



## Partnership principles

Partnership is fundamental to how CRS sees itself in the world. CRS believes profoundly that change occurs through local partners, that by sustaining and strengthening local institutions, they enhance a community's ability to respond to its own problems. Catholic Relief Services puts its approach to development, emergency relief, and social change into practice through partnerships with a wide array of organizations: local churches and nonprofits, host governments, international agencies, and others. CRS strives for partnerships founded on a long-term vision and a mutual commitment to peace and justice. For more than sixty years, CRS has worked side-by-side with partners to alleviate human suffering, promote social justice, and assist people as they strive for their own development.

1. **Share a vision** for addressing people's immediate needs and the underlying causes of suffering and injustice.
2. Make decisions at a level as close as possible to the people who will be affected by them, the principle of **subsidiarity**.
3. Strive for **mutuality**, recognizing that each partner brings skills, resources, knowledge, and capacities in a spirit of autonomy.
4. Foster equitable partnerships by mutually defining **rights and responsibilities**.
5. **Respect differences** and commit to listen and learn from each other.
6. Encourage **transparency** regarding capacities, constraints, and resources.
7. Engage with civil society, to help **transform unjust structures and systems**.
8. Commit to a long-term process of **organizational development**.
9. Identify, understand, and strengthen **community capacities**, which are the primary source of solutions to local problems.
10. Promote **sustainability** by reinforcing the capacity to identify vulnerabilities and build on strengths.