

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



NPC NR: 2019/590489/08



NRC



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CRN

CRISIS RESPONSE

Network

Crisis Response Network (CRN) exists to coordinate a network of global grassroots partners in the humanitarian space to **alleviate suffering** and foster resilience in people from diverse backgrounds impacted by a crisis.

We do this with and through established global grassroots partners supporting their **readiness, response, and restoration** efforts within their communities for a strategic and sustainable impact. We are therefore not the first responders to a crisis, but connect grassroots partners with resource partners to maximise the reduction of suffering due to a crisis.

Our **unique approach** enables the grassroots partners to lead and own the response in an economically viable and timely manner in order to reduce suffering and foster resilience.

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GLOSSARY



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The currency of hope in a time of polycrises.



Dear Friends,

If we had to rely on the news in 2024, it would not be hard to feel a heaviness in the face of so much crisis and **suffering** in the world. Crisis often arrives unannounced, and it is not a respecter of age, gender, language or country borders. However, in the past couple of decades, crises seem to have mutated and are manifesting as multilayered, complex and with an interconnectedness that amplifies and compounds the impacts of the crisis – not only for those caught in its path, but also for those called to respond to it. The domino effect of these cascading crises as well as their semi-permanent nature demands a new and agile response.

The value of naming something cannot be underestimated, and as I grappled with the thought of giving expression to the multifaceted nature of crises, the word 'polycrisis' from the 2024 IPASA Annual Review of South African Philanthropy, caught my attention. A polycrisis is defined as **suffering** that is caused by many different problems happening together so that they together have a very big and overwhelming impact. So, the shocks of a crisis are still fundamentally separate, but they interact so that the whole is even more overwhelming than the sum of the parts. Take climate change as an example – not only does it cause food insecurity, but exacerbates water scarcity and drives mass migration, which results in strained economies which impacts social and other sectors without an end in sight. We seem to be in the age of a *permanature* polycrisis.



It was in this age, during one of the most extensive examples of a polycrisis that the world experienced as the COVID-19 pandemic, that CRN was birthed. From the outset we were challenged to find a holistic and flexible strategy to fulfill our calling, because it was clear – the phenomenon of the polycrisis demanded an innovative approach from the non-profit sector. Networking with various stakeholders as opposed to an individualistic style, would be one of our strategies, as well as harnessing the agility and indigenous knowledge of local grassroots responders so that we could facilitate the reduction of suffering before, during and after a crisis. As we look at the past 6 years since our inception, we can't say that CRN is working in 70 countries, but in the face of the uncertainties and complexities that polycrises produce, we have established trust as the bedrock between ourselves and the various network partners, explore 'poly-opportunities' with them as we all **strive to see hope replace the negative power of suffering**. It is with grateful hearts that we can share in this report about the 7 countries where CRN was involved in 2024 (and will continue to be in 2025, Lord willing), and how **the currency of hope** from our donor community and resource partners are reducing the suffering, one person at a time.

The alleviation of suffering is the essence of why CRN exists, and it is also one of the drivers of human purpose. This is not only true for those in crisis, but also for those serving them because it becomes a source of the greatest meaning in their lives. Studies on the topic have confirmed that an essential component of **suffering alleviation** is that it **generates compassion** and love.

Thus, not only does the act of suffering alleviation go together with meaningful purpose, but it can also serve as a more compelling global goal than even alleviating poverty, inequality or hunger, for example. These are all good global goals but, in a sense, already integrated into the rubric of suffering.



The outcomes of these studies also point out that when suffering becomes severe, it has priority over the general well-being of a community. Much like in an emergency ward where the injured are triaged according to severity of the injury and treated accordingly. Suffering causes despair and powerlessness; it is a turning point, a critical time in a person's life. It is frightening because the road map you were familiar with no longer points the way. What was known is gone, what was safe now feels unsafe, and what was predictable is uncertain. Someone once said: "Suffering is". If we look at the world and all the crises doing the rounds, it looks as if suffering is inevitable. But at CRN, we believe that hope should be revived in the midst of suffering as communities are supported in a meaningful way. **Suffering should not have the final say.**

Dr Diane Langberg uses a sacred picture that succinctly describes our calling. Many of us recall the 11th of September 2011, when the world trade centers were destroyed. The world watched in horror as the suffering unfolded before our eyes. Consider for a moment the rescue workers who came to the scene to help as an example of a response to suffering. They came and entered into the devastating scenes of trauma and death. As people of God, the CRN team and board believe we are called to enter into the suffering in this world and serve through our network partners like those rescue workers did.

As you read through the CRN's Annual report, you will notice how it highlights the various dynamics contributing to the *polycrises* that developed in our project countries, but it also offers insight into the opportunities that arose among the various partners in the CRN network as we strove collaboratively to reduce suffering and ignite hope. You will be inspired to read how project participants exhibit their inherent strength and resilience to overcome their challenges once their suffering is acknowledged.



We are humbled at CRN to see and hear, despite the many obstacles local grassroots partners and their communities face, their unmatched determination to break the cycle of suffering and allow hope to abound. Most importantly, this has been possible because of you (yes, you 😊), through your support, prayers and interest. You made their work possible and this reignited hope. We like to think of your support as the **currency of hope**.

While there might not be a decrease in crises or challenges facing families worldwide in the foreseeable future, the CRN team and board remains committed to see the reduction of suffering by harnessing the presence and knowledge of local grassroots partners as first responders, while facilitating connections with resource partners, supporters and donors. We will continue to explore innovative ways to reach our goals, nurture partnerships, and expand our impact. We promise to invest in strategic planning to ensure our projects through our partners remain relevant and effective. I am immensely grateful that our Heavenly Father has invited us into His work, and I am also in awe of the dedicated and gifted team and board He brought together to accomplish so much more than what we can imagine or ask for.

Thank you to all our stakeholders and grassroots partners for the confidence you have shown in CRN, and for contributing to restoring hope to those that were suffering. In Matt 25, we see these acts of kindness towards those who were suffering from hunger and thirst. But I want to encourage you that the scripture also continues to say that those who ministered in such a way, ministered unto the Lord. Thank you for caring and taking the time to read this letter and the report. God bless!

Yolandé Korkie
Co-Founder & Executive Director

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD



Message from the Outgoing Chairperson.

As we reflect on 2024 for the Crisis Response Network (CRN), I am deeply moved by the dedication and impact of this organisation.

While CRN cannot always predict when or where the next crisis will emerge, it must remain prepared, well-connected, and financially equipped to respond swiftly and effectively to urgent humanitarian needs. Like many Non-Profit Companies, CRN continually navigates challenges such as financial sustainability in a world where growing crises seem to be the new normal, and developing diverse funding streams and resourceful, timely ways to respond, are required.

Despite these challenges, CRN has faithfully pursued its mission this past year—seizing new opportunities, strengthening stakeholder relationships, and forging meaningful partnerships. Through innovative solutions, the organisation has worked to ease suffering, prepare for crises, and restore hope. This year was marked by inspiring “mission moments”—from agricultural projects in Mozambique and Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement to critical support in Ukraine, Gaza, and South Sudan. Stories of refugee children continuing their education, communities receiving life-saving aid, and churches providing care amidst conflict highlight CRN’s unwavering commitment to those in need.



A special highlight was the Absa Cape Epic charity event, which not only raised significant funds but also increased awareness of CRN's mission, further empowering its work with the most vulnerable.

2024 also marked CRN's strides toward independence and sustainability, with the expansion of full-time team members, strengthened grassroots partnerships, and increased fundraising efforts. We extend heartfelt thanks to INcontext International, whose support since CRN's inception laid the foundation for its success and continued until CRN transitioned to greater independence late this year.

Through every challenge, the resilience of the CRN family has ensured the organisation remains a beacon of hope for those who rely on its support.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my deepest gratitude to Yoland , the CRN team, our partners, and our donors—whose prayers, resources, and dedication make this mission possible. As we look ahead to 2025, we do so with renewed faith, hope, and a steadfast commitment to bringing compassion and care to those in crisis.

Warm Regards,

**Trish
van der Merwe**





Message from the Incoming Chairperson.

Thank you to my colleagues on the board for entrusting me with the role of chairperson. I look forward to another successful year of growth, impact, and collaboration.

As we move forward, it is essential to remain focused on our mission and adapt to the evolving needs in our world. CRN will continue to explore innovative ways to address challenges, seek new partnerships, and expand our impact. We will also invest in strategic planning to ensure our programmes remain relevant, effective, and aligned with our long-term goals.

The following Key Focus Areas provide opportunities for individuals and companies to invest in the development and growth of CRN and to help CRN respond effectively to disasters around the world:

- Establish a Disaster Response Fund
- Effective Operational Response through Administrative, Financial and Emotional Support for co-workers and volunteers.
- Strengthening relationships with current Resource Partners
- Strengthening relationships with and support of Grassroots Partners

I am looking forward to nurturing collaboration with potential investors and donors. Please contact me if you need more information or to discuss supporting any of the Key Focus Areas.

Warm Regards,

**Theunis
Scheepers**



ALLEVIATING SUFFERING



At CRN, our passion is to alleviate the suffering of people worldwide.

Suffering is severe distress that damages one's body, mind and interpersonal relationships, as well as one's self-identity. It also impacts a person's ability to function or contribute as part of a community.

Hunger, poverty, lack of education and health services, safety, shelter, continuous displacement and being exposed to violence can cause or increase suffering.

When suffering becomes severe and multiple and the overlapping crises (polycrises) converges on a community, the **reduction of suffering has humanitarian priority** over the general well-being of a community.

Suffering is exacerbated by:



untimely responses



early withdrawal from responders before a community is ready



funding deficits and



inaccessibility to crisis locations.

The Humanitarian landscape over the last decade has faced unprecedented challenges in both the man-made and natural disaster arenas:

1

According to the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), the escalation of conflict is at a record high and it is severely **impeding** the ability of aid agencies to **access** and operate effectively to alleviate suffering.

2

The **protracted nature** of many of these conflicts and the sheer amount of people groups globally on the move are contributing to aid agencies' inability to support them in the **long run**.

3

Added to this is the compounded and generational trauma that civilians caught in these conflicts are experiencing, which requires specialised and **contextualised support**.

5

Data confirms the widespread phenomenon of crisis, and it is therefore not a matter of IF a crisis will happen, but WHEN.

4

These realities are not only in connection to man-made disasters. If we include the data of the five-fold increase in natural disasters since the 1970's, then all of these challenges point to a critical need to **rethink the way the humanitarian sector alleviates suffering**.

The Challenges

- Inaccessibility of NGOs
- Costly
- Lack of longevity
- Collapsed economies
- Dependency on foreign support
- Hopelessness

The Opportunities

At CRN, we believe these challenges are the opportunities which inform our unique approach **for the good of all communities, no matter who or where – because every person is worthy of support during a time of crisis.**

OUR SOLUTION TO THESE POLYCRISES IS UNIQUE



CRN is not the first responder during times of crisis, but we seek to circumvent the inaccessibility of humanitarian aid organisations by **working through local responders** who have access and are present.



We strengthen the response and restoration efforts of established global grassroots partners within their communities; this removes expenses of sending teams and aid importation taxes while simultaneously **supporting aid purchases** at the **local economy** level.



Community dignity and worth is restored through activation of **indigenous knowledge** and secondary suffering is minimised; **hope** is reignited. The negative hold of suffering is broken!



Our approach changes the:



- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Inaccessible | → | Accessible |
| Costly | → | Cost effective |
| Lack of Longevity | → | Enduring |
| Collapsed Economy | → | Supportive of local economy |
| Aid dependent | → | Indigenous knowledge activated |
| Hopelessness | → | Hope restored |

On an international level, and in line with the Sendai Framework, we currently focus on **targets A, B and C** as well as **F**, while envisioning future engagement with focus G in mind:

Sendai Framework at a Glance

The Sendai Framework outlines seven global targets to be achieved between 2015 and 2030.



“When responses are timely, accessible, enduring, and indigenous, suffering is directly reduced.”



2024 OVERVIEW

How we Alleviate Suffering and Restore Hope

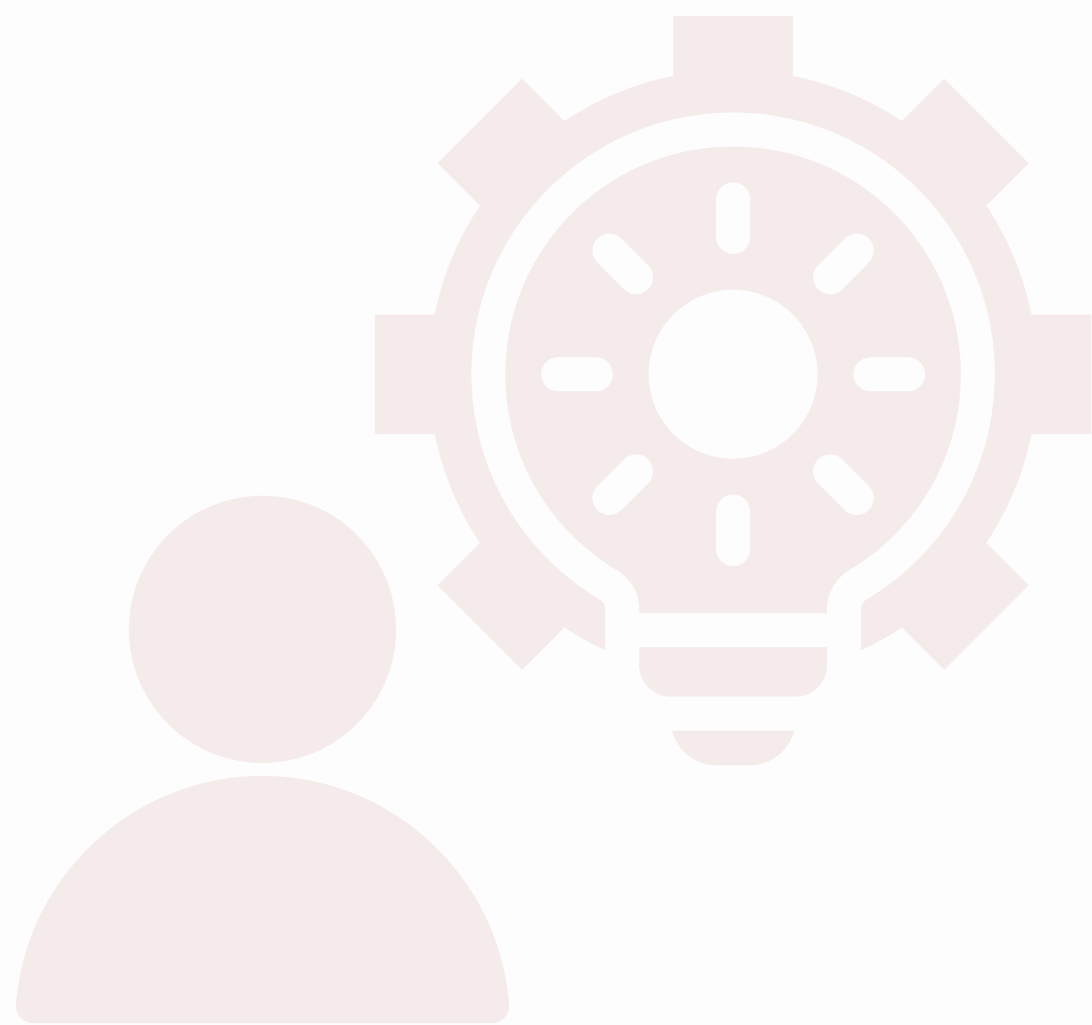
READINESS

46 People attended the Risk & Personal Security workshops

11 Facilitators attend Smart Choices sexuality education

18 Children have meals for 1 year

7 Country Risk Matrices on CRN website



60 413 People received emergency food aid

1 064 Children received education resources

1 355 People received medical support

Numbers are not precise due to families who indirectly benefitted but not counted.

RESPONSE

RESTORATION

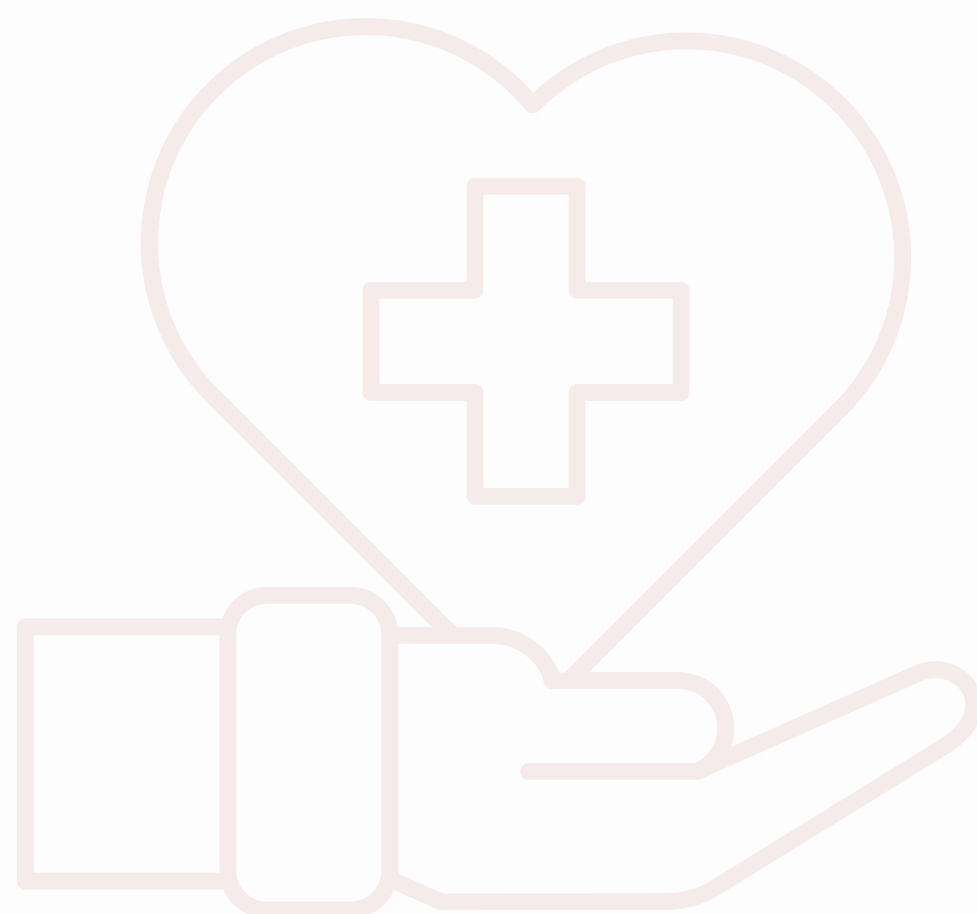
887 Children went to school

56 People Received Spiritual and emotional care

12 People received counseling

8 Agriculture and business opportunities

4 Hectares of land purchased



CRISIS READINESS



READINESS

The CRN believes that **effective preparation** has the ability to alleviate some of the devastation wrought by unexpected crises, and is part of **responsible stewardship** of resources (including our own lives and that of others). The CRN aims to provide training opportunities, resources and interventions to assist with preparedness and resilience of individuals or communities. In 2025, the CRN drew on networking and collaboration to invest in crisis preparedness. Even networking itself can be seen as a form of readiness, since it allows for established connections to be drawn on in times of crisis.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING

CRN's Director is a facilitator of Barnabas International's Risk Assessment and Management (RAM) training - a workshop experience focusing on a holistic and practical **Theology of Risk** integrating faith and emotions, along with practical risk assessment. This training is a companion to *Facing Danger: A Guide Through Risk*, by Dr. Anna Hampton.

In 2024, CRN co-facilitated a two-day RAM training in April in Gauteng and again in August in Cape Town, addressing the challenges of emotional-relational-spiritual preparations cross-cultural workers need at every leadership level.



Impact:

**24 participants in total were equipped;
7 different organisations participated**

REUTERS

CRISIS CONSULTING INTERNATIONAL (CCI) WORKSHOPS

During the same week in August at Vredelust Church, CRN hosted CCI to facilitate a two-day workshop covering topics related to security, contingency planning, and crisis management, support and response.

CCI, one of our network partners, also hosted a special workshop for ladies focused on personal security and safety.



Impact:
24 participants were equipped.



INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RISK NETWORK (IDRN) GLOBAL EVENT

In 2024, CRN became a member of **IDRN** - a global grassroots registry encouraging awareness, best practices with new and better collaborations between all levels of amateur to professional responders and the rest of the world.

In December, CRN was present at an IDRN conference in Istanbul, Turkiye, sponsored by RYSR, Bunker USA and IDRN Global. World class experts shared valuable lessons about best practices in humanitarian responses while putting humanity first, working with governments and building resilience into strategies. We had the opportunity to connect with other humanitarian organisations and individuals, collectively representing 14 countries.



Impact:
21 organisations from 14 countries discussed best practices and collaboartion was established.



THE RESILIENCE RESOURCE

In Scotland, our resource partner, The Resilience Resource, hosted an in-person equipping event on Compassionate Care in Crisis focusing on first responders practising grounding and stabilisation techniques, ways to assist children in crisis, and self-care and secondary trauma for those working in humanitarian spaces. The latest trends and best practices were explored as the world faces escalating crises of a poly-nature.

RHINO CAMP - SMART CHOICES FOR A SMART LIFE

Our grassroots partners had expressed the desire to invest in the community's education around topics of sexuality and reproduction. The need for this type of education was highlighted after the 'She's a Girl, Not a Bride' project in 2022.

Through various networking links, CRN found an organisation interested in becoming a **resource partner** to meet this need. AEE offered to provide the **Smart Choices for a Smart Life** curriculum, which would be facilitated by an Anglican and Evangelical church in two zones of Rhino Camp. Phase One of the project has begun, which entails the training of 11 adults to become facilitators of the curriculum.



COUNTRY RISK MATRICES

Another way CRN tries to increase readiness is to make people aware of different risks associated with being an expatriate in certain countries.

In 2024, we developed risk matrices for seven countries where we are supporting grassroots partners or have previously collaborated on projects. Where possible, we sought insight and feedback from key informants with some experience and knowledge about working in those countries. These can be found on our website under Country Profiles.

PROJECTS

AFRICA: SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE, UGANDA



SOUTH AFRICA

NEED

Communities in Rugby and Malmesbury required food supplies after a dam wall broke and flooded houses in the area; a community in Masiphumelele also requested food supplies after flooding in the area; and a community in Khayelitsha needed clothes after people lost their houses in a fire.

RESPONSE

CRN supplied 78 boxes of Rise Against Hunger (RAH) food parcels to Adopt a Mission (approximately 1.5 pallets) to help the people in Rugby and Malmesbury.

CRN organised about 40 boxes of RAH food parcels for Living Hope, who passed these food parcels on to the community of Masiphumelele.

CRN connected a Pastor from Khayelitsha to Helderberg Uitreik who managed to provide clothing to about 50 people who lost their homes to fire.



Impact

- 24,485 people received food packs
- 50 people received clothing

MOZAMBIQUE

IDP CAMP - FOOD PACKS

NEED

Pastor [Peter] expressed the need for urgent supplies of food to the people in the IDP camps due to ongoing displacement since the Palma attack in 2020.

RESPONSE

Rise Against Hunger donated food packs to CRN which were transported to Mercy Air Africa's hanger in Mpumalanga. Mercy Air Africa was able to transport a few boxes of Rise Against Hunger food packs to Zambezia province and later to Marromeu in Sofala Province, which were then distributed through a food programme run in the area with the local community there. More Rise Against Hunger food packs were sent to the Mercy Air hanger to be delivered to Pemba in the North, but due to the violence and instability in the country, they were not allowed to fly in.



Impact

- **Zambezia and Marromeu communities received vital food supplies.**



IDP CAMP - SCHOLASTIC MATERIAL FOR IDP CHILDREN

NEED

Pastor [Peter] in Pemba expressed that children in the IDP camps did not have the education resources to continue their education whilst displaced.

RESPONSE

Scholastic material was bought in 2023, and distributed to the children in 2024.



Impact

- **800+ children received scholastic materials.**
- **The beneficiaries shared that the scholastic material was of high quality and brought them great joy, not only helping to meet their physical needs but lifting their spirits.**

“We are amazed by this gift. As internally displaced people, we are dependent on the charity of organisations and generous individuals. We did not have scholastic materials, so this was a huge blessing for us.”

Pastor Peter

2025

Education resources will be sourced to give 1000 children opportunity to continue their education.



IDP CAMP - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

NEED

Our grassroots partner in northern Mozambique expressed that the internally displaced community was struggling to meet their daily nutritional requirements. Long-term solutions were explored, as the violence continues in areas in the North and it remains unsafe for them to return to their homes.

RESPONSE

CRN's donation enabled them to buy a plot of land so that they could begin growing crops. A group of 15 people began clearing the land and preparing it for planting seeds.



Impact

- **Several floods and cyclone Freddy went through the region towards the end of 2024, and although some of the crops were damaged, the group persevered and will soon harvest cassava and maize.**



UGANDA

RHINO CAMP - SCHOOL FEES FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

NEED

CRN partner, Hope Filled Children and Women Ministries expressed that vulnerable children were unable to afford school fees to attend school in the camp and were consequently not in school.

RESPONSE

Our grassroots partners carried out research and calculated the amount of money required for a child to attend school (estimated to be around R700 / 40 USD per year in 2024) and informed us that 81 vulnerable children were selected. Through the generous donations of our supporters, R30,000 / 1,600 USD was donated for each semester.



Impact

- **2024: 81 children were able to attend school for the year.**
- **2025: 87 vulnerable children's education opportunities will be supported, as well as vocational training partnerships pursued.**

"I'm [Joseph], currently in primary 4. I thank CRN for the support for my education; I feel happy to be in school. Without this, I would have not been able to be in school. My life has changed. May God bless you."

Beneficiary



“I need to thank the CRN for their continuous support in our community in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, which has improved the education system in our community. Without their support, these children would have been vulnerable, but their support has improved access to education and reduced illiteracy in our community. Thank you so much, may God bless you.”

Grassroots Partner

RHINO CAMP - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

NEED

Hope Filled Children and Women Ministries expressed that many families struggle to meet their basic food needs due to reduced rations in the refugee settlement and that there are limited viable options for sustainable livelihoods available.

RESPONSE

Land was rented with donations from generous donors. Sorghum and cassava were planted, and additionally [8] packs of butternut seed were donated, which has been growing well.



Impact

- **3 x basins of sorghum were harvested, dried and processed. They are excitedly waiting to harvest their cassava crop in the near future.**



RHINO CAMP - SHOP

NEED

Hope Filled Children and Women Ministries identified the need for sustainable ways to support the needs (non-educational) of a group of orphans and vulnerable children in their community.

RESPONSE

Our partners in Rhino Camp previously rented a store in the business district of their settlement zone (from 2022) where they sold basic food items to generate a profit that could purchase items needed for the children. The rent increased, so they built their own shop (completed 2023). Some of the various food items sold include beans, oil, maize and sorghum. They also provide device-charging with the use of a solar panel.



Impact

- **43 orphans and 13 vulnerable children received support.**
- **6 widows received soap and food such as rice and sugar.**
- **2 people manage the store and receive income from this.**



RHINO CAMP - SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

NEED

Hope Filled Children and Women Ministries and a church in a different zone in Rhino Camp (Ofua 2) expressed the need for their communities, especially the women, to develop skills and obtain the means to support their families.

RESPONSE

Through networking and collaboration, CRN and our grassroots partners sought opportunities to provide resources and training to women and children within the reach of our grassroots partners. Our grassroots partners also initiated special events to provide spiritual and psycho-social support to those in need.



Impact

- A sewing machine was donated to a group of ladies (including widows) connected to the church in Ofua 2, Rhino Camp.
- Hope Filled Children and Women Ministries collaborated with other refugee-led organisations such as Community Creativity for development (CC4D) to develop skills, including clothes repairs.
- Hope Filled Children and Women Ministries continued to provide psycho-social and spiritual support to the women and children. For example, they held a programme in May with 41 children to prepare them for their studies by providing counselling, encouragement and fun activities.
- Additionally, CRN sponsored one of the leaders to attend the 'Journey to Healing and Restoration Conference' facilitated by Ellel Ministries Africa in Entebbe, Uganda.



PROJECTS

EUROPE: UKRAINE



RELIEF WORK (IDPS AND VULNERABLE FAMILIES)

NEED

Our grassroots partners in Kiev expressed that many internally displaced persons are struggling to meet their basic needs, living on minimal stipends from the government. Others who are not displaced also find themselves in very challenging situations as a result of the war, and the need for basic necessities is widespread and increasing as the war drags on and the economy deteriorates.

RESPONSE

Our partners tries to meet these various physical needs when distributing food packages, clothes and bedding to people who are displaced and/or facing difficult circumstances. They run a social centre once a week to help those who come with social-emotional needs, focussing on relationship building, and to provide opportunities to receive spiritual support.



Impact

- **Vulnerable individuals and families had some of their needs met through the outreach of our partners.**
- **The number of individuals or families impacted indirectly cannot be counted, but our partners continue their ministry.**

“In 2024, God taught us to see people in need and ourselves as a possible response to their need, it empowered us and taught us to live not only for ourselves.”

Grassroots Partner

YOUTH MINISTRY

NEED

Our grassroots partners identified that psychosocial and spiritual support for the children and youth in Ukraine experiencing the damaging effects of the ongoing war, was critical.

RESPONSE

Through networking and collaboration, CRN and our grassroots partners sought opportunities to provide resources and training to women and children within the reach of our grassroots partners. Our grassroots partners also initiated special events to provide spiritual and psycho-social support to those in need.



Impact

- **11 youths received psychosocial and spiritual support needed to cope with the realities of war at a summercamp.**
- **40-50 children were able to enjoy a special festive event and receive gifts within a climate of worsening conditions and immense hardships.**

2025

The population continues to suffer and helping them on a physical, emotional and spiritual level will be continued through our partner.



PROJECTS

MIDDLE EAST: AFGHANISTAN, GAZA, WEST BANK



AFGHANISTAN

RELIEF WORK - EARTHQUAKE AND FLOOD

NEED

Since the Taliban takeover of Government, humanitarian relief has made up the largest portion of our partner's response. This includes providing food, health, medicine and hygiene supplies.

The country is one of the most climate sensitive countries in the world, where over 170,000 people were affected by flooding in 2024.

RESPONSE

The advantage that our partner has is the local teams of doctors and leaders who are in meaningful relationships with their communities. This allows for a prioritising of the critical needs and mobilisation of local teams.



Impact

- **1,550 individuals received emergency and medical support in 2024 after the floods.**
- **34,000+ people were reached with general relief through our partner.**

“I am deeply grateful for the consistent encouragement the leadership team has extended to me. It strengthens my community to pay it forward to our community. I am dedicated to making a meaningful impact by uplifting vulnerable communities and ensuring that one day, my work will bring about lasting change.”

*Local Team Member
(part of the Leadership Alumni in our partner organisation)*

EARTHQUAKE - POST DISASTER REBUILDING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEED

Our grassroots partner identified the need for assistance among communities in Herat to restore their lives after the relief portion of the response to the October 2023 earthquakes ended. Their struggles are ongoing as they try to rebuild their lives.

RESPONSE

Our partners transitioned to a new phase where they are supporting several families with development and empowerment activities in order to rebuild their lives, regain hope and break the chains of poverty.



Impact

- **34,900 people reached with humanitarian relief such as food, medicine and hygiene supplies.**
- **8 women received opportunity to provide for their own families and communities through a tailoring center.**

2025

Education opportunities for the marginalised will be prioritised and families who are far from medical facilities will receive focussed assistance.



GAZA

RELIEF WORK - IDP'S AND VULNERABLE FAMILIES

NEED

The war in Gaza has resulted in several acute challenges, such as exacerbating the need for urgent medical care, and increasing food insecurity.

RESPONSE

Shepherd Society hired a local doctor and nurse to serve 3x a week at a new clinic they set up in Gaza at a trusted orthodox facility. Shepherd Society dedicated 150,000 USD towards medical needs. They also spent more than 170,000 USD on meals and food packages for the Christian minority in Gaza and their neighbours.



Impact

- **Many people in Gaza benefitted from the medical treatment provided by the clinic; 2 people are employed to run this.**
- **Hundreds of food packages and meals were distributed to vulnerable families; many volunteers participate in this project.**

“Every meal from the Shepherd Society is a reminder of the love and compassion that exists in our community. Thank you.”

Beneficiary



EDUCATION

NEED

Shepherd Society identified the importance for children living in war-torn Gaza to access opportunities to continue their education, which had been terminated since the start of the war in October 2023.

RESPONSE

Shepherd Society started a small education programme to tutor and provide support to 175 children in kindergarten, elementary and preparatory phases. Their approach is holistic and in addition to teaching certain subjects such as Mathematics and Arabic, other activities include psychosocial and spiritual support and physical activities. The educational programme for children living in and around church shelters in Gaza is also providing employment to a number of staff, including 10 teachers. The estimated cost of running the education programme for six months is \$45,540.

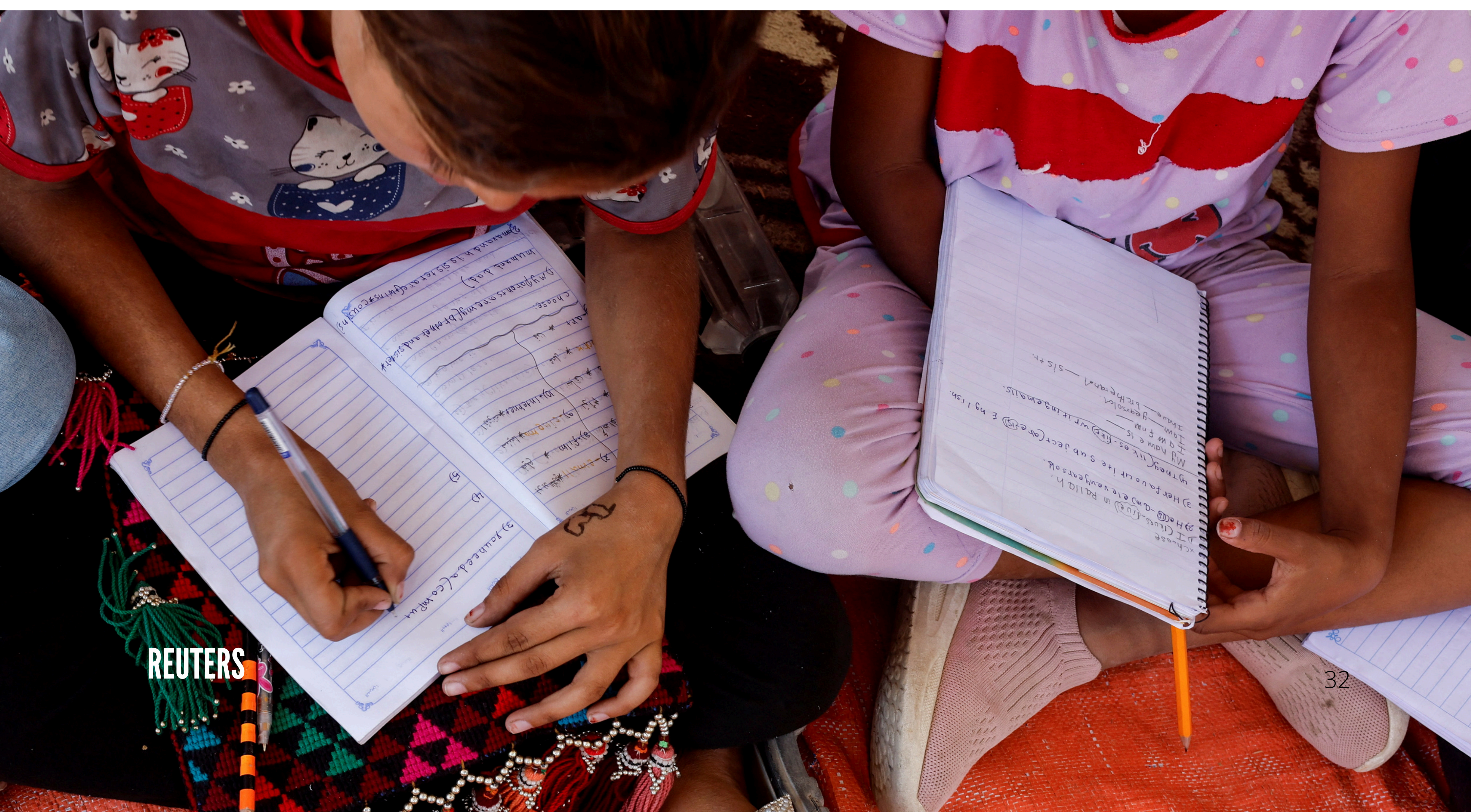


Impact

- **175 children received educational, psychosocial and spiritual support.**
- **10 teachers and a few support staff received an income too.**

2025

The importance of education during a crisis cannot be stressed enough, and this mission will be pursued as well as health services and basic food supplies.



WEST BANK

RELIEF WORK

NEED

Many in the West Bank lack medical aid and the financial means to access necessary medical treatment. Families and individuals in the West Bank struggle to meet their basic food needs, especially the elderly, sick and families with a single parent or no form of income.

RESPONSE

Shepherd society supported sick people with medicine, medical supplies and surgery. Food packages were given to 25-30 vulnerable families monthly, with an additional 900 food packages distributed to others throughout the year. They also continued with their feeding and spiritual care programme involving 35 elderly and sick people 3x a week. Their family-to-family sponsorship programme benefits 76 families in Bethlehem.



Impact

- **750 people in the West Bank were supported with medical treatment.**
- **25-30 families received monthly food packages; 900 people received extra food packages.**
- **35 elderly and sick people received hot meals 3x a week and spiritual support.**
- **76 families received 50 USD a month through the family-to-family sponsorship programme.**

“The help I received was a beacon of hope during one of the darkest times of my life. I am truly thankful for the care and compassion that saved me.”

Beneficiary



PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKING



REUTERS

“It seems to me that every person, always, is in a kind of informal partnership with his community.”

Charles Stewart Mott

Partnerships and networking are the unique solutions CRN harnesses to address the modern permanent polycrises out there.

We see ourselves as the **connecting** point between the implementing **grassroots partners** and the **resource partners**.

- Grassroots partners consist of locals who understand their context and who have the qualities to drive a response sustainably and strategically.
- Resource partners, on the other hand, have critical resources such as food aid, emergency shelters, medical supplies, logistics, trauma care specialists, agricultural resources, and finances.

Both agencies have a desire to reduce suffering, and CRN aims to connect these stakeholders for the greater good.

IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING - THE HUMAN CHAIN

The value of networks, a **true story** in Kent Annan's book, ***You Welcomed Me***, illustrates this point clearly:

A powerful rip current had pulled ten people out to sea in Florida, and however they tried, they could not swim back to shore again. Finally someone noticed and shouted to others on the beach to form a human chain. Initially only five people joined the human chain, then fifteen and later almost eighty people were stretched out into the ocean. Some of the people in the chain could not swim either, but they were holding onto each other. The chain finally reached the struggling swimmers and they were passed along the link back to shore. All the swimmers and rescuers were safe. They walked out of the water, people from different ethnicities and genders, but what an inspiring picture of working together. None of them needed saving, but none of them could have done this by themselves. Every link was crucial.

The author goes on to compare this true life drama to Jesus's story of the lost sheep and the joy when the lost one is found.



Likewise, there is great joy when someone's suffering can be alleviated by reaching out to them in a earthquake zone with disaster-specific aid, or is helped to find shelter after fleeing from violence, or a child refugee can be encouraged to dream again by opening a way for him to continue his education, or is tenderly cared for through a listening ear from a trauma counselor.

Today more than ever, we need networks of human partnerships, connecting the human chain links that have resources and skills to reach the one "drowning" in his desperate situation. **It is about that person "drowning" in his crisis, and about each of us striving to see that person relieved of his burdens of suffering and equipped to thrive again.**

HOW DOES THE CRN NETWORK WORK?

The grassroots partner notifies CRN of a crisis in their community.

We **listen** and learn about the needs as they communicate these to us, where after we **source** and **connect** them with potential resource partners. Often fundraising is the best or only solution when connections with a resource partner have not been possible.

In the global arena, **financial support** is the most timely and viable way to provide support. Some countries prohibit the import of certain basic products, and expensive import costs drain the financial resources which could have been spent buying local products, which also serves to strengthen the local economy.

This was exactly the situation in **Syria** after the earthquake in 2023. Import limitations provided the opportunity for the local team to purchase known products from the community at a much better rate, and it was much faster than importing products would have allowed.



Example from South Africa

Resource Partner: Rise Against Hunger Africa

Grassroots Partners:

Living Hope, Adopt a Mission, Anna Foundation, Helderberg Outreach - to name a few



How does this work during a crisis?

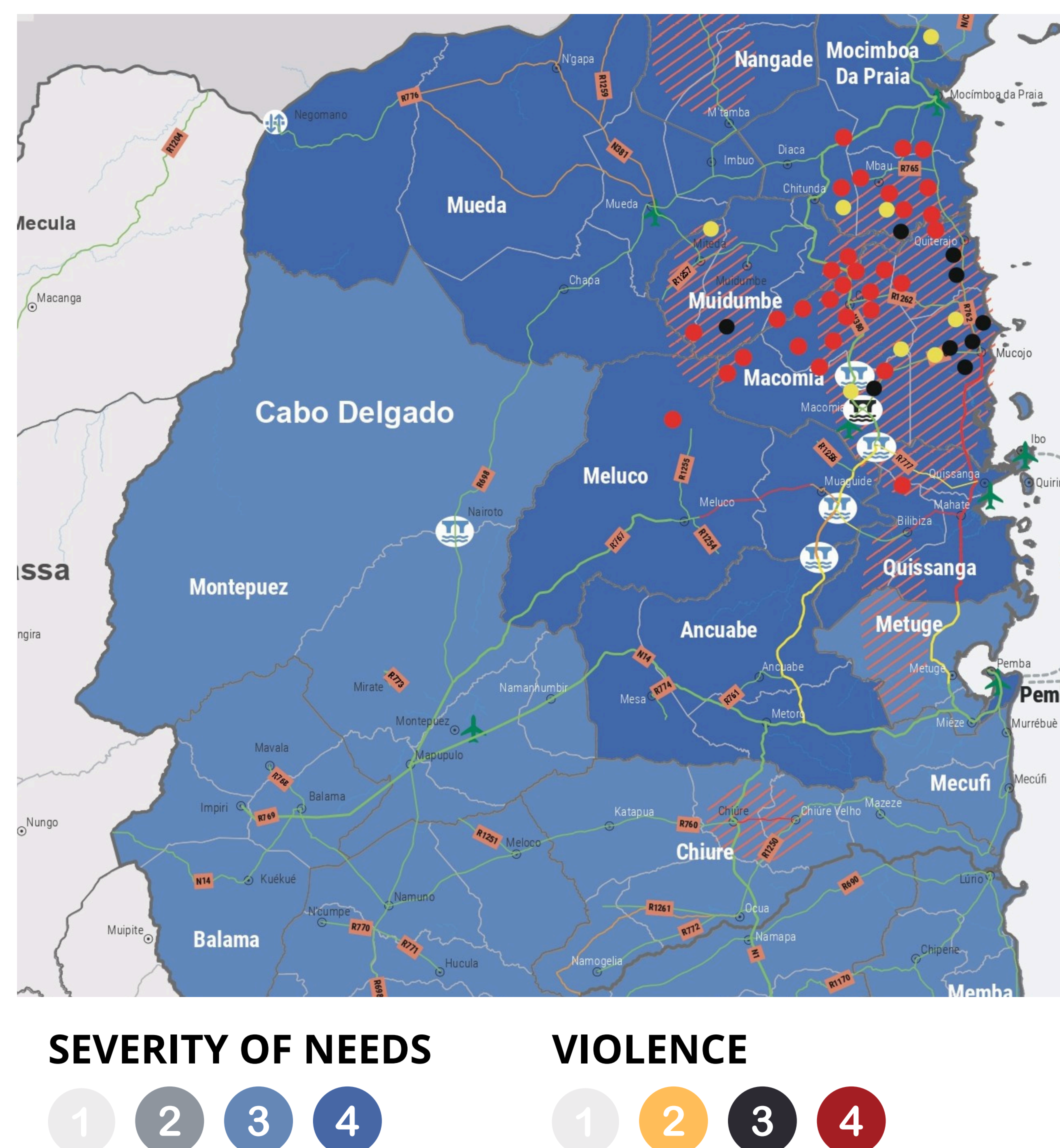
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Example from Mozambique

The violence in 2021 in the northern province of Pemba in Mozambique led to over 15% of the population being displaced and in urgent need of shelters, basic food aid and trauma debriefers. Humanitarian NGOs faced and continue to face **challenges to access** the area due to the presence of armed groups (see the map). Local responders stepped up to support their communities. One such community where CRN is focussed on supporting the internally displaced people, are in a temporary camp in **Ancuabe**.



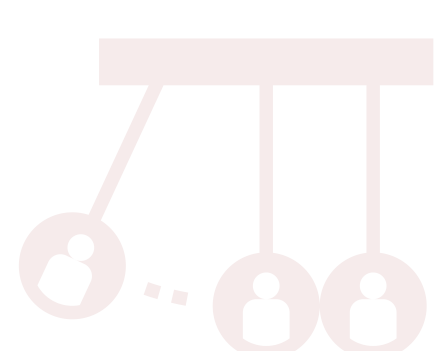
Resource Partner:

Donors and Business Community in Mozambique



Grassroots Partner:

A Church in Pemba. They have access to the IDP camp in Ancuabe where unaccompanied minors and vulnerable people fled to. A specific need CRN helped address in 2024, was the provision of scholastic material to more than 800 children in the IDP camp, because children in Mozambique are not allowed to attend any school without the required education materials.



Impact:

Through the financial and in-kind donations of a variety of friends of CRN, these children were able to access and continue their education despite the disruptions they experienced. Children's trauma decreases when they can go to school, be with friends and find meaning again.



REUTERS

MEET OUR PARTNERS

GRASSROOTS PARTNERS



RESOURCE PARTNERS



EVENTS

2024 ABSA CAPE EPIC - 20TH EDITION

2024 was our first year as one of the **official charities** at the Absa Cape Epic. It was a great opportunity to raise awareness for our projects and what we do. CRN had one rider team who purchased our charity entry and raced in the Grand Masters Men category - Mark Pienaar and Jeremy Thomson.

This year's Absa Cape Epic lived up to its name of untamed, where anything can happen - from tummy bugs, to falls, to bruises and wounds, Mark and Jeremy faced a challenging 8 days but kept going through it all, all the way to the finish line. They did exceptionally well and finished 8th in their category with a time of 36:56:29.

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

Great events like the Absa Cape Epic result in great connections. One of these led to a collaboration with Anna Foundation, another one of the Absa Cape Epic official charities.

With food packs donated from one of our resource partners, Rise Against Hunger Africa (RAH), we visited their newest after school center Lorraine, in the Rawsonville district.

Anna Foundation runs these after school programmes focusing on the 3 R's Reading, Running and Right-ing and with the winter months coming soon, the nutritious and balanced meals from RAH will help keep those little bodies and minds active and healthy.





DONATION IMPACT

Apart from great connections and opportunities to raise awareness about our projects, the donation received through the sale of our charity entry benefitted community in Masiphumelele in the Western Cape.

Living Hope, one of our grassroots partners in SA, has an established presence in this area where they aim to strengthen community response to disasters, build resilience in children and families, help people earn an income through agricultural projects and provide compassionate health care.



NETWORKING EVENT

CRN held its first Network Event in Cape Town in November 2024. Joined by 12 of our Resource Partners in the Western Cape, South Africa, we connected, exhibited and packed **4,300 meals for Rise Against Hunger** (RAH) in an hour.

RAH is a cherished organisation in the South African space and especially valued as one of CRN's Resource Partners, and by packing their quality food packs (each pack can feed 6 people), we were able to support 18 children in Early Childhood Development Centers for 1 year.

Some of our partners present that day were **Living Hope, Helderberg Uitreik, All Nations, Smart Choices**, and several others.

Networking in the age of **polycrisis** is the only way the world can truly respond and restore their communities in healthy ways. Networking puts the emphasis less on what my organisation is doing, and more on what others in the network are accomplishing; what can be reached together.

The proverb **"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together"** speaks beautifully to the CRN's networking mission.

There is no way that CRN as an organisation could alleviate suffering in some of the most hostile locations in the world today, were it not for the dedicated grassroots and resource partners in our network.





SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The team and board utilises various opportunities to share about CRN. Whether through social media, coffee dates with local supporters of CRN, at speaking engagements and radio interviews as well as private home meetings.

We were privileged to represent CRN 4 times this year abroad:

The first event was at the Crisis Consulting International Board and team meeting in the US and back-to-back with that was the Spiritual Formation and Care Workgroup Gathering also in the US.

In Scotland, we attended The Resilience Resource Workshop, and in Istanbul, the International Disaster Response Network symposium where 14 countries were represented by the 28 attendees. These interactions birthed new network partnerships with international organisations like MAF, RYSR, PAK Mission and others. Valuable friendships were forged, but most of all, encouragement and inspiration came our way in the form of resource sharing and brainstorming activities. It was encouraging to see that CRN's vision of networking through local grassroots initiatives to alleviate suffering is being practised successfully in the Philippines and Pakistan.

Through monthly radio interviews on Impact Radio, we are able to provide updates on the various crises in the world, as well as invite people to be involved through social media sharing and donations in support of CRN projects.

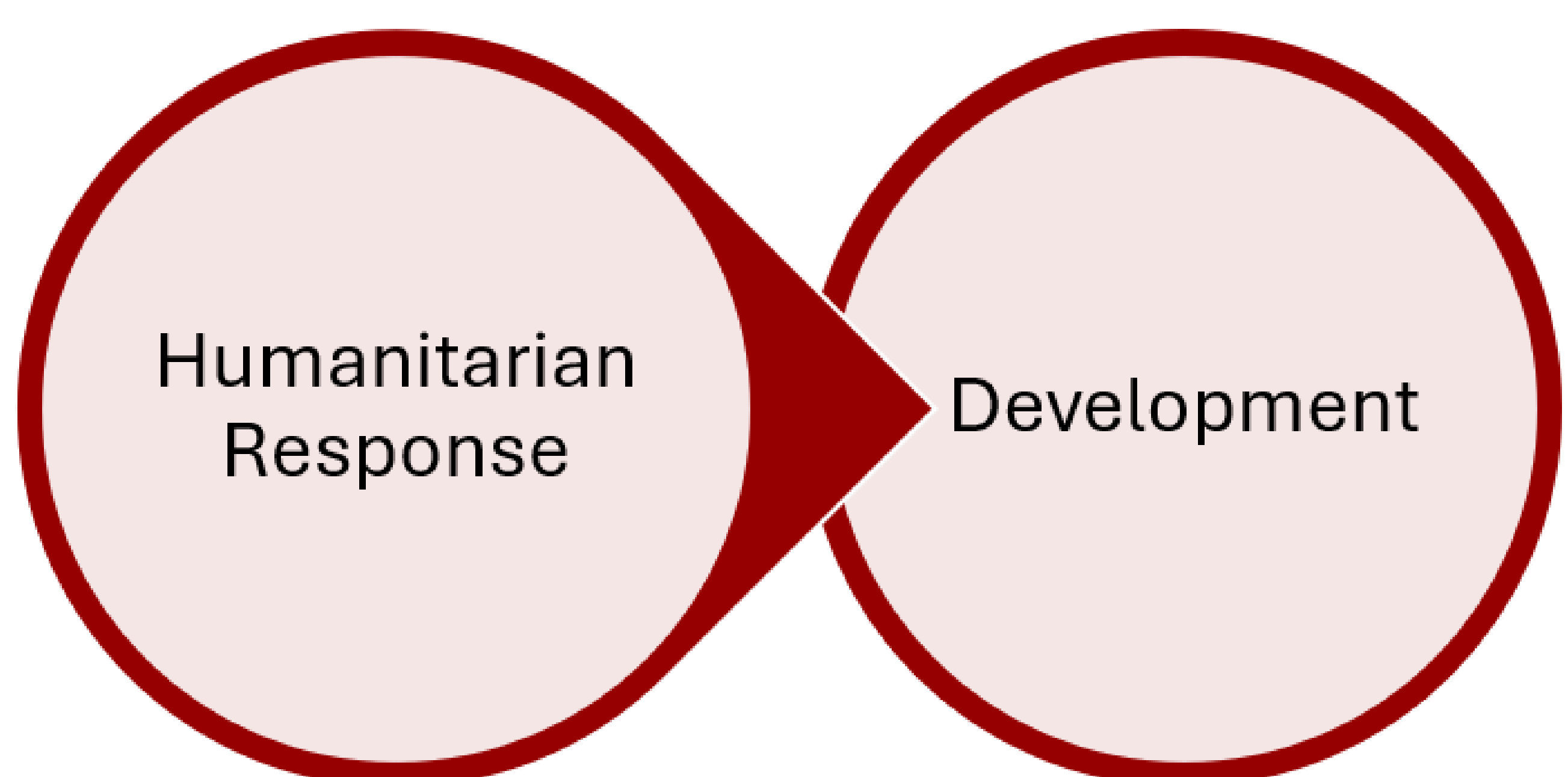
In 2024, there were 22 speaking engagements throughout the year, and we also hosted and facilitated Crisis Consulting International's Field Leaders Contingency Workshops and the first ever workshop on Personal Security and Safety for Women serving in cross cultural settings in Cape Town.

FINANCIALS

Deepening our commitment to alleviating suffering.

THANK YOU

It is with enormous gratitude that we are presenting CRN's financial report for the year ending 28 February 2024. CRN's financial currency is hope, and our financial goal is to strengthen our grassroots partners' response so they can interact in a timely and cost-effective way to their communities before, during and after a crisis. We follow a double nexus approach where our funds will mostly be allocated in the humanitarian (response) and development (restoration and resilience) spheres. We also believe readiness is a key component in preventing major loss of life and livelihoods, and we therefore dedicate a portion of funding towards this.



As a fairly young NPC, our annual turn-over has been growing slowly but steadily. Building an organisation from scratch, our vision has been to do so thoroughly and transparently to ensure a solid foundation.

The current **global status** of **fund-allocation to grassroots** humanitarian organisations are far **below** the projected 25% that the WHS Grand Bargain 2016 proposed. Various reasons for this include lack of capacity of local NGOs, data management shortfalls, meagre coordination mechanisms in place, and non-recognition of the local competencies by donors. The global humanitarian funding deficit also paints a dire picture, and it is notable that **five** of the **countries** on the OCHA **list** are countries where **CRN** was or is **involved**. This is an indication that **we are working where the needs are critically high**.

Overview of 2025 response plans

PEOPLE IN NEED		PEOPLE TARGETED		REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	PLANS
305.1 million		189.5 million		\$47.4 billion	42
Plan	Plan type	People in need	People targeted	Requirements (US\$)	
 Afghanistan	HNRP	22.9M	16.8M	\$2.4B	
 Burkina Faso	HNRP	5.9M	3.7M	\$792.6M	
 Cameroon	HNRP	3.3M	2.1M	\$355.3M	
 Central African Republic	HNRP	2.4M	1.8M	\$326.1M	
 Chad	HNRP	7.8M	6.5M	\$1.5B	
 Colombia	HNRP	9M	2M	\$342.0M	
 Democratic Republic of the Congo	HNRP	21.2M	11M	\$2.5B	
 El Salvador	HNRP	818.7K	407.5K	\$66.9M	
 Ethiopia	HNRP	TBD	10M	\$2.0B	
 Guatemala	HNRP	2.2M	1.2M	\$101.0M	
 Haiti	HNRP	6M	4M	\$906.0M	
 Honduras	HNRP	1.6M	800K	\$138.0M	
 Mali	HNRP	5.9M	4.6M	\$756.8M	
 Mozambique	HNRP+FA	2.5M	2M	\$485.0M	
 Myanmar	HNRP	19.9M	5.5M	\$1.1B	
 Niger	HNRP	2.7M	1.7M	\$386.5M	
 Nigeria	HNRP	7.8M	3.6M	\$900.0M	
 Somalia	HNRP	5.98M	4.6M	1.43B	
 South Sudan	HNRP	9.3M	5.4M	\$1.7B	
 Sudan	HNRP	30.4M	20.9M	\$4.2B	
 Syrian Arab Republic	HNRP	16.7M	10.8M	\$4.1B	
 Ukraine	HNRP	12.7M	6.1M	\$2.6B	
 Venezuela	HNRP	7.6M	5M	\$617.0M	
 Yemen	HNRP	19.5M	10.5M	\$2.5B	
 Bangladesh	FA	1.8M	942.4K	\$35.6M	
 Lebanon	FA	1M	1M	\$425.7M	
 Malawi	FA	6.1M	3.8M	\$57.5M	
 Occupied Palestinian Territory	FA	3.3M	3M	\$4.0B	
 Philippines	FA	892.8K	210K	\$8.2M	
 Viet Nam	FA	570K	300K	\$37.2M	
 Zambia	FA	5.4M	3.2M	\$90.7M	
 Zimbabwe	FA	7.6M	3.1M	\$143.1M	

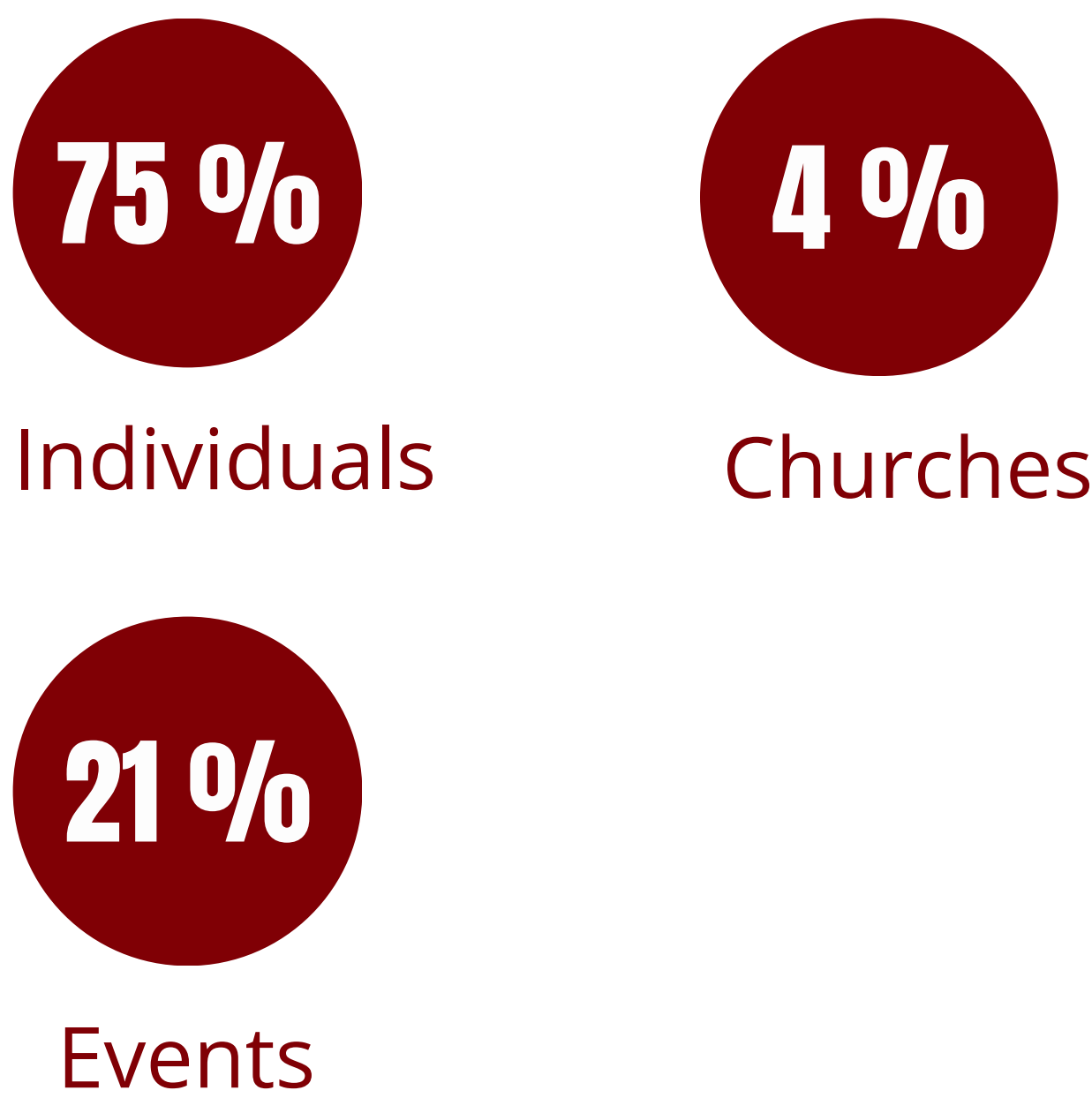
CRN works to negate some of these shortfalls by introducing our trusted and established grassroots partners to the grant proposal process or to donors, while assisting with strategising, monitoring and evaluation. In doing this, we answer to the international goals of the Sendai Framework and strive to maximise stakeholder expectations.

From our inception in 2019 until 2025, we continue to alleviate suffering in some of the most fragile contexts in the world.

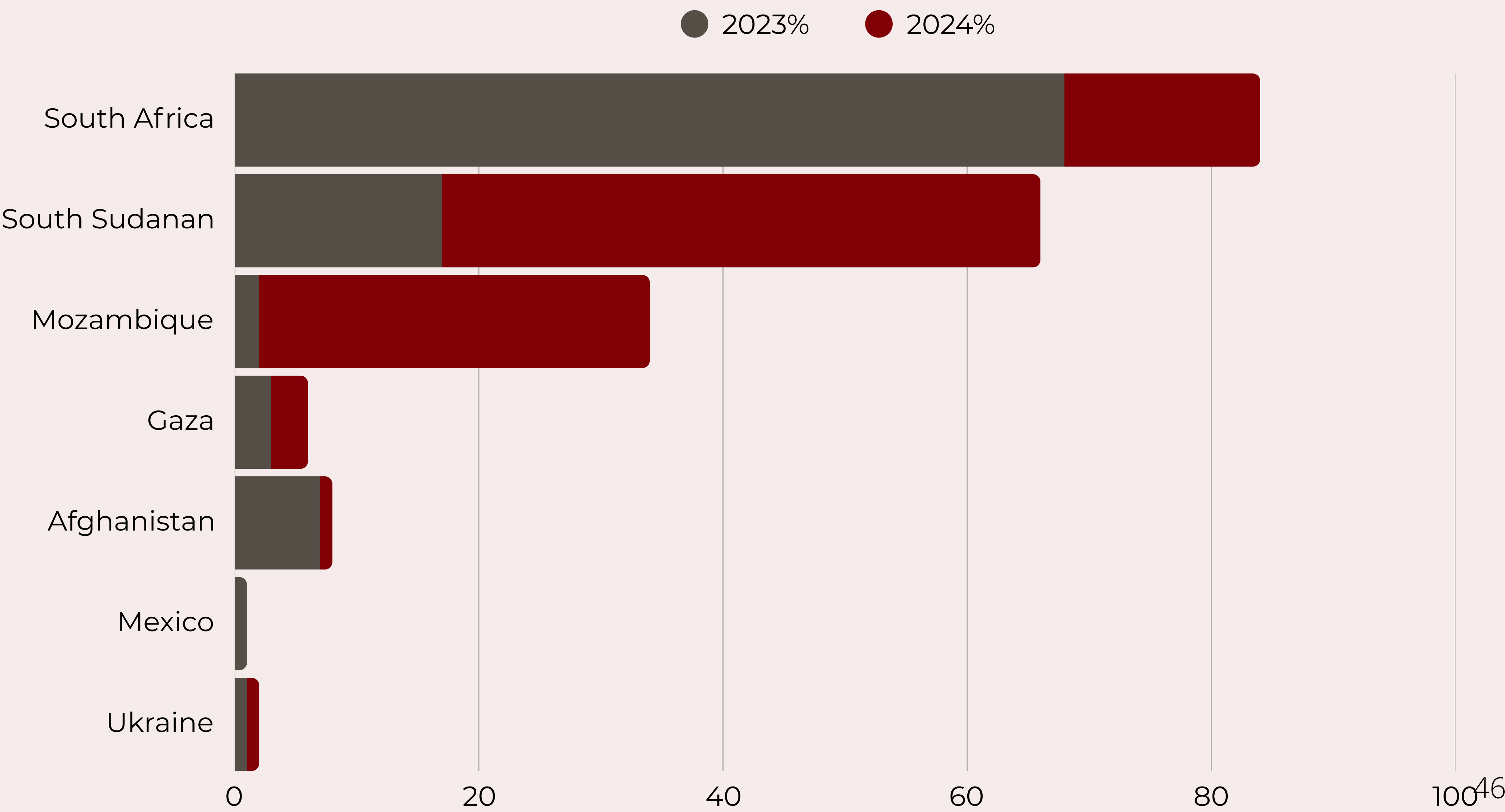
INCOME PER YEAR

2020	R 500
2021	R 56 450
2022	R 398 007
2023	R 701 933
2024	R 662 428

INCOME BY TYPE 2024



EXPENDITURE PER PROJECT



KEY INSIGHTS

R 1 819 318

CUMULATIVE INCOME
2020 - 2024

Used to alleviate suffering through readiness, response and restoration.

64 %

PROJECT SPECIFIC
INCOME

Donations were project related.

36 %

GENERAL SPECIFIC
INCOME

Donations given towards general fund.

70 % VS 30 %

EXPENDITURE

Project expenses vs overheads.
Overhead ratios are not indicative of effectiveness. Overheads allow operations to run which enables the mission to be accomplished.



FUNDRAISING



A variety of fundraising strategies are employed to reach our budget demands. These include campaigns such as 18A tax deductible and Giving Tuesday campaigns, visibility at sporting events such as Absa Cape Epic, online fundraising, and many other ways.

In order to cover operational costs, CRN retains 10% of donations received as we do not receive any government subsidies. The staff allowances have in most instances been carried through the generosity of donors like you, and we are immensely grateful that we have been able to meet the financial expectations required to operate as an NPC.

In 2024, 75% of our donations were from individual donors, while 21% came from fundraising campaigns and 4% from the church and business sectors. We are reliant on volunteers providing expertise, such as IT management services, accounting skills and compliance documentation on a pro bono basis.

Their contributions are deeply appreciated!

Our **donor community** are not just financial partners; our hearts are to engage them as part of the **CRN family** as we seek to build life-long relationships and friendships with them.

Their financial contributions directly lead to the reduction of suffering, restore resilience, and are transformed into a currency of hope for the survivor as **we humbly serve together** to break the negative power of a crisis.

Like so many other Nonprofits, we have also felt the impact of political and economic fluctuations, but one of our strategies was and will be to focus on the importance of building trust and credibility, nurturing long-term relationships and strong partnerships with stakeholders, and above all, trusting God with every project's needs.

Another strategy for 2025 is to enroll in fundraising learning opportunities for the team, increase newsletters and analytics, and pursue membership of and ratings with organisations who rate Nonprofits according to a standard set of criteria. One such membership CRN has already achieved is with Unashamedly Ethical.

HOW FUNDRAISING ASSISTS OUR VISION

1

It is the most **cost effective** and **time efficient** way we can provide support since it can be sent in a **timely** manner. While fundraising campaigns after a crisis are always helpful but often slow, having emergency funds up front is what CRN aims for.

2

It supports a portion of our Nonprofit's **operational costs**. For CRN to exist and fulfill our calling to alleviate suffering, we rely on investors that **believe in what we do** and desire to accomplish the same goals. We currently **retain 10%** of project funds received to assist with these costs. Our team works remotely, which reduces monthly overheads, but staff honorariums, travel and marketing expenses, network and equipping events, as well as staying compliant with regulatory requirements fall under these operational expenses umbrella.

3

The team's **wellness and growth** are also a priority at CRN, and it provides an opportunity for a donor to invest in the prevention of burnout, alleviation of secondary PTSD, and learning opportunities.

4

When CRN engages with our established grassroots partners, we hear from them what is required to break the power of suffering in their community. Especially when it comes to children and **educational opportunities**, financial support toward school fees and study materials required is prioritised.



SENDAI GLOBAL TARGETS TO REACH BY 2030

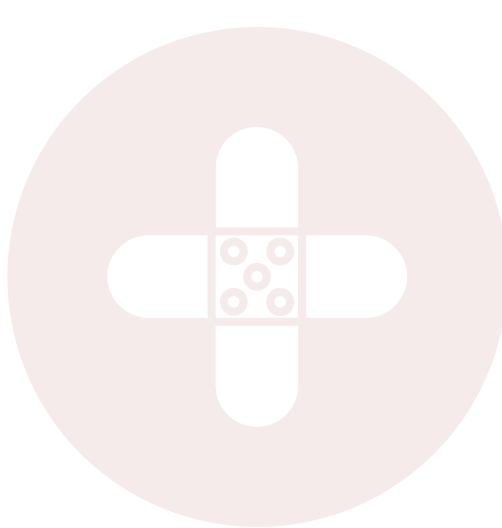
HOW CRN AIMS TO ACHIEVE THIS



A. ON SENDAI FRAMEWORK - GLOBAL DISASTER MORTALITY

Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030.

CRNs approach through local actors produces timely interventions



B. ON SENDAI FRAMEWORK - NUMBER OF AFFECTED PAX

Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 people.

CRNs readiness & resilience programmes through equipped locals leads to decreased impact during crisis.



C. ON SENDAI FRAMEWORK - ECONOMIC LOSS VS GDP

Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.

CRN supports local initiatives which strengthens local economies

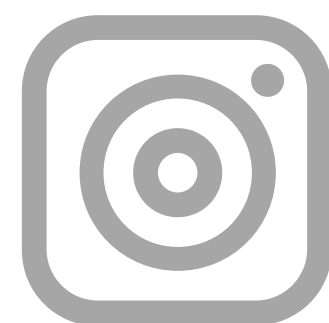


F. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions.

CRN supports projects where educational and health services are prioritised.

ONLINE PRESENCE



Our online presence has allowed us to share in a more 'real time' manner and space around what we do and how we do what we do. It has also allowed for more awareness around our brand. It is great tool of connection with our online audience and provides opportunities for CRN to be connected to the greater humanitarian community.

Here is an overall look at our engagement on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and our website over the last year.



Facebook - October 2023 to December 2024

977 Followers

227 New Followers

PUBLISHED CONTENT

138 Photos

41 Videos

8 Links

OVERALL ENGAGEMENT

70 700 Views

112 300 Reach
*592.4% increase compared to the previous year

6 900 Content interaction
*1500% increase compared to the previous year



Instagram - October 2023 to December 2024

813

Followers

40

New Followers

PUBLISHED CONTENT

482

Stories

184

Posts

OVERALL ENGAGEMENT

15 500

Views

11 200

Reach

*86% decrease compared to the previous year.

391

Content interaction



LinkedIn - March to December 2024

281

Followers

51

New Followers

253

Page Views

117

Unique Visits

OVERALL ENGAGEMENT

7 942

Impressions

350

Reactions

*62% decrease compared to the previous year.

29

Reposts



Website - January to December 2024

26 491

Total Views

1 600

Engaged Sessions

3 172

Total Users

*72% increase compared to the previous year.

3 232

New Users

*78% increase compared to the previous year.

263

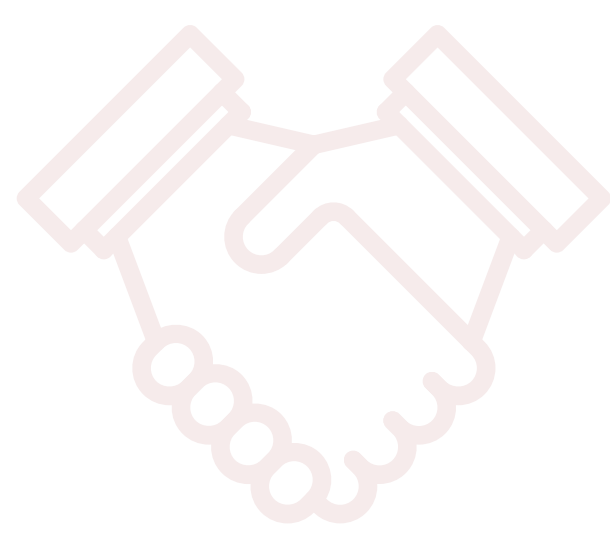
Returning Users

THE TEAM



REUTERS

CODE OF CONDUCT



As a registered non-profit company in South Africa, CRN passionately adheres to the **CIPC** and **King IV** expectations regarding board governance.



We are proud members of **Unashamed Ethical**.



We are also registered with the International Disaster Response Network (**IDRN**) which is a global grassroots registry and networking platform with the aim to create awareness, encourage best practices for response teams, and facilitate better collaboration among all levels of amateur to professional responders worldwide.



Regarding our code of conduct, we abide by the principles of partnerships the Global Humanitarian Platform provides, the UNHCR's global SGBV strategy and we also comply with the policies, principles and objectives set out by the UNHCR for the Protection of Children.

Our board consists of three incorporating directors and four members. We are annually audited by Private Client Auditors, and all SARS submissions are handled by our dedicated accounting specialist. As a Public Benefit Organisation, we can issue 18a receipts to donors requesting this. Application of these donations follow the requirements as set out by the South African Government.



Yolandé Korkie
Co-Founder & CEO



Theunis Scheepers
Board Chair



Trish van der Merwe
Board



André & Ria Joubert
Board



Glennis Henry
Board



Jean Simonis
Board



Louisa de Beer
Accountant

Apart from our interactive and talented board, CRN consists of a small team of 5 dynamic and dedicated members fulfilling various roles to facilitate the reduction of suffering and foster resilience in communities in crisis. From nurturing and growing donor relationships, handling our communications and social media in a creative and thoughtful way, to advising on refugee matters and facilitation of our grassroots partner relationships, strategically sourcing new resource partners and reporting on the changing humanitarian landscape, the CRN team serves with dedication.



Alexandra Nyoni
Global Resource
Developer



Artelio Martins
Networking
Relationships Liaison



Joy Hughes
Communications &
Social Media



Katelin van Zyl
Refugee Advisor &
Grassroots Partners

GLOSSARY

Crisis - refers to a potential or active sudden, calamitous (natural, man made or security) event that seriously disrupts a community, group of people or individual, and causes human, material, economic and/or environmental losses that exceeds the ability to cope using available resources.

DRR - Disaster Reduction Response

IDP - Internally Displaced People

Man Made disasters - linked predominately to human action or inaction

MEL - Measurement, Evaluation and Learning

Natural disasters - linked predominately to conditions physical environmental conditions

NPO/NPC - Non-Profit Organisation /Non-Profit Company

Polycrisis -

Refugee - A person who has been forced to flee their home country due to persecution, conflict, or violence and is unable to return because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons such as race, religion, nationality, or political opinion. Refugees seek safety in another country and are protected under international law.

OCHA - United Nations Organisation for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Sendai Framework - is an international agreement that aims to reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health. It was adopted by UN member states in 2015 and provides a roadmap for countries to increase their resilience to disasters.

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Theory of Change (ToC) - A theory of change describes how we believe change could happen and outlines the main elements for that change. It helps us understand our goals, plan our actions, communicate our change, and evaluate our impact. It is a journey from problem to goal.

WHS - World Humanitarian Summit