

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

# Impact Report 2023



# Cast Out to the Deep

## *A Message From the Honorary Chair*

In recent years, dark clouds have hung over us as the world faced historic incidents of disease, upheaval and conflict. In a way, it was a foreboding time to kick off Catholic Relief Services' first leadership giving campaign.

But, as Jesus told us, we are to "cast out to the deep!" Helping people in need is more than a nice idea—it is a duty of our faith—and it is during the gloomiest days that our light is most precious.

Now, four years into the Go FAR campaign, we can reflect on our accomplishments and say, "Thank God, we certainly have shone our light!" Already, Go FAR and its supporters have reached millions of people in need—building homes, transforming livelihoods, empowering youth, strengthening families and more.

When we launched Go FAR, I hoped it would remind us of the primacy of love for the poor, and act as an amplifier for Catholics looking to reassert their confidence in Jesus and his Church. Since then, I have proudly witnessed an outpouring of love and generosity facilitated through, and by, Go FAR.

Charity may begin at home, but it does not stop there.

This, of course, is the essence of our Catholic identity. As Catholics, the Church is always beyond us. It is universal, and it beckons us to go "to the margins," as Pope Francis urges. As Jesus commanded his disciples to "cast out to the deep" before catching the miraculous draught of fish, so too must we continue to cast out, far and wide.

Knowing this, we can recognize and celebrate the overwhelming good we have achieved, while understanding there is light still to shine. It is time to go further than before, not because we are nearing our finish line, but because the Gospel calls us to keep working.

It is my hope that through Go FAR, we will continue to cast out so deep as to reach the farthest corners of the world. Because we should and because we can.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim. Card. Dolan".

**Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York**  
HONORARY CHAIR | GO FAR CAMPAIGN

# Because We Should, Because We Can

## *A Message From the CEO*

When CRS developed our Vision 2030 agency strategy, our goal was to solve some of the most pressing problems of the 21st century. We challenged ourselves to act boldly—to expand on our successes and champion communities to become agents of their own destiny. Because we should, and because we can.

We launched Go FAR: The Campaign for Catholic Relief Services to bring this vision to life and call for a movement about **faith, action and results**.

Our donors, partners and the people we serve answered the call.

**I am humbled by the success of the Go FAR campaign.** Thanks to the profound generosity of our donors, we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$350 million, raising more than \$400 million in cash and commitments. And this number continues to rise as we approach the end of the campaign and accelerate our efforts to meet growing and changing needs.

This remarkable support has shepherded Vision 2030 forward—enabling us to leverage public funding and influence our vast network of partners, to take our work to the next level and to catalyze transformational change at scale.

And it has created unprecedented progress for the people we serve—helping farmers restore their land, strengthening families, creating opportunities for young people, building homes for people affected by crisis, and equipping CRS to respond to evolving needs with speed and agility.

Still, our sisters and brothers around the world face tremendous challenges, and there is more work to do. Our strategy runs through 2030, and we are ready to build on our progress and the solidarity of our supporters and partners to achieve even greater results and deepen our impact.

The movement continues. Together, we will go far.

**Thanks to the profound generosity of our donors, we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$350 million, raising more than \$400 million in cash and commitments.**



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Sean L. Callahan".

**Sean L. Callahan**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO | CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



# Building Homes



“

Since we moved three months ago,  
my children cough much less. I feel  
so happy for their safety.”

—Tisah



## *Home is everything.*

The loss of a home fractures a family's identity and the roots of community. Unfortunately, more communities than ever are facing natural disasters, economic turmoil and conflict. In 2022, internal displacements caused by conflict and violence were three times higher than the annual average of the past 10 years.<sup>1</sup>

### Through Go FAR support to date, CRS has built homes for 1.9 million people.

Following our Gospel mission to serve people in need, CRS is building safe, dignified homes for people uprooted by crisis. Our initiative spans from Uganda to the Philippines—working alongside families and communities affected by emergencies—and aims to repair the many facets of human life that are broken by the loss of a home, including safety, health, prosperity, emotional well-being and dignity.

In Indonesia, for example, CRS is ensuring families have the disaster-resilient housing they need to survive along the Ring of Fire, a geographic region known to experience frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Through a pilot project in the village of Kedung Dalem, CRS is working with the local government to demonstrate family-led housing solutions that work, even with modest investments.

Together we are helping low-income families build safely from the ground up, following our construction model for 1,500 square foot homes that each feature two bedrooms, a living room and a bathroom. In addition to technical expertise, CRS provides families with cash for materials and labor.

This is how Tisah, a health worker and mother of four, moved her family out of the broken-down home she had lived in for 14 years. “My old house was small and crowded. If it rained, it flooded the house from a leak in the roof,” she says. “There were three families staying in that house. I can’t imagine it now.”

Her new home is secure and comfortable. “In the old house, there was a lot of asbestos in the ceiling. My children would cough a lot. Since we moved three months ago, my children are coughing much less,” Tisah says. “I feel so happy for their safety.”

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1. World Bank



# Transforming Livelihoods



“

Thanks to the environmental protection we did, there's always food—even when the cyclones hit.”

—Félicité



## *It starts with the land.*

The world's most vulnerable families depend on farming for food and income, but far too many live on degraded land that cannot produce nutritious, high-value crops. In fact, more than 30% of the world's farmland has become unproductive in the last 40 years.<sup>2</sup> A changing climate is exacerbating the problem, making it increasingly precarious for small-scale farmers to meet their most basic needs.

CRS is on a mission to expand proven land restoration models and help people overcome poverty and strengthen their resiliency to climate change—all while protecting the planet for future generations.

**Through Go FAR support to date, CRS has helped 715,000 farmers improve their agricultural practices and transform 2.2 million acres of land.**

This is achieved through comprehensive approaches to restoring land, like promoting water-smart agriculture, building agroforestry systems, regreening drylands and restoring watersheds.

In Madagascar, Félicité Raminosoa is one of the many farmers working with the CRS SPICES project to diversify their crops, learn sustainable farming practices, and connect with farming cooperatives and fair markets.

CRS first met Félicité a few years ago when she participated in our training on vanilla cultivation and curing. Since then, she switched her focus from growing low-yielding crops like rice to lucrative spices like vanilla. Her profits jumped exponentially, enabling her to save enough to build her dream home.

“I see people really struggling—even if they have land like us—because they didn’t get any technical advice,” says Félicité. “Without CRS, we’d be struggling too.”

Félicité’s foresight and hard work was proven again last year when cyclones destroyed much of her community. Fortunately, her carefully built new home remained standing, while the strength and diversity of her crops ensured her family had enough to eat and sell.

“Thanks to the environmental protection we did, there’s always food—even when the cyclones hit,” she says. “Thanks to us protecting the environment, it bears fruit for us.”

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2. Cornell University



# Empowering Youth



“

Young people can also make a big, positive impact in our society. Just give us a little bit of trust and we will make the world better.” —Bayron





## *Young people are our future.*

Too many young women and men from vulnerable communities are out of school, unemployed or underemployed. Many of the most vulnerable face conflict, gangs, migration, rapidly changing climates and inaccessible technologies. Without opportunities for learning and work, they cannot obtain the tools and resources they need to break the chains of poverty.

CRS is helping young women and men change the trajectory of their lives through opportunities to pursue safe, productive futures. Our projects provide aspiring young students, leaders and entrepreneurs with life and business skills, professional mentorships and access to funding to start businesses.

### **Through Go FAR support to date, CRS has empowered 156,000 young women and men.**

We are continuing to scale projects across entire regions. Through one CRS-supported project in El Salvador, young people are leading an initiative called Raindrop that teaches local farmers how to produce healthy crops while also restoring their natural resources.

The young people driving Raindrop initially received training from CRS, and now are sharing their knowledge with others. The group has been so successful that last year one of its leaders, Bayron Castro, presented his work during a CRS Virtual Journey of Hope webinar for campaign supporters.

He recounted how, as a child, he played on forested land that has since changed due to improper farming. “I was always interested in protecting the planet,” he says, “but I was just a kid trying to convince people.”

Bayron also recalled that before he found the support needed to dream big and thrive in his community, his early plans for his future were very different. “My goal was to learn English to work in a call center,” he says. “I had no idea about what amazing purpose God had for me.”

Fortunately, CRS had faith in Bayron and the other Raindrop leaders. “We had the opportunity to have mentors who believed in us,” says Bayron. “Traditionally, young people’s voices are not heard. Now we are the generation that claimed to be heard.”

“We are young people who in just three years have demonstrated that we can make a difference,” he says. “Young people can also make a big, positive impact in our society. Just give us a little bit of trust and we will make the world better.”



# Strengthening Families



Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS



## Children deserve safe, nurturing families.

Our most vulnerable sisters and brothers face complex challenges, like extreme poverty, that prevent children from reaching their God-given potential. Many parents who cannot afford food, education or health care for their children, and don't have strong support systems to help, make the desperate decision to place their children in orphanages.

CRS helps families stay together. We protect children and families in need by strengthening community support for access to critical services and resources.

Through Go FAR support to date, CRS has helped 385,700 vulnerable children live in safe, nurturing families.

Our comprehensive approach includes helping caregivers learn and practice positive parenting skills, connecting families with supportive communities, helping children—including children with disabilities—access education, health and social services, and building families' resources through savings groups, cash grants, school vouchers and financial education.

In Zambia, for example, CRS is strengthening families by supporting caregivers like Rose.<sup>3</sup> Rose began caring for her grandson, Joseph, when he was just one month old. He has a neurological disorder and has undergone several surgeries. But Rose could not keep up with medical costs and faced significant challenges providing for his complex care needs.

With support from CRS, Rose received a wheelchair for Joseph. She also participated in parenting sessions to help provide him with the best care, as well as link her to other



Photo by Dooshima Tsee/CRS

local families of children with disabilities. Now it is easier for Rose and Joseph to leave the house and be part of the community, like attending church together. Rose feels less isolated and more connected to support networks. She has since become an advocate for other children with disabilities.

By providing parenting sessions, economic assistance, counseling and referrals to critical health and social services, CRS is giving families like Rose and Joseph the support and resources they need to stay together and thrive. We are also building the capacity of our local Church partners to sustainably support families and build a strong community safety net that will last for years to come. Because for children everywhere, bright futures begin with loving families.

<sup>3</sup>. Names changed to protect privacy.

# Driving Mission Agility

## *CRS transforms lives.*

We go where we are needed most, acting quickly to create sustainable change. We innovate, leverage and partner in ways that maximize efficiency and impact. And we put the dignity of the human person at the center of all we do.

Support for our mission makes our wide-ranging and vital work possible and allows us to reach the most vulnerable people. It enables us to respond to emergencies, like the war in Ukraine, COVID-19, and ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises in the Middle East. And it advances life-changing project commitments, from supporting girls' education in places like Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Guatemala, to promoting sustainable access to water, to combatting malaria in countries like Nigeria, The Gambia and Benin, and promoting peace across the Sahel.







## In collaboration with 1,735 partners, CRS is touching the lives of 255 million people in 122 countries.

By driving mission agility, CRS ensures that all our sisters and brothers reach their full potential—and go far. Below are examples of our five key approaches.

1. In Central America, CRS is **advancing innovation** by investing in small, underserved agricultural businesses. These enterprises are key to ending poverty but are often considered too small and risky for commercial lenders. CRS is providing a unique combination of technical support, business development services and investment funds so businesses can grow and expand their impact. Unrestricted resources give us flexibility to test new approaches to best meet the needs of the people we serve.
2. Support for our mission enables CRS to **leverage resources** in Egypt. We piloted an approach to help unaccompanied young people arriving in the country as refugees. CRS began by assisting 20 young people. After several years of learning and success, an institutional donor is funding the project, which now serves more than 1,000 unaccompanied children and young adults. With private support, CRS leverages public funds to maximize our impact.
3. CRS **acts quickly** to respond to emergencies—like flooding in Pakistan, earthquakes in Haiti, Turkey and

Syria, and the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. But we also respond to crises that never receive global attention. In South Sudan, for example, CRS rapidly responded to flooding in Jonglei State, meeting critical food, health and livelihoods needs. While other organizations are seeking public funding to start emergency responses, CRS is already on the ground saving lives thanks to unrestricted funds from our generous donors.

4. CRS **partners for good** in all that we do. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we trained 300 religious and civil society leaders on our social cohesion approach so they can build peace in their communities. Violence from armed conflict in the Kivu region has destroyed lives and caused widespread displacement. CRS strengthens the capacity of our local partners who might not be eligible for institutional funding but can have tremendous impact.

5. In Myanmar, CRS is **sustaining our presence** despite a challenging context. The country is experiencing conflict and economic catastrophe following a military coup in February 2021. While other organizations are leaving the country, CRS is there, providing lifesaving assistance to families affected by the crisis, as well as support to mitigate its potential economic and social impacts. Unrestricted funding enables us to continue operating in difficult environments where people need us the most.



## Our Mission in Action: Spotlight on Egypt

### *A Message From Dina Refaat, CRS Country Representative For Egypt*

We started to work with unaccompanied children arriving in Egypt as refugees six years ago. They need constant help because they come here without any support. After a tough journey, it's hard to get them to connect to a goal or something that they want to achieve because of the desperate situations they have been in.

I was so appreciative when we started this programming with some of the unrestricted funds that we have from CRS. We were starting something from scratch. These kids are outside of education—no one wants to invest in them or identify innovative ideas to help them.

**Then we got this private funding and started a pilot. We got to build on it, and now it's being funded by one of our public institutional donors, growing from one year to the other and becoming more successful.**

One of my best moments at CRS was when I saw an unaccompanied young person, who had been outside of education for years, begin at university. Whoever had been working on this programming was brought to tears.

It brings a lot of hope to our hearts because we can do it. We can be there. The beauty of this whole journey is how we started with a small pilot that no one wanted to fund. And now we have students in university.



**Dina Refaat**  
CRS COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE FOR EGYPT



# The Call to Go FAR

## *A Message From the Co-Chairs*

As co-chairs of the Go FAR Campaign, we are inspired and humbled by its extraordinary success and impact. Go FAR has lifted our sights higher about what CRS, our partners and the people we serve can accomplish together.

The work that CRS does is more important than ever. We continue to see great need, from the chronic and pervasive challenges of poverty, climate change and hunger to emergencies like the war in Ukraine and the global food crisis. CRS is responding, and this gives us hope.

The Go FAR Campaign is a fount of light. It gives us a way to help—to live our faith and respond to our Gospel calling to serve our sisters and brothers who are forgotten. This is what we should do, and what we can do, together.

The Go FAR journey has been a fulfilling one. We are heartened not only by the campaign's results, but also by how generously our friends and donors have provided their support and guidance—through transformational giving, attendance at webinars and events, travel to programs around the world, and championing CRS and our program participants.

We are grateful to everyone who has joined us as we go far through faith, action and results. During this time of great hardship, our continued compassion is essential. We look forward to our progress ahead.



**Mary Jane and Glenn Creamer**  
CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS



**Karen and Mark Rauenhorst**  
CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

**Because We Should. Because We Can.**

**[gofar.crs.org](https://gofar.crs.org)**



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