



Anisha sits in front of her home in Nepal with one of her goats.
Photo by Jennifer Hardy/CRS

Building Homes in Asia

A home is more than just a building. It is the heart of a family—where children grow and memories are made. Often when homes are destroyed, dreams are lost too. This is why CRS is working with people affected by emergencies to rebuild their homes and communities.

Going Far

Through **Go FAR: The Campaign for Catholic Relief Services**, CRS is ensuring vulnerable people around the world have safe and dignified homes, and that communities are safe from future crises. Our approach goes beyond providing shelter and immediate relief. We promote sustainable solutions and local leadership, and work with partners to influence governments and the international humanitarian community for lasting impact. **Because we should, and because we can.**

The Need

While CRS continues to support emergency shelter programs around the world, we will pilot our global model—in alignment with our Vision 2030 agency strategy—in regions like South and Southeast Asia.

South and Southeast Asia are home to some of the most catastrophic natural disasters in recent memory, as well as today's largest refugee crisis. For example, Indonesia and the Philippines have endured cyclical cyclones and massive earthquakes. Nepal is still reeling from back-to-back earthquakes in 2015, which killed thousands of people and destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes. And in Bangladesh, more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees live in the world's largest, most densely populated settlement.

Compounding these challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic is heightening the dangers families face while living in congested environments with limited access to water, hygiene and sanitation.

The Opportunity

When disaster strikes, lives are upturned. Safe homes are the first step to recovery, providing the foundation for healing, caregiving and strengthened resilience. Through our longstanding presence and networks in Asia, CRS is poised to help families affected by crisis to rebuild stronger than before.

We focus not only on building roofs and walls, but helping families build true homes and communities where they can thrive. We provide comprehensive support, like building safe temporary or permanent homes, preventing the spread of COVID-19, providing access to water and sanitation, strengthening livelihoods, and supporting emotional well-being and local leadership.

“Now I have resources to think of the future.”

—Anisha

Our experts work closely with communities to design housing models based on local contexts and materials. Each home is built safely and affordably, even in areas prone to disasters. We engage families in their home-building process—from choosing which model best suits their needs, to training adults to participate in basic construction or repairs. And we are active in the communities we serve, helping organizations and governments improve their knowledge and training for future disaster preparedness.



CRS helped Anisha and her family rebuild after an earthquake destroyed their home.
Photo by Jennifer Hardy/CRS.

The Impact

Together with our partners, CRS will help families in Asia build safe, dignified homes and infrastructure so that they can survive and recover from emergencies. We will also assist families with livelihoods support, and provide local communities and governments with training to continue this work effectively and sustainably. The following details estimate our activities and impacts.

We will build safe, dignified homes.

- Help build or repair homes for 5,000 displaced people in the Philippines.
- Provide emergency shelter to 40,000 people after disasters in Indonesia.
- Help build or repair homes for 10,000 people in Indonesia.
- Help build homes for 15,000 families who have been struggling to rebuild on their own, with a special focus on the most vulnerable in Nepal.
- Build transitional shelters for refugees in new settlement areas in Bangladesh.
- Help build homes for refugees in Bangladesh.

We will provide water, sanitation and hygiene.

- Repair 260 communal water structures, providing cash-for-work to 5,000 people working on the construction in Nepal.
- Build 125 communal water, sanitation and hygiene centers in the Philippines.
- Distribute hygiene kits and help maintain clean, operational communal bathrooms and water taps in Bangladesh.
- Promote hand-washing and other practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Philippines.

We will make country-specific home and community improvements.

- Advocate for the federal government to allocate a higher share of public resources toward housing reconstruction and infrastructure repair, benefiting 80,000 families across 69 municipalities by 2023 in Nepal.
- Map hazards across the Cox's Bazaar refugee settlement and make improvements related to drainage, pathways, retention walls and streetlights in Bangladesh.
- Build child- and women-friendly spaces for counseling, activities and recreation in Bangladesh.
- Train five staff from 17 local partners on shelter solutions, cash-based programming for shelter recovery, and Build Back Safer standards in Indonesia.

Homes of Recovery

Five years ago, Anisha Shrestha lost her home during an historic earthquake in Nepal. Fortunately, Anisha's family was one of 20,000 who received help from CRS with building better, safer homes.

In addition to the design and material support, Anisha received masonry and construction training from CRS so she was able to earn money working on her home and other projects. "That was a turning point," she says. She reinvested her savings in a business raising goats. Today, she and her daughter-in-law live in the safest home they've ever had.

"I feel privileged that things are getting better. I didn't give up even though I had so much hard work to do," says Anisha. "Now I have many good things. My son tells me, 'You don't have to work so hard anymore,' so I'm taking it a little easy now. I hadn't rested for a long time."

The Legacy

CRS is helping thousands of people like Anisha build a safe and healthy environment where they can thrive. But our reach does not end in Asia. Through **Go FAR**, we will provide 1.5 million people around the world with safe and dignified homes and help protect them from future crises. **We know it's what we should do. And, together, we can.**

Learn More

about our vision for building homes
in Bangladesh and other countries
gofar.crs.org

