



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



Transforming Livelihoods





It starts with the land.

At Catholic Relief Services, we are ready to answer our Gospel calling to alleviate suffering in a bold way—to move farming families out of poverty by restoring degraded land. Because we should, and because we can.

Our deep Catholic faith tells us to help our brothers and sisters in most need and to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given, including our planet. We know how to help communities and environments thrive together. And we have vast Church and professional networks as a result of more than 75 years' experience helping the world's most vulnerable people. Go FAR is what will fuel our work to put faith into action.

The Need

The world's poorest families depend on farming for food and income. But far too many live on degraded land that cannot produce the crops they need.

Small-scale farmers—half of whom are women—grow 70% to 80% of the world's food.² CRS will support sustainable farming, reversing degradation and addressing a root cause of poverty. If we don't act, we will lose the gains we've made in reducing hunger and human suffering.

Why Now?

Many leading organizations have documented decades of topsoil loss and depletion of soil nutrients. According to the United Nations and a study by Cornell University, soil is being lost between 10 and 100 times faster than it is forming. As a result, farmland is disappearing.

The crisis will have ripple effects for entire communities and future generations. Assessments of land degradation demonstrate its multiplier effect—exacerbating poverty and hunger, contributing to unemployment, triggering migration and displacement, and escalating conflict.

Now is the moment to act, and we have a solution. Through decades of working with poor farmers, CRS has seen the transformational impact that land restoration can have on people's lives. As part of our Vision 2030 strategy, we are ready to expand this work and tip the balance for the global poor.

The Opportunity

CRS is poised to build on our successful agricultural programming and transform livelihoods and landscapes on a regional scale. Over the next 10 years, we will expand proven land restoration models to restore 4 million acres of land and help 1 million people overcome poverty—and protect the planet for future generations.

This campaign priority will help farmers adopt sustainable practices to protect land and resources so they can build a reliable food supply, bolster livelihoods and strengthen their resilience. Farmers will increase and improve their production, enabling them to feed their families and sell their surplus crops—moving from subsistence farming to more directly engaging in the economy. With better incomes, families can send their children to school, improve their health and well being, overcome poverty—and go far in their lives.

1. Cornell University

2. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

OVER THE PAST
40 YEARS,



OF THE WORLD'S
FARMLAND HAS
BECOME
UNPRODUCTIVE¹

**But the poor will
inherit the earth,
will delight in
great prosperity.**

—Psalm 37:11



Photo by Mark Metzger/CRS

OVER THE
NEXT 10 YEARS

CRS WILL RESTORE
4 MILLION
ACRES OF LAND

AND HELP 1 MILLION
FARM FAMILIES
OVERCOME POVERTY

CRS will expand tested, farmer-centered approaches that focus on restoring soil, water and trees. Working with farmers and partners, we will:

- **Restore watersheds** in hilly areas by helping farmers adopt techniques to retain rainwater and stop soil erosion.
- **Promote water-smart agriculture** in dry regions to help farmers manage soil and water so they can grow healthy and abundant crops, even in the face of drought.
- **Regreen drylands** where trees are critical to keeping moisture and nutrients in the soil. In many deforested areas, root systems are alive and well underground. We will help farmers bring these trees back to life and capture rainwater.
- **Build agroforestry systems** in a variety of landscapes by planting trees and valuable crops together—empowering farmers to both protect and benefit economically from trees and forests.

These priorities will build on our proven methods to move farmers along a pathway to prosperity—through savings-led microfinance programs and by improving long-term access to markets. Engaging communities—especially women and youth—has been a cornerstone of CRS programs and will continue to be vital for real change to take place.

We will focus initial efforts in Africa, including Ethiopia, Lesotho, Niger and Madagascar, and Mesoamerica, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. These countries will serve as catalysts for testing and adapting models that can be used around the world.

Why CRS?

Putting our faith into action, CRS responds to the Pope's call to protect people and planet. With a long track record of results, and as a thought leader in the sector, CRS has earned the trust of more than 500 local Church and community partners that enable us to go to the most remote regions.

We are ready to expand our reach as never before, shifting from a farm-by-farm model to one that can be adapted across entire regions to drive global impact. CRS will lead a global land restoration movement—one that keeps vulnerable people at its center and restores not only land, but well-being, opportunities and dignity.

The Legacy

Our vision is to go far, transforming the world by restoring lives and landscapes. With this movement, we will leave a legacy of abundant food, prosperous livelihoods and a healthy planet for generations to come. It's what we should do and what we can do, together.



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