

St. Michael Catholic Parish—Kijungu
P.O.Box 3044
Arusha Tanzania, East Africa
20th January 2010

**Dear Fr. Edward J. Vilkauskas,
Old St. Mary's Church,**

Lots of greetings and best wishes from Arusha in Tanzania.

I hope you have warmly received the New Year with great energy and many blessings. Thank you very much for your kindness and financial support. I am very glad that the money you have sent to us more than 10,000 USD has been a great help in speeding up our pastoral apostolate and rescuing our famine situation.

Let me convey our sincere appreciation, gratitude and warm greetings from the Maasai community here in Kijungu, St. Michael Parish and its 38 outstations.

Some facts concerning the pastoral situation of famine

Project Title: Food Relief and Seed provision Program

Location: Kijungu Catholic Parish

Rationale: To rescue the needy families and to improve food security for about 1500 households

Beneficiaries: About 1500 households

Duration: 3-6 months

Costs: 8000 USD



Introduction

Kijungu Catholic Parish is situated in Arusha Catholic Archdiocese in the northern part of Tanzania. About 48% of the occupied area is semi-arid land with small amount of rainfall annually between 800 mm-1300mm per annual. Some of its other parts receive less than 600mm annually. The parish area is inhabited by mainly Maasai pastoral ethnic group and other groups like the Nguu, the Bena, the Kamba and the Kaguru farming families.

Most parts of Arusha Catholic Archdiocese have experienced an acute shortage of foodstuff, water and cattle grasses due to the prolonged time of drought this year. This serious time of drought necessitated the distribution of food aid to the need of feeding the vulnerable families. However the exercise is not a permanent solution to the problem but it reduces the problem as an emergency. Now we have decided to review the exercise; instead of only food relief also providing drought resistant seeds to the vulnerable families. This has now come to be our Parish priority as far as we receive the financial assistance from Old St. Mary Parish.

The need felt

We learned that due to the prolonged drought people could not afford paying for and buying the required seeds for this planting season, we decided to use about 8,000USD to assist most vulnerable parish families of about 1200 households.

As we reviewed the situation we found that:

- * Most families are facing seed shortage due to prolonged drought and lack of income generating activities- mostly they consumed their balanced surplus and cannot afford to buy more food as prices are high from 20,000Tsh a 20kg bag October to 70,000Tsh December-January.
- * In other families women have engaged themselves in the charcoal making and selling business in order to get money for buying seeds, food and other basic necessities. This has resulted in the environmental destruction, water point dry up, soil erosion and poor pastures.
- * Most households eat only once a day with porridge.
- * More internal migration of people and livestock from place to place

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Short term solution: Being a land preparation season for most families December—January, seeds (drought resistant) are needed in order to rescue the needy families. Also supplying food relief for most vulnerable families of about 700 households.

Long term program: This would be doing more conscientiously for the knowledge of climate change through the normal village meetings, church worship gatherings, wise use of food surplus and seek assistance from different sources beforehand and also identify key figures to select quality seed fit for drought resistance; to get the right number of families more affected.

No.	Outstations name	Number of seeds	Number of household
1.	Loolera	200kg maize & 80 of beans	200
2.	Amei	150kg maize & 80 of beans	150
3.	Kibirash	150kg maize & 80 of beans	200
4.	Sunya-Ithiai	150kg maize & 80 of beans	200
5.	Jabduta	150kg maize & 80 of beans	200
6.	Asamato	150kg maize & 80 of beans	150
7.	Olgirra	200kg maize & 80 of beans	200
8.	Laiserri	200kg maize & 80 of beans	200
9.	Ormaroroi	100kg maize & 50 of beans	150
10.	Lesoit	100kg maize & 50 of beans	150
11.	Olopikikaret	100kg maize & 50 of beans	150

NB: 4kg of maize seeds = 5000Tsh and 2kg of beans = 5000Tsh.

Other Expenses are: Transport charges, loading and unloading charges, monitoring fuel charges = 760,000Tsh

Again we thank you so much for enabling the St. Michael Church to have sustaining bread.

God Bless you all.

Fr. Vincent Ole Tendeu