



**CRS and our partners are focused on meeting immediate and recovery needs of families displaced and affected by unprecedented crisis in the Holy Land.**



CRS has been serving families in the Holy Land since 1961. Photo by Shareef Sarhan for CRS.

## CONTEXT

Violent conflict in the Holy Land has escalated dramatically since an unprecedented Hamas-led attack on Israel in the early morning of October 7. The deadliest attack in Israel in decades, it was followed by retaliatory strikes on Gaza. More than 1,800 people have been killed and even more have been wounded. The United Nations has reported that in Gaza, more than 300,000 internally displaced people are sheltering in U.N. schools, public places and with family members. These numbers are expected to increase as hostilities continue.

Intense violence is affecting families in all aspects of life across the Holy Land. Bombardments have damaged and destroyed homes, leaving tens of thousands displaced. Schools, medical facilities and other infrastructure are severely damaged or destroyed.

Access to vital food, fuel and water are of tremendous concern. Currently in the Gaza Strip, electricity is restricted to four hours per day, limiting the ability of health facilities to treat the injured. An area of just 140 square miles between Israel and the Mediterranean sea, the Gaza Strip is one of the most vulnerable and crowded corners of the world, and a place from which people are uniquely unable to flee to safety.

The scale of humanitarian needs and toll on life remain to be seen over the coming days and weeks. Pope Francis has called on people worldwide "to pray that there be peace in Israel and Palestine."

## HOW TO HELP

- **Donate online:**  
[support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict](https://support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict)
- **Donate by phone:**  
1-877-HELP-CRS
- **Donate by check:**  
Catholic Relief Services  
Holy Land Response  
P.O. Box 5200  
Harlan, IA 51593-0700

13 partners

TRAINED IN  
EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS  
AND REPOSE  
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Since 1961

CRS HAS BEEN  
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## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS has activated coordination in the region among 13 partners trained in emergency preparedness and response.

We are able to draw on our extensive experience and partnerships in the Holy Land, where CRS has been active for decades and where we responded comprehensively to the needs of those affected by the 2014 war and successive conflicts. Our immediate focus will be to support the needs of families displaced and affected by this crisis, as they seek safety, stability and the means to rebuild their lives.

CRS emergency support will be based on priority needs, local contexts and partner guidance, and may include any or all of the following:

- Emergency food and living supplies.
- Safe and dignified shelter support.
- Protection for people who are most vulnerable.
- Support for psychological counseling and trauma recovery.
- Recovery of homes and livelihoods.



## CRS EXPERIENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

CRS has been serving families in the Holy Land since 1961. Our presence and extensive network of local partners enables us to respond to urgent needs, and to closely monitor programs and security.

Since our establishment in 1943 to support refugees fleeing war-torn Europe, CRS has evolved into one of the world's leading humanitarian relief and development agencies. We provide lifesaving relief in the wake of natural and human-made emergencies, and address issues of chronic poverty and injustice through innovative and sustainable development programs.

The vast majority of our projects are implemented in partnership with local organizations with which we share a vision. Strengthening the capacity of these partners is fundamental to programs in every country where we work. We place special emphasis on working with the social agencies of the local Catholic Church and other faith-based organizations with a mutual commitment to promoting justice and integral human development.