

State Dept award to Catholic Relief Services. *Devex*, 8 June 2026

Keeping the faith

That's the hefty amount of humanitarian assistance that the [State Department](#) is providing to [Catholic Relief Services](#), **the first in a series of awards** expected to be doled out to organizations viewed as "trusted and vetted" by the U.S. government, Elissa writes.

"These awards will focus on the rapid deployment of time-bound, life-saving assistance in response to crises around the world, with implementers able to respond within 24 hours," the State Department wrote in a press release after the Friday announcement in Rome.

The **funding will span sectors** and touch on food, nutrition, health, shelter, and water and sanitation needs in countries "with significant levels of humanitarian need," such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Nigeria, and Sudan. Notably, **it will also go toward CRS' Ebola response in the DRC.**

This is the [first of around eight large awards](#) that the State Department is expected to announce in the coming weeks, with a source familiar with the matter telling Devex that those partners will span faith-based, [United Nations](#), and international aid groups.

CRS, which previously received hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. funding, was not spared by last year's far-reaching aid purge. By March 2025, CRS reported that [USAID](#) cuts had led to the termination of dozens of programs.

The Trump administration's relations with the Catholic Church — specifically Pope Leo XIV, who's been an outspoken critic of the Iran war — have been rocky. Still, the State Department has **publicly endorsed international relief efforts by the Catholic Church.**

In a statement released Friday, CRS said it was "grateful for the opportunity to reach more people affected by crisis," adding that the funding came "at a time when humanitarian needs far exceed available resources."