



Quarterly Update

The *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* quarterly newsletter strives to provide you with concise updates and easily accessible resources on the global poverty issues you're advocating for. We hope this newsletter is helpful to you as you continue to advocate with and in support of our brothers and sisters who are poor and marginalized.

Helping Africa Resist Drought

The current drought in East Africa- the worst in decades- has placed more than 12 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. As crops fail from lack of rain and prices for food rise out of reach, populations are fleeing to other countries in hopes of food and support. In addition to the urgency for humanitarian aid for the region, the situation underscores the need for ongoing international assistance that ensures these drought-prone areas can avoid such food crises in the future.

In the region around the eastern city of Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, watershed improvement projects developed by the Haraghe Catholic Secretariat, Catholic Relief Services' partner in the diocese of Hararghe, have made several of the regions' poorest communities drought-resistant. U.S. international assistance has helped subsistence farmers and herders to develop and protect nearby water sources, learn effective irrigation strategies and yield clean water and sustainable crops despite shortages of rainfall.



Photo by David Snyder for CRS

Once these three-year programs are complete, the communities no longer rely on development funding, and they don't require food aid during droughts. Such efforts, however, have been the target of cuts proposed by the U.S. Congress in recent years.

Ways you can respond to the famine in Africa:

- Now is the time to [urge Congress and the Administration not to abandon our brothers and sisters](#) in East Africa and around the world.
- Pray for the people in the Horn of Africa and study ways to lend support. Visit the [CRS East Africa Crisis web page](#), which provides prayer and action resources for responding to the immediate food emergency in the Horn of Africa.
- Learn more about development programs that help communities resist drought:
 - [article by photojournalist David Snyder](#)
 - [You Tube Video: East Africa Integrated Water Program Evaluation Part 1](#) (8 minutes long)
 - You Tube Video: [East Africa Integrated Water Program Evaluation Part 2](#) (6 minutes and 54 seconds long)

An Eye Witness Brings the Message Home- by Nick Albares



Photo courtesy of Teresa Dunbar

I recently traveled to Kenya with a delegation of diocesan leaders and CRS staff to learn more about CRS development projects funded by U.S. government international assistance. In Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, an extreme drought grips the land and threatens 12 million people. Our delegation witnessed the unforgiving environment that seemed intent on extinguishing all life. However, due to CRS agriculture and water-retention projects, communities are able to sustain themselves. It is critical that funding continues and that it be increased.

In Kenya, I met with people on the brink of starvation and death from thirst. I saw how CRS facilitated interventions to respond to these critical needs. I also witness firsthand the investment in integral human development- a holistic approach to development that works with people towards social, spiritual, human growth.

On our visit to the Ghale community in the Diocese of Garissa, for example, we were greeted with a vivacious dance and then invited to join in discussion on mats in a shaded area. In this village, CRS and the local diocese worked with the people to install a well and household latrines; they also worked together to form a Water Users Association comprised of village residents to manage the projects. We asked the people of Ghale what message they would like us to send to our political leaders in the United States. Using an appropriate agricultural metaphor, a man said, “We are thankful for your support- but, the U.S. has many fruits. We are struggling to survive and hope that the U.S. will share its many fruits.”

Please join me in calling upon our elected officials to promote a robust international assistance budget and sharing of our fruits. Visit <http://actioncenter.crs.org> to learn how you can get involved!

Nick Albares serves as Parish Social Ministry Coordinator in Catholic Charities’ Office of Justice and Peace in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. If you would like to hear more about his experience and how he incorporates advocacy initiatives into his work, you can reach him at 504/592-5692 or nalbares@ccano.org

Ensure Congress Renews Anti-Trafficking Legislation

This fall, Congress will vote on whether to reauthorize legislation that puts U.S. pressure on countries around the globe to combat modern-day slavery. Human Trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. As such it is a modern-day form of slavery.

The *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act* combats the enslavement of more than 12.3 million people worldwide- up to half of them children. This \$32 billion industry takes place in 161 countries. For every 800 people who are trafficked, only one trafficker is ever convicted.

If you would like more information on human trafficking or your parish would like justice education materials around the issue, contact Adrienne Curry, Program Director CRS at 312/534-8367 or acurry@archchicago.org.

A new action alert will be put out soon, so be sure that you're signed up to receive our *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* action alerts. You can also visit the website to take action on this legislation.

Webcasts Provide Analysis and Discussion on CCGP Issues

Each month, CRS and USCCB experts from the United States and overseas meet online with domestic and international partners to discuss how the agency is responding to urgent humanitarian concerns, and how Catholics in the United States can get involved. If you have a computer with a high speed internet connection and a telephone (preferably with speaker phone capabilities) you can join the meeting and receive up-to-date information on global issues to share with your school, university or faith community. Webcast participants can also ask questions and share their ideas on engaging Catholics in the United States on the issues.

Each month, CCGP members receive an e-mail alert with an invitation to RSVP for the upcoming webcast, as well as links to resources for prayer, education and advocacy. Space for the online webcasts is limited, so a reservation is required. In addition, these monthly webcasts are recorded and can be accessed to watch on your own time and to share with study groups.

Upcoming Webcasts

Please check the webcast page of the CRS website for updated details

More than Hope: Catholic voices for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Special Note: A recording of this will be available on October 28, 2011. Presenters: Bishop Djomo and Sr. Marie-Bernard of Congo

Sharing Strategies and Resources for Engaging Young People to Address Global Poverty

October 31, time 1:00 p.m. EST

Presenters: Ted Miles (CRS) and Jill Rauh (USCCB)

Access These Webcasts from July, August and September 2011

Human Trafficking = Modern-Day Slavery

September 28, 2011

Presenters: Kevin Appleby (USCCB) and Jill Marie Gerschutz Bell (CRS)

Keeping a Light on the Crisis in Congo

August 19, 2011

Presenters: Jennifer Poidatz (CRS) and Steve Hilbert (USCCB)

Emergency Update: Famine in East Africa

July 27, 2011

Presenters: Sean Callahan (CRS) and Steve Colecchi (USCCB)

Exclusive Update on the Republic of South Sudan

July 20, 2011

Presenter: Ken Hackett (CRS)

Take Action Now

What can you do **TODAY** to help our brothers and sisters overseas who are poor and marginalized? Raise your voice on their behalf! Go to www.crs.org/globalpoverty and instantly take action on these critical issues. Our brothers and sisters affected by the famine in East Africa need our help now! While we must address the budget deficit, we need your help to preserve proven and effective poverty-focused programs.

- Urge the President to push for greater civilian protection and humanitarian access to displaced persons in Sudan.

- Urge President Obama and Secretary Clinton to appoint a special envoy for the Great Lakes Region now!

Looking forward to the next edition of the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* newsletter:

- Update on the U.S. international assistance budget for 2012.
- Join us at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C. in February 2012
- More stories from parishes involved in *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*.