



Catholic Relief Services and our partners are responding to immediate needs of families facing hunger and displacement in the Holy Land.



CRS President & CEO Sean Callahan visits Gaza in January 2024.

Photo by CRS Staff

## CONTEXT

The CRS Gaza team continues to expand operations even as daily bombardments continue and hunger reaches crisis levels. Gaza has become one of the deadliest places in the world for civilians: Since the start of the conflict, 26,422 Palestinians and 1,200 Israelis have been killed, 70% of whom are women and children. Access is a major challenge—this month, only 24% of planned distributions by agencies successfully reached their destinations in northern Gaza, where humanitarian needs are estimated to be highest and most severe

The conflict has led to immense need for food. An estimated 90% of the population—2 million people—are facing acute food insecurity, the largest ever recorded globally. Currently, at least one in four families—more than half a million people—face catastrophic conditions characterized by an extreme lack of food. An estimated 1.7 million people—75% of the population in Gaza—are displaced, with many living on the street without protection from the elements. Many people have been displaced multiple times as they search for safety. Rafah governorate is the main refuge for those displaced, with more than 1.2 million people living in a space that used to house 200,000 before the conflict. Lack of food, basic survival items, and poor hygiene exacerbate the already dire living conditions.

Conflict has expanded into the West Bank and, more recently, to Lebanon, where 82,012 people have been displaced. Beyond people's physical needs is the emotional toll across the region—immense suffering, despair, grief and trauma. Catholic Relief Services' staff members in Gaza are working every day to assist the most vulnerable.

See highlights from CRS President Sean Callahan's visit to Gaza:

[crs.org/stories/reflections-holy-land](https://www.crs.org/stories/reflections-holy-land)

## CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

CRS is working closely with partners in Gaza and across the region to meet urgent needs. CRS and our local partners are coordinating with civil society organizations and humanitarian responders to provide the following:

- **Cash Assistance**  
CRS has provided cash assistance to 21,197 families—127,182 people—since the conflict began.
- **Food**  
CRS is working with the World Food Program to deliver food parcels to 22,129 families—110,645 people. CRS has also procured ready-to-eat food rations for 2,500 families.
- **Support for Church Partners**  
CRS is supporting four churches in Gaza, where 850 people are temporarily sheltered. These sites are receiving cash assistance, food and other items.
- **Shelter and Hygiene Supplies**  
CRS and our partners have distributed bedding supplies to 17,976 people, tarps to 4,227 families and tents for 430 families.
- **Logistics and Operations**  
CRS established an office in Rafah with an adjacent warehouse. Our vendor distribution network has expanded across two governorates. From our logistics hub in Cairo and with our Egypt team, CRS has procured bedding, hygiene and food supplies. We are transporting shipments across the Rafah border as access allows.
- **Counseling Support**  
CRS and partners are prioritizing psychological first aid, caregiver resources and referrals for specialized trauma, grief and other counseling and support.
- **In Lebanon**  
CRS is supporting Caritas Lebanon to provide cash, food and hygiene kits to displaced families.



CRS Gaza teams register people for assistance.  
Photo by CRS Staff



CRS President Sean Callahan with Gazan team.  
Photo by CRS Staff

## 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.

## HOW TO HELP

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