



Catholic Relief Services and our partners are responding to immediate needs of families displaced and affected by crisis in the Holy Land.



A boy walks past destruction in Rafah.

Photo by Abed Rahim Khatib/picture-alliance/dpa/AP

CONTEXT

Across the Holy Land, a humanitarian crisis is escalating with continued air strikes on Gaza following an unprecedented attack on Israel. Since October 7, more than 7,100 people have been killed—68% of whom are women and children.

Nearly 1.4 million people in Gaza—60% of the population—have been displaced following orders to evacuate, though they have nowhere to go. Families are crowded into schools, churches, hospitals, homes and shelters for safety. Greatly diminished supplies of food and clean water are putting people—especially pregnant women and new mothers—at risk for malnutrition. With at least 42% of homes in Gaza destroyed, and the recent shelling of a hospital and church, safe shelter remains uncertain.

Since October 11, Gaza has been under full blackout. Lack of fuel is of grave concern, especially for municipal facilities that depend on backup generators to function. On October 21, the Rafah border between Gaza and Egypt opened for the passage of some humanitarian aid, though much more is needed as supplies run out and hospitals near collapse. As civilians across the Holy Land experience profound grief, trauma and paralyzing fear, the need for psychological first aid is critical.

Catholic Relief Services and our partners are responding to meet urgent, comprehensive needs, while also monitoring possible extended needs across the region.

.....
13 partners

TRAINED IN
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
AND REPOSE
HAVE BEEN
ACTIVATED.

.....
Since 1961

CRS HAS BEEN
SERVING FAMILIES
IN THE HOLY LAND.

Since 1961

CRS HAS BEEN
SERVING FAMILIES
IN THE HOLY LAND.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS' emergency response is cross-regional. We are prepared to respond quickly and extensively, due in large part to our longstanding presence in the Holy Land.

CRS has established an emergency coordination group with 13 local partners trained in emergency response. CRS is working closely with these partners throughout its response, including to conduct community validation of referred families and further engagement based on confirmed needs and operational capacity in the weeks ahead.

Since this crisis began, CRS has provided 7,100 families in Gaza with cash assistance, building off programming before this crisis that had supported some of Gaza's most vulnerable families. CRS and our local partners are coordinating closely with the United Nations, civil society organizations and humanitarian responders in preparation to provide the following:

- Support for Church partners in Gaza to care for the thousands of people who are staying in their compounds as a safe haven.
- Emergency shelter supplies, including winter items.
- Household items including mattresses, blankets and other materials.
- Cash assistance.
- Psychological first aid and caregiver support.
- Support for food assistance and water, sanitation and hygiene.



CRS and partners have supported emergency response efforts in Gaza 2014 and successive conflicts.

Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS

OUR COMMITMENT

Inspired by the unwavering commitment of our Church partners across the Holy Land, CRS remains committed to our spiritual and humanitarian mission, rooted in our values, to help those in greatest need in times of war and peace alike.

At CRS, we believe that all human life is sacred and we extend our support and solidarity for the safe, dignified lives of our sisters and brothers throughout the Holy Land. We hope to work toward a shared future where people can flourish and live in just and peaceful societies.

“I urge believers to take just one side in this conflict: that of peace.”

-Pope Francis