



Pontifical Mission Societies East Africa Appeal Update #4

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We continue to **appeal for financial help** for the Church in East Africa to support the network of diocesan directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies engaged in ongoing pastoral work, supporting their outreach to those most affected by this crisis.

Father Celestino Bundi, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Kenya, wrote in mid-November with gratitude for the help sent to the Church in East Africa through the generosity of U.S. Catholics. The support sent for local priests, religious and lay catechists serving those in greatest need was a “very humbling, yet consoling act of charity as ‘one family in mission,’” he noted.

Complicating the devastating effects of drought and famine are ethnic clashes and other fighting in the country, spurred by inadequate resources of food, water and grass for animals. As a result of this insecurity, many families living in the area have abandoned their homes (see photo left) and all schools have been closed.



Bishop Anthony Ileri Mukobo, IMC of Isiolo reports that some 700 people have camped at two parishes in the diocese. He, with local priests and Sisters, conduct reconciliation events, and prayer services for the children. Help sent from generous donations to the Church in East Africa Appeal has enabled the Pontifical Mission Societies team in Isiolo to get food for the children, and provide for some basic other needs of families there.

“We are still struggling with unreliable food distribution,” Father Celestino explained. Other challenges include a rise in related illnesses, including pneumonia and malaria, tensions within families, and the issue of children dropping out of school to find food.



- Efforts to provide food continue throughout Kenya. Pontifical Mission Societies directors and Holy Childhood Association Coordinators are trying to find and help those most in need, those who remain in their houses, too weak to travel to nutrition centers.
- Holy Childhood Association Coordinators in Malindi, Father Constantine Kimondo, and Maralal, Sister Beatrice Ann, are working with parishes to organize feeding days. They also distribute medicine through church dispensaries, transporting the very ill to local and church-run hospitals.



“The Catholic Church is walking with the people in the remotest areas. The needs remain great, and so ever-urgent is our call for help.”

Father Celestino Bundi, National Director, Pontifical Mission Societies, Kenya



As the crisis in East Africa continues and the immediate needs of our brothers and sisters in East Africa increase, more help is needed. Visit www.GiveToTheMissions.org to help TODAY.



“So when the Lamb comes, He will say, ‘Show me your hands. Have they been scarred from giving? Are they scarred in service? Have they been scarred from giving food to the hungry, For I was hungry, you gave me food. Have they helped missionaries?’”

Servant of God
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



✝ Two new classrooms were built at the Little Angels Nursery School in the Diocese of Kitale, Kenya.



HCA Kids Make a Difference in Kenya...

Last year, 25 dioceses in Kenya received support from the Holy Childhood Association (HCA). **Donations from young people here in the United States** – combined with contributions from children all over the world – helped children throughout that African country.

✝ In the Diocese of Lodwar, one of the areas most affected by the current drought and famine, a contribution of \$6,000 from HCA helped a Church-run nutrition program for 1,200 infants and toddlers. Just \$5 provides the food that is lovingly offered by priests and Sisters to a hungry child!

✝ Fifty students with vision and hearing problems at St. Michael’s School in the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya, were cared for – so they could learn! The cost per child, about \$120.



At A Glance...

Health Services Offered by the Church in Africa

- ✝ 1,290 hospitals
- ✝ 5,280 dispensaries
- ✝ 174 homes for persons with Hansen’s Disease (leprosy)

Education Services Provided by the Church in all Mission Countries

- ✝ 68,119 kindergartens, with 6.5 million students
- ✝ 92,971 primary schools, with 31 million students
- ✝ 42,495 secondary schools, with 17.1 million students

From report published by FIDES (October 2011)

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What Can You Do Right Now?

“**PRAYER**, first and foremost is the greatest expression of **SOLIDARITY** that can be offered to our brothers and sisters in East Africa,” noted **FATHER ANDREW SMALL, OMI**, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. Consider offering a decade of the **World Mission Rosary** for those suffering from this crisis and for the Pontifical Mission Societies directors and coordinators who are helping them **right now in this very moment**.

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