



OCRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

*Making
a World of
Difference
for 60 Years*



**Annual
Report
2003 Edition**

October 1, 2002 -
September 30, 2003

Marking a Milestone, Looking Ahead . . .

Friends,

This year we marked 60 years of service to the poor overseas—an achievement well worth celebrating. But this milestone also calls us to reflect, to look back on what we've learned and to continue toward our vision of a world transformed through solidarity.

In her chronicle of the early history of CRS, *Catholic Relief Services: The Beginning Years*, Eileen Egan—a close friend of Mother Teresa and one of the agency's first lay staff members—traces our true beginning back much further than 1943 and war-torn Europe. She dates our roots back to the apostle Paul. His request, through Titus, that the Corinthians assist the poor and hungry in Jerusalem produced the first international relief collection:

“Giving freely to relieve the wants of people unrelated by blood or tribal ties, people separated by seas and mountains, people of differing customs and language, was a new and scandalous concept. It was based on something unheard of in human history, universal brotherhood. This concept, dissolving all ties of blood, tribe, race, or citizenship, came direct from Jesus, the universal brother.”

Our legacy is indeed one that proceeds from this 'scandalous concept'—that of concern beyond borders.

Much has changed in 60 years: we are no longer War Relief Services, and our focus has shifted from western Europe to eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. We have seen countries freed from colonial rule and witnessed the struggles and suffering as the Cold War found new staging grounds. And we have seen the destruction that HIV/AIDS has wrought around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Each day in 94 countries and territories around the world, the men and women of CRS—people of all races and faiths—give witness to our mission of helping the poorest of the poor.

In Ethiopia we helped prevent a famine that threatened millions. But food and water alone won't solve the problem. And so we are laying the foundations of the future through work in areas like education and agriculture. Our goal is to ensure that this generation of Ethiopian children will be the last to know famine.

In Afghanistan and Iraq, we are helping people brutalized by repression and war to realize their dignity. But rebuilding a society requires more than simply bricks and mortar. Underpinning all our relief and development work is a commitment to building communities of peace and justice. Material assistance can only go so far to alleviate poverty and suffering; we must also address the root causes to truly make a difference.

In the United States, we have expanded our outreach to Catholics, educating them about issues of international social justice and peace, and providing concrete opportunities to make a difference in the lives of the poor around the world. Through our partners and programs, we are building bridges of solidarity. Linking the people we serve with those we represent is an important step in building a world where basic rights and human dignity are enjoyed by all.

Our Catholic identity and our guiding principles, grounded in Catholic social teaching, call us to this work. We live in a world of need, but we are an agency of hope, and we can all be agents of change.

For 60 years, Catholic Relief Services has touched the lives of the poor and made a world of difference for millions. Your prayers and support have made this possible. On behalf of our staff around the world, I thank you.



Ken Hackett
President



Ken Hackett

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Cover photo by CRS Staff:

Italy 1951

Refugees share in the distribution of 1,200 lbs. of butter at Trieste Mission, part of a Christmas gift from War Relief Services, N.C.W.C.



Food for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

In 2003, Ethiopia faced a food crisis even larger and more widespread than the one that captured the world's attention almost 20 years ago. Drought and the resultant failure of crops created an emergency on a scale unseen in modern times. More than 13 million Ethiopians—half of them under age 15—were dependant on food aid for survival.

The reach of the HIV/AIDS pandemic only exacerbated the situation, leaving more than a million orphans and lowering the country's average life expectancy to 46 years. Among the net effects of the pandemic has been the undermining of traditional coping systems:

More than 13 million Ethiopians—half of them under age 15—rely on food aid to survive.

Photo by Elizabeth Griffin

With family members absent or too sick to work, many more people are susceptible to hunger and disease than in previous generations.

Preventing Famine

We responded by providing more than 500,000 metric tons of commodities—food, flour, corn-soy blend, lentils, cooking oil and grain—to millions in need. But fighting famine requires more than just delivery of food. We led a coalition of international agencies that carried out assessments across Ethiopia. In the worst affected areas, we set up therapeutic feeding centers to reach the most vulnerable Ethiopians,

often children under five. In addition to food distribution, we worked with partners to deliver much needed medicine and help rehabilitate wells and water systems.

Providing for the Future

The worst of the crisis is now over, but the needs remain. With our partners, we continue to distribute food to millions of Ethiopians. Beyond food aid, however, we are committed to long-term sustainable development that will help communities recover and be better prepared for the future.



A child in Shinile, Ethiopia cares for his family's livestock.

Photo by David Snyder

This can only be accomplished by addressing the underlying causes of poverty in Ethiopia. In partnership with the church and other local groups, we are working to help ordinary people develop the skills to take charge of their own development. The overwhelming majority of Ethiopians live in rural areas, making them susceptible to drought and crop failure in ways unimaginable to most. To help mitigate this vulnerability, we are investing in improved irrigation systems. By providing better tools and fertilizers, we are helping farmers become more efficient.

Local seed fairs—conducted for the first time this year in Ethiopia—are also part of this



The majority of Ethiopians live in rural areas, leaving them extremely vulnerable to drought and crop failure.

Photo by David Snyder

plan. By bringing together local seed sellers with farmers, we help create a vibrant local market. Using vouchers, the farmers can decide for themselves what they want to plant instead of relying simply on whatever is available in donated stock. This encourages diversification of crops and recognizes that local people are sometimes the best people to solve local problems.

Ethiopia is a drought-prone country, and we know we cannot change the weather. We can, however, help people to become more resilient and to break the cycle of poverty and hunger. Through programs that help farmers become self-sufficient, we can offer hope for

a future where food aid is not needed. Likewise, with initiatives that offer education, basic healthcare and support for families affected by HIV/AIDS, we look to empower Ethiopians for generations to come. ■

We are working with local partners to bring clean water to rural villages. Here, a worker upgrades a water pump that will eventually pump 12,200 liters per hour—nearly 10 times the capacity of the old pump.

Photo by Elizabeth Griffin



War Relief Services (later Catholic Relief Services) begins disaster relief efforts, helping thousands of refugees displaced by World War II.

1943

Paris, France 1945
War Relief Services (part of National Catholic Welfare Conference) supplies hot soup and milk to the day nurseries of Paris.

Photo by War Relief Services' staff



A twin-engine U.S. Air Force plane crashes into War Relief Services offices in the Empire State Building, killing 11 employees.

July 28, 1945

The first Atomic Bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, followed three days later by another dropped on Nagasaki.

August 8, 1945

Birth of United Nations.

1945

John William Mauchly designs the first all-electronic computer. It weighs over 30 tons.

1946

To help finance postwar international relief programs, War Relief Services initiates the first annual Laetare Sunday Bishops' Relief Collection.

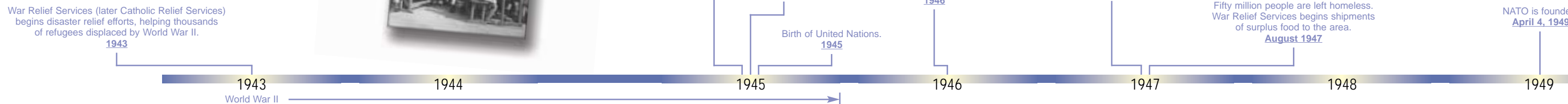
1947

The partition of India and Pakistan causes mass migration, resulting in wide-scale violence. Fifty million people are left homeless. War Relief Services begins shipments of surplus food to the area.

August 1947

NATO is founded.

April 4, 1949



A Fight We Must Win

We support approximately 160 HIV/AIDS projects in 30 countries around the world, addressing a crisis that has become as much an issue of development as of public health in many nations. Projects total \$40 million in value and reach nearly four million people affected in Africa—the epicenter of the crisis—as well as the hardest hit areas of Asia and Latin America.

Reaching Communities Around the World

Around the world, the Catholic Church is one of the key providers of essential care and support for people living with AIDS. We continue to work with local church health networks to expand HIV/AIDS programming, helping

partners to provide voluntary counseling and testing, behavior change and life skills education, home-based care for those infected and support for those left behind. We also work at the village level to help raise awareness about the disease, to help reduce the stigma against HIV-positive individuals and to assist communities to respond more effectively.

In 2003, we received a \$2.3 million grant to address AIDS in Nigeria, while in Madagascar we received a \$1.5 million grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In Haiti, we support a local organization that provides small loans to families affected



Sub-Saharan Africa has 70 percent of worldwide AIDS cases but only 5 percent of the world's population. We recognize a special responsibility to the people of Africa and allocate more than 50 percent of our resources to outreach in 37 countries in Africa.

Photo by Sean Sprague



Women who are HIV-positive serve as counselors in local communities, part of a larger effort aimed at raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Photo by Sean Sprague

by AIDS. The credit program establishes community banks and teaches clients better financial management tools, while also enabling them to

contribute to community savings plans. These small loans often pay school fees for children, buy medicines for the sick and support income-generating projects.

War Relief Services conducts its first Thanksgiving clothing appeal, collecting millions of pounds of clothing for emergencies, sewing classes overseas and as donations to workers participating in community construction projects. The program continues through the 1980s.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Korean War are helped by War Relief Services with food, medicine and clothing.

CBS introduces the first color television broadcast. It takes place in five American cities.

Jonas Salk develops a vaccine to prevent polio.

War Relief Services provides aid to the nearly one million refugees fleeing North Vietnam.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of Brown v. Board of Education, rules that segregation is unconstitutional. The decision eventually results in the desegregation of all public institutions.

"War" is dropped from War Relief Services; the agency officially changes its name to Catholic Relief Services.

The Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the first satellite, into space, marking the beginning of the Space Age.

CRS provides 62 percent of all U.S. government food distributed by private voluntary organizations.

Hawaii becomes the 50th state admitted to the union.



In Zimbabwe, accelerated learning programs help reintegrate vulnerable children—long denied access to education—into mainstream schools.

Photo by Joe Carney

disaster. He embodies the hope and resilience that carries us forward in the face of this relentless disease. ■

CRS/Madagascar's AIDS team in the lab conducting HIV tests. Our work in the country is done in partnership with The Association of Catholic Doctors of Madagascar.

Photo by CRS/Madagascar



Italy, 1951
A Mercy Flight from New York International (Idlewild) Airport, carrying food and condensed milk for Italian flood relief efforts is sponsored by War Relief Services and Trans World Airlines.

Photo by War Relief Services' staff

Peace in Our Time

For too many around the world, peace remains a distant goal. There are children in many places who have never known their world without war. We are working to help change this in more than 50 countries.

We know that peace is built, not declared. Our efforts to create societies of peace and justice are carried out through many activities, including education programs, interreligious dialogue, media campaigns, advocacy and small-business assistance. These activities aim to empower local communities to help themselves.

Bridging the Divide

A river runs through the center of Mitrovica, Kosovo, dividing the city and separating the Serb and Albanian communities.

International peacekeepers—reminders of the region's recent troubles—guard the bridges in an attempt to prevent renewed violence. We have been working with youth councils in Mitrovica's high schools to empower students and their parents and teachers to get involved in addressing the conflicts in their communities. These groups are taking up issues of education quality and reform, as well as issues of peace and conflict resolution. The youth councils are expressing a voice that has long been silent for people in Kosovo, and the program has brought people from both sides of the river together. Last summer Serb and Albanian students decided to create a multi-ethnic youth council for



Rwandan youth take part in a closing ceremony at a solidarity camp in the Diocese of Kabgayi.

Photo by Jean Claude Mugenzi



A young Roma boy in Kragujevac, Serbia and Montenegro. We are working to help integrate Roma—the most marginalized group in Europe—into society through peace education programs.

Photo by Bill Crandall

Mitrovica, to address the needs of all citizens and to find ways to work together to build a future where soldiers aren't needed on their city's bridges.

Standing Together Against Violence

When deadly Muslim-Christian violence—associated with the Miss World Pageant in Kaduna, Nigeria—began to tear apart neighborhoods, we organized an unprecedented interfaith emergency relief project and brought together the major national Christian and Islamic associations. The project provided shelter and assistance to families whose homes had been damaged when they were targeted as minorities in their neighborhoods. This enabled the return of these families and



Peacebuilding is an integral part of development work in places like Afghanistan, where many have known only conflict their whole lives.

Photo by Barbara J. Rodey

helped keep the multi-faith character of these neighborhoods. We worked with the associations to identify affected families and to organize interfaith relief distribution teams. The project

Italy, 1963

Hurricane disaster relief is loaded.

CRS Archives, photographer unknown



was the first of its kind and helped bring Nigeria's different religious communities together in action and in understanding.

Building a Global Network for Peace

We support learning at home and abroad. In partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace, we conduct a 10-day summer institute for peacebuilders to meet, learn and share best practices. Participants come from areas with histories of conflict, like Colombia, as well as from places struggling to heal, like Rwanda. Staff from



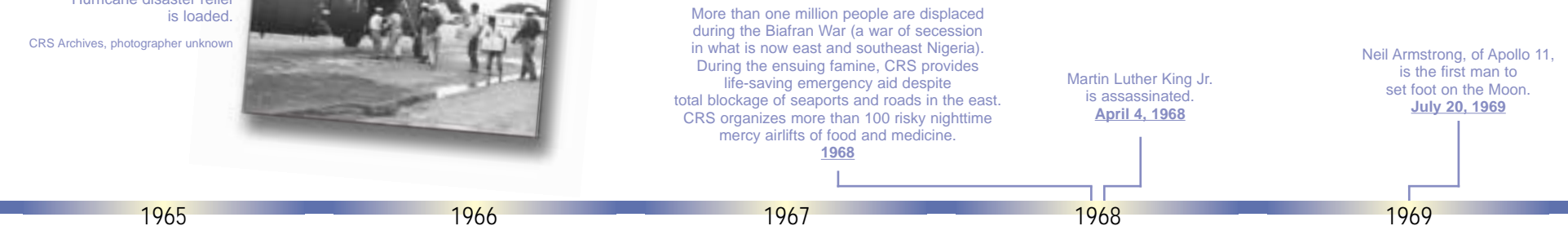
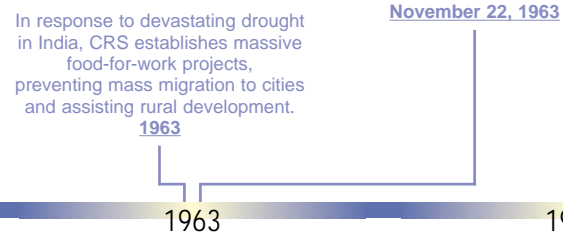
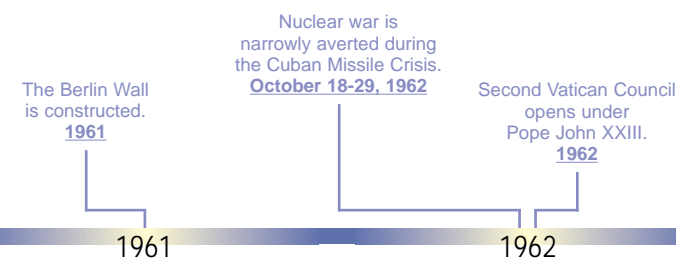
our Baltimore headquarters, who focus on activities in the United States, as well as our domestic partners, also come to learn from their overseas counterparts.

In the Philippines, we are developing innovative ways to promote peace and reconciliation among indigenous peoples, Muslims and Christians on the southern island of Mindanao. This year peacebuilders from more than a

dozen countries participated in the fourth annual Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute—a unique, three-week learning opportunity that unites peacebuilding practitioners and thinkers from across Asia to increase the effectiveness of field operations and inform emerging theories in the field. ■

We are working with local partners in Serbia and Montenegro to help lay the foundation for peace for future generations.

Photo by Bill Crandall





When Crisis Calls

For 60 years we have been there when crisis called—from the agency's early days in post-war Europe to recent interventions after Hurricane Mitch and the war in Afghanistan. The poor suffer the most when disaster strikes, and we are called to care for those in need.

We are called to help others not because they believe, or because they might someday believe, but because we believe. Our agency vision of a world transformed by solidarity is one that asks us not simply to recall the example of the Good Samaritan, but to live it.

We have provided emergency relief for those in need since 1943. Our work in Afghanistan includes relief as well as long-term development.

Photo ©2003 Martin Lueders

Iraq

We are assisting the poorest and most vulnerable Iraqi communities. When major combat subsided, we focused on empowering Iraqis to address their own needs and shape their own future. Our citizen-driven Iraq Community Action Program enables Iraqis to actively advance the development of their communities, putting an Iraqi face on humanitarian efforts serving the Iraqi people.

As part of this program, we are working—through our local partner Caritas Iraq and in partnership with Save the Children—in 25 communities in southern Iraq to help rebuild homes and lives. Local communities are determining

their priority needs and recommending reconstruction projects in program areas such as water, sanitation and agricultural irrigation systems; school and road rehabilitation; the establishment of women's income-generation activities and training centers; and community clean-up initiatives.

We also support a nationwide supplemental feeding program for children and pregnant and lactating women. The program raises awareness in local communities about proper hygiene and good nutritional habits, helping build a more responsible, informed and active Iraqi civil society.

Liberia

When Liberia's long-running civil war peaked, rebel groups attacked the capital, overran the second city, and the president went into exile. As fighting raged, our staff in Monrovia endured the same terrors and tragedies that afflicted Liberians across the country, where bullets killed and wounded indiscriminately, homes were looted and an atmosphere of insecurity was further driven into the nation's consciousness.

While we worked with the local church to deliver emergency food, shelter, clean water and medicines, we redoubled advocacy efforts in the United States, calling for increased



Fighting caused many Liberians to flee their homes, leaving them dependent on assistance for survival.

Photo by Caritas Liberia

support to secure the country and aid its reconstruction. In July, our long-time partner Archbishop Michael Francis—the archbishop of Monrovia and an internationally renowned defender of human rights—visited the United States and met members of Congress, the Bush Administration and the United Nations. He also addressed the national media with a message of peace and reconciliation.

Despite improvements, significant portions of the country remain insecure and inaccessible to aid agencies. Hundreds of thousands remain homeless and in need of assistance. We remain committed to working toward peace, justice and reconciliation

in Liberia. This commitment is expressed in short-term relief programs—like the one providing material assistance to more than 50,000 people in Monrovia, Buchanan and the city of Harbel—and longer term projects in agriculture, infrastructure improvement and the training of local peacebuilding organizations.

Tariq Ferage, 57, and his wife Nidhal Toma, 43, with five of their 10 children in Baghdad. We are working with Caritas Iraq to reach those most in need.

Photo by Carlos Reyes-Manzo



In the wake of a devastating earthquake that killed an estimated 10,000 people in Managua, American dioceses collect over \$3 million for CRS relief efforts in Nicaragua. In addition to helping to meet basic physical needs, CRS contributes to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

1972

Apollo-Soyuz Mission marks the first cooperative space mission between the United States and the Soviet Union.

July 19, 1974

Peru, 1972

Victims try to escape flooding in Peruvian lowlands.

CRS Archives, photographer unknown



Apple II, the first home computer, is introduced at a trade show.

1977

The U.S. Catholic Bishops adopt Operation Rice Bowl, CRS' official Lenten program, which began in Allentown, Pennsylvania as an inter-religious response to the drought in the African Sahel region.

1977

Pope John Paul II is installed.

1978

Mother Teresa is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1979

CRS' quick response and partnership with COERR (Catholic Organization for Emergency Relief and Refugees) saves thousands of lives and promotes skill-building and food production in Thailand's refugee camps, sheltering those fleeing Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Overall, aid reaches 300,000 people.

1979

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

Biafran War

Vietnam War

Iran Hostage Crisis

Lending Our Voice

Speak out for those who cannot speak. For the rights of all the destitute speak out, judge righteously. Defend the rights of the poor and the needy.

— Proverbs 31:8-9



Delegates from the Diocese of Madison visited schools in the Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga, Ghana during a two-week visit. Pictured are Jeffrey and Jennifer (far left and standing), from the Diocese of Madison; Jim (center), a member of CRS/Ghana staff; and Sr. Martha, from Navrongo Parish.

Photo by Jeffrey Allen

A man from the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey, had an epiphany during a visit to a partner diocese in Uganda last year. “They don’t need many of the things we think they do,” he said of the people he

encountered. “We think they only need money and houses; they really need support and love.”

Promoting such charity, beyond the depth of a pocket, undergirds all our programs for Catholics in the United States. Each program, whether a diocese-to-diocese partnership or an initiative to support foreign aid legislation on Capitol Hill, is an invitation to raise our voices on behalf of millions muted by poverty, war, oppression or mere circumstance. Rooted in Catholic social teaching, it is our heritage and responsibility.

Last year we worked with Catholics in the United States and abroad to be voices in support of U.S. and



Global Solidarity Partnerships, like the one between the Diocese of Trenton and the Diocese of Kasana-Luweero, help people to recognize their neighbors around the world and build bridges of solidarity.

Photo by Chris Arthen

international policies that provide resources that allow us to reach more of the world’s poor and disenfranchised—and policies that take on the root causes of war, poverty and injustice. We stepped up opportunities to engage Catholics at home, helping them to understand how their choices as consumers, investors, voters and advocates resonate beyond our borders.

Civic Engagement

There has been a steady increase in diocesan and parish involvement in our

international public policy advocacy efforts. Our legislative network grew five-fold during 2003, totaling about 1,200 diocesan and parish contacts. Working alongside the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, we successfully rallied the Catholic community behind policies to increase aid to rebuild war-torn countries like Afghanistan and Iraq as well as funding for critical programs that deliver food and medicines to the needy worldwide.

Empowering Catholics at Home

We are not only improving the lives of millions of the poor and vulnerable around the globe, but we are equally committed to changing hearts and minds here in the United States. The agency



Born as a response to Hurricane Mitch, the Texas-Honduras partnership has grown over time, bringing the two communities—Catholics from 14 diocese in Texas and the people of Honduras—closer together.

Photo by Kim Burgo

continued to empower Catholics to serve as a voice for the poor and put their faith into action through programs such as

Operation Rice Bowl, Food Fast, overseas immersion experiences and partnerships between dioceses here and abroad. The underlying goal of the programs is to combine education and action so that Catholics in the United States are actively engaged in creating a more just, sustainable and peaceful world for all of God’s people.

Oil and Africa’s Poor

In a decade, Africa will supply nearly a quarter of the oil consumed in the United States, generating more than \$200 billion in revenues. Such wealth could enable African governments to vastly improve the lives of the poor through

investment in health, education, water, roads and other vital necessities. But history has shown that ordinary Africans will see no such improvements if governments lack accountability. Last summer, we issued a report entitled *Bottom of the Barrel: Africa’s Oil Boom and the Poor*, examining the issue of African oil development and offering recommendations for policy reforms. *Bottom of the Barrel*, which was downloaded from the CRS website more than 100,000 times and received much attention in Catholic and secular press around the world, serves as a central document to shape and direct our advocacy on the issue. ■



Off Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo, a fisherman gazes at an offshore oil platform. African governments will receive more than \$200 billion in oil revenue in the coming decade. We are working to help ensure that ordinary Africans benefit from the boom.

Photo by L. Charrier, Secours Catholique

CRS tends to the tens of thousands left homeless and injured during the Mezzogiorno earthquake in Italy. **1980**

Space Shuttle Columbia is the first shuttle to orbit the Earth. **April 12, 1981**

Lawrence A. Pezullo, a former U.S. ambassador, becomes the first lay executive director for CRS. **July 1983**

Famine takes nearly one million lives in Ethiopia. By the end of 1984, CRS distributes 36,000 tons of food, mostly supplied by the U.S. government, and feeds approximately 750,000 Ethiopians. During the crisis, CRS handles the distribution of 90 percent of American food aid entering the country. **1984**

Space Shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after liftoff, claiming the lives of all on board. **January 28, 1986**



Jerusalem/West Bank, Gaza, 1988
CRS grant supports a small enterprise wheat-grinding venture for Palestinian families.
CRS Archives, photographer unknown

CRS begins its first HIV/AIDS initiative in Uganda with a local church partner. **1989**

The Berlin Wall falls. **1989**

CRS moves world headquarters from New York City to Baltimore, Maryland. **August 1989**

1980 Iran Hostage Crisis

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

The Faces of CRS

We serve the poorest of the poor, on behalf of Catholics in the United States, in 94 countries and territories around the world. We come from all races and faiths, united in a belief in the dignity of every person and the vision of solidarity that tells us we can build a better world—one life, one relationship at a time. This is work that goes on every day in the lives of our beneficiaries, through the hard work of our staff and thanks to the generosity of our donors.



Tafadzwa Chimwanda
Photo by Joe Carney

Tafadzwa Chimwanda, Zimbabwe

“I love kids. They understand me,” says 19-year-old Tafadzwa Chimwanda, a volunteer youth counselor at the CRS-supported Tsungiriai School in Zimbabwe.

CRS/Rwanda staff meet with a local community member in Gisenyi.
Photo by David Snyder

The school serves the community’s most needy children—many of them orphaned by AIDS—and offers social services to their families, in particular addressing the physical and emotional ravages of the disease. Tafadzwa, whose parents died of AIDS, leads a “kids club” of 150 students, serving as a tutor and mentor while clearly benefiting from the experience herself. “It helps me psychologically because it makes me feel like I still have a family,” she says, “even though my family is gone.”



Yugoslavia, 1999
Children at a refugee camp in Kukes, Albania.
Photo by David Snyder



Emine Baskurt
Photo by Franne Van der Keilen

Emine Baskurt, Turkey

In addition to losing five relatives, Emine Baskurt, 39, also lost her home in the 1999 earthquake in Düzce, Turkey. Four years after she moved to a tent camp with her son, Emine qualified as one of the recipients of the 168 houses built in Düzce with support from CRS and its partner the International Blue Crescent (IBC). Emine was actively engaged in the construction process and served on the IBC’s

steering committee. She also did some carpentry work in the new buildings. While Emine’s biggest challenge following the earthquake was “to stay alive,” she is thankful that she survived and feels honored to be given this new start. The housing project is now completed and offers a roof to approximately



Thomas Abaruk Awiapo
Photo by CRS Staff

1,000 people who had been left homeless.

Thomas Abaruk Awiapo, California

Orphaned before he was 10 years old, Thomas lost his two younger brothers to malnutrition. Like his parents and many poor people in Ghana, he had never been to school. Today Thomas is pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Administration at California State University-Hayward. “CRS used to offer a snack and lunch to children who went to school in my village. I was attracted to go to school not because I desired to do so, but simply to have a snack and lunch, which I would not have had if I stayed

home...By offering me education, CRS empowered me for life.”

Before coming to the United States to pursue graduate studies, Thomas worked for CRS in Ghana. He is currently an intern with the agency, working with our regional staff in the Bay Area (Diocese of Oakland). When he finishes his degree, Thomas plans to return to his wife and three children in Ghana and hopes to continue in the work that made such a lasting difference in his life. ■



Chris Gilson, Country Representative for Vietnam, assists in a food distribution.
Photo by Richard Lord

The Hubble Telescope is launched into orbit.
April 24, 1990

Yugoslavia, 1999
Children at a refugee camp in Kukes, Albania.
Photo by David Snyder

Nearly one million people are killed in the Rwanda genocide. CRS staff, operating from Burundi and Uganda, deliver emergency relief to thousands in need.
1994

The bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City leaves 168 dead.
April 19, 1995

Agency-wide introspection in the wake of the Rwanda genocide moves CRS to reexamine its role in the world. The “Justice Lens,” a way of looking at programming to ensure it not only meets immediate needs but also challenges traditional structures of oppression and impoverishment, is born.
1997

Mars Pathfinder lands and begins transmitting images from the surface of Mars.
July 4, 1997

CRS responds to the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador.
1998

NATO begins a 78-day offensive in response to the ethnic tensions between Serbs and Albanians and repression by Serb forces in Kosovo.
March 1999

CRS responds to devastating earthquakes in Turkey.
1999

CRS is a leader in international relief efforts necessitated by the Balkan Conflict.
1999

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

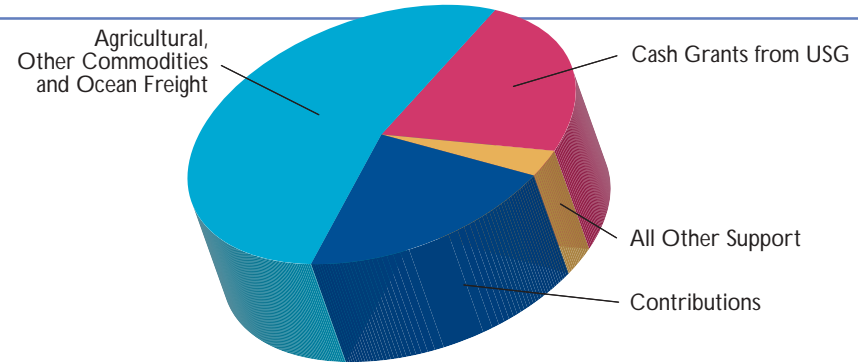
Balkan Conflict

Financial Summary

Year ended September 30, 2003
(in thousands)

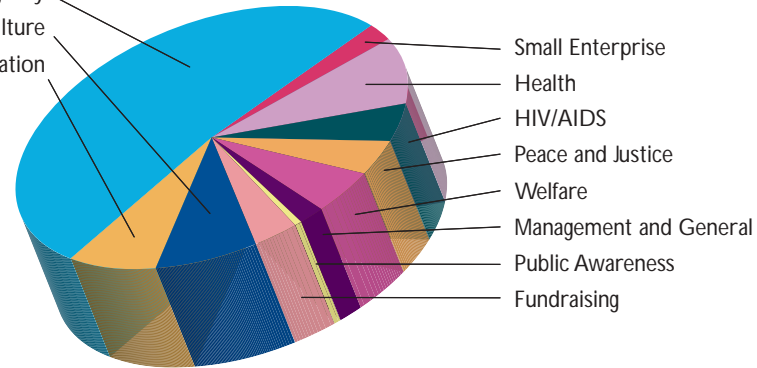
Operating Revenue

Contributions	\$ 98,349	20.30%
Agricultural, Other Commodities and Ocean Freight	261,821	54.06%
Cash Grants From USG	109,128	22.53%
All Other Support	15,066	3.11%
Totals	\$ 484,364	100%



Operating Expenses

Emergency	\$ 272,647	52.36%
Agriculture	42,819	8.22%
Education	42,506	8.16%
Small Enterprise	14,520	2.79%
Health	48,302	9.28%
HIV/AIDS	23,966	4.60%
Peace and Justice	20,809	4.00%
Welfare	24,738	4.75%
Management and General	9,910	1.90%
Public Awareness	2,823	0.55%
Fundraising	17,667	3.39%
Totals	\$ 520,707	100%



CRS holds the "World Summit," an agency-wide gathering of staff, partners and friends from around the world. The agency's vision of solidarity as a force that will transform the world is born.

October 2000

Terrorists attack and destroy the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing thousands. Hijacked planes are also crashed at the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

September 11, 2001

The United States invades Afghanistan. CRS reopens offices inside Afghanistan, and establishes offices in Pakistan near the Afghan border. The agency provides emergency assistance to 500,000 people and initiates longer term development efforts focused on education and peacebuilding.

2001

CRS and 14 other agencies sign the Baltimore Declaration at CRS' headquarters. The document is a pledge of action in response to the growing food crisis in Africa.

2002

The United States and allies invade Iraq.

March 2003

Mother Teresa is beatified.

October 2003

2000

2001

2002

2003

Balkan Conflict



Photo ©2003 Martin Lueders

McGladrey & Pullen
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Report from Independent Accountants

To the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services —
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the statement of financial position of Catholic Relief Services — United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (CRS) as of September 30, 2003, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year ended September 30, 2003; and in our report dated February 20, 2004, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements from which it has been derived.

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Baltimore, Maryland
February 20, 2004

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP is a member firm of RSM International,
an affiliation of separate and independent legal entities.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES - UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION September 30, 2003

(With Comparative Totals for September 30, 2002)
(in thousands)

Assets	2003	2002
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 41,100	\$ 39,803
Accounts receivable and other assets	45,352	36,197
Investments	85,971	82,065
Segregated investments	38,685	36,815
Undistributed commodity contributions	49,466	17,723
Land, building and equipment, net	14,597	21,931
Total assets	\$ 275,171	\$ 234,534

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	2003	2002
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 41,279	\$ 31,953
Advances received for programs	32,338	13,159
Deferred revenue	49,648	18,308
Annuities payable	31,708	29,850
Total liabilities	154,973	93,270

Net assets	2003	2002
Unrestricted	77,327	80,361
Temporarily restricted	39,829	58,241
Permanently restricted	3,042	2,662
Total net assets	120,198	141,264
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 275,171	\$ 234,534

In the interest of stewardship, CRS decided not to include the financial notes in the 2003 Annual Report. What follows are the statements of financial position, activities, cash flows and the schedule of functional expenses.

The complete financial statements, audited by RSM McGladrey, LLP, are available at www.catholicrelief.org/about_us/financial_information/summary.cfm or by calling 1.410.951.7240

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES -
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended September 30, 2003**

(With summarized comparative totals for the year ended September 30, 2002)
(in thousands)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	
				2003	2002
Operating Revenues					
Private donor, foundation and corporate contributions:					
Bishops' Committee allocation	\$ 13,415	–	–	13,415	12,789
Operation Rice Bowl appeal	–	5,718	–	5,718	6,135
Contributions	54,610	22,638	–	77,248	84,180
In-kind contributions	1,968	–	–	1,968	8,725
Total contributions	69,993	28,356	–	98,349	111,829
Government, international organizations and other exchange transactions:					
Donated agricultural, other commodities and ocean freight	261,821	–	–	261,821	56,105
Grants and agreements:					
United States government	109,128	–	–	109,128	85,671
Other	6,176	–	–	6,176	6,847
Total	377,125	–	–	377,125	148,623
Investment and other income	7,831	1,059	–	8,890	8,392
Net assets released from restrictions	48,304	(48,304)	–	–	–
Total operating revenues	503,253	(18,889)	–	484,364	268,844

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	
				2003	2002
Operating Expenses					
Program services	\$ 490,307	–	–	490,307	255,938
Supporting services:					
Management and general	9,910	–	–	9,910	11,875
Public awareness	2,823	–	–	2,823	3,472
Fund-raising	17,667	–	–	17,667	19,089
Total supporting services	30,400	–	–	30,400	34,436
Total operating expenses	520,707	–	–	520,707	290,374
Change in net assets from operations	(17,454)	(18,889)	–	(36,343)	(21,530)
Non-operating Revenues and (Expenses)					
Contributions	6,087	–	–	6,087	5,618
Net change in annuities and pooled income fund	(961)	477	–	(484)	1,016
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on non-segregated investments	18,883	–	380	19,263	(14,238)
Reorganization and other costs	(9,589)	–	–	(9,589)	–
Total non-operating revenues and expenses, net	14,420	477	380	15,277	(7,604)
Change in net assets	(3,034)	(18,412)	380	(21,066)	(29,134)
Net assets, beginning of year	80,361	58,241	2,662	141,264	170,398
Net assets, end of year	\$ 77,327	39,829	3,042	120,198	141,264

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES -
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Year ended September 30, 2003**

(With comparative amounts for September 30, 2002)
(in thousands)

	2003	2002
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Changes in net assets	\$ (21,066)	\$ (29,134)
Adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation	5,213	5,202
Loss on disposal of land, building and equipment	163	346
Loss on asset impairment	6,503	–
Realized loss sales of investments	1,015	466
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(19,970)	13,447
Effect of change in operating accounts:		
Increase in accounts receivable and other assets	(9,155)	(3,026)
Increase in undistributed commodity contributions	(31,743)	(3,776)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	9,367	5,088
Increase in advances received for programs	19,179	319
Increase in deferred revenue	31,340	3,089
Net cash used in operating activities	(9,154)	(7,979)

	2003	2002
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of land, building and equipment	321	269
Purchase of land, building and equipment	(4,866)	(5,075)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	75,797	175,349
Purchase of investments	(62,618)	(160,556)
Net cash provided by investing activities	8,634	9,987
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Loan proceeds	25	100
Principal payments on long-term debt	(66)	(171)
Increase in annuities payable, net	1,858	2,693
Net cash provided by financing activities	1,817	2,622
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,297	4,630
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	39,803	35,173
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 41,100	\$ 39,803
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information		
Cash payments for interest	\$ 51	\$ 41

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES -
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Year ended September 30, 2003

(With summarized comparative totals for the year ended September 30, 2002)
(in thousands)

Description	Agriculture	Education	Emergency	Small Enterprise	Health	HIV/AIDS	Peace and Justice	Welfare	Total Program Services	
									2003	2002
Program Services										
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 5,597	9,767	19,443	6,134	13,152	3,600	5,585	4,196	67,474	63,888
Professional fees	740	959	1,437	714	890	377	846	221	6,184	5,788
Telecommunications and postage	245	415	661	278	297	179	380	147	2,602	2,605
Supplies, office expenses and other	895	1,060	2,405	1,266	1,920	342	969	915	9,772	6,808
Occupancy	373	823	1,218	499	600	252	436	343	4,544	4,320
Vehicle and equipment	3,213	1,476	6,492	424	1,503	895	391	720	15,114	9,133
Travel, training and representation	1,248	2,205	3,122	784	2,007	1,026	1,723	641	12,756	12,960
Warehousing and freight	10,675	10,054	89,709	1,268	7,049	3,601	-	4,425	126,781	38,905
Publicity	1	1	2	1	1	-	1	-	7	10
Advances to implementing partners	6,079	6,996	40,450	2,194	10,818	10,788	10,058	6,782	94,165	74,027
Food, other commodities and in-kind contributions	13,214	8,210	107,442	-	9,658	1,624	-	6,190	146,338	32,902
Depreciation	539	540	266	958	407	1,282	420	158	4,570	4,592
Total expenses	\$ 42,819	42,506	272,647	14,520	48,302	23,966	20,809	24,738	490,307	255,938

(continued)

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES -
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Year ended September 30, 2003 (continued)

(With summarized comparative totals for the year ended September 30, 2002)
(in thousands)

	Management and General	Public Awareness	Fundraising	Total Support Services		Total Operating Services	
				2003	2002	2003	2002
Support Services							
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 6,813	831	4,546	12,190	12,208	79,664	76,096
Professional fees	976	292	2,959	4,227	5,818	10,411	11,606
Telecommunications and postage	303	20	3,936	4,259	4,338	6,861	6,943
Supplies, office expenses and other	163	53	5,715	5,931	7,654	15,703	14,462
Occupancy	367	30	191	588	488	5,132	4,808
Vehicle and equipment	52	1	28	81	180	15,195	9,313
Travel, training and representation	545	129	234	908	1,063	13,664	14,023
Warehousing and freight	25	-	33	58	51	126,839	38,956
Publicity	37	1,456	4	1,497	2,026	1,504	2,036
Advances to implementing partners	1	11	6	18	-	94,183	74,027
Food, other commodities and in-kind contributions	-	-	-	-	-	146,338	32,902
Depreciation	628	-	15	643	610	5,213	5,202
Total expenses	\$ 9,910	2,823	17,667	30,400	34,436	520,707	290,374

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We gratefully acknowledge the following private individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations who supported our work with \$10,000 or more in fiscal year 2003.

We also extend our deepest thanks to thousands of others for their steadfast and continuous support of our work. Their concern for those less fortunate is demonstrated every year by their gifts to the Annual Bishops Overseas Appeal and to Operation Rice Bowl, and by their continuing support of all our programs. Their generosity helps make it possible for us to alleviate human suffering and provide assistance to the world's poor.

The compilers have carefully reviewed the names that are listed. Donors are recognized for gifts made during Fiscal Year 2003: October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003. If a name has been listed incorrectly or has been omitted, please accept our apologies and bring the mistake to the attention of:

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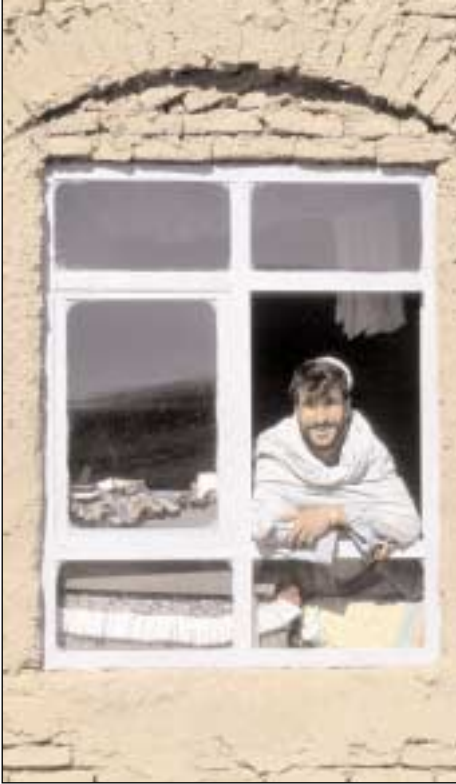


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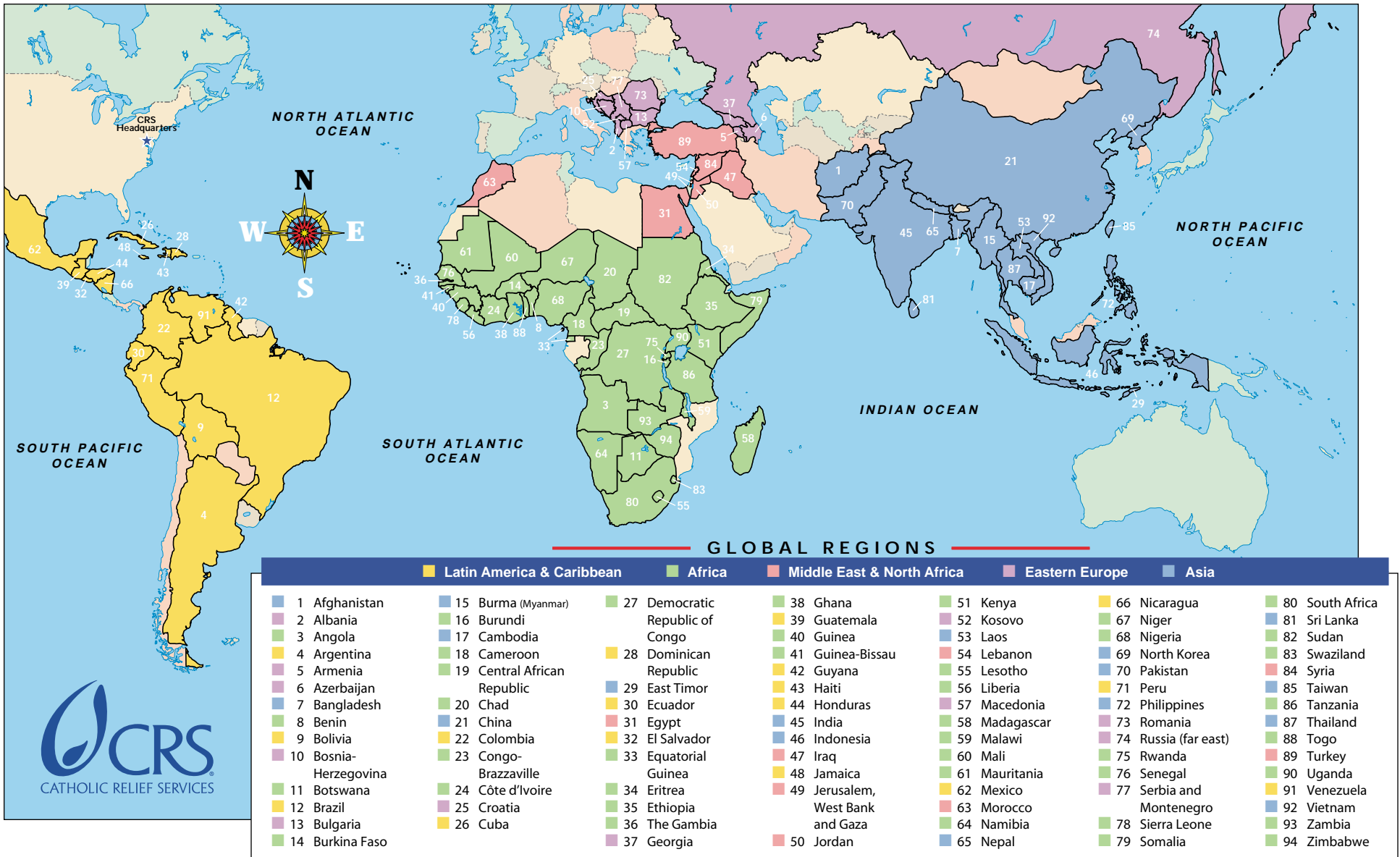


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