

June 5, 2017

Dear friends,

As is increasingly present in the news, there is a humanitarian crisis in the form of a severe famine that has been developing in South Sudan, Northeastern Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. In February 2017, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, declared 20 million people to be at risk of death in the following six months. Just last week, the Canadian Government has launched a Famine Relief Fund to respond to this food crisis. Between March 17 and June 30th, 2017, for every eligible donation made by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities, such as Development and Peace, the Government of Canada will contribute an equivalent amount to the Famine Relief Fund. **We need your help to ensure adequate response. Please consider collecting funds in your school or board to support our most-vulnerable sisters and brothers in Africa and Yemen.**

This particular humanitarian crisis stems from a conjunction of events that include armed conflicts coupled with severe droughts brought about by climate change. Many have fled their homes and land to escape the violence of armed conflict and are continually displaced. These issues make transportation and access to food extremely difficult.

Our Executive Director, Serge Langlois has commented that, “Canadians are compassionate and caring global citizens and this Fund will encourage them to mobilize to mitigate the devastating effects of this impending tragedy. We are calling on all Canadians to step up their contributions and fundraising efforts during the Fund’s donation period so we can maximize our country’s efforts to save the lives of vulnerable men, women and children.” Development and Peace is present in the region and working closely with our local partners to respond to this humanitarian crisis threatening the lives of millions of people. Since February, Development and Peace has released \$250,000 in funds for emergency food assistance to support its partners in South Sudan, northeastern Nigeria and Somalia, but we have had an ongoing collection for South Sudan since 2014.

These funds are in addition to many other Development and Peace’s development and international aid projects that have provided access to medical care, drinking water, sanitation, and shelter in famine-affected areas. As we are committed to education here in Canada, as well as supporting our partners financially in effected areas, we ask that you consider discussing the situation and how our faith influences our approaches with your students in preparation for fundraising. To assist in this endeavor, please see the **Humanitarian Aid Lesson Plans** at www.devp.org/curricular.

The donation submission forms are attached to the email message. Please ensure all donations are clearly marked with both ‘Famine Relief Fund’ and your schools or board’s name. For tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more, please use the attached donation forms. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you for your continuing support to our mission.

Sincerely,

Tara Hurford
Catholic Schools Program Officer
Toronto, Ontario
thurford@devp.org
1-416-922-1592 ext 229

Christina Kruszewski
Catholic Schools Program Officer
Edmonton, Alberta
ckruszewski@devp.org
1-844-480-3387