

Arch Bishop Paul OUEDRAOGO,
Arch Diocese of Bobo Dioulasso
President of the Burkina Faso/Niger Episcopal
Conference
President of OCADES Caritas Burkina
Burkina Faso

September 23, 2013

Dr. Carolyn Woo,
President of Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Baltimore, USA

Re: Burkina Faso Bishops congratulate and thank CRS on its 70th Anniversary

Dear Dr. Woo,

It is with great pride and joy that I write on behalf of the Bishops of Burkina Faso to congratulate you and your team on CRS' 70th Anniversary. CRS' contribution to Burkina Faso's development is visible in many places, and this is truly an opportunity for me to offer our congratulations and express our sincere thanks to you and your partners, your predecessors and all CRS staff and donors.

Active in Burkina since 1960, CRS quickly understood that education and food security were the most important priorities for the country. CRS therefore focused its investments on school feeding, mother and child nutrition, agriculture, microfinance, peace and justice, emergency response and humanitarian assistance. It was the most marginalized and vulnerable people who benefited from this assistance.

- Today, the positive impact of CRS' assistance in Burkina reaches millions of people. We are witness to CRS' good work and we celebrate the pertinence, efficiency and extent of its interventions, as well as its efforts to target the neediest and most vulnerable.
- We particularly celebrate the partnership that exists between CRS and the local Church. CRS' excellent collaboration with the National and Diocesan Caritas (OCASES) for project implementation and its attention to the local Church's priorities are proof of this strong partnership.
- Moreover, the presence and participation of the Country Representative and his team at Church events gives testimony to the closeness of CRS and the local Church and how well we work together. CRS works in Burkina respecting the principles and values of the Church, in perfect harmony with the Church family of God and in conformity with Catholic Social Teaching.

In light of all of the above, on behalf of the Bishops of the Episcopal Conference and the people of Burkina Faso, I thank you, CRS, for your financial and technical assistance and for the expressed solidarity between the US people and the neediest in Burkina.

Please extend our gratitude to CRS' donors, especially the US Catholics and the US Government for all the support they bring us. Let them know that their good will and gifts/donations have saved many lives and have helped millions of people in Burkina Faso to restore their livelihoods and dignity.

We, the Bishops of Burkina Faso, particularly thank the Bishops of the US for sending CRS to Burkina and sustaining it through prayers, guidance and encouragement.

Once again, Madam, congratulations on CRS' good work in Burkina Faso. May Almighty God grant you courage, perseverance and strength to continue this important work in Burkina and the rest of the world.

Yours sincerely

Monsignor Paul OUEDRAOGO,
Metropolitan Arch Bishop of the Diocese of
Bobo Dioulasso



Copy to

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas,
Diocese of Tucson, USA
President of the Board of CRS