

Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development

June 2014

Volume 20, Issue 2



Spotlight: Somalia

Mercy-USA has been delivering aid in Somalia for more than twenty years, and continues to expand and improve the projects with the generous support of private donations, as well as grant funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Program (WFP) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

In addition to the therapeutic feeding centers for malnourished children, mother and child health clinics, tuberculosis and AIDS treatment and prevention programs, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development has been installing and rehabilitating water wells throughout Somalia. To date, communities in Somalia with a combined population of over 525,000 people have safe access to clean water thanks to the generous support of our donors.

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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 Kenya, Nairobi
Tuzla, Bosnia Tripoli, Lebanon
Medan, Indonesia Mogadishu, Somalia

A New Safe, Clean Water Source Involves More than Digging a Well—It Involves the Entire Community!



Working with the Communities We Serve

Mercy-USA field staff come from a similar or the very same cultural point of reference as the people they are serving in Somalia, making them best suited to aid in the lasting development legacy of a life-sustaining well. Our staff identifies a community that is in need of a well and ensures that the community is willing and able to take on the responsibility of maintaining the new water source. Once the assessment is made, field officers work with the community members to involve them in the details of the well construction and all possible future management demands. This initial component of community ownership of the well-to-be is a critical element for sustainability of the water source. The community is closely involved in site selection so that the well will safely serve the needs of the entire community, especially women and children, far into the future.

Education and Leadership Training After a well is

dug or rehabilitated, Mercy-USA's responsibility to the community is not complete until we conduct comprehensive training on maintaining sanitation for the continued health of the community. We also teach how diarrhea and other waterborne diseases are spread and how to break the chain of contamination and prevent reoccurrences. We help the community learn how to manage and treat diarrhea by instructing them on how to safely prepare and use oral rehydration solution from various sources.



It's More than Water We institute lasting leadership roles through mentorship of a Water Management Committee based on existing community structures. These committees include leadership roles for women and comprise the following positions:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Chlorinator - chlorination of water sources
- 2 Village Hygiene Promoters
- Mason - for repair

The involvement and establishment of a leadership committee around the community's new valuable resource empowers its members and helps to create strong social bonds.

While Mercy-USA projects in the country are constantly expanding, the need always grows faster. Long-term effects of drought and the seemingly endless war have devastated Somalia for decades, and, yet, the Somali people continue on with brilliant hope for the future, patience and uncompromising faith. The wells project is completely funded by private donations. Please consider a gift of this precious commodity to people still waiting for our help in Somalia.

Somalia Field Facts

Rural Somalia has little to no water infrastructure. Somalia is a large country and there are many villages that don't receive support from either the government or non-government agencies. They use water from unprotected water sources resulting in outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Conflict and war. Parts of Somalia have endured over two decades of intermittent warfare, causing the destruction of existing water infrastructure. Additionally, there have been years of neglect and poor maintenance for the water sources that survived the destruction.

Newly peaceful areas. There are newly peaceful areas in Somalia that had been completely isolated from the reach of relief agencies and their workers due to the high security risk. With new accessibility, Mercy-USA has been able to carry out needs assessments and identify the water gaps.

New Internally Displaced Persons camp settlements. People are displaced due to new pockets of conflict, and, as a result, IDP settlements are formed in safer locations. There is a need to provide these IDPs with access to adequate and safe drinking water.

Unpredictable rainfall patterns and drought. There are periods when Somalia experiences shortage of rainfall causing rivers, water pans and sometimes wells to dry up. In such instances, there is need to provide the affected population with a sustainable source of safe drinking water.



Thanks to Your Generosity, **10,000** Children in Syria Received New Winter Coats, Boots, Clothing and more.



⇨ Mercy-USA Aleppo recipient families fled barrel bombings for Internally Displaced Persons Camps last winter. Our field staff sourced mats and mattresses for them as they "bunked" with other families already living in camps. Children were given the winter gear sets which were especially needed during the miserable and muddy winter.

⇨ 10,000 coats, boots, socks, sweaters, warm pants, hats and scarves for kids were sourced in nearby Turkey, sorted, assembled and distributed in Syria for a fraction of the cost to ship them from the USA. We also distributed 10,000 winter-weight blankets.

In the fall of 2013, Mercy-USA Syrian field staff found children with bare feet, no coats or hats to protect against the cold and damp Aleppo winter as they made their assessments for aid, so we put out the call to our donor community for help. Your generous gifts to Mercy-USA's winter gear campaign resulted in ten thousand children receiving much needed cold weather clothing for a particularly harsh winter in Syria.

We sourced the coats, sweaters, warm pants, winter boots and socks, hats and scarves in nearby Turkey. Each clothing kit cost only \$45—a fraction of what it would cost to ship new or even used clothing from the USA, and had the added benefit of aiding the local economy in the Turkish border area struggling to accommodate the Syrian refugee population.

The clothing sets were distributed to children in Aleppo, Idlib



province and Internally Displaced Persons camps where many of our recipient families have fled due to the barrel bombings in December and January. We were also able to source winter-weight blankets, sleeping mattresses and floor mats for these families, who were forced into sharing tents with other families who had fled in earlier months. The monthly food baskets, warm clothes, blankets,

mats and mattresses provided by your generous contributions made a frightening and desperate situation better by covering the basics for these families.

Donate Today!

mercyusa.org

800-556-3729



Somalia Infant Mortality Rate is One of the Highest in the World

Somalia has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. It is believed that contaminated water resulting in waterborne disease is the second leading cause for death among children under five in Somalia. According to UNICEF, only 30% of Somalis have access to safe water and this situation only increases the risk of outbreaks of waterborne diseases. Cholera is endemic and claims hundreds of lives annually, particularly in densely populated areas. Imagine holding your child in your arms as she dies from dehydration because the water you gave her was contaminated. A nearby source of clean water can bring life back to the lives of women and children in Somalia. You can help make that happen this year with your charitable gift to our wells project in Somalia.



Our field staff in Somalia recently took time to visit three sites where Mercy-USA installed safe water wells and interviewed dozens of community members on what life was like before and after the well.

Amina, (below), lives in rural Somalia with her five children. She says the drought devastated her family's livestock upon which they depended for their livelihood, and day-to-day survival. Many Somalis are pastoralists, depending greatly



on the milk provided by their herds to keep their children healthy, and, when that source is lost, the children suffer most. Malnourished children are not able to battle the effects of contaminated water, and often succumb to dehydration from diarrhea. Before the well provided by Mercy-USA donors Amina said, "We used to suffer from frequent

diarrhea and vomiting, particularly my younger children. I had to walk for about four hours to get water while risking attacks from wild animals and sexual assault from roaming gangs." Her two youngest children were with her the day we visited, and Sacdiyo, who is only 4 said, "When mommy went to fetch water we were left at home and there wasn't anyone to feed us."

Asho, (at right), is a newly married woman yet to have children of her own. She lost her father to the war and watched her mother struggle to support the children on her own. Asho said, "I think the war has had more adverse effects on me than the drought has. What I have lost in the drought I can recover but the war claimed two of my family members. That is something I cannot get back. My decision to marry young was largely due to the war." When discussing life before the well was built, Asho told us that the lack of nearby clean water most adversely affected the women and youngest children in her community, "I have witnessed the pain of mothers who have lost their children to diseases such as cholera and diarrhea." The well, sanitation and health training that

the community received from Mercy-USA field staff has greatly lessened the possibility of losing her own future children to a preventable illness like diarrhea.



MercyUSA.org has a New Look!



After months of development and testing for the best available security, we are proud to announce our new updated website!

Users can now easily access information on all our current and past projects and find copies of our financial statements, annual reports and newsletters.

Donors can securely give online through our secure webpage. A few clicks and your gift is safely and securely sent in seconds. Take a minute for a fresh look and sign up for our E-Newsletter while you're there!

Mercy-USA's Work Highlighted in Media

In the last few months, the work we've been doing has been featured in several publications. **"Charity's Pleasure of Participation"** was featured on the Huffington Post's "Impact" page, highlighting the practicality of monetary contributions to reputable relief organizations.

"Aleppo: Barrel Bombs Rain" was a feature article in the Muslim Observer Newspaper detailing the situation in Aleppo, Syria, and the motivation and bravery of the local field workers as they risk their lives to deliver aid to Syrians in Aleppo.

"Safe to Drink is Only Half the Story" in the Chicago Crescent Newspaper on Mercy-USA's work in Somalia highlighted the extra burden women and children bear when there's no safe access to clean water.

Mercy-USA Social Media Outreach



We've stepped up our social media outreach so those folks who have "liked" our Facebook page and followed us on Twitter will receive brief updates of our current programs and provide a quick way to get in touch with us with your ideas and concerns. If you haven't already visited our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MercyUSA, or followed us on Twitter, @MercyUSA please look us up and click your support. If you're already a Facebook or Twitter follower of ours, please share our updates with your networks and encourage your friends and family to like and follow our pages. We can grow exponentially with your support!

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

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 and two orphanages, (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 350 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
 - Clothing for 10,000 vulnerable children
 - Blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families



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 Federal Tax # 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.