



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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Memo

To: All
From: Miriam Sammartino
Date: August 24, 2026
Subject: Catholic Relief Services – Responding to Emergencies in Colombia, Indonesia and Venezuela

In less than two months, earthquakes have struck Venezuela, Colombia and Indonesia:

- **Colombia:** A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on August 10th, killing 240 people and insuring nearly 4,000. The disaster devastated more than 45,000 homes and essential infrastructure, including schools and health centers.
- **Indonesia:** On August 15, a magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck off the north coast of Indonesia, killing an estimated 70 people, injuring more than 1,000 people and displacing more than 40,000. More than 11,000 houses and 700 public buildings which include more than 95 health facilities were damaged.
- **Venezuela:** On June 24th, two back-to-back powerful earthquakes – measuring magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5 – struck Venezuela, killing over 6,300 people, injured over 73,000 and displacing about 18,000. Weeks after the disaster, recovery and stabilization efforts continue.

Catholic Relief Services works with local community partners to respond with compassion and expertise, delivering lifesaving aid and supporting long-term recovery. Donations to support ongoing emergency response and recovery efforts in Colombia, Indonesia and Venezuela can be made directly to Catholic Relief Services.

To donate, please visit: <https://www.crs.org/>

Respectfully,

Miriam Sammartino, Director