

Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development®

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The nutritious food basket and kitchen kit for Abdul Karim (left), his four brothers and parents help them recover from the starvation conditions they endured in Aleppo during the siege in the last days of 2016.

Families Find Help After Fleeing Aleppo

Thousands of families fled Aleppo at the end of 2016 after enduring a siege of catastrophic proportions. Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is identifying these displaced families who are scattered across northern Syria and bringing them some of the basics of life to survive.

Little Abdul Karim (photographed above with some of his brothers) and his family are one of those who fled Aleppo on the green evacuation buses and are now surviving in a small tent on the barren countryside. We brought



Mercy-USA field staff delivering a kitchen kit to a family just evacuated from Aleppo to the countryside.

the family life-saving aid to keep them alive. We gave the family a stove and fuel for the winter, plus nutritious food and a comprehensive kitchen kit that contains everything needed to serve, prepare and store food.

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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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Medan, Indonesia	Antakya, Turkey
Nairobi, Kenya	



Too Cold for School? Not Anymore.

According to the United Nations last year, at least 2.1 million children inside of Syria were not in school. This number may be higher after the fall of Aleppo.

Remarkably, we found that the families we help in Syria have lost their homes, their living, family members and worse, but despite it all, they're striving to find ways to keep their children's education on track. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have fled their homes hoping to escape the violence. In these small villages and makeshift camps, the families have instituted schools and classrooms. For many kids, school days happen in tents. The children are learning; they're being given an opportunity to just be kids and hopefully, feel normal.

However, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development found that classrooms all across northern Syria were closing as soon as winter hit due to the lack of any kind of heating source. That was something we could fix.

This winter, 500 classrooms across northern Syria now have heat and fuel to stay warm. That's a lot of children who, despite enormous challenges, are able to continue to learn and make progress in their education.

Mercy-USA Brings Drought Relief in Somalia

Despite dire predictions, they're praying the rainy season returns this year.



Haadi Yussuf, with her three youngest children and four grandchildren, is living in the open after they had traveled for eight days in search of water. Disabled, her grandson was unable to walk so the trip was slow and arduous. They left a trail of dead animals behind them as their herd slowly perished along the way.

The last two rainy seasons failed in Somaliland. April through June should bring life sustaining rain, but preliminary forecasts don't show much hope.

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development field teams who arrived to the region to supervise water trucking were astonished at the number of dead goats on the migratory routes. Each dead animal represents milk, meat and money to the family that lost it due to the lack of water. Families whose wealth is counted in the number of livestock they own are facing devastation and ruin without the rains.

Haadi Bare Yussuf, a forty-six year old single mother and grandmother, is a full time pastoralist with 3 surviving children and 4 grandchildren. She told us that before the drought hit, she had about 60 goats, and 22 camels. Her family was thriving on the income earned from her livestock's milk and meat. She described the children as "healthy and plump" from

the rich camel's milk. When the rains failed so did Haadi's herds. Soon, their milk wasn't even enough to sustain the needs of the family, so they began to travel farther and farther in search of water. The trek was made more difficult by her disabled grandson who is not able to walk.

We found her living in the open under a tree with only 16 goats and 12 camels remaining in extremely poor condition. We trucked in water, and hygiene supplies and screened the youngest children for malnutrition. Haadi was grateful for the help, and hopeful that the April rains will fall so that she can begin to rebuild her family's strength.

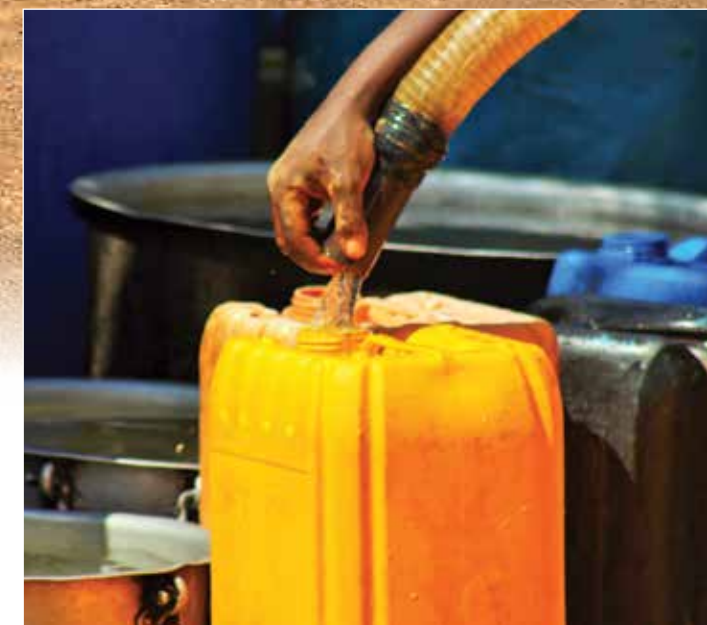
Mercy-USA trucked in water to drought-stricken communities in Somaliland, as well as hygiene supplies. We also conducted malnutrition screenings to identify any children in need of help at our nutrition and feeding centers across the region.



Three of the six Ibrahim children visited with us when we brought them help with water and hygiene supplies. Saman, 11, in green, his brother Abdullahi, 13 and their youngest sister, Fatuma, 9 posed for our camera above. Saman, the most gregarious of the trio described their family's lifestyle before the drought hit, "We had large herds of goats and camels. Abdullahi and Dad would look after the camels and I was left to look after the goats. My sister Fatuma would join me in the evening after prayers. There was plenty of milk and enough food. When visitors came, my father would slaughter a goat for us and we would enjoy the meal. We used to get water from nearby dams, natural water catchment areas and shallow wells during dry seasons."

When asked how things had been for his family after the drought hit, he looked down and was quite emotional, "Our animals perished in the drought. We no longer drink milk and there is no food. Finding water is a problem so now we mostly stay at home. Sometimes Dad sends us to the road to see if anyone has anything for us to eat or bottles of water." The children's mother died in childbirth, and they are now cared for by their father and oldest sister.

The family was happy when we trucked in water. Saman told us, "Now that we have water we can shower and have plenty to drink, plus we can water our few remaining goats."



Indonesia Earthquake Leaves Families Hungry and Homeless

Last December, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake killed at least 103 people in Aceh Province, Indonesia bringing back horrifying memories of the devastating earthquake and Tsunami almost exactly 12 years earlier. Tens of thousands were displaced from their homes and living in tents. Among those severely impacted and homeless are two women we spoke to while distributing emergency food aid. Nuraini, 40 (at right), is a mother of four. She and her family abandoned their wrecked home. A fisherman, her husband's income has dropped to such low levels due the quake that he's not able to feed the family and cover the school tuition of the two older children. The food we supplied the family allowed Nuraini to keep the kids in school and feed the family.

Latifah (below) and her husband, a peddler and their three children, all under five, lost their home in the earthquake. The day we brought emergency food aid, she told us that not only had the earthquake severely affected her husband's tiny business but they had gotten word that the tent encampment where they're living would be closing soon. The food aid gave them a bit of solace and financial cushion as they look for alternative housing.



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Your used car can be a charitable gift to Mercy-USA. Contact Charity Motors and designate us as your beneficiary and they'll take care of it including towing!
charitymotors.org



Other Ways to Give

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Consider designating a monthly gift that you can afford and what's easy for you to do makes it easier for us to make an impact on the people we serve around the world.

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For the past 18 years, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development (CFC identification number 10914), has been participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), as well as the annual campaigns for State government employees in California, Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey. Please choose Mercy-USA as your designated charity and encourage your colleagues to do the same.



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Where we work • mercyusa.org



Albania

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

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

- Supporting special school for blind and visually-impaired elementary school-aged children

India

- Seasonal food aid
- ## Indonesia
- Aiding farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Also assisting farmers in forming cooperatives
 - English and computer skills training for orphans

Kenya

- Fresh water to communities affected by severe drought
- ## 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.
 - Palestinian Refugee Assistance in Beddawi and Nahr-Al-Bared Palestinian Refugee Camps
 - Vocational training courses

Somalia

- To date over 500 new or rehabilitated wells for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia including emergency drought relief
- Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children
- Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion

Syria

- Monthly food baskets for 1,000 vulnerable families in northern Syria
- Winterization projects for vulnerable children and their families
- Blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families
- Hygiene packages for 1,000 vulnerable families
- Primary Health Clinic serving a population of over 30,000 people in northern Syria.



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