge, to increase protection from winter cold, and for safety and privacy. Improvements include installing double-glazed external doors and windows, and internal partitions and doors, as well as weatherproofing. To date, CRS has upgraded more than 5,000 buildings, supporting over 70,000 people in Baghdad, Kirkuk and Dohuk. CRS and Caritas have also designed and provided transitional shelter, using local materials and labor, for more than 500 families stranded in the desolate Amiriyat al-Fallujah settlement.

**Support for returnees** After a successful pilot, CRS and Caritas are preparing to scale up support to internally displaced families returning to their homes. Support will include repair to war-damaged homes for 2,000 people. CRS and Caritas are weatherproofing and making structural improvements to housing for displaced families in Baghdad.

### Essential living and hygiene supplies

Critical relief items were distributed in Haj Ali Camp on the outskirts of Mosul in October, serving 3,500 recently displaced people. CRS and Caritas Iraq are making preparations for the provision of

critical winter relief items for 7,000 displaced families in Anbar, Ninewa, Dohuk and Kirkuk. These include kitchen sets, bedding, soap, stoves and other supplies. The extreme temperatures require specific support—including extra blankets, warm clothing, heaters and kerosene for the cold. Supplies are either provided directly or, where markets are functioning, through vouchers or cash assistance.

**Preparedness and scale-up** CRS and Caritas Iraq teams continue to train staff and prepare supplies and vendors for the anticipated influx of newly displaced communities. CRS is also supporting Caritas Iraq with the assessment and design of Caritas programming on the Ninewa Plains. CRS support for the Caritas Women and Child Project is also ongoing.

**Education** CRS and Caritas have recently launched the latest phase of the education and psychosocial project, serving 8,000 students in 13 schools. This has recently expanded to Baghdad, in partnership with Caritas Iraq, and now covers additional schools in Dohuk and Ninewa provinces. CRS' education and psychosocial project in Kirkuk, which serves eight schools, has paused due to the security situation there.



Syrian refugee Reem and her daughter Ibtisan at their home in Zarqa, Jordan. Reem's other two children attend a public school and Caritas remedial classes. Previously they attended Caritas catch-up classes, having missed a year of school. Photo by Oscar Durand for CRS

## CONTEXT

CRS and its Caritas and local partners continue to expand and support programming for Syrian refugees across the Middle East region. Many have been refugees now for several years and struggle with family separation and grief.

Mothers and young children fled the violence without their husbands and fathers, who may be missing, killed, still in Syria, or in Europe applying for asylum.

Many elderly people stayed in Syria, unable to flee with their families. People are anxious about their loved ones, and about where to go, who to trust and what to do. They long to be reunited. Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt continue to support millions of refugees, with strained resources.

## CRS RESPONSE

CRS has helped more than 1.4 million Syrians across the Middle East and Europe, and continually adjusts services as the situation evolves. CRS works closely with the Catholic Church, especially Caritas and our Church partners, who have deep roots in the region. Together, we provide the following assistance:

- **Shelter and rent assistance** Monthly rent stipends support most refugees who live in urban areas. With few opportunities to earn income, this helps prevent homelessness, squatting and destitution.
- **Living supplies** Relief kits of bedding, stoves, buckets and other household items are provided to newly arriving refugees.
- **Children's education, support and trauma counseling** Services include tutoring, recreational activities and trauma counseling for children.
- **Food** Cash and voucher programs allow people to buy the food they need, respecting their dignity and supporting the local economy.
- **Medical assistance** Immediate care for life-threatening injuries, care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, and maternal and child care, are included.
- **Hygiene and sanitation** Vouchers for soap, laundry detergent, diapers and other sanitary supplies are provided.

**"Those children who have experienced war and exile have left their homes, families, lands and schools, and everything that connects them with where they belong. They came here like a plant you take out from somewhere and plant somewhere else; it has to adapt before it can get used to the environment."**

Sister Amira Tabet, Good Shepherd Sisters

## CONTEXT

The flow of refugees arriving by sea in Europe has dropped to 144,656 people so far this year, from the peak of more than 1 million in 2015. Most of the refugees are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, and more than half are women and children.

## CRS RESPONSE

CRS and our local partners have assisted more than 400,000 refugees and migrants across Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia and Bulgaria, as well as provided assistance to other vulnerable groups in these countries.

## PEACEBUILDING

On October 26, the first class of the joint master's program on Interreligious Studies and Peacebuilding was held in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Twenty three students from across the country's religious communities comprise the first cohort of this 1-year degree, which includes the option of an internship.

Created and led by three local theological faculties—the Faculty of Islamic Sciences, the Catholic Theological Faculty and the Orthodox Theological Faculty of St. Basil of Ostrog—the joint program offers an opportunity for a clear positioning of religion as a source of peace and a catalyst for shaping religious institutions as advocates of a more just society.

The initiative was shepherded by the CRS BiH program, which will also look to promote local scholarships, and identify potential internships and job placements with mayors and other public and private key stakeholders.



A Syrian refugee takes language lessons in Bulgarian at the Caritas Sofia offices in Bulgaria.  
Photo by Oscar Durand for CRS

## PRIORITIES

- **Food and emergency living supplies** CRS has prioritized the use of vouchers and prepaid debit cards to allow people to buy items in local markets. Cash allows families to prioritize what they need to buy, offers a sense of control and respects their dignity.
- **Information, integration, protection and reconciliation** CRS supports language classes, financial courses, job placement and other support for integration into society. Case workers help new arrivals register their children in school, seek medical help and access other services. CRS and Caritas also provide information, translation and legal resources to refugees. At least 10,300 people have received these services, including gender-based violence and trafficking prevention, and counseling for children and their parents.
- **In Bosnia and Herzegovina,** CRS has worked with 66,680 people in 60 municipalities on peacebuilding across ethnic and religious divides.
- **Urban social centers** In Athens, CRS and Caritas are managing two service hubs that provide hot meals, child friendly spaces, shower facilities, access to social workers and translators, referrals to medical services, rest areas and internet access.

▪ **Shelter** Across the region, we provide vulnerable people with access to safe, quality, affordable housing.

In **Greece**, CRS works with Caritas Athens and Caritas Hellas to provide transitional shelters for asylum seekers who were living in camps. CRS has made use of vacant housing in Athens, negotiating lease agreements with landlords, and repairing buildings to provide shared apartments for families.

In **Bulgaria**, Caritas Sofia runs a housing program for refugees who have moved out of camps.

In **Serbia**, CRS and the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation have renovated 13 barracks and 1 reception center for asylum seekers. At any time, more than 1,000 asylum seekers are estimated to be staying in the facilities.

▪ **Livelihoods opportunities** In **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro**, 330 families will receive small grants for agricultural, trade or craft enterprises, and CRS will co-fund employment or internships at selected companies.

## CONTEXT

In late 2014, instability spread to eastern Ukraine after the Russian Federation annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Armed separatists took control of the Donbas Region following the evacuation of former Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovych, who had fled after 4 months of protests in the capital, Kyiv. Violence displaced more than 1.7 million people, and 1.1 million fled to neighboring countries.

About 4 million people in Ukraine need humanitarian assistance. Despite reduced international attention, the armed conflict in Ukraine remains active and continues to trigger serious humanitarian needs. Throughout 2017, the number of casualties and the severity of incidents along the front has risen. As the conflict enters its third year, there is no clear path to resolution.

Lack of income is a key source of anxiety and hardship. The average monthly income for an internally displaced person is \$78. Due to depleted savings, some families have begun returning to their homes close to the conflict zone. They often need to repair their homes and deal with damaged infrastructure. Most families have chosen not to return due to the insecurity, but are struggling to integrate into their new communities and to secure livelihoods to meet their needs. With winter approaching, families will need warm clothes, adequate shelter and heating.

The security situation remains tense, with regular ceasefire violations and shelling in residential areas. The damage to infrastructure is influencing everyday life, with pumping stations, water treatment plants and power lines affected. Farming, a key source of income, has been seriously hampered due to hostilities and land mines. This year, a reported 27 farmers were killed in mine-related incidents.



This bakery was started with Caritas Ukraine support and receives an employment grant to hire internally displaced people. Photo courtesy of Mathieu Radoube/Caritas Ukraine

## CRS RESPONSE

Since the onset of this crisis, CRS has supported Caritas Ukraine, which has become the largest Ukrainian organization responding to the emergency, providing assistance to 400,000 people.

**Shelter and school repair:** CRS and Caritas have provided 900 cash grants, typically \$200 to \$700, allowing 2,340 people to repair homes damaged by shelling and shooting. CRS and Caritas help grant recipients find local contractors, materials and labor, and recommend best practices to protect homes against harsh weather. We also renovated and repaired 13 schools, making them accessible to children with disabilities. Working with municipalities across Ukraine, CRS and Caritas designed medium- to long-term housing solutions for displaced people. In addition, we have begun to engage with the Ukrainian government about an affordable housing framework to provide housing opportunities for displaced people and other vulnerable groups.

**Livelihoods:** Many internally displaced people have relocated to major urban centers, and CRS is providing them with support to earn regular incomes. More than 720 displaced people who had small businesses were given grants to restart them in their new communities. At least 70 percent of them continued to operate a year after receiving the grant.

CRS provided 365 grants for job skills training, after which 62 percent of participants found work in their field. Medium-sized businesses were incentivized with cash grants to create additional jobs, with more than 260 internally displaced people now employed as a result. More than 9,500 people have attended job fairs.

**Food security:** The loss of jobs, rising prices and disrupted access to markets make food security an ongoing challenge. CRS and Caritas have provided cash grants to 325 vulnerable host and displaced families to start, resume or expand small-scale agricultural activities.

**Cash grants for living assistance:** To date, 24,300 cash grants have been distributed to help families meet their priority needs for shelter, food, household items and medical care.

**Winterization:** Last winter, 6,100 people benefited from cash grants to provide fuel for heating, and items such as clothing, boots and blankets.

**Peacebuilding:** CRS is helping displaced people integrate into their new communities, and is helping address the needs of returning soldiers. More than 4,800 people have participated in peacebuilding activities, including community events like films, soccer matches, storytelling, training for journalists on conflict-sensitive reporting, and roundtables for policymakers.