

# Help for Homa Bay

Our Diocese of St. Cloud has been in partnership with the Diocese of Homa Bay, Kenya since 1999. One of the blessings of our partnership is that we openly share our gifts and our needs with one another. In light of many current realities – such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, the post-election violence, lack of water, and ongoing poverty – many Kenyans are in need. The following is a communication sent by Agnes Kithikii, CRS Partnership Liaison in Kenya, sharing one such example of Kenya's reality, that of the current political situation in Homa Bay.

*The post-election violence adversely affected around 3,000 people in the Homa Bay Diocese through internal displacements, destruction of property and injuries. The majority of the displaced people in Homa Bay were returnees from other provinces where they were escaping possible attacks. Some of the returnees were not welcomed back by the local communities. The affected population lack shelter, food, clothing, blankets, cooking utensils, water, school supplies for school-going children, and have also been affected by psychosocial trauma because of the violent events they have experienced and witnessed. There is also need for peace-building and reconciliation initiatives for purposes of rebuilding their relationships with the local communities.*

*Initially, the internally displaced persons were assisted by the Kenya Red Cross organization through food provision while in the camps. However, most of the displaced persons have now left the camps and are living with the local communities. They are no longer receiving any food from the Kenya Red Cross or any UN agencies. The Diocese of Homa Bay managed to mobilize the local faithful to raise money, food and non-food items to provide short-term support to some of the affected people on a small-scale level.*



**We recognize that problems such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, violence, orphaned children, and the like can not be solved quickly or relieved with only short-term solutions, but require long-term response. In light of this, the Leadership Teams from both partner dioceses, along with CRS Kenya, have prioritized a Child Survival Project in order to address the needs of children and youth in the Homa Bay Diocese. *It is our goal as a diocese to contribute \$25,000 each year for the next five years towards this endeavor.***

If you would like to contribute, please contact the  
Mission Office (320) 251-1100  
or send donations marked \*Child Survival Project\*  
11 - 8th Ave So., St. Cloud 56301

***Thank you for your generosity, support, prayers and love for our brothers and sisters in Homa Bay!***