



# AMECEA

Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa

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## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FOR SEVENTY (70) YEARS OF EXISTENCE AND SERVICE TO HUMANITY

On behalf of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA), I send this congratulatory message to the family of Catholic Relief Services for the enormous achievements made in your efforts to carry out the mission that you have received from our Lord Jesus Christ through the Catholic Bishops of the United States.

As I congratulate you, I recall the opening words of the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern world ***“The joys and the hopes, the grieves and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grieves and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise and echo in their hearts” (GS, No. 1).***

While the above document of the Second Vatican Council was given towards the end of the year 1965, it is true that way back in the year 1943, the founders of CRS had envisioned the concerns of the Council Fathers. Thus for seventy years since its inception, CRS has continued to carry out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States of America to assist the poor and vulnerable.

Throughout the AMECEA Region, CRS has been a major partner with individual Bishops in their Dioceses, National Episcopal Conferences and AMECEA as a Regional Bishops' Conference. In concrete, while drawing from their sole motivation, that is, the gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of human life, foster charity and justice, and to embody Catholic social and moral teachings, CRS has helped the Church to truly share in the joys and hopes, the grieves and the anxieties of men and women in this part of the world.

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**Honorary Patrons:** H.E. Emmanuel Cardinal WAMALA (Uganda); Polycarp Cardinal PENGU (Tanzania); Gabriel Cardinal Zubeir WAKO (Sudan); John Cardinal NJUE (Kenya); Medardo Cardinal MAZOMBWE (Zambia);

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Indeed CRS has been our major partner in our response to emergencies, fighting diseases and poverty and nurturing peaceful and just societies. It is worth mentioning the contribution made in the struggle for the independence of South Sudan and the building of the new Nation, the accompanying of the AMECEA Bishops in the process of the two synods for Africa and the Synod on New Evangelization as well as the implementation of the Post Synodal exhortation *Africae Munus*.

At seventy years, CRS is neither young nor old! Hence, the reason to celebrate. But it is also an occasion to refocus ourselves and interpret our mission according to the changing society. The Church is thinking of New Evangelization. Africa has been changed to prioritize evangelization through Reconciliation, Justice and Peace. Many of our countries are going through constitutional transition. In the wake of all these, CRS needs to have new strategies that will strengthen its collaboration with the Bishops so that the presence and impact of the Church can bring about peaceful and just societies that will uphold the sacredness and dignity of each and every human person.

As you mark your seventieth anniversary, we congratulate the President and CEO of CRS, Dr. Carolyn Woo, the entire Executive Leadership Team, Board of Directors, the Regional Director, Mr. David Orth-Moore and the entire CRS fraternity. We also register our gratitude to all those who make material, spiritual and moral sacrifices for the success of the mission of CRS. May almighty God bless you all.

**Signed:**



**Most Rev. Tarcisio ZIYAYE**  
**Archbishop of Lilongwe**  
**CHAIRMAN OF AMECEA**



**Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2013**