



Catholic Relief Services and our partners are responding to immediate needs of families facing hunger and displacement in the Holy Land.



Destruction outside church grounds in Gaza.

Photo courtesy of Caritas Jerusalem

CONTEXT

A humanitarian crisis across the Holy Land continues to escalate since the October 7 attack on Israel and subsequent air strikes that have since devastated Gaza. Since the start of the conflict, 22,438 Palestinians and 1,200 Israelis have been killed—70% of whom are women and children. The people of Gaza continue to experience deprivation and deadly violence, with no way to protect themselves or provide for their families. As access to food, shelter and water has deteriorated, hunger has become of heightened concern. According to recent estimates, the entire population in the Gaza Strip is at imminent risk of famine if the situation does not dramatically improve in the next three months.

An estimated 1.9 million people—85% of the population in Gaza—are displaced, with many living on the street without protection from the elements. These conditions are especially dangerous for children and pregnant women, people living with disabilities, and those suffering from illness or recovering from injury. Infections and waterborne illnesses are spreading rapidly, especially among children under age 5. Current humanitarian aid efforts are unable to meet the scale of need.

Conflict has expanded into the West Bank and, more recently, to Lebanon, where 72,437 people have been displaced. Beyond people's physical needs is the emotional toll across the region—immense suffering, despair, grief and trauma. Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) staff members in Gaza are working every day to assist the most vulnerable.

Since 1961

CRS HAS BEEN SERVING FAMILIES IN THE HOLY LAND.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS is working closely with partners in Gaza and across the region to meet urgent needs. CRS and our local partners are coordinating with the United Nations, civil society organizations and humanitarian responders to provide the following:

- **Cash Assistance**

CRS has provided cash assistance to 21,197 families—127,182 people—since the conflict began.

- **Food**

CRS is working with the World Food Program to deliver lifesaving meals, delivering 3,380 food parcels in just one week in December. CRS has also procured ready-to-eat food rations for 1,440 families.

- **Support for Church Partners**

CRS is supporting four churches in Gaza, where 850 people are temporarily sheltered. These sites are receiving cash assistance, food and other items.

- **Shelter and Hygiene Supplies**

CRS and our partners have distributed blankets, mattresses and mats to 3,550 families; secured bedding for an additional 1,360 families; and prepared shelter kits for 480 families.

- **Logistics and Operations**

CRS established an office in Rafah with an adjacent warehouse. Our vendor distribution network has expanded across two governorates. From our logistics hub in Cairo and with our Egypt team, CRS has procured bedding, hygiene and food supplies. We are transporting shipments across the Rafah border as access allows.

- **Counseling Support**

CRS and partners are prioritizing psychological first aid, caregiver resources and referrals for specialized trauma, grief and other counseling and support.

- **In Lebanon**

CRS is supporting Caritas Lebanon to provide cash, food and hygiene kits to displaced families.



CRS and our partners have sent more than 30 trucks of supplies from Egypt, and plan to send much more aid as access into Gaza allows.

Photo by Sayed Hassan for CRS

OUR COMMITMENT

Inspired by our colleagues and 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.

We pray for our heroic staff in Gaza, many of whom are displaced, mourn the loss of loved ones and fear for their lives. We are indebted to their humanity at a time when their worlds are falling apart. They are supporting the most vulnerable within their community even as they and their families face immense hardships.

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 continue to work toward a shared future where people can flourish and live in just and peaceful societies.

HOW TO HELP

- **Donate online:**

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