This program focuses on health, nutrition, agriculture and capacity strengthening to help 300,000 people (56,000 households). The program’s goals include:

- improving agricultural production for consumption and income generation,
- providing households with tools to prevent maternal and child malnutrition,
- empowering women through support groups,
- strengthening communities’ capacity to improve food security and
- supporting girls’ education.

The U.S. Agency for International Development/Food for Peace is funding this project for US$39.7 million during the years 2010–2015. Our partners are Helen Keller International, GRET/Nutrifaso, OCADES Kaya and Tin Tua Association.

OUR HISTORY IN BURKINA FASO

Catholic Relief Services came to Burkina Faso in 1960 upon the invitation of the country’s bishops. We are the first and longest-standing international development organization in the country.

In our more than 50 years of work in Burkina Faso, CRS has implemented programs on agriculture, education, emergency relief, food security, health (including nutrition, HIV and AIDS, and maternal and child health), microfinance, peace and justice, hygiene, sanitation and water.

WHAT WE DO

CRS employs an integrated approach to help the most vulnerable people lead full and productive lives. We work with the most vulnerable populations in the country, including underprivileged mothers, children, people with disabilities, and survivors of floods and droughts.

We implement programs through partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, including the local chapter Caritas, the government of Burkina Faso, and local and national nonprofit organizations. We also collaborate with international organizations through various consortia and initiatives.

Our current work in Burkina Faso focuses on the following areas:

- Food security and agriculture
- Emergency response
- Microsavings and credit
- Education, with a focus on girls
- Health and nutrition

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Our Ouagadougou office directly serves more than 450,000 people through US$44 million of funding as of fiscal year 2013. We have five international staff and 100 national staff.

FOOD SECURITY IN HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES

We are strengthening households’ resilience through an integrated and comprehensive response to food insecurity.
FOOD SECURITY IN SCHOOLS
We are working with schools and communities to ensure that students are well nourished. The project aims to improve food security by providing school lunches, vitamin supplements and deworming medication to 150,000 children from 688 schools, distributing monthly food rations to more than 8,000 girls who achieve a 90 percent attendance rate, and strengthening the capacities of 3,000 teachers and 30,000 community members.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding this project for US$15.8 million during the years 2011–2014 as part of the McGovern-Dole Global Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE
We are providing emergency relief services for refugees from Mali. CRS has assisted more than 43,000 Malian refugees and host community members by distributing nearly 1,300 metric tons of food and 200 emergency kits, which contain goods such as mats, soap, buckets, pots, pans, stoves and kettles. We constructed more than 100 latrines, showers and hand-washing stations; drilled five wells; and used vouchers to implement clothing fairs in camps across Burkina Faso, serving nearly 13,000 refugees who are women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities.

In 2012, CRS used private funds and received support from Latter-Day Saint Charities for a combined investment of US$2.4 million.

MICROSAVINGS AND CREDIT
We are using seed vouchers, cash grants and savings groups to help vulnerable households recover from the devastating Sahel food crisis. CRS is targeting nearly 19,000 individuals and 17,000 households in the province of Yatenga. Our goal is to restore households’ assets and improve their resilience to future shocks by creating self-sustaining savings groups. CRS has established more than 1,200 SILC groups which are led by nearly 50,000 men and women community members across the country.

The project has received US$1.3 million from USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance for the years 2012–2013. CRS is working with OCADES Ouahigouya to implement the program.

GIRLS’ EDUCATION
We are helping girls succeed in school. In Burkina Faso, our programs have led to the construction of more than 90 girl-friendly schools comprised of 270 classrooms, 270 lodgings for teachers and 90 community preschools. We have provided over 33,000 take-home rations to female students and nearly 13,500 daily hot meals for preschool children. More than 38,000 students (including 19,000 girls) are now attending school in classrooms that CRS built.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation and USAID supported this project with US$18.3 million for the years 2006–2012.

Catholic Relief Services
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