

Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development

November 2014

Volume 20, Issue 3



Mercy-USA supports five rural schools in Bangladesh with everything from books, uniforms, teacher salaries and meals.

Education is a Right that isn't a Given Everywhere

In North America, education is a subject on which everyone has an opinion, or a story to tell. Parents move from one part of their city to another to access the best public schools, while others sacrifice vacations, or a bigger home so that they can send the kids to a good private school. Grandparents gift high school seniors with money for college that's been saved for the child since birth. Everyone agrees that all children should have the right to a decent education, but in large

swaths of the world, it's a right that isn't a "given".

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is more than a charitable relief organization; we take pride in the fact that once a crisis is over, we stay on the ground to help rebuild the human capacity of the devastated region long after the world has turned its attention to other disasters. This capacity building starts with children and teens through education and mentorship.

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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

Bosnia and Herzegovina Vocational Training for At-Risk Teens and Young Adults

According to the World Bank, nearly 40 percent of people between the ages of 18 and 30 are neither working nor studying in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mercy-USA has been in the country working specifically with orphaned youth and at-risk teens and young adults to help them develop skills needed for gainful employment and a brighter future.

We provide three-month computer office software training courses to orphans and other at-risk teens and young adults in the Tuzla Canton of Bosnia. In addition to the technical training these young people receive, they are mentored by caring Mercy-USA staff members who teach essential life skills that will serve the students as they enter adulthood. Mercy-USA mentors provide character development training that nurtures the whole child and teaches the values of honesty, hard work, and integrity. This character training encourages the at-risk youth and young adults to avoid criminal responses to hardship, and gives them confidence to join the workplace after their schooling is complete. The trainees are also provided with a nutritious meal or snack during each class; the extra nutrition provided helps them stay motivated and focused on their training.

Albania "Read To Succeed!"

As Albania emerges from the legacy of communist rule, free access to information through the printed word is still lacking. Since 2011, Mercy-USA has been assisting schools in Albania to open or expand libraries.

Recently, 18 elementary and middle schools have been provided with over 6,400 new books (about 50 different titles). Almost 6,000 children attending these schools have access to important reference material, novels, poems and short stories to broaden their horizons and encourage them to "Read to Succeed!"

Since 2000, Mercy-USA has also been working in Albania to offer computer training and English instruction to young orphaned teens with the same programming we offer in Bosnia.



Bangladesh Rural Education Support

Poverty in Bangladesh has been significantly improved in the last ten years; however, much of this good news has not reached rural Bangladesh.

Mercy-USA is supporting five rural schools in Bangladesh by providing everything from meals, uniforms, teacher salaries and more. Boys and girls,



who might not have had access to any education at all, are now able to go to school, get a nutritious meal and look toward a better future for themselves and their families. The daily meals your support provides are often the only source of good nutrition these children have; Mercy-USA knows that learning doesn't happen when a child is hungry.

These five community-based primary schools run by our local partner, Assistance for Humanitarian Development (AHD), are located in impoverished rural areas in the districts of Tangail, Rangpur and Mymensingh. All total, Mercy-USA is providing free education to over 1,600 vulnerable children, with girls representing about 55% of the student body. This support includes school lunches for the children, uniforms, education materials, teacher training, sports activities and field trips, repairs and maintenance of the school facilities and salaries for all teachers and support staff.



Indonesia Computer and English Training for Orphans

Since 2007, Mercy-USA has been offering English language and computer training courses for orphans in Aceh Province. Students study English and learn how to use common office software including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They are also learning valuable Internet skills. In addition, the orphans are provided with a nutritious meal and are mentored by caring Mercy-USA staff members who teach essential life skills that will serve the students as they enter adulthood.

Lebanon Vocational Training for Palestinian Refugee Youth

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the majority of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon continue to exist on the margins of the Lebanese economy and society and their socio-economic situation has been characterized by long-term high unemployment, illiteracy, poor housing, poor levels of nutrition and consequently, poor health.

In the two refugee camps of Nahr al-Bared and Beddawi, Mercy-USA conducts vocational training courses, which range in length from two to nine months each and include pastry and sweet baking, ice cream making, English language, photography and video production, office administration training, basic computer software, computer and cell phone maintenance, hair cutting/styling and sewing.

Trainees are also given workshops on important life and social skills (respect for time, goal setting, personal and family responsibility, etc.), career

planning and resume and job interview preparation, as well as employment search counseling. Additionally, Mercy-USA has provided the women's centers, where these courses are provided, with electric generators, computers, other office equipment, heat/air-conditioning units, and supplies specific for the training courses.

Hundreds of orphans and other at-risk youth and young adults have successfully graduated from the various courses.



The Gaza Strip Vocational Training for Teens and Young Adults

Mercy-USA is providing students between the ages of 15 and 22 at two United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) vocational training centers in Gaza with a daily meal that consists of fresh food, bread and milk to assist them through the school day. Providing students with a daily meal enhances their nutritional intake, their cognitive abilities and performance.



PHOTO: ANNE PAQ

Mercy-USA Supports Families in Gaza in the Aftermath

In July and early August, Palestinians in Gaza endured horrific trauma due to air, ground and naval bombardments. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), almost 70% of the 2,205 Palestinians killed in Gaza were civilians and among them were 521 children and 283 women. As of October 9th, 2014, 18 of UNRWA's schools were still serving as shelters for 53,869 internally displaced persons.

Through UNRWA, Mercy-USA provided \$275,000 in emergency relief assistance to Palestinians in Gaza affected by this latest tragedy. These funds provided 9,000 daily food rations in UNRWA shelters, as well as Family Shelter and Household kits to ensure families who fled their homes with nothing more than their clothes were able to maintain their basic personal comfort and dignity as they begin to figure out how to rebuild their lives.

The Family Shelter and Household kit was comprehensive and included the following items:

- 5 mattresses
 - 12 blankets
 - 1 floor mat
 - 1 kitchen kit, (cooking pot, pan, bowls, utensils, etc.)
 - 1 Baby Hygiene Kit, (baby soap and shampoo, baby wipes, baby blanket, diapers, etc.)
 - 1 Family Hygiene Kit, (towels, soap and shampoo, toothbrushes, sanitary towels, detergent, etc.)
- UNRWA issued a press release on this award and featured it on the front page of their Gaza Emergency web page stating, "This intervention will help ensure that families who have been displaced or affected by the recent military escalation in the Gaza Strip are able to maintain their basic personal comfort and dignity." Scott Anderson, Deputy Director of UNWRA Operations in Gaza was quoted as saying, "We welcome the generous donation from Mercy-USA and appreciate the organization's ongoing support to Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip."



The Violence of War Doesn't Spare Women and Children.



Pregnant and nursing mothers with their infants and children under five are the most innocent victims of the ongoing conflict in Syria. Mercy-USA, with 20 years of experience in managing mother and child health clinics in some of the world's most dangerous war-zones, is happy to announce the opening of a mother and child health clinic in Aleppo, Syria, where the need is critical.

Located in the Omar Ibn Abdel Aziz Hospital in the Al Ma'adi district of Aleppo, the health clinic is serving the pre-natal and post-natal needs of pregnant women in this district and surrounding districts. Services being provided include monthly exams by an OB/GYN, nutrition counseling and supplements, as well as birthing services and postpartum care.

The mothers' newborns, infants and children under five are also being seen at the clinic for routine pediatric care with special attention paid to the monitoring of their vaccination schedules and nutrition counseling.

Additionally, we are educating the mothers on natural family planning, infant and young child feeding and the benefits of birth spacing.

Caring for the Dignity of Syrians

In addition to providing monthly food baskets to approximately 1,000 households in Aleppo, Mercy-USA has begun distributing hygiene packages to the same families. Cleaning supplies, hygiene products, shampoo and toothpaste are some of the seventeen items distributed. In Aleppo today, many of these items are either not available at all, or are extremely costly and have been out of reach for the very poor, internally displaced people we serve in Aleppo. These distributions are being conducted on occasion as needed. Your donation to Syria will help these families stay clean and healthy during this crisis.



Food Aid During Ramadan

During the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, Mercy-USA provided nightly meals to break the fast being kept by thousands of vulnerable families.

Special food baskets or Fitra were also distributed to those in need.

This assistance was provided in the following countries:

- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Somalia
- Syria



Eid Joy for Syrian Children in Aleppo



In a city where a normal childhood has been stolen by tremendous hardship and trauma, children were able to find a few hours of celebration for Eid ul-Fitr, the festival marking the end of Ramadan. Mercy-USA distributed new toys and sweets to the children in the approximately 1,000 households we care for monthly in Aleppo.

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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 • 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 _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

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.