

# Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development®

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## Mercy-USA brings lifesaving food to Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Over 800,000 Rohingya Refugees who were forced to flee ethnic cleansing last year have come over the border to the squalid conditions of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Once a small fishing town, Cox's Bazar has now become the world's largest refugee camp. The Rohingya are depending solely on humanitarian aid as they have yet to get permission to work or establish livelihoods.

*Read more on the next page.*

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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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Other Mercy-USA Offices

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Tuzla, Bosnia	Mogadishu, Somalia
Medan, Indonesia	Antakya, Turkey
Nairobi, Kenya	

CELEBRATING  
**30 YEARS**  
HELPING AROUND THE WORLD!

# Distributing Vital Food Aid to Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Mercy-USA is working in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent to provide food baskets to thousands. We're grateful for the partnership with TRC, which has allowed us to deliver immediate help

to the Rohingya.

The conditions in the burgeoning Refugee camp in Cox's Bazar are primitive and afford very little security. In March, Mercy-USA International Program

Deputy Director Hussam El-Fawal and other staff visited Cox's Bazar and assisted with one of our monthly food basket distributions. They were also able to sit with families to bear witness to their harrowing accounts of the events that forced them to flee Myanmar.



## Food Basket “Surge” for Internally Displaced Syrians

Since December 2017, approximately 350,000 Syrians have again been displaced in northern Syria—many of these families have been forced to flee a second or third time seeking safety from hostilities or bombings. Tens of thousands fled closer to the Turkish border, only to find horrific conditions due to overcrowding. Families are now finding themselves living with one or two more families in tents that were designed to accommodate only a family of five. Food is becoming more scarce as everyone has lost their livelihood.

Mercy-USA has been delivering consistent food aid to thousands of Syrians every month. Beginning in April 2018, with a generous grant from the

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, we are doing a three-month “food distribution surge” to help newly displaced families from other parts of Syria. We will be serving approximately 17,000 additional people with nutritious food baskets.

With four very young children, and a sick wife, Safwan Alahmad was broken by having no prospects for their future. He’s a young father and his eyes tell of the frustration he feels when faced with the fact he isn’t able to provide for the basic needs of his family.

Safwan told us that bombing three months ago had destroyed their house and the car he had worked so hard to buy. Running for their lives, they landed in this desperate camp with hundreds of other families who have sadly similar stories of loss and trauma.

We brought Safwan’s family a food basket and were glad to make his burden less weighty that day, and pray he knows people half a world away do care about his family.



# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS HELPING AROUND THE WORLD!

Mercy-USA has been working around the world helping people help themselves for thirty years now. A look back through our past projects shows a consistent goal of helping a community move beyond the crisis that first brought us to them.



Beekeeping inputs in Bosnia-2002

The war and genocide in the Balkans was a humanitarian disaster and we were on the ground to bring emergency humanitarian aid to those suffering from indescribable trauma and loss. For years after the war, our development projects have been a continuing legacy of caring and support. From planting fruit trees and establishing beekeeping in Bosnia to renovating homes, schools, voter registration centers and polling places in Kosovo, to providing a nutritious lunch to



Food aid in Kosovo-1999

thousands of Albanian school children, our development work has had lasting effects. We're still working in the Balkans today with sustainable development projects focusing on the newest generation to help them overcome the injustices suffered by their parents and grandparents through education.



Medical Relief in Somalia-2003

Our work in East Africa has an equally long history providing relief in response to war and natural disasters through better healthcare, livelihood and infrastructure improvement. The work we started there in 1994 continues today. We are a major humanitarian presence in Somalia with dozens of nutrition, health, TB and mother and child clinics around the country. We have hundreds of medical and community health workers in the field today, and our plans to expand our helping hand are growing.

We have been working in Asia for over two decades providing help in response to all manner of tragic events and natural disasters. In



Humanitarian Relief after Gujarat Riots, India-2002

India, Pakistan and Bangladesh we have rebuilt homes after riots, earthquakes or flooding; we have expanded hospitals, provided emergency aid after natural disasters such as the 2004 Tsunami, earthquakes and floods and still provide regular seasonal food aid in India. We're ready to help when the need arises in the region, just as we are doing right now for the Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh.

We established a permanent office in Indonesia when we hit the ground just after the devastation from the 2004 Tsunami. We provided emergency relief with food, and other immediate disaster related aid such as rebuilding houses, providing agricultural inputs and digging wells. We are still there helping orphaned children with education and disadvantaged farmers with expertise, equipment and agricultural inputs.

In the USA, we rushed aid to families impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as clean water to senior centers in Flint, Michigan just in the last few years.

We've brought lifesaving aid to millions over the years, but none of it could have been accomplished without our generous donors and supporters. We're looking forward to another 30 years of serving humanity with everyone's help!

## "This Health Center is For Us..."

Last month, Khadija brought her 2 year-old daughter, Mariya, into the Mercy-USA Mother and Child Health Clinic in Elwak, Gedo region of Somalia. She told Senior Nurse Ibrahim Maalim that Mariya had been suffering with intermittent fevers and lethargy. "I knew something was wrong when I saw she stopped playing and didn't want the other children touching her. Then, I noticed her pulling at her ears and knew I needed a medical professional to see her."

Khadija's hunch was correct, Mariya had an ear infection and Nurse Ibrahim was able to prescribe antibiotics and pain medicine for the baby. He also assessed her for malnutrition and gave her an overall check up. Thankfully, she was healthy except for her ear infection.

According to the World Health Organization, untreated ear infections are the leading cause of hearing loss in underdeveloped nations. Hearing loss in a two year old can be especially devastating since this is when language development is at its peak, so we're glad Mariya's infection was caught and treated.

Khadija told us, "The Mercy-USA MCH clinic is the only medical help available for us here. My husband does casual labor and we don't have enough to pay for medical care or medicine when we need it, so this is a life saver for me and my children. My community feels that this is our clinic and we're grateful for it. May God bless this work you do."



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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!



**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 and other at-risk teens.

**Kenya**

- Fresh water to communities affected by severe drought
- Nutritional support for mothers and children
- Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion

**Lebanon**

- Syrian Refugee assistance in Wadi Khalid, Lebanon
- Palestinian Refugee Assistance in Beddawi and Nahr-Al-Bared Palestinian Refugee Camps
- Vocational training courses

**Somalia**

- To date over 550 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
- Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention

**Syria**

- Monthly food baskets for vulnerable families in northern Syria
- Winterization projects for vulnerable children and their families
- Blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families
- Medical services for vulnerable Syrians living in hard-to-reach areas



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

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- 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.*

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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.