

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for Peace and Justice



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Memorandum

To: Pastors/Administrators
From: Adrienne Curry, Program Director CRS
Date: 10/19/2011
Re: CRS Responds to East Africa Drought- Update 4

Background

The drought across the Horn of Africa- in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti- has left more than 13 million people in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, and has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people- many of them younger than five. Famine has now been declared in six regions of South Central Somalia, and 750,000 men, women and children are at imminent risk of starvation unless there is a massive increase in the humanitarian response.

“CRS has more than 50 years of experience working in East Africa, and is uniquely positioned to provide immediate emergency relief while at the same time working to continue our long-term drought mitigation projects,” says David Orth-Moore, CRS’ Regional Director for East Africa. “Small investments in water infrastructure and agriculture can have very significant payoffs in terms of saving lives and livelihoods.”

How CRS is Helping

CRS is rapidly scaling up its response in the Horn of Africa, committing to a five- year strategy that will directly address the needs of hundreds of thousands of people living in drought-affected areas of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

In Kenya, CRS will work with local partners to reach more than 350,000 people. Our work will include assistance to Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camps, as well as helping surrounding communities withstand the current drought. In Dadaab, CRS will provide at least 48,000 Somali refugees with latrines and hygiene education, and distribute hygiene related supplies, including soap and detergent, to 12,000 families.

In neighboring Ethiopia, a CRS-led initiative is feeding more than one million people, and focusing on five of the most drought-affected dioceses, CRS will help another 65,000 people with food, water, health and nutrition services and livelihood support.

In Somalia, CRS is expanding its support to our local partners to meet the needs of displaced Somalis in camps in major urban centers as well as rural areas. CRS’ support is helping thousands of displaced Somalis with a range of services, including food, water and health services, in Mogadishu and Baidoa and in the south-central part of the country.

How You Can Help

- **Please pray for the people of East Africa.** A prayer and petitions are available to share with your parish on <http://uspartners.crs.org/downloads/horn-of-africa-drought-prayer.pdf>
- **Donate to the East Africa Emergency Fund.** Make and send your donation :

Archdiocese of Chicago/CRS

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(on the memo line- East Africa Drought)