



Six months since the start of the current conflict, CRS staff and partners across Gaza and the region continue to provide urgent, lifesaving assistance to hundreds of thousands of people.



In Gaza, a woman who is displaced with her family receives shelter materials from CRS. Photo by Mohammad Al Hout/CRS.

## CONTEXT

It has been six months since a humanitarian crisis escalated across the Holy Land with a total siege on Gaza following an unprecedented attack on Israel. Since the start of these tragic events, Gaza has become one of the world’s most dangerous places for civilians.

An estimated 90% of the population—2 million people—are facing acute food insecurity, the largest ever recorded globally. Approximately 85% of the population, or 1.9 million people, has been displaced, with many living on the street without protection from the elements. Many people have been displaced multiple times as they search for safety. Lack of food, basic survival items, clean water and sanitation exacerbate the dire living conditions. Over 80% of residential housing infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, along with infrastructure like hospitals, health centers, and water, electricity and telecommunications services.

With a long-standing presence and seasoned staff and partners in Gaza and the region, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been able to respond quickly and comprehensively, even in the challenging conditions. To date, CRS has assisted more than 600,00 people in Gaza, as well as thousands of others across the region.





CRS provides bedding supplies to displaced Gazan families in Rafah and Deir al-Balah.

Photo by Mohammad Al Hout/CRS

Severe access constraints continue to pose a major challenge for people in need of lifesaving aid—especially in northern Gaza, which has been isolated from assistance for months.

Across Gaza, people have limited access to sanitation facilities—with one bathroom for every 850 people at some shelters. Not only is access to clean water limited, but the quality of water is compromised due to contamination. Additionally, many families are unable to maintain their hygiene due to lack of supplies like soap, diapers, women’s hygiene products in local markets—or else they can’t afford the price of those supplies when they are available.

Children and adults face extreme distress due to war, displacement and loss of loved ones. The trauma will have a lasting impact on the social and emotional well-being of families, particularly children and adolescents.

### CRS RESPONSE CAPACITY

Despite the enormity of need, CRS is well positioned to respond to this humanitarian catastrophe. CRS’ Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza country program is made up of 83 seasoned staff—including 44 in Gaza—two offices, and multiple distribution points. Additionally, CRS has diverse partnerships and collaborates with a wide range of international and national nongovernmental organizations, U.N. agencies and other coordination forums.

CRS has drawn on our rich history of programming, experienced staff and network of local partners in Gaza to respond to urgent needs. Within the first six months of the crisis, CRS’ Gaza team has supported more than 600,000 people.

These efforts in the extremely challenging operating context included the opening of two new offices and warehouses in both Rafah and Deir al-Balah, as well as the setup of logistics and operations hubs in Cairo and Jordan.

Across the region, CRS’ long-standing presence has allowed it to quickly pivot to support efforts in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. While Egypt and Jordan are primarily hubs for logistics, Lebanon is an area of growing emergency response. The southern border of Lebanon has experienced ongoing cross-border armed confrontations in recent months, which has led to the displacement of 91,316 people. CRS has supported Caritas Lebanon with protective gear, fuel and medical supplies, as well as resources for provision of cash assistance, health care, hygiene supplies and food aid for displaced families.

WITHIN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE RESPONSE, CRS’ GAZA TEAM REACHED MORE THAN

**600,000**  
PEOPLE

### CRS EMERGENCY RESPONSE

CRS teams are delivering a range of lifesaving assistance to meet immediate needs, and will transition to sustainable recovery efforts once the context has stabilized.

CRS is helping families meet comprehensive needs for survival, including food, living supplies, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene. Our support extends beyond meeting the physical needs, and helps to care for emotional suffering, bolster coping skills, and support people’s social and emotional healing and well-being.

“ From the war’s unsettling beginning, our efforts have been a constant attempt to navigate the evolving circumstances, with a strong emphasis on providing not just shelter and food, but a lifeline to those in desperate need.

—Nesma Naseem,  
CRS Gaza ShelterField Officer



## CRS and Partner Response

### Food and living supplies

CRS is supporting Gazan families to meet their most essential needs through cash assistance, vouchers and direct distributions, depending on the context.

Where supplies are not available in the local markets—or where families do not have safe access to markets—CRS directly distributes essential items. Where food, fuel and water are not available, or if families lack access to cooking facilities, CRS is providing ready-to-eat food rations. Where cooking fuel and safe water are available, CRS is providing dry rations such as lentils, beans and bulgar.

To date, CRS has provided 591,000 people with food parcels, and 170,022 people with cash assistance.

### Safe and dignified shelter

CRS is providing emergency shelter assistance to displaced families as well as those hosting others. Support includes mattresses and blankets, shelter supplies and tents. As the context allows, CRS will support sustainable recovery of homes.

To date, CRS has provided bedding supplies to 83,148 people, tarps to 10,003 families and tents for 2,880 people.

At an informal camp outside Rafah, Gazan families—many of whom have been displaced multiple times—live in tents to protect themselves from the elements.

*Photo by CRS Staff*



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

CRS is supporting early efforts to ensure that families are able to meet their needs for water, sanitation and hygiene. This includes the provision of essential hygiene items—which is vital in the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. CRS and partner teams are promoting key messages around hygiene through a variety of channels. As the crisis evolves, CRS will integrate hygiene promotion activities at every stage of the response to ensure consistent, safe approaches among displaced families living in crowded conditions.

To date, CRS has assisted 13,440 people with hygiene supplies.

### Emotional and social support

CRS and our partners continue to support families as they cope with unimaginable trauma, life-threatening experiences and loss. Psychological first aid and emotional support have been ongoing, even if remotely through crisis hotlines, and will expand and adapt as the situation changes. Many activities will be tailored by age, gender and social group, and include outreach to caregivers with resources to build coping skills. CRS will provide referrals to other actors for individuals who require more advanced mental health and other counseling support.

### OUR COMMITMENT

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 continue to work toward a shared future where people can flourish and live in just and peaceful societies.