



You are their **GIFT** *of* **HOPE**

When you buy a share of a project in the CRS Gift Catalog, you are a gift of hope to the most desperate people overseas. Give a gift today!

Feeding the Poor

Improving the Water Supply in Ethiopia

Even as severe drought grips the Horn of Africa, there are communities that have enough water to share and enough of a harvest to feed their families.

Catholic Relief Services has been working for years to help the people of Ethiopia by drilling deep wells, building irrigation systems and teaching farmers what, when and how to plant so they have food even in the harshest conditions.

Take the community of Rubachea, where hunger and poor living conditions are a daily reality. CRS worked with the people of Rubachea to protect and manage their watersheds. The result: clean water for drinking, bathing and washing—which means the people are healthier.

CRS and Rubachea also put the water to use irrigating crops and caring for livestock. The amount and quality of food improved almost immediately, leading to well-nourished children and stronger families.



Did You Know...

In 2011, Ethiopia was counted among the Horn of Africa nations that have been facing one of the worst droughts in decades, affecting more than 12 million people.

Boosting Harvests in India

Most villagers laughed at Niranjan Pradhan, a 38-year old farmer in India, when he tried something different with his rice crop. Catholic Relief Services teams had described innovative farming methods that would help villagers grow more rice on the same amount of land, but the techniques sounded very strange.

Niranjan used fewer seeds and spaced them farther apart, as CRS had taught him. His rice harvest doubled.

"[The new method] earned me an extra 8,000 rupees [\$178] profit this season," says Niranjan. "I put this money aside to invest in my three daughters' education and for dowry payments when they get married."



In recent months, a number of farmers from neighboring villages have come to Niranjan for advice. "They saw the results," Niranjan says. "Now they too want to reap the rewards of this exciting technology during the coming paddy season."

Did You Know...

India has seen substantial economic growth over the years, but millions of its people continue to suffer from severe poverty and malnutrition. With your support, CRS India's Jeevika project improves food production for vulnerable families in 108 villages.

Building a Better Society

Encouraging Hope in Lebanon

When bombs hit Lebanon in 2006, the family that hired Sara as a domestic worker disappeared from the country, taking Sara's passport with them. Although Sara had come to Lebanon legally from the Philippines, the loss of her passport changed all that. The police threw her into a detention center in Beirut.

Luckily, the Catholic Relief Services-supported Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center was there to help her, thanks to the generosity of our compassionate donors.



The center provides support to migrants: mattresses and toiletries, medical care and—most important—legal counsel. Caritas tracks down abducted passports like Sara's, clears legal charges and represents migrants in court in more serious cases, such as abuse by employers. Without Caritas' intervention, many cases could drag on unheard for years in the Lebanese legal system.

Did You Know...

Lebanon's recovery is still greatly hampered by ongoing political deadlock between pro-government and opposition groups. And the presence of various non-Lebanese militant groups, a recurring theme in Lebanese history, has had a destabilizing effect on the country's efforts to move forward.

Promoting Health

Saving Babies and Mothers in Ghana

Imagine you are about to give birth in a village in northern Ghana. Your district has some of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the country. The peanut farmer about to deliver your baby has no drugs, gloves or surgical equipment—and no medical training.

Thankfully, those days are over.

Before the Community Initiative for Maternal, Child and Newborn Survival was started by Catholic Relief Services in 2009, women and newborns regularly risked death and health problems. Only 30 percent of women in the region gave birth with skilled attendants at health centers or clinics, or through consulting midwives.



Two years later, 87 percent of women giving birth have the support of nurses, doctors and midwives. This collaborative project has produced results: Women aren't dying in childbirth anymore. And, thanks to your compassion, more babies are born healthy in Ghana.

Did You Know...

The goal of this project is simple: Ensure that more women and babies survive childbirth. CRS also sets up groups to advise women on pre- and postnatal care and recruits community volunteers to check up on pregnant women.

Promoting Health

Spreading the Word to Stop Spreading HIV in Jordan



When Dr. Ammar Burgan educates teenagers about AIDS in Amman, Jordan, he has a mission. "The most important slide in this lecture is the one on how to avoid getting HIV," says Dr. Burgan. "If you can avoid getting it, we can stop the spread of the virus."

Supported by you and Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Jordan is bringing AIDS awareness to Jordan's young people. For many teens, the lectures are the first information

they have received about the deadly virus. Thanks to these classes, more young people are able to make safer choices, like practicing abstinence.

"Doctors even have the wrong information. . . . We never discussed HIV," Dr. Burgan says. "Caritas Jordan is really the first to discuss this."

Did You Know...

Poverty is a fundamental problem in Jordan. Through your generosity, CRS works in partnership with an extensive network of Church and local organizations led by the people we serve.

Building a Better Society

Building Peace in Zimbabwe

Election season has become a worrisome time in Zimbabwe.

In 2008, disputed election results sparked a devastating wave of human rights violations. Political partisans ran torture centers to bully communities into voting for their party.



As new elections approach in 2012 and beyond, fear is high that the violence will be repeated. Many aid organizations are afraid of working in these violent areas.

That's why Catholic Relief Services and partner Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace have initiated peacebuilding programs in Masvingo. CRS and CCJP reach out to the traditional leaders who direct political conversations in their communities. Instead of accepting payments offered for allegiance to political parties, local leaders are beginning to promote CCJP's messages of peace.

No material benefits, they say, match the trust of their constituents, nor can they match the value of Zimbabweans going freely to the voting booths come election day—without fear.

Did You Know...

Over the past decade, Zimbabwe has shifted from being one of Africa's economic powerhouses to being a country where people struggle to make a living, provide their children with an education and receive quality health care.