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

CONTEXT

It has been one month since a humanitarian crisis has escalated across the Holy Land with continued air strikes on Gaza following an unprecedented attack on Israel. Civilian deaths rapidly increase, as does destruction of civilian, residential, medical and religious properties. Since October 7, more than 10,400 people have been killed, of whom 3,700 are children.

The people of Gaza are experiencing unbearable and increasing deprivation despite an abundance of aid just out of their reach. Nearly 1.4 million people in Gaza—62% of the population—have been displaced following orders to evacuate, though they have nowhere to go. Families are crowded into schools, churches, hospitals, homes and shelters for safety. Shop owners report only days left of food and goods. With at least 45% of homes in Gaza destroyed, and the recent shelling of refugee camps, hospitals and churches, a safe haven is out of reach.

Gaza remains under full blackout and power and sanitation plants have shut down. Over one-third of hospitals and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics have shut down due to damage from hostilities or the lack of fuel. Illnesses are on the rise given congested spaces and lack of means for hygiene and sanitation.

Beyond people’s physical needs is the emotional toll across the Holy Land—immense suffering, despair, grief and trauma. CRS staff are working every day to provide assistance to the most vulnerable, increasing their own personal risks in the process.
Since 1961, CRS has been serving families in the Holy Land.

CRS’ emergency response is cross-regional. We are prepared to respond quickly and extensively, due in large part to our longstanding presence in the Holy Land.

CRS has established an emergency coordination group with 13 local partners trained in emergency response. CRS is working closely with these partners throughout its response, including to conduct community validation of referred families and further engagement based on confirmed needs and operational capacity in the weeks ahead.

Since this crisis began, CRS has provided 9,351 families (more than 45,000 people) in Gaza with cash assistance, building off programming before this crisis that had supported some of Gaza’s most vulnerable families. In fact, since the onset of this recent crisis, CRS has provided 48% of all cash assistance in Gaza.

CRS and our local partners are coordinating closely with the United Nations, civil society organizations and humanitarian responders in preparation to provide the following:

- Support for Church partners in Gaza to care for the thousands of people who are staying in their compounds as a safe haven.
- Emergency shelter supplies, including winter items.
- Household items including mattresses, blankets and other materials.
- Hygiene kits.
- Cash assistance.
- Psychological first aid and caregiver support.
- Support for food assistance.

CRS and partners have supported emergency response efforts in Gaza 2014 and successive conflicts.

Photo by Karen Kasinauski for CRS

**OUR COMMITMENT**

Inspired by the unwavering commitment of our Church partners across the Holy Land, CRS remains committed to our spiritual and humanitarian mission, rooted in our values, to help those in greatest need in times of war and peace alike.

At CRS, we believe that all human life is sacred and we extend our support and solidarity for the safe, dignified lives of our sisters and brothers throughout the Holy Land. We hope to work toward a shared future where people can flourish and live in just and peaceful societies.

*I urge believers to take just one side in this conflict: that of peace.*

- Pope Francis

**HOW TO HELP**

- Donate online: [support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict](http://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