

# GLOBAL EMERGENCY UPDATE

Read the latest report on 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.



## EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA



Leila, Mohamad and their family fled Syria for Lebanon, where they live on the roof of a factory. CRS partners with Caritas Lebanon to provide holistic support to refugees with disabilities. Photo by Ismail Ferdous for CRS

**SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS** Millions of Syrians have been displaced for several years, and struggle with family separation, grief, uncertainty and finding somewhere to live with stability and dignity. CRS and our local partners have helped more than 1.4 million Syrians across the Middle East and Europe.

**EUROPE** Refugees continue to undertake dangerous journeys to Europe despite countries having heightened border restrictions. CRS and our local partners have assisted 400,000 refugees and migrants across Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia and Bulgaria, where we are also helping other vulnerable groups.

**IRAQ** Since ISIS first captured Mosul in 2014, up to 3.5 million Iraqis have been uprooted. Now, the number of people returning home has exceeded the number displaced. CRS and Caritas programming continues to support uprooted families, while adapting to help returnees. Assistance includes shelter, education and livelihoods recovery, as well as vital living supplies. A critical component is ensuring children have access to quality formal education.

**YEMEN** Devastated by war and a supply blockade, Yemen is experiencing a humanitarian disaster, with 70 percent of the population in need of aid. About 462,000 children face acute malnutrition.

CRS, through its partner Islamic Relief Yemen, is providing medicine, training health workers, treating malnourished women and children, and educating and equipping people for hygiene and cholera prevention.

“ There are no job opportunities. With food prices increasing, we eat once a day.

Ahmed Amodi, father of a malnourished child

## EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

**BANGLADESH** Extreme violence in 2017 in Rakhine State, Myanmar, drove close to 1 million Rohingya people across the border into Bangladesh. In an area vulnerable to flooding, CRS is helping to improve shelter and living conditions of refugees by providing living supplies, and care and protection support.

**INDONESIA** Three major earthquakes have hit the island of Lombok in less than 2 weeks. More than 300 people have died and thousands have fled their homes. CRS is assessing the situation and supporting local partners in a coordinated effort with other humanitarian agencies and the government.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**GUATEMALA** The eruption of Volcan de Fuego on June 3 buried an entire community under ash. More than 100 people died. Roads were blocked, homes and crops destroyed, and animals perished. CRS is building shelters for families and helping children return to school.

**VENEZUELA** Political and economic instability are leaving people desperate for food, medical care and critical government services. More than 83 percent of the population live in poverty, and more than half in extreme poverty. Nearly 4 million people have become refugees in neighboring countries. CRS and our partner Caritas Venezuela are focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable, and expanding programming to help Venezuelan refugees in Brazil, Colombia and Trinidad.



Construction continues on CRS-supported transitional shelters for community members displaced by the volcanic eruption in Guatemala. *Photo by Ivan Palma/CRS*

**MEXICO** Two earthquakes days apart killed nearly 500 people in September 2017, and destroyed homes, infrastructure and utilities. CRS and our local partners are working with other relief agencies and the Mexican government to build shelters, provide food and living supplies, and counsel families dealing with trauma.

**THE CARIBBEAN** Hurricanes Irma and Maria resulted in loss of life, property and infrastructure in September 2017. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced. CRS and our partners are still supporting recovery in Dominica.

## AFRICA

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO** Health officials are closely monitoring a fresh outbreak of Ebola that has killed 29 people. CRS is building latrines and shower facilities, rehabilitating water sources and helping ensure the rapid roll-out of disease prevention education.

**LAKE CHAD BASIN** The Boko Haram crisis is estimated to have affected 10.9 million people in one of the world's poorest, most drought-prone regions. Across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, Boko Haram has killed thousands of people, and the 2.4 million people who have fled their homes are in dire need of support. CRS continues to respond across all four countries, providing emergency food, agriculture and livelihoods support, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene.

**UGANDA** Ongoing violence between South Sudan's government and opposition forces has caused more than 1 million South Sudanese people to flee into neighboring Uganda, where resources are stretched. In the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement

where over 287,000 people live, CRS is supporting the most vulnerable families with shelter, infrastructure improvements, water and sanitation, and livelihoods recovery. CRS programming also assists the local Ugandan host community.



Hamsatu Adamu and her daughter Fatima prepare some of the staples and fresh food they received through CRS e-vouchers in Yobe, Nigeria. *Photo by Dooshima Tsee for CRS*

**GUATEMALA**

**VOLCANIC ERUPTION**



A family outside their completed CRS-supported transitional shelter at the Papa Francisco site in Escuintla. *Photos by Luis Rolando for CRS*



Paul Townsend, CRS Guatemala country representative, visits a shelter.

**CONTEXT**

The eruption of the Volcan de Fuego on June 3, 2018, buried an entire community under ash. Roads were blocked, homes and crops destroyed, and animals died when rocks, ash and hot gas covered the area. In the early stages, fresh flows of volcanic material hampered relief efforts. An estimated 113 people died, 28 were wounded and 197 are still missing.

More than 1.7 million people have been affected, and families evacuated with few belongings. With 38 percent of families in CRS shelters reporting a loss of their source of income, some face the risk of food insecurity. Communities isolated by the lava flows have limited access to food and work. Some 8,500 children are out of school and may not return to finish the academic year.

**CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE**

CRS' local partner Caritas provided emergency shelters to evacuees. In those shelters still operating, CRS staff provides on-site guidance to reinforce protection and security guidelines to ensure a safe environment for all. Sheltered families are now being gradually moved to transitional homes as they are built.

**WASH**

CRS and our partners are installing storage tanks and water pumps to provide 45,000 liters of water storage capacity for transitional shelters. Coordination with other humanitarian agencies, Action Contre la Faim and Mercy Corps, will ensure building materials for a sanitation battery and water treatment plant, and jerry cans and filters for every household.

**Shelter**

Up to 500 people have now returned to their homes in at-risk areas or are staying with family or friends. CRS and Caritas Escuintla will relocate 80 families from Church-run shelters into single-family transitional shelters at the Papa Francisco site in Escuintla city, on land the municipality loaned to Caritas. CRS is working with a local contractor to build the shelters—starting with 80 units for the most vulnerable families. CRS is supporting the shelter design and ensuring high standards are maintained with regard to water, sanitation, electricity and protection.

**Education**

Seventy-five percent of school-age children in the last two CRS evacuation camps are attending an emergency school in Escuintla. CRS will help more students return to school, potentially supporting 980 children and 75 teachers with educational activities and supplies.

**Counseling support**

CRS continues to meet the emotional needs of children and their families, in coordination with a Caritas-hired psychologist. Caritas has a therapy room in the Papa Francisco camp, where counseling is offered to individuals staying in the shelter. Play therapy is available for children.

**'In a few seconds, the sky became totally dark. We saw the ash coming and, because of the big noise, knew something very bad was happening.'**

*Julia Gonzales, whose daughter died during the eruption*



*Photo by Luis Rolando Sanchez/CRS*

## VENEZUELA

## POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

## CONTEXT

Inflation in Venezuela could surge to 1 million percent by the year-end, according to the International Monetary Fund. The country has been struggling with an economic and political crisis since 2015. Food—once subsidized—is scarce, as is medicine. Violence, hyperinflation and the collapse of the health system have created further instability. Families are without access to food, medical care or critical services.

With the average monthly income as low as \$1, more than 83 percent of people live in poverty, and more than half of families live in extreme poverty.

Nearly 4 million people have emigrated. The number of Venezuelan immigrants in Latin America rose to 900,000 between 2015 and 2017. Colombia is receiving the largest number, with tens of thousands crossing the border daily. There are now more than 870,000, according to the Colombian government. Little infrastructure or employment is available in the border towns to sustain the numbers of people fleeing.

Some refugees cross the border to buy food and supplies or to seek health care, while others, hoping to stay and find work, spend their only funds on a one-way bus ticket.

Venezuelan refugees face poor working conditions, and the risks are high for child labor, sexual exploitation, violence and malnutrition. Many lack shelter, so sleep on the streets or in parks. People who are detained have little or no legal aid, and access to health care is a challenge.

Health is deteriorating. Diseases that had been eradicated have reappeared. Chronic diseases go untreated. Food production has fallen, and costs have increased. Most people rely on government food distributions that are irregular and insufficient to meet family needs. Students are increasingly missing school because of a lack of food.



Food is scarce, and more than 80 percent of Venezuelans live in poverty. CRS and Caritas Venezuela are operating 502 community soup kitchens. *Photo by CRS field staff*

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS is supporting the response of Caritas and other local partners across the region.

## Venezuela

Caritas Venezuela has focused on strengthening the dioceses' monitoring and treatment of malnourished children, including:

- Screening 8,000 children under age 5 and 510 pregnant women for malnutrition. About 5,080 children and 170 pregnant women were identified.
- Treating 540 children for malnutrition; 370 have recovered.
- Importing specialized food supplements for the treatment of malnutrition in children.
- Serving 34,900 people at 502 community soup kitchens
- Holding 161 medical missions, treating 7,420 patients.

## Colombia

Caritas Colombia has provided assistance to more than 25,000 people with:

- Prepared food and vouchers.
- Shelter in migrant care centers.
- Hygiene kits and medical care.
- Counselling and legal assistance.

CRS is working with Caritas Colombia to provide multipurpose cash grants, water and sanitation, and health and protection serving 15,000 migrants.

## Brazil

- 7,480 people will receive prepaid cards to buy food.
- 7,200 people will receive prepaid cards to buy hygiene items.
- 350 people will have access to basic medicines.
- 3,000 people will receive legal aid, and of these, 1,000 will be given counselling support.

## Trinidad and Tobago

- CRS helps the Living Water Community, or LWC, provide Venezuelan refugees with financial assistance and helps cover housing, medical, food and education expenses. CRS continues to provide ongoing in-country and remote support to strengthen cash programming and expand temporary housing options.
- LWC opened a school for refugee children and is now coordinating with UNICEF to expand child protection and improve child health, nutrition and educational activities. In the next 6 months, additional resources will support up to 200 more students.
- A campaign in June aimed to expand the number of lawyers that can provide free or low-cost legal assistance to refugees and migrants, as many are in detention.

## MEXICO

## EARTHQUAKES

## CONTEXT

The 8.2-magnitude earthquake that struck southern Mexico on September 7, 2017, caused nearly 100 deaths and damaged 110,000 buildings in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Just 12 days later, a 7.1-magnitude earthquake destroyed buildings across Mexico City, killing 220 people in the city and 140 in surrounding states. The earthquakes damaged buildings, bridges, roads, water supplies, sanitation facilities and the electrical grid.

Chiapas and Oaxaca states, with about 9 million people, are among the most impoverished areas in the country and were hardest hit. In Oaxaca, about 800,000 people across 41 municipalities were affected. Dozens of small towns suffered severe damage, and heavy rain worsened conditions. Some Catholic dioceses reported that up to 50 percent of homes had collapsed. Families, particularly children, were traumatized. Communities needed food, clothing, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.



Families outside their CRS-supported transitional shelters. Photo by Jose Alberto Aragón for CRS

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

The following immediate emergency response in Oaxaca, Chiapas and Morelos was implemented by CRS, Caritas Mexico, Tehuantepec Diocese and the Missionaries of Jesus Christ Resurrected:

- Constructed 30 transitional shelters for vulnerable families.
- Distributed tarps to 2,860 families.
- Set up 15 communal cooking facilities to ensure daily hot meals.
- Provided living supplies, including 570 kitchen sets and 67 clay ovens.
- Arranged counseling for 1,040 children and young people dealing with grief, distress and trauma.

The recovery phase includes providing a further 125 transitional shelters for vulnerable families, the repair or construction of toilets for 68 families, training in disaster-resilient construction, and maintenance of shelters and bathrooms.

Hygiene and health promotion training was held for those receiving shelters and toilets, reaching over 500 community members. Up to 3,000 people will be reached by October 1. CRS also held a workshop to teach the basics of disaster risk reduction to community promoters, local government officials and partner organization staff.

## THE CARIBBEAN

## HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA

## CONTEXT

Category 5 Hurricane Irma claimed at least 34 lives and affected half a million people across the Caribbean in September 2017, making landfall on the Leeward Islands and the coast of Cuba.

Ten days later, Hurricane Maria made landfall on Dominica as a Category 5 storm with winds of up to 160 miles per hour. The island was severely affected by flooding and dozens of landslides, and 38 people died.

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

**Dominica** CRS and Caritas Antilles distributed hygiene kits, 1,590 tarps, buckets and 660 water filters to more than 600 families in 4 communities. Hygiene kits included soap, tubs, sanitary kits for women, folding jerry cans, detergent, sarongs, whistles and solar lights.

Hygiene promoters have explained hygiene practices and water safety to 5,500 people, alongside International Medical Corps and Samaritan's Purse.

Caritas Dominica has rebuilt 80 roofs on homes damaged by Hurricane Maria. It is also planning to construct 115 shelters and 55

WASH facilities for families whose homes were damaged beyond repair.

**Cuba** Caritas Havana has responded with food and household supplies for 400 families, and has supported 2,720 families with food, water and hygiene kits in Camaguey, Ciego de Avila and Santa Clara. CRS will help Caritas Cuba provide roofing and mattresses to 150 families, and has recently received government approval to import them.

Volunteers have been following up with these families to support them with small items such as towels, soap and other household goods.

## YEMEN

## MALNUTRITION AND CHOLERA

## CONTEXT

Yemen has been devastated by war between forces loyal to the internationally recognized government—backed by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition—and Houthi rebels. More than 7,600 people have been killed since March 2015. The conflict and a supply blockade have triggered a humanitarian disaster, leaving 70 percent of the population in need of aid. More than 14 million people do not have enough food or safe drinking water. About 462,000 children face acute malnutrition. Food and fuel prices have doubled.

Compounding the crisis is a deadly cholera outbreak that has spread at an unprecedented rate. As of July 2018, more than 1.11 million cases and 2,310 deaths had been reported. The epidemic struck when the capacity of the health system had been crippled by 2 years of continuous conflict and restrictions on imports. Health infrastructure collapsed, also hampering water, sanitation and hygiene services. Three-quarters of the population—including 9.6 million children—are at risk.

The lack of water, sanitation and health infrastructure, as well as heavy rains, have contributed to an upsurge in diarrhea.

The inaccessibility of some high-risk areas has hampered the humanitarian response, as has a shortage of resources, including laboratory supplies and rapid diagnostic test kits. There is a great need for established, fully equipped and supplied diarrheal treatment centers, case management guidelines, training, and staff payment and support.

CRS is working alongside Islamic Relief Yemen, and continues to coordinate with the relevant government ministries and other humanitarian agencies to support the health system.

## SALEM'S STORY

Salem Ahmed was malnourished when he visited a clinic in Hodeida, Yemen, at the age of 7 months. He was one of the more than 400,000 children under age 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Salem lives with his family of nine in a straw house, where food and basic living essentials are in short supply. Water has been contaminated in many villages, increasing the risk of cholera.

“There are no job opportunities like before,” says his father, Ahmed Amodi. “I collect firewood to sell to nearby restaurants to support my family. With food prices increasing, we eat once a day.”

“Salem had diarrhea and vomited. His body was very weak,” says Salem’s mother, Rabaa Ibrahim.



Salem weighed only 7 pounds at the age of 7 months. Six months later, after treatment, his weight had risen to 10 pounds. *Photo courtesy of Islamic Relief*

He was admitted to an outpatient program, supported by CRS and Islamic Relief Yemen, for nutritional treatment.

In 6 months, his condition improved significantly. “My beautiful son is better now. Islamic Relief saved my child’s life,” says Rabaa.

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

Through our partner, Islamic Relief Yemen, CRS supported these activities:

## Cholera prevention and relief

- Provided medicine to 2,110 diarrhea patients.
- Provided hygiene kits, jerry cans and water treatment tablets to 4,000 households.
- Provided treatment centers with solid waste bins, cleaning kits and mosquito nets.
- Provided educational materials for cholera and hygiene sessions, and reached 4,000 households through trained hygiene promoters.

## Emergency nutrition

- Treated 18,600 children under age 5 suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, and 13,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women. Some 13,350 children and 10,000 women were discharged as cured.
- Treated 5,700 people with severe acute malnutrition, with 3,190 discharged as cured.
- Recruited, trained and posted health workers and community health volunteers.
- Counseled mothers and caretakers of children under age 2 on nutrition and improved hygiene.
- Provided food supplements for children 6 to 24 months old, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Distributed medicines, medical supplies and furniture to 33 health facilities.



## IRAQ

## DISPLACEMENT

**CONTEXT**

Since ISIS first captured Mosul 4 years ago, up to 3.5 million Iraqis have been displaced. Following an intensive operation, Iraqi forces retook most ISIS-held areas. With an estimated 8.7 million people still in need, the needs of returnees now surpass those of internally displaced people. As of July 2018, 3.9 million Iraqis had returned home, while almost 2 million remain displaced. CRS has identified significant gaps in restoring education, repairing housing and recovering livelihoods in areas of return.

# 3.9 million

**IRAQIS HAD RETURNED HOME  
AS OF JULY**

CRS and Caritas Iraq are focusing initial returnee support on the Nineveh Plains, where an estimated half of uprooted families have returned in the past year. Livelihood opportunities are limited and, for returnees, the relief of returning after years of displacement is tempered by the challenge of rebuilding their lives. The years of conflict have created instability and destroyed infrastructure. Iraq's education system has been deeply affected—an estimated one in four schools was destroyed, and many more damaged. Millions of children need humanitarian assistance.

Returning safely and with dignity to areas retaken from ISIS will also require mine removal, significant investment in infrastructure and the rebuilding of local economies.



Shaba Felfel outside his newly opened music shop in Telescoff. He received a grant from CRS and Caritas Iraq to reopen his business as part of an effort to support the resumption of local business and livelihoods in areas where families are returning. *Photo by Megan Gilbert/CRS*

**CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE**

With over 100 staff, CRS and Caritas Iraq have helped more than 300,000 people with a range of support. CRS and Caritas programming in Dohuk, Nineveh, Kirkuk, Baghdad and Anbar is ongoing, including the provision of a comprehensive package of shelter—through cash and direct distribution. As a key step in rebuilding trust broken by the conflict, CRS is rolling out social cohesion activities in locations that have been retaken from ISIS.

**PRIORITIES****Shelter**

CRS and Caritas have reached over 80,000 people with shelter support, with a further 15,000 to benefit this year. This includes improving the safety and privacy of buildings where families have taken refuge. External doors and windows, internal partitions and doors, and weatherproofing have been installed. CRS is a leading agency helping returning families repair their conflict-damaged houses. For families whose homes have been destroyed, CRS is piloting a transitional core housing unit on their original land.

**Education**

CRS and Caritas are supporting over 10,000 children with access to quality formal primary and secondary education while they are displaced. And once they

return home, support includes physical upgrades to schools, teaching materials and teacher training. CRS is scaling up its education support in areas of return, ensuring conflict-damaged schools are safely repaired and that teachers and parents are equipped to support the emotional needs of students whose lives have been deeply impacted by conflict.

**Livelihoods**

Over the past 6 months, CRS and Caritas have been scaling up support to families who lost their livelihoods because of the conflict. CRS and Caritas provide cash grants and coaching as families restart small-scale businesses. CRS is expanding its livelihoods programming—either with job readiness or entrepreneurship training—to support youth who have returned home.

**Essential living supplies**

CRS and Caritas Iraq have provided critical relief items to more than 200,000 displaced families in Anbar, Baghdad, Nineveh, Dohuk and Kirkuk. Items include kitchen sets, stoves, bedding and other supplies. Supplies are provided directly or, when possible, through a market-based approach, which supports local markets recovering from the crisis.

## SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

## DISPLACEMENT

## CONTEXT

As the Syrian conflict continues into its eighth year, the dangers facing families are devastating. Millions of people have been displaced for several years, and struggle with family separation, grief, uncertainty and finding safe, dignified housing.

The toll on children is significant: Those who are 7 years old and younger have known only war. The war will have long-term impacts on their personal well-being, and that of Syria's future generations.

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS has helped more than 1.4 million Syrians across the Middle East and Europe, and adjusts services as the situation evolves. We work closely with the Catholic Church, especially Caritas and our Church partners, who have deep roots in the region.

CRS and our local partners continue to expand our child-centered programming by providing safe spaces for children to live, play and learn. We have significantly grown our engagement with parents and caregivers, and support many single mothers. In some cases, orphaned children have been taken in by other family members. To support these caregivers, CRS offers services that include stress management and childcare assistance.

# 1.4 million

**SYRIANS ACROSS EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY CRS AND OUR PARTNERS**



Mohamad takes his daughter, Sendos, down the stairs from the rooftop of the industrial building in Lebanon where they live. Sendos, 12, suffers from severe cerebral palsy and epilepsy. *Photo by Ismail Ferdous for CRS*

## HELP FOR REFUGEES WITH DISABILITIES

Living as refugees is especially hard on families with children who live with disabilities. They face social stigma and limited awareness about people with disabilities. CRS partners with Caritas Lebanon to provide holistic support to refugees with disabilities in Lebanon. The focus is on Syrian refugee children under 18 years of age who have a motor or sensory disability. The project improves the physical health of children with special needs by facilitating access to specialized care and medication. It also covers medical expenses, physiotherapy, transportation costs, equipment, cash for living expenses, and counseling and support groups for the families. The ultimate goal is to help children with disabilities lead healthy, dignified lives.

## ONGOING PRIORITIES

**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**

CRS and our partners support Syrian refugee children who are at risk of dropping out of school. We help children enroll and thrive in school, and provide trauma counseling, tutoring and recreational activities. We also support children with special needs to ensure their access to education.

CRS aids local parochial schools in Jordan by ensuring infrastructure is safe, and that teachers and staff are trained to identify and manage the challenges faced by refugee children and their families. Across the region, CRS conducts parent engagement, caregiver support, parent literacy and life skills courses for adolescents.

**Food** Cash and voucher programs allow people to buy the food they need, respecting their dignity and supporting the local economy.

**Medical assistance** This includes immediate care for life-threatening injuries, care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, and maternal and child care.

**Hygiene and sanitation** Vouchers for soap, laundry detergent, diapers and other sanitary supplies are provided.



## EUROPE

## REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CRISIS

## CONTEXT

Refugees continue to undertake dangerous journeys to Europe. CRS and our partners have assisted 400,000 refugees and migrants across Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia and Bulgaria, where we also help other vulnerable groups. We prioritize support for displaced families as they build new lives in communities where they have been granted asylum, with the goal of helping them become self-sufficient.

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE GREECE

There are about 60,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Greece.

**Cash assistance** We provide refugee and migrant families in camps with ATM cards that they can use to buy supplies in local shops. In support of the Greece Cash Alliance—a coordinating body of humanitarian agencies, the U.N. Refugee Agency and the government—CRS has helped ensure access to cash for 2,200 people monthly and helped 17,000 people with this vital assistance since 2017.

**Urban transitional shelter support**

CRS and Caritas have provided safe, dignified housing for 4,800 asylum seekers through the renovation of apartments in Athens and Thessaloniki; families also receive cash assistance to cover basic needs. Trained case managers have given 15,250 referrals for specialized assistance, and accompanied families during medical appointments for physical and mental health needs, as well as legal and social services.

To help refugee and migrant families better integrate both socially and economically into Greek society, CRS works with our partners to provide vital job skills, education, long-term affordable housing and social opportunities including:

- **Buddy program** Greek families are paired with refugee families to help orient them to the city and develop friendships.



Children in a Bulgarian language class at Caritas Bulgaria in Sofia. Photo by Oscar Durand for CRS

- **Livelihoods** CRS and Caritas have helped 190 refugees with training and links to job opportunities. This includes job readiness support such as resume writing, interview skills, Greek language classes and registering for necessary legal documentation. For children, activities include support to enroll in Greek schools, tutoring and homework support, sports clubs and arts activities.
- **Shelter** We work with the Athens municipality and local partners to explore affordable housing options to help refugees move out of provided shelter and live independently.
- Helped 95 refugees and asylum seekers find employment in the past year, offering livelihoods and integration support to 580 people.
- Assisted 1,900 people to meet their needs through cash assistance, and targeted a further 300 people with short-term cash support.
- Provided temporary housing for 160 people, with support for an additional 20 families. Assisted another 100 families with emergency shelter.

## UKRAINE

## DISPLACEMENT

As the conflict in eastern Ukraine enters its fifth year, more than 3.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Loss of livelihoods, rising prices and poor access to markets make food security a year-round challenge for internally displaced people and residents.

**Livelihoods** CRS and Caritas Ukraine have provided agricultural cash grants to 552 families, with technical assistance to vulnerable families for small-scale farming activities. We have also supported urban livelihoods. Vulnerable women improve their social and economic well-being through skills training and grants to start small businesses.

**Shelter** CRS continues to explore long-term, durable housing solutions for internally displaced people.

## SERBIA

More than 3,600 asylum seekers are estimated to be in Serbia. Almost 90 percent are staying in government-run centers. CRS and our partners have renovated 3 of 18 reception centers and built 2 ambulance offices and child friendly spaces within the centers. We provide medical protection in 9 centers, and have helped 6,740 people with cash assistance for basic living needs.

## BULGARIA

CRS supports people in 4 refugee camps and 2 detention centers, and provides services for refugees outside the camps. Assistance includes:

- Shelter, cash, educational and recreational activities, case management and livelihoods.



Health workers wear protective clothing to remove the body of an Ebola victim from a home. Health officials are closely monitoring a fresh outbreak of the disease, which killed thousands of people across West Africa from 2013 to 2016. *Photo by Kieran Kesner/Alamy*

## CONTEXT

In the northwestern Equateur province, health officials are closely monitoring a fresh outbreak of Ebola virus disease, a serious illness that, if left untreated, can be fatal. This has generated concerns about a wider contagion. Containing and preventing the virus is vital; from 2013 to 2016, Ebola spread across West Africa, killing more than 11,000 people.

As of early July 2018, 53 cases had been registered, and 29 deaths reported, according to the World Health Organization. No new confirmed cases have been registered since June 6. Frontline health personnel, and people known to have come into contact with confirmed cases, are being vaccinated.

**CARITAS IS WORKING TO ADDRESS FEAR AND ENCOURAGE VACCINATION AND OTHER PREVENTION PRACTICES BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE DISEASE.**



## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS is working closely with the DRC health ministry, U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organizations to ensure a coordinated effort. CRS is providing financial and technical support to our Caritas partner, whose field staff works alongside trained community members on key communication and prevention activities.

Caritas addresses fear and encourages vaccination and other prevention practices by people

who have come into contact with the disease. In Mbandaka, Caritas is informing at-risk groups, including taxi drivers and the military.

CRS interventions will include:

- Technical support to ensure the rapid scale-up and continuation of prevention education.
- Construction of 100 emergency latrines, 40 shower facilities and the rehabilitation of 15 water sources.



Inspecting a water source in need of rehabilitation in Equateur Province. *Photo by CRS staff*

## CONTEXT

Now in its ninth year, the Lake Chad Basin crisis is estimated to have affected 10.9 million people in one of the world's poorest, most drought-prone regions. Across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, Boko Haram has killed thousands of people, and 2.4 million have fled their homes. An estimated 7.23 million people do not have enough food, and almost half a million children are malnourished.

A Hepatitis E outbreak in Niger's Diffa region was declared in mid-April. From January to April, 164 cases, including 25 deaths, were reported. Over 76 percent of reported cases were among women, and all the deceased were pregnant.

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS continues to respond across all four countries, providing emergency food, agriculture and livelihoods support, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene support, or WASH. CRS and our partners are prioritizing monthly food e-vouchers, cash and cash-for-work opportunities to help families meet their basic food needs. Support with agricultural tools, seeds and livestock helps people begin to recover their livelihoods, as well as the local economy. Investment in WASH will bring potable water through borehole construction, as well as hygiene activities and supplies.

Activities include the following:

### CAMEROON

- Rehabilitated 10 water points, such as water taps and hand-washing stations—and promoted hygiene among 3,580 people.
- Set up and trained 10 water management committees.
- Completed 5 rounds of unconditional cash transfers for 567 people.
- Provided 353 households with smart cards to buy food and household items.
- Completed cash-for-work activities for 3,300 beneficiary families, more than half of them female-headed households.
- Constructed 200 latrines and 160 showers.



Aba, left, his father and sister escaped from attacks on their community. CRS provided household items for the family in Yobe, Nigeria. *Photo by Dooshima Tsee for CRS*

## LAKE CHAD BASIN DISPLACEMENT

- Trained 800 people, including 142 host community members and 288 returnees, on agriculture and climate change adaptation.
- Held seeds and tools fairs, benefiting 800 people.
- Implemented a seasonal malaria chemoprevention project.

### NIGER

- Implemented a project to serve vulnerable internally displaced and host communities through agricultural fairs, cash-for-work and transitional shelter construction.
- Addressed households' needs through shelter, WASH and multipurpose cash interventions in two communities, while piloting community savings and gender-transformative approaches created by CRS Zambia.

### NIGERIA

#### Food assistance and nutrition

- 139,400 people received e-vouchers to buy food from local vendors.
- Screened 8,000 children under age 5 for malnutrition. Malnourished children were referred to clinics for treatment.
- 26,160 caretakers received education in child nutrition and hygiene.

#### WASH

- Constructed 90 latrines and 70 bathing stations.
- Taught 26,190 people about hygiene and distributed soap to 800.
- Organized 32 cleanup events, in which 2,870 people participated.
- Distributed female hygiene kits to 2,290 women and girls.

#### Shelter and household items

- Distributed 466 emergency shelter kits and built 269 emergency shelters and 18 transitional shelters.
- Distributed e-vouchers for 1,380 families to buy household items from local vendors.
- Led 14 fire safety trainings with 171 participants.

#### Agriculture

- Trained 25 vendors in seed handling, storage and distribution.
- Distributed seeds and tools to 3,670 households.
- Trained 4,500 households in crop production, post-harvest handling and seed selection.
- Established 6 demonstration farms.
- Helped 3,025 households transition from food assistance to livelihoods support.

## UGANDA

### DISPLACEMENT

#### CONTEXT

As South Sudanese people continue to flee violence between their government and opposition forces, Uganda has received more than 1 million refugees. They now live in settlements in the West Nile sub-region in the northwest of the country, across the border from South Sudan. Most are women and children.

The Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in the Yumbe region, where CRS is working, has been declared saturated with a population of over 287,000 people. Now only family members of those already in the settlement are accepted there. According to the U.N. Refugee Agency, or UNCHR, the influx is expected to continue as insecurity persists in South Sudan and people fear fighting, raids and banditry.

Uganda is unique in its openness and hospitality toward refugees. They are free to move about, work and establish businesses. And they receive land to build shelter and grow food. But Uganda's resources are stretched, and there is a great need for safe shelter, clean water and sanitation, and viable livelihoods.

#### CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS is working closely with other humanitarian agencies to ensure a coordinated response. The CRS program is focused on livelihoods, water and sanitation, shelter and infrastructure construction.

CRS prioritizes support for those with specific needs—pregnant women, the elderly, female- and child-headed households, unaccompanied minors, and people with disabilities—in both refugee and host communities. Despite early rains and strong winds disrupting shelter construction, our ongoing work includes:



Children in the Bidi Bidi settlement in Yumbe. The camp has a population of about 300,000 refugees, most of them women and children. *Photo by Oscar Leiva Marinero/Silverlight for CRS*

#### Livelihoods

- Organized vocational training for 1,400 refugees and host community members on tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry, bricklaying and concrete practice, mechanics and agriculture.
- Prepared 14 demonstration plots.
- Continued to support 108 microfinance groups.



#### Dignified, durable support for South Sudanese refugees

Watch [this video](#) showing how CRS supports implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, a U.N. vision for a fairer and more sustainable response to refugee crises.

#### Shelter

- Constructed 500 shelters for people with specific needs.
- Allocated sites for construction of 488 shelters.

#### Infrastructure

- Provided technical support for the UNHCR-led identification verification exercise in Bidi Bidi.
- Renovated 7 structures offering shade and seating for displaced people awaiting registration and other activities, and erected 9 tents for kitchens and help desks.
- Transferred sites to CRS-selected contractors to construct 2 government-approved primary schools.

#### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- Promoted community hygiene in 14 villages, through information on jerry can cleaning, a safe water chain, food handling and hand washing.
- 1,106 households received laundry soap.
- 256 people participated in an environmental cleanup and learned proper solid waste disposal. As a result, 11 bathing shelters were constructed by households on their own initiative.
- Constructed 1,089 latrines and safely decommissioned 135.

## INDONESIA

### EARTHQUAKE

#### OVERVIEW

Three major earthquakes have hit the island of Lombok in less than 2 weeks. Following a 6.4-magnitude earthquake on July 29, a quake on August 5 measured 6.9 and killed more than 300 people and injured over a thousand. There were a number of powerful aftershocks and, just days later, a 5.9 magnitude tremor was felt on August 9.

More than 156,000 have fled their homes, fearing structural damage and further aftershocks. Many buildings have been damaged, including 42,000 homes and 458 schools, and electricity has been disrupted.

Assessments by the United Nations, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations indicate that North Lombok was most severely affected. Houses that were only slightly damaged by the first earthquake suffered more serious structural damage or collapsed after the second and third. More than 90 percent of buildings in the areas CRS assessed had collapsed or were severely damaged. Schools have been closed until facilities can be evaluated.

Access to affected people is hampered as heavy vehicles cannot use damaged roads and bridges. Other challenges are the extent of the affected area, electricity outages in North and East Lombok, and damaged mobile and landline telephone connections. In some areas, security is a concern.



Displaced families in North Lombok gather in makeshift shelters near their homes.  
Photos by CRS field staff

#### KEY NEEDS

Clean water is scarce and latrines were damaged. Communities are using water from damaged wells that may be contaminated. Markets were generally closed, with almost no fresh food available.

Besides clean water and meals, people need temporary shelters with mats and blankets. Nutritious food is vital for the most vulnerable, such as young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Families will need ongoing access to clean water, water purification and sanitation facilities, and hygiene kits for women.

Communities in the remote villages CRS visited also requested kitchen items, clothing, and items for babies, as well as tools for clearing rubble.

Affected communities will need medical personnel and trauma healing services.



A home destroyed in North Lombok.

#### CRS SUPPORT TO LOCAL PARTNERS

CRS is supporting local partners on an initial response plan in coordination with the government and other humanitarian agencies.

With our partners, we are conducting assessments, including determining the needs of remote communities that have received little or no aid.

CRS is surveying markets in Jakarta and Surabaya to identify suitable vendors for procurement of initial relief materials, shelter kits and transportation.

## BANGLADESH REFUGEE CRISIS

### OVERVIEW

The extreme violence in 2017—including killings, rape and the burning of villages—in Rakhine State, Myanmar, drove Rohingya people across the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The host country continues to manage a massive humanitarian crisis with the total number of Rohingya in Bangladesh close to 1 million. Among these, about 600,000 people live in Kutupalong, the world's largest and most densely populated refugee camp. Their return to Myanmar is unlikely in the short term as most fear for their safety.

The settlements have grown rapidly, leading to congested shelters vulnerable to flooding, landslides and other hazards. Efforts have been made to improve sites as well as to relocate families to safer, better-planned and less-congested areas in the settlement area.

With the monsoon season underway, families in shelters on eroding hillsides urgently need to move to safer areas. In March 2018, the government of Bangladesh allocated an additional 500 acres of land for families living in the most landslide-prone areas. This area is now being prepared to accommodate more shelters and reduce the risk of landslides. By early July, 19,300 refugees had been moved, with an estimated 24,000 still in need of relocation.

### CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS and Caritas Bangladesh are providing shelter, water and sanitation, and protection services within planned or improved sites of Kutupalong using a community-led approach.



CRS promotes hygiene, including hand-washing and safe water handling.  
Photo by Christopher Reichert/CRS

### Food and essential living supplies

- Distributed lentils and soybean oil to 42,000 refugee households and 2,000 households in host communities, to complement the rice provided by other humanitarian agencies.
- Liquid petroleum gas is the preferred cooking fuel alternative to firewood as it is the cleanest, most cost-efficient option and is widely available. After an initial distribution of gas and stoves to 12,000 households, Caritas will supply refills for at least 6 months.

### Site development

Pre-monsoon site development and improvement—including drainage, upgrading paths and steps, building retaining walls and installing streetlights—has benefitted 23,890 people. This has eased congestion, reduced landslide risk and improved safety. Ongoing maintenance and emergency interventions will likely be required during the monsoon. Caritas is planting trees and grass to help stabilize retaining walls and banks and reduce flooding.

### Disaster risk reduction

Meetings with men and women will facilitate community-led activities and the development of emergency action plans.

### Safe shelter

- Took a lead role in developing more durable shelter options and helped households make their shelters disaster resilient.
- Distributed 7,390 shelter kits with technical support for their construction, and 5,634 pre-monsoon “tie-down” kits.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- Constructed 219 latrines, 18 deep tube wells and 150 bathing areas.
- Distributed hygiene kits to 12,000 households.
- Promoted hygiene, including hand-washing and safe water handling.

### Protecting women and children

- Overseeing activities for children at 6 child friendly spaces, and planning 5 more.
- Planning to build and operate 2 women-friendly spaces—large structures that provide communal spaces for women to discuss issues among themselves.
- Planning a community-based protection project to provide a safe and supportive environment for women and children to prevent sexual and gender-based violence.