



Go FAR

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



Strengthening Families



Children deserve safe, nurturing families

With your support, we can make this vision a reality. Together, we will protect children and families in need by strengthening community support and access to critical services, and equipping families with the resources they need to thrive together.

Because we should, and because we can. At Catholic Relief Services, our deep faith tells us to help our brothers and sisters in most need. We know how to empower families. 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 will fuel our work to put faith into action.





The Need

In the past 20 years, the world has made great progress in reducing child mortality and uplifting millions of families out of poverty. Yet in the world's most vulnerable communities, extreme poverty is still preventing children from achieving their God-given potential.

Children living in extreme poverty struggle with malnutrition and stunting, reduced access to school and sanitation, preventable childhood diseases, and early marriage. Many are vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and family separation, which destabilizes their physical and emotional well-being. Later in life, they often suffer from the lasting scars of trauma. These risks are even greater for children with disabilities, adolescent girls and children living outside of family care.

Families are key to a child's success. Lack of safe and nurturing families can have long-lasting effects on children's overall well-being including brain function, mental health, health-risk behaviors, noncommunicable diseases, infectious diseases such as HIV, and social functioning.

Many parents cannot afford food, education or health care for their children. Without strong support systems to help, many loving parents make the desperate decision to place their children in orphanages. Yet, while some orphanages meet children's basic needs, most cannot provide highly individualized care and attention. A century of research has proven that children who grow up in orphanages suffer challenges to their physical, emotional and intellectual development, and are more susceptible to abuse and exploitation.

Why Now?

The futures of millions of children are at risk if we don't act now. Each day matters for these children. Now, COVID-19 is threatening recent gains in child health and well-being and further exacerbates the vulnerability of families who were already suffering. Since the pandemic, more than ever, families are experiencing lost incomes, limitations on schooling, and decreased access to food, necessities and social support. These stressors are pushing families to their limits, damaging mental health and increasing the potential for violence or neglect. More children may also be placed in orphanages.

These are solvable problems. For decades, CRS and our partners have worked at the national and regional levels to support vulnerable children and families. As part of our Vision 2030 strategy, we have an opportunity to go further and build on this history to tackle this systemic problem on a global level. It's time to reprioritize our efforts and funding so we can help the world's most vulnerable children thrive in safe, nurturing families and stay together.

80% to 90%

OF CHILDREN LIVING IN ORPHANAGES **HAVE A LIVING PARENT**

“

It is from the family that citizens come to birth and it is within the family that they find the first school of the social virtues.”

—Saint John Paul II



OVER THE
NEXT 10 YEARS

CRS WILL HELP
1 MILLION
CHILDREN

REACH THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL

The Opportunity

Children who grow up in safe, nurturing families have better outcomes in life—including improved cognitive, emotional and social development, better health and greater success in school. Through CRS' 10-year agency strategy, Vision 2030, we will support 1 million children and their families. Our impact will be global, with initial projects in countries like Guatemala, Haiti, Lebanon, Moldova, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso.

To strengthen families, we will help caregivers learn and practice positive parenting, connect families with supportive communities, help children access education, health and social services, and build families' resources through savings groups, cash grants, school vouchers and financial education.

By providing families the support they need, we will address the root causes of family separation and help prevent children from having to enter orphanages in the first place. CRS will also work with families, partners and governments to help reunite families who have already been separated.

Working with our unique network of Church and faith-based partners, we will strengthen community support for children and families. We will transform orphanages into family and community service providers. We will train our partners to improve their case management work with children and offer holistic health and psychosocial services to the most vulnerable. These efforts will inform local and national policies and practices, building on our strong local relationships.

Why CRS?

We are called to put our faith into action to care for the whole child, the whole family and the whole community. As a thought leader in health, education and microfinance, we can provide families and communities with the comprehensive support they need to overcome poverty.

This model has already had success in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Uganda and Moldova. For example, thanks to an investment in family-based care in Moldova, the number of children in orphanages there has been reduced by 90%. Now it's time to Go FAR and take this approach to a global scale.

By convening and mobilizing local partners, and leveraging private support, we can achieve widespread, transformational change.

The Legacy

Together, we can create a transformational movement to strengthen families and support vulnerable children. 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 Jennifer Hardy/CRS