



Go FAR
faith. action. results.
The Campaign for Catholic Relief Services



Empowering Youth



Our youth are our future.

Motivated by our Gospel mission, Catholic Relief Services is launching a global initiative to educate, employ and empower vulnerable youth.

Because we should, and because we can. Our deep Catholic faith tells us to help our brothers and sisters in most need and transform hopelessness into opportunity. We know how to harness the human potential of a generation of future leaders. And we have vast Church and professional networks as a result of more than 75 years' experience helping the world's most vulnerable people. The Go FAR Campaign for Catholic Relief Services is what will fuel our work to put faith into action.





The Need

Today, the world has more young people than ever before, according to the United Nations.¹ Many young people ages 15 to 29 are out of school and unemployed or underemployed. Too often they must navigate unrest and insecurity. And too many are forced by these circumstances into desperate decisions that lead to migration, exploitation and human trafficking. We see this happen across the globe, from Guatemala to The Gambia.

Without the ability to learn and work in their home communities, youth are vulnerable to these risks. This generation must confront dangerous migration, terrorist organizations, gangs, political strife, changing climates and rapidly changing technology—all of which disrupt traditional earning opportunities. Small gaps in a young person's education can become insurmountable.

But we can reverse this trajectory. Today's young people have enormous potential to overcome poverty and inequality. If we don't act now, this potential will be lost. By giving youth the chance to envision and pursue safe, productive futures at home, we can break the chains of poverty. This campaign will make that possible—and help young people go far.

Why Now?

We are at a tipping point. With an ever-growing youth population and rising unemployment, the challenges that are crippling individual families will spiral.² Unchecked, this will have a catastrophic impact on the global economy, peace and our environment.

Young people are inheriting a world fraught with complex challenges. They need skills, safe learning environments and a stake in the future so they are equipped to lead the next generation. Investing in programs that prepare young people for 21st century work will be an investment in tomorrow's global leaders.

Fortunately, we have a solution. CRS and our partners are building on proven models, moving beyond localized programming to focus on entire regions. As part of our Vision 2030 strategy, we will accelerate the scale of our reach from thousands of youth to millions to permanently revolutionize the global youth sector. By putting our faith into action, we can lead the charge against one of the worst perpetrators of poverty—the disenfranchisement of the world's poorest youth.

1. *United Nations*

2. *International Labor Organization*

CRS IS ON PACE TO
INCREASE THE SIZE

OF OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

BY 500%

IN 10 YEARS

“

We cannot resign ourselves to losing a generation of young people who do not have the dignity of work! A generation without work is a future defeat for the country and humanity.”

—Pope Francis



OVER THE
NEXT 10 YEARS

CRS WILL EMPOWER
5 MILLION
YOUNG PEOPLE

THROUGH TRAINING
AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Opportunity

Over the next 10 years, CRS will work with partners and communities to enable 5 million young people to find jobs, start businesses and return to school—all while protecting workers, especially young women.

We are pioneering a proven entrepreneurship model of youth empowerment that can be replicated by decision makers across governments, peer agencies and local markets. Our framework includes the elements researchers agree are critical: life and business skills, mentoring, cash and credit.

Our model can achieve transformational change by:

- Bolstering youth programs through CRS signature activities like microfinance training, agricultural support for rural youth and work with refugees—while also implementing stand alone youth programs.
- Strengthening government-led vocational centers, ensuring they align efforts with local markets, adopt standards for safe and dignified work, and provide young people with the right skills for employment, entrepreneurship and leadership in the 21st century.
- Leveraging unique and agile blended finance models that use private funding for early training and startup activities, giving young entrepreneurs room to grow their businesses.

CRS will adopt these approaches around the world for global impact. We will focus initial efforts in Africa, including Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Kenya and Madagascar, and Latin America, including El Salvador.

Why CRS?

CRS is poised to go forward and achieve unparalleled results. Our established reputation and extensive network of Catholic Church partners put us among the few top agencies who work with rural youth. While other youth programs focus on urban areas, our Gospel imperative compels us to go where others do not—to the most underserved communities.

CRS' longstanding presence and myriad public, private and Church partnerships position us to unite diverse leaders. This has enabled our youth programs to grow quickly but sustainably to reach almost 100,000 young people across 20 countries. In Latin America, our youth employment model is now in five countries, with 70% of youth finding employment or returning to school.

The Legacy

Everyone deserves a chance to work hard and build a life in their community. This vision will redefine what is possible for young people in communities around the world—and help them go far. We can transform a generation and those that follow. It's what we should do and what we can do, together.



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Go FAR: The Campaign for Catholic Relief Services is seeking \$275 million over five years in support of the CRS Vision 2030 Strategy.

Cover photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS