

our work at a glance

CRS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS



For more than 60 years, Catholic Relief Services has worked across Latin America and the Caribbean to tackle poverty, create more peaceful and just societies, and help communities protect the environment while preparing for and responding to natural disaster. Partnering with the Catholic Church and civil society, our work includes:

AGRICULTURE AND WATER

\$23 MILLION • 400,618 PEOPLE • 10 COUNTRIES

AGRICULTURE

CRS' agriculture projects help farm families build their assets and skills to improve their diets and increase their production and sales.

Our Pathway to Prosperity approach builds sustainable livelihoods through a multiphase process. CRS helps subsistence farmers meet their basic needs by teaching them to supplement their crops with vegetables and livestock, create savings groups for investment capital and use new technology. As farmers transition to the formal market, CRS helps them organize, access financial services, improve farm infrastructure and connect to buyers. As communities learn new skills, we work with leading private-sector companies committed to sustainably sourcing their products.

CRS builds value chains that support poor farmers on a large scale. In conflict-affected communities along the Colombia-Ecuador border, CRS is helping 3,200 small-scale coffee farmers access specialty coffee markets, and reduce their vulnerability to hunger and environmental degradation. The 5-year, \$10 million Borderlands project works with small-scale farming families to boost household income through improved yields, increased coffee quality, enhanced organizational capacity and expanded access to specialty markets.

WATER

Our goal is safe water, for all, all the time—meaning all families have piped water in their homes, wherever possible, and that water systems reliably deliver safe, affordable water. Beyond building infrastructure, we help communities effectively manage their water resources—from the watersheds that provide water to the tanks, pipes and faucets that deliver water to people's homes. Given that most watersheds in the region are affected by farming, our water strategy includes promoting sustainable agriculture practices and watershed protection. Locally elected water boards manage and maintain water systems and watersheds, financed through monthly fees paid by users. We work with communities, municipal governments and national government agencies to invest and support water resources management through strategic investments and smart policies.

WHERE WE WORK

Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Peru
St. Lucia



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EDUCATION

\$11.8 MILLION • 698,012 PEOPLE • 3 COUNTRIES

With funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CRS helps support education, child development and food security in poor countries like Guatemala and Honduras. Our goal is to reduce hunger, and improve literacy and primary education by providing school meals to students, teacher training and other technical support, and transportation to students transitioning to middle school. Involving parents and communities is critical for improving children's performance. So we help them understand the value of education and form or strengthen parent-teacher associations and school management committees. We then work with these groups to advocate for better support for their schools, create after-school tutoring programs and reading camps, and improve school infrastructure including school gardens and canteens.

In Haiti, where Catholic schools account for 15 percent of the education system, CRS works with Church partners and the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education to train and accredit teachers so that more schools can seek government subsidies. In conjunction with school-level support provided by U.S.-based Catholic parishes and dioceses, we are helping to change the face of Catholic education in Haiti.

EMERGENCIES

\$20.2 MILLION • 224,111 PEOPLE • 11 COUNTRIES

CRS works with communities to plan for and respond to frequent natural disasters, building resilience along the way so that people are better able to withstand future emergencies. Coordinating with local government and community groups, we develop and raise awareness about emergency plans. In the Caribbean, youth emergency action committees put young people to work mapping out evacuation routes and setting up emergency shelters. In rural areas, CRS helps farmers improve soil quality, protect vital water sources, and replant areas prone to landslides and flooding.

With more than 200 partner organizations, including an extensive network of Catholic Church partners, CRS is able to deploy relief supplies just hours after disaster strikes—even in the remotest of locations. In the aftermath, we provide transitional housing and help rebuild livelihoods. After Hurricane Odile battered Mexico's Baja California Peninsula in 2014, CRS provided cash grants to 700 families via prepaid cards, which they used for goods and services at local shops. This helped local vendors get back in business and injected cash into disaster-stricken economies.

HEALTH

\$3.8 MILLION • 930,595 PEOPLE • 3 COUNTRIES

Health programs are an integral part of our emergency, agriculture, water, and peace and justice efforts. With U.S. government and private donor resources, we're fighting chronic hunger and malnutrition through programs that provide much-needed food to vulnerable young children, pregnant women and new mothers in conjunction with pre- and post-natal care. Community health care workers teach women about preventing malnutrition and treating common illness like diarrhea and pneumonia. We work with health centers to immunize children and treat illnesses before it is too late. To encourage consumption of nutritious foods, we teach families how to plant gardens and care for livestock.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE AND JUSTICE

\$7.1 MILLION • 543,411 PEOPLE • 14 COUNTRIES

Increasing violence and lack of economic opportunity in Central America have pushed young people to join the hundreds of thousands of adults making the perilous journey to the United States. CRS reaches tens of thousands of migrants through Catholic service providers on the frontlines providing basic services, medical and mental health care, and legal protection.

To target the root causes of migration, CRS invests in young people, who play a crucial role in transforming their communities. YouthBuilders, CRS' flagship program, has helped more than 5,000 young people in Central America build vocational and life skills so they can find jobs, start small businesses or return to school. For 6 months, young people work on community projects, learning discipline and the value of team work.

In Peru and Bolivia, we help indigenous people understand their rights, and resolve conflicts around extractive industries and water access. In Ecuador and Colombia, we help people displaced by decades-long conflict rebuild their lives and integrate into their communities.

OUR FUNDING

For fiscal year 2014, U.S. government support represented 55 percent of the region's external donor resources. Private and corporate foundations funded 25 percent of our programs.

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation and Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. provided the largest grants.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Ave. Diagonal 6, 11-97, Zona 10
Centro Inter-Naciones, Nivel 7
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Phone: 502 2362 2173
holly.inurreta@crs.org