

Appeal for Humanitarian Aid for Sahel Region of West Africa

Dear Members of the TCDSB Community:

Some of you may already be aware of the famine that is devastating the Sahel Region of West Africa. As a major food shortage and malnutrition crisis continues to worsen in West Africa, the Archdiocese of Toronto, and its relief partners, including Development and Peace, are working to provide food and seed distribution, and support agricultural and nutrition programs in communities where the needs are greatest.

The TCDSB community is being called upon to support the fundraising efforts.

For each eligible dollar raised for the Sahel Region until **September 30th**, the Canadian Federal Government will set aside one dollar for the Sahel Crisis Fund.

Cheques should be made out to Development and Peace, and forwarded by September 30th to:

Geoffrey Grant
c/o Frances Sallese
Catholic Education Centre
80 Sheppard Avenue East
North York, ON M2N 6E8

The attached document has more information on the fundraising initiative.

This is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to consider putting our Faith into action by helping those in need.

We thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rodrigues

Director of Education



Dispatches from the Sahel: 15.6 million plus at risk!

The Sahel region of West Africa is experiencing a hunger crisis caused by failed crops and exacerbated by civil violence in the region of Mali.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IS THERE TO HELP!

Read: <http://www.devp.org/en/emergencies/west-africa>

Watch: <http://www.devp.org/en/blog/new-video-food-crisis-sahel>

All donations received before September 30th will be matched by the Cdn. Government

Contact Student Trustee Andrew Walker for more information how your school can help!

Andrew.walker@tcdsb.org

The following dispatches are taken from the D&P blog entries written by Kelly di Dominico, Communications Officer for Development and Peace. Kelly was in West Africa's Sahel in July and August of this year on mission.

HUNGER

August 3rd 2012 :

Niger, like most of the countries in the Sahel, only has one rainy season, which means that the harvest that is cultivated from that rain is crucial to survive through the coming year. The time to plant the harvest, however, comes at a time when last year's crop is nearly depleted and there is little, if anything, left to eat. It is a time when there is not enough food when it is needed most. To plant a field and work the soil requires energy, energy that is hard to find when there is nothing to eat.

WAR

August 21st 2012:

"As soon as I hear there is peace, I will go back. My heart is not calm. My heart is calm when I am at home," Tawad Walet Infa said to me. A mother of nine, she fled her home in Timbuktu after hearing approaching gunshots. "I had time to put my youngest daughter on my back and to take another by the hand. We left with nothing but a thermos of water," she told me. Her and her children walked 22 km to the river where a dugout canoe had been organized to carry families to safety in the south.

YOUR DONATIONS WILL :

- Distribute 1,135 tons of cereals and grains to 3,626 households (25,377 people) **in Mali**.
- Organize Cash-for-Work programs in 69 vulnerable villages and Food-for-Work programs, which will benefit close to 4,000 households **in Niger**.



...these are only a few examples. Read our website to learn more!

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR HELP !