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CRS Catholic Relief Services

Enhances Agricultural Impact Assessment through Collaborative Data Analytics Initiative

CHALLENGES

Fragmented Data Systems
Information was spread across multiple platforms & formats.

Limited Visibility
Program managers lacked unified access to key performance and participation metrics.

Inconsistent Standards
Classified PII, harmonized multilingual datasets, and enforced standards.

Manual Reporting Burden
Data reconciliation and reporting processes were time-consuming and inefficient.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) launched the Water Smart Agriculture II (WSA2) program to enhance the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by diversifying crop production, improving market access, and expanding agricultural knowledge through a combination of in-person and digital tools. With data scattered across languages and formats, CRS created the Analytics for Impact (A4I) initiative to unify insights and empower program teams. In collaboration with Clarista, they streamlined data governance, standardized agricultural metrics, and improved access to performance indicators—enabling more targeted interventions and stronger stakeholder reporting.

> "Clarista has played an integral role in strengthening the data governance pillar within our broader Analytics for Impact (A4I) initiative. Their platform has provided critical visibility into data health, enabled us to tag sensitive information, and helped enforce consistent definitions across our A4I programs."
>
> **— Erick V. Ngwiri, Director of Global Data & Analytics, CRS**

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A THREE PHASE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Connect
CRS unified agricultural data by integrating Azure and Snowflake systems, establishing a shared data dictionary, and enhancing governance with support from Clarista.

Manage
Standardized metrics, harmonized multilingual data, and implemented quality controls to create a consistent, validated agricultural data foundation.

Consume
CRS is building interactive dashboards and user-friendly tools to help field teams access insights and evaluate program outcomes more effectively.

TANGIBLE RESULTS FROM DATA TRANSFORMATION

Operational Improvements

- **Streamlined** data workflows
- **Less manual** reconciliation
- **Improved** cross-regional monitoring

Strategic Benefits

- **More targeted**, effective programs
- **Stronger foundation** for donor reporting

Stakeholder Engagement

- **Data-rich**, audience-ready reporting
- **Clearer visibility** into program impact
- Greater **transparency** and **accountability**

CONCLUSION

CRS' data enhancement journey reflects a strong commitment to advancing data-informed humanitarian work. Through the Analytics for Impact initiative—combining CRS' field expertise with partners like Clarista—they are transforming fragmented agricultural data into actionable insights. This collaborative effort addresses operational challenges, strengthens program effectiveness, and enhances transparency, providing a model for how humanitarian organizations can evolve their data practices to communicate impact better and drive mission outcomes.

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