



Omear Abu Samhan Mob's family home was destroyed in the Gaza-Israel conflict in 2014. CRS and its partner USAID responded by distributing essential household items in Gaza City. *Photo by Shareef Sarhan for CRS*

# USAID-funded Envision Gaza 2020

## BUILDING RESILIENCE IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

### BACKGROUND

Life in Gaza is characterized by recurring human-made and natural crises, with one of the highest unemployment rates in the world and more than 80 percent of its population relying on humanitarian aid. Families are often unable to fully recover from one shock before the next occurs, and are caught in a cycle of constant loss and recovery.

### ENVISION GAZA 2020

In April 2016, USAID and CRS began implementation of Envision Gaza 2020, a five-year project to support Gazans to become more resilient to everyday stresses and rebound more quickly. Envision Gaza 2020's approach is to build resilience and self-reliance in vulnerable communities through the expansion of employment opportunities and targeted emergency assistance.

270,000

YOUTH, WOMEN, FAMILIES AND  
BUSINESSES WILL BE SUPPORTED OVER  
THE 5 YEARS OF THE PROGRAM

The project is the fourth pillar of Gaza 2020, a USAID initiative promoting recovery, reconstruction, and redevelopment in Gaza through water and sanitation, private sector development, health, and humanitarian assistance. This five-year initiative builds on US Secretary of State John Kerry's commitment at the October 2014 Cairo Reconstruction Conference to help rebuild Gaza, and on USAID's years of experience supporting Palestinians in Gaza.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The program helps vulnerable emergency-affected and displaced Gazan families better cope with ongoing stresses and unexpected shocks by providing them with timely and appropriate humanitarian aid in the form of food and basic lifesaving household items.

### Emergency Rapid Response

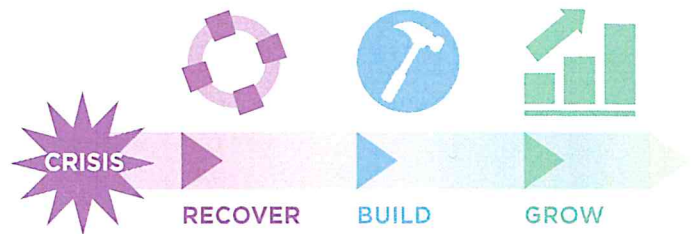
The \$10 million Emergency Rapid Response (ERR) Fund enables CRS to quickly and effectively respond to emergencies using a network of partners trained in emergency response and approved by CRS and USAID.

CRS has more than 30 years of experience in providing emergency relief to the people of Gaza. In response to the 2014 military escalation, CRS and its partners provided lifesaving assistance to more than 140,000 Gazans.

## LIVELIHOODS OPPORTUNITIES

Envision Gaza 2020 also focuses on livelihoods opportunities for the most vulnerable, with an emphasis on women and youth being placed in internships and apprenticeships leading to longer-term sustainable employment. CRS also offers trainings and short-term job placements for skilled and non-skilled workers. These opportunities will focus on supporting local industries that support sector resilience in the long term. CRS has also engaged with many of the largest businesses in Gaza. Beneficiaries will be involved in sectors such as agriculture, construction, banking, and telecommunications. Additionally, business owners are provided with small capital grants, entrepreneurship training and start-up grants to rebuild and grow their businesses, resulting in a strengthened local economy, workforce and productive assets.

## ENVISION GAZA 2020 RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK



## DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

CRS' online application mechanism effectively and rapidly pinpoints the most vulnerable, and matches their skill sets and needs with relevant opportunities. CRS screens and places applicants according to their skills, experience, geographic location, age, and sex so that they are assigned to the best-fit opportunities.

To save time in crisis situations, an e-voucher system provides unrestricted food and non-food help to extremely vulnerable families. The CRS consortium is pre-positioning and vetting vendor networks to ensure timely and locally appropriate lifesaving assistance. All vendors are vetted according to USAID policy.

## RIGOROUS DUE DILIGENCE

CRS applies rigorous vetting and accounting policies and procedures in compliance with USAID and the local authorities. CRS remains vigilant and informed of the identity and backgrounds of all those who serve our beneficiaries. Additionally, CRS conducts systematic financial and internal controls assessments of all our partners. These risk-mitigation practices enable us to screen and monitor the people, businesses and civil society organizations we work with in Gaza.



A CRS cash-for-work project employs people to help rebuild a destroyed kindergarden. Photo by Shareef Sarhan for CRS

### CRS' commitment to the people of Gaza

CRS is committed to the people of Gaza and their right to dignified and secure lives. With a presence in the Gaza Strip since 1984 and a staff of more than 30 in Gaza, CRS is well-positioned to implement relief and recovery programs in partnership with local communities. CRS provides humanitarian assistance on the basis of need, regardless of race, creed or nationality.

Envision Gaza 2020's approach is to build resilience and self-reliance in vulnerable communities through the expansion of employment opportunities and targeted emergency assistance.



Catholic Relief Services, 228 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
For more information, visit [CRS.org](http://CRS.org)