



EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN THE HOLY LAND OCTOBER 18, 2023

Catholic Relief Services and our partners are responding to immediate and recovery needs of families displaced and affected by crisis in the Holy Land.



Palestinian women walk past destruction in Nuseirat camp in central Gaza.

Photo by AP Photo/Hatem Moussa.

CONTEXT

The crisis in the Holy Land has unfolded into humanitarian catastrophe after the October 7 attack on Israel, which is being met with a bombardment of retaliatory strikes on Gaza. More than 4,300 deaths have been reported across the region, not including the impact of a recent deadly hospital blast in Gaza city that is estimated to have claimed hundreds of lives. An estimated 1 million people, almost half the population, are displaced following an order for people to evacuate the northern part of Gaza.

Intense violence is affecting families in all aspects of life across the Holy Land. Access to food, fuel and water are of tremendous concern. Gaza has been without electricity for several days. Hospitals are on the brink of collapse as fuel reserves used to operate backup generators are almost depleted. Wastewater and sanitation services are overwhelmed, creating the conditions for a public health disaster.

Options for safe refuge are uncertain and limited. Many people who struggle with mobility—people who are elderly, people living with disabilities and those suffering from illnesses—are unable to escape an active, deadly war zone. Additionally, an estimated 50,000 pregnant women face extreme challenges accessing prenatal and maternity care due to risks related to movement, compromised functionality of health facilities, and a shortage of lifesaving supplies.

HOW TO HELP

- **Donate online:**
support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict
- **Donate by phone:**
 1-877-HELP-CRS
- **Donate by check:**
 Catholic Relief Services
 Holy Land Response
 P.O. Box 5200
 Harlan, IA 51593-0700

Since 1961

CRS HAS BEEN
SERVING FAMILIES
IN THE HOLY LAND.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

In coordination with partners across the region, CRS is helping to meet urgent needs. We are responding to the rapidly-changing context, and are being especially mindful of people's needs—both physical and emotional—at a time of tremendous uncertainty, fear, loss and despair.

CRS is able to draw on our extensive experience and partnerships in the Holy Land, where we have been active for decades, including responses to the needs brought by the 2014 war and successive conflicts.

As this crisis evolves, CRS and partner support will be tailored to priority needs, the local context and partner guidance, and include any or all of the following:

- Emergency food and living supplies.
- Safe and dignified shelter support.
- Psychological counseling and support.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Recovery of homes and livelihoods.



CRS EXPERIENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Our presence and extensive network of local partners enables us to respond to urgent needs, and to closely monitor programs and security.

Since our establishment in 1943 to support refugees fleeing war-torn Europe, CRS has evolved into one of the world's leading humanitarian relief and development agencies. We provide lifesaving relief in the wake of natural and human-made emergencies, and address issues of chronic poverty and injustice through innovative and sustainable development programs.

The vast majority of our projects are implemented in partnership with local organizations with which we share a vision. Strengthening the capacity of these partners is fundamental to programs in every country where we work. We place special emphasis on working with the social agencies of the local Catholic Church and other faith-based organizations with a mutual commitment to promoting justice and integral human development.