

# Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development

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*These women in Somalia no longer face the heartache of losing a child to disease, or need to risk their own lives to access safe, clean water thanks to the generous donations of Mercy-USA supporters.*

## Clean Water is a Luxury in Somalia

The lack of nearby access to clean, drinkable water in Somalia results in devastating consequences especially for the two most vulnerable population groups—women and children.

According to UNICEF, only 30% of Somalis have safe access to clean water, and in some parts of the country those statistics are as low as 20%. Cholera brought on by contaminated water and lack of sanitation is endemic and claims the lives of hundreds every year. Severe malnutrition in Somali children is often the result of

diarrhea caused by contaminated water.

Because sourcing water falls mainly on women and girls they face constant threats to their safety while fetching water when the source is far from their home. Whether living in a rural or urban setting, women and girls regularly face threats of violence when forced to travel distances as great as six miles each way for water. In addition to the man-made threats, wildlife such as hyenas, lions and snakes are a real danger in rural areas.

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Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is a nonprofit relief and development organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and supporting individuals and their communities in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Incorporated in 1988, Mercy-USA's projects focus on improving health, nutrition and access to safe water, as well as promoting economic and educational growth around the world.

- Registered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Special Consultative Status with the United Nations
- Member of InterAction

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Tirana, Albania      Tripoli, Lebanon  
Tuzla, Bosnia      Mogadishu, Somalia  
Medan, Indonesia      Antakya, Turkey  
Kenya, Nairobi

# The Rural Water Story in Somalia

*Somali children in the bush survive by mother's milk when infants, and on goat milk after they're weaned. When this system breaks down, the children suffer the worst consequences.*

Rural Somalis rely on water not only for their own needs but to keep their livestock alive. Past years of devastating drought and civil unrest have decimated many formally successful rural Somali families. Many Somalis are pastoralists where their livestock herd is the key to survival. If the herd shrinks, so do the chances the children will be healthy and able to thrive. Hassan, a father of 13 children, has a story that's typical of rural Somalis. "Before the drought I was a rich man, I had more than 1500 goats but when the drought happened only 370 goats survived from the drought. They were weak and more died of diseases and I was finally left with only 10 goats..." Children like Hassan's rely on the milk and meat the goats provide to stay strong and healthy in the harsh bush. The effects of severe drought combined with civil unrest and war have made water into a commodity that few can afford. In rural areas without a well, people and livestock are sharing the same water sources. This leads

to contaminated water, and people, especially the children fall sick from diseases. It's a terrible choice for a father: his herd can contaminate the water source, but if the herd dies, so do his children. Mercy-USA builds wells in rural areas that include a watering trough that allows the livestock to be watered without risk of contamination to the drinking water. In rural areas, a run-off system is installed with the well to collect water for livestock during the rainy season.

Since 1997, Mercy-USA has played a vital role in providing safe drinking water in Somalia, digging and repairing wells. Communities with a combined population of over 600,000 persons are benefiting from this safe water program. As experts in the field of safe water, Mercy-USA is an excellent choice when deciding to contribute toward the continuous benefits a well provides a community for many generations into the future.



## Basic Medical Care for Syria's Refugees In Lebanon

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon are stuck between a rock and a hard place as we say in America. They have fled their homes in Syria only to find a less than hospitable welcome in Lebanon. As more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees have flocked into Lebanon—with more than ten thousand still awaiting registration according to the UN Refugee Agency's report on Feb. 3, 2015—tension is high between Lebanon citizens and the burgeoning Syrian Refugee population. Lebanon's already struggling economy is straining with the influx of so many desperate Syrians who have lost almost everything. The poor valley of Wadi Khalid is no exception to this situation, and medical services were already in a poor state before the refugees began coming. To help ease some of the strain on the community, Mercy-USA has been funding a mobile clinic operated by Makassed Charitable Organization that travels four days per

week to villages in Wadi Khalid where local families are hosting Syrian refugees. This modern mobile clinic provides disease-preventing vaccines, pre- and post-natal care, and regular medical exams. The van travels through the hilly valley and serves all manner of ailments and offers some peace of mind to mothers with newborns, or small children with a cough or cold that won't get better, or to the elderly who need to be seen for routine medical checks.



# A Warmer Winter for Syrians Thanks to Mercy-USA Donors



For almost four years, innocent Syrians have been displaced from their homes in the ongoing deadly conflict. Often the most destitute Syrians flee the fighting and destruction with just the clothes on their backs and what they can carry in their arms.

Winter clothing, blankets to survive the difficult winter and knitting yarn were distributed to thousands of Syrian children and their families throughout the winter, thanks to our generous supporters.



## Students Give Back for Safe Water

In addition to being an excellent student, 8th grader Sabria K. has always loved sports. She's a brown belt in tae-kwon-do, a starting forward on her local soccer team, and a starting guard on her school basketball team in Virginia. Last summer, as part of a community service project challenge for her girls' youth group, Sabria developed a plan to support clean water for Africa. With the help of her brother, Sabria launched and managed a neighborhood sports-skills camp for young children. After some research they chose to donate the proceeds of their camp to Mercy-USA to help

provide safe access to clean water for children and families in Somalia. The parents of the camp participants were informed in the beginning that the fees would go toward this clean water project, but Sabria was happily surprised when some of the parents donated over and above the camp fees toward the clean water project. Sabria said they chose to dedicate proceeds to a well because it is a "continual charity" that they hope will keep giving benefit to others, and ongoing blessings to those who donate to it, far into the future.

## Syrian Americans Send Winter Help

From all over Michigan, Syrian Americans organized campaigns in their communities to gather donations of new and gently used winter jackets and clothing, blankets, diapers, wheelchairs and crutches and coordinated with Mercy-USA to ship a 40-foot container to needy recipients in Syria. The planning began last October and resulted in the well-organized and packed goods being delivered to Syria in January 2015.

Mercy-USA wishes to thank the Michigan Syrian American community for their hard work and dedication in coordinating this substantial gift to Syria.

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Join Mercy-USA in  
"Helping People Help  
Themselves"™

In addition to your one-time charitable donation, there are easy ways to donate. Consider joining Mercy-USA in this vital effort with a sustaining gift:

### Automatic Giving Program

A gift of your choice can be automatically deducted monthly from your bank or major credit card account.

### Employee Matching Program

Encourage your employer to match your donation.

### Stocks

Mercy-USA accepts stocks as a charitable contribution.

### Make a Bequest

Remember Mercy-USA's mission in your will.

### Be an Advocate for Mercy-USA's Mission

Volunteer in your community to promote Mercy-USA's work. Call us for details on how you can get involved!

**1-800-556-3729**

# Where we work • mercyusa.org



## Albania

- English and computer skills training for orphans
- Read to Succeed program for school-age children and teens

## Bangladesh

- Total support for five rural schools (meals, teachers, uniforms, etc.)

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Vocational and career training for orphans, at-risk teens and young adults
- Agriculture Education Center to aid farmers, and local communities with sustainable farming methods

## The Gaza Strip

- School lunch program in Gaza serving approximately 1,500 students

## India

- Seasonal food aid

## Indonesia

- Aid farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Also assist farmers in forming cooperatives
- English and computer skills training for orphans

## Kenya

- Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children

- Water and sanitation/hygiene program at 24 elementary and pre-schools to prevent infectious diseases

## Lebanon

- Syrian Refugee assistance in Wadi Khalid, Lebanon
- Mobile Health Clinic serves refugees four times a week providing vaccines, pre-and post-natal checks and regular medical exams
- Three times weekly bread distribution for 2,500-3,000 families

- Bread distribution and baby diapers to recent Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Beddawi Refugee Camp

- Water, sanitation and hygiene program: fresh water trucking, waste management and sanitation

- Palestinian Refugee Assistance in Beddawi and Nahr-Al-Bared Palestinian Refugee Camps

- Vocational training courses

## Somalia

- To date over 400 new or rehabilitated wells for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia

- Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children
- Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion

## Syria

- Monthly food baskets and infant formula for 1,000 vulnerable families in Aleppo, Syria
- Winter clothing for 10,000 vulnerable children
- Blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families
- Hygiene packages for 1,000 vulnerable families
- Mother and Child Health Clinic



Donate Online: [www.mercyusa.org](http://www.mercyusa.org) • Call Toll-Free: **800-55-MERCY (800-556-3729)**

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In Canada: Fiesta RPO, PO Box 56102, 102 Hwy #8, Stoney Creek, ON L8G 5C9 • Canadian Charity Business # 89458-5553-RR0001

## Contribution / Pledge Form

- One Time Donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly Donation**  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Check**
- Credit Card** (Fill out Credit Card Section)
- Pledge** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*I give my permission to Mercy-USA/Mercy-USA (Canada) to withdraw from my Credit Card the amount I have indicated above. I also understand that I may change or end a monthly donation agreement at any time with a written notice.*

**Credit Card Information (Charged in US Currency)**

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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## More ways to contribute!

Many companies match their employees' donations; ask your employer if they have a "Matching Gift Program".

Automatic Giving Program: A gift of your choice can be automatically deducted monthly from your bank account. Please call us toll-free at **800-556-3729** for details on how you can make an easy and sustaining gift.