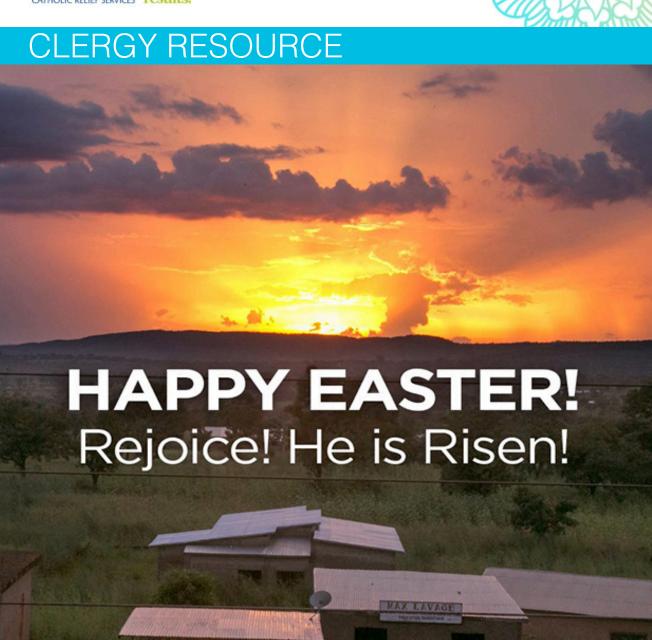


Photo by Michael Stulman/CRS





In his Easter message, "*Urbi et Orbi*," Pope Francis invites us to hope in the "Risen Shepherd," who carries on his shoulders all of our "brothers and sisters who are crushed by evil in its varied forms." Pope Francis says the Risen Shepherd tirelessly seeks out the lonely and marginalized—including those victimized by forms of slavery and refugees forced to leave their homeland—especially the people of Syria and those experiencing a hunger crisis in Africa. We pray, in this Easter season, for a renewed commitment to walk in the footsteps of the Risen Shepherd alongside all those who suffer most around the world.



Ministry Resources

- Prayers for the Easter season
- <u>Pentecost reflection and activity for children</u>
- Reflection for first communicants and their parents
- <u>Mission trips guide and reflection</u> questions for leaders



CRS on the Ground: AFRICA HUNGER CRISIS

A drought is a compound crisis. It robs people of their harvest, creating a hunger emergency; it sends workers away from their families looking for work, creating a stability emergency; it keeps children home from school so they can help search for the families' food, creating an education emergency; and it makes a weakened populace more susceptible to disease, creating a health emergency. All through salvation history, the God who fed the Israelites in the desert has keenly understood our vulnerability to hunger. Even as the Lord spoke to us about the bread of eternal life, he first demonstrated by feeding the multitudes the bread of this world.

God wants his children to be fed. He wants crops to prosper and children to flourish. And as the crisis of drought unfolds in Africa—a crisis exacerbated by El Nino weather patterns, but also by human activity—we his children are moved to respond, in our prayers and in our works. Join with us as CRS responds in Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, and South Sudan with emergency food aid, water and vocational training for the most vulnerable people, including those who have been displaced from their homes.



Turn in your CRS Rice Bowls! These 5 steps can help get you started.

2014 Operating Expenses









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