

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA UPDATE



Caritas is providing food and clean water to those communities most vulnerable to East Africa's worst droughts in 60 years

**The drought and food insecurity in East Africa is the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world today. More than 10 million people throughout Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania are in urgent need of food, water and basic necessities. Up to 40 percent of children in the region are suffering from severe malnutrition – the time for action is now.**



### What has happened?

The worst droughts in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and across East Africa in 60 years have left at least 10 million people in need of food, water and basic facilities; half of those are children. Tanzania and the new state of South Sudan are experiencing serious food and water shortages too.

With frightening images emerging from the region, the situation has been officially declared a 'food crisis'. That means children and the elderly are severely malnourished. The United Nations has declared the situation a famine in parts of Somalia; famine is declared when the adult population is also severely malnourished.

The drought is not expected to ease until early 2012 and the numbers of vulnerable people affected are anticipated to rise dramatically. Over the coming three to four months, the region's fragile food security will continue to deteriorate; the most vulnerable communities are preparing for below-average summer harvests, early depletion of pasture and water, and continued high prices of food, water and fuel.

Worldwide, humanitarian needs have been estimated at USD 1.7 billion with less than half of that funded. Through AusAid the Australian Government will contribute AUD 80 million through its partners, including the Australian Non-government Organisations, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation; governments of The United States and the United Kingdom have also announced significant contributions.

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## Caritas Australia's response

Caritas Australia has launched the East Africa Crisis Appeal and is responding through our international Caritas network. Our relief effort is underway with local partners responding to the communities' immediate needs – food, water, basic supplies, and agricultural assistance in severely affected areas of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia.

In Kenya the network is providing food relief to more than 60,000 people in the worst affected areas of Eastern and Coastal Kenya; ensuring children and new mothers are being reached first with aid; and instigating veterinary programs in the hope to keep at least 15,000 cattle healthy.

In Somalia the Caritas network is reaching more than 7000 people through Operation Lifeline with food aid. This includes more than 1400 children and the elderly; providing supplementary feeding to more than 4000 people, targeting new mothers and children and the elderly; and providing at least 70,000 semi-nomadic people with access to clean water in Eastern Somaliland.

In Ethiopia Caritas is reaching more than 80,000 people in Haraghe and Meki with food distributions supporting livestock programs in the southern Borana region, helping at least 30,000 households to maintain the health of their cattle.

**“There is no question that we have a very desperate situation and it is deteriorating rapidly. We urgently call to our brothers and sisters across the world to help us in this time of need.”**

Bishop Peter Kihara of Marsabit, Northern Kenya

## Caritas and East Africa

As a member of Caritas Internationalis, the world's second largest disaster response and development networks, Caritas has extensive experience in operating in post-emergency situations. For 40 years, Caritas Australia has worked in the poorest communities to improve water and sanitation, food security and livelihood opportunities as well as offering emergency relief in times of crisis. Caritas Australia has a long history of engagement in East Africa and at this time of great and urgent need, Caritas is committed to providing emergency aid and to working to secure long-term opportunities for those affected by drought throughout this highly vulnerable region.

## You can help

Caritas Australia is accepting donations to our East Africa Crisis Appeal.

Donate online at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or phone tollfree **1800 024 413**.

## Where will the funds be directed?

All funds raised through the appeal will be spent in assisting vulnerable people in East Africa.

Caritas Australia is mandated to deliver at least 92% of all funds raised in emergencies to the emergency in question.



To make a donation to the Caritas Australia East Africa Crisis Appeal please complete the coupon, phone us on 1800 024 413 or donate through our website at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

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Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. Caritas keeps your details confidential and conforms to the Privacy Act.

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Please return to Caritas Australia, 24-32 O'Riordan Street, Alexandria NSW 2015  
or GPO Box 9830 in your capital city

**For further information, please visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)**