

Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development®

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Despite Drought, Mercy-USA is Working for Healthy Moms & Babies in East Africa

Severe drought in East Africa has again brought families to the edge of hopelessness. Pregnant mothers and their babies are the first to suffer when conditions become so bad a family is forced to leave their home in search of help.

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is helping mothers like Hawo stay healthy during her pregnancy and beyond. She receives food rations for herself and her seven young children in a camp for Internally Displaced Persons in Hoby, Somalia. Hawo, her husband and children lost their livestock to the drought and came to the camp out of sheer desperation. After three months of support at our Nutrition Center, she said, "I can't imagine what we'd do without these monthly rations; they're the only source of food I can count on. I feel so much stronger now!" *Read more stories of hope 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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CELEBRATING
30 YEARS
HELPING AROUND THE WORLD!

Ready Relief for Baby Ahmad in Somalia



Suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition, Ahmad was 10 months old and weighed barely 9 pounds when his mother brought him to our clinic.

Ten-month old, Baby Ahmad was brought to the Mercy-USA Mother and Child Health Clinic in Mogadishu, Somalia suffering from acute malnutrition. He weighed just 9 pounds and was very sick. His mother, a farmer's wife with four children, had sought help in her village only to watch her youngest child become sicker and sicker over the course of several months.

"I took my son to a local healer, and several small clinics near our farm when he was sick with reoccurring upper respiratory infections and complete loss of appetite but none of them helped him." Distraught, her husband asked her to take Ahmad to Mogadishu to seek help.

She walked the six miles and stopped at the home of a relative who told her about the free Mercy-USA clinic. As soon as she arrived at our mother and child health clinic with Ahmad, he was evaluated and admitted into our Outpatient Therapeutic Program where he was given antibiotics, vitamin A and started on the therapeutic nutrition supplement. Ahmad is being monitored weekly as part of the program for up to 12 weeks or until he can maintain a healthy weight.

The baby's mother was clearly relieved as she talked to us after Ahmad's initial treatment. "I couldn't believe that this facility would be free, but my cousin assured me that I would find help for Ahmad here. Today, I feel my child is in the right place and in safer hands. The services are free of charge. I want to thank all for the help he is receiving."



Emergency Lifelines in Kenya

The devastating drought that has struck Somalia has spread beyond its borders to include 23 districts in Kenya. The United Nations reports that more than half a million children in Kenya are either moderately or severely malnourished.

With funding from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Mercy-USA is partnering with the Kenyan Ministry of Health to implement an integrated emergency nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene project in Garissa County, Kenya. This vital project, which serves children under the age of 5, pregnant women and nursing mothers in three sub-counties within Garissa County, aims to reduce malnutrition among this vulnerable population.

Mercy-USA has community health workers based in villages throughout these sub-counties. They assist our outreach mobile nutrition and medical teams to evaluate and identify children and mothers in need. These outreach teams visit each village on a regular

and needs-based rotation providing vital medical care in places where trained health workers are scarce.

The story of Khadija and her newborn baby girl is sadly all too common. After losing much of their livelihood to the drought, Khadija, her husband and four children were displaced from their home. Khadija gave birth to her fifth baby in a makeshift clinic with untrained health workers. The baby was born underweight, experiencing intermittent fevers and was not breastfeeding well. Thankfully, a Mercy-USA Community Health Worker in her village asked her to wait until the next day when our mobile medical unit would visit to assess the baby's health. Our trained medical staff determined that the baby was in urgent need of stabilization in a hospital. Mercy-USA arranged immediate transportation for Khadija and her baby. Khadija told us that without Mercy-USA, the transportation arranged would not have been possible for her family to afford.



Despite Extreme Security Risks, Mercy-USA Brings Lifesaving Fuel to Families in Syria



Despite airstrikes and continued insecurity across northern Syria, with the help of the United Nations and our donors, Mercy-USA distributed eco-friendly biomass fuel to thousands of internally displaced families who are living in desperate conditions without protection from the winter cold.

This part of Syria is semi-arid and the winter nighttime temperatures



can reach below freezing with snowfall not uncommon. The makeshift tent homes many displaced families live in have no electricity or adequate protection against the cold.

When the Assad Regime took much of northern Syria in January, families were once again forced to flee for their safety. Mercy-USA's teams greeted these families with life-saving fuel when they arrived in a new location.

For families living in these difficult circumstances, we are distributing fuel throughout the winter. For newly arrived families to the region, Mercy-USA distributed new cast iron stoves in addition to the fuel to heat them.



Mercy-USA field team worker Samah visited with a family as fuel was delivered to keep the children warm this winter.



Here at Home, Mercy-USA Volunteers Get Involved.

In December, Mercy-USA organized a team of Muslim helpers to relieve Christian volunteers the day after Christmas when the soup kitchen at St Peter's Episcopal Church (co-sponsored by St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church) resumed it's normal hot meal distribution to 200 homeless

and vulnerable people.

"We reached out to the Detroit Muslim community calling for volunteers to serve the midday meal to the area's most vulnerable folks who come to the soup kitchen. By bringing in new volunteers, we hoped to give the soup kitchen's dedicated

volunteer staff more time with their families around the Christmas holiday," says Kayla Botelho, Mercy-USA Development Coordinator.

In the coming months, Mercy-USA will be providing volunteers more opportunities to serve their community.



Students in Detroit area ask the question: “Could you survive the winter in a tent?”

Youth groups around the Detroit metro area helped Mercy-USA raise thousands of dollars to provide winter heat in Syria during December.

The Muslim Student Association of Oakland University and the Islamic Center of Detroit Youth Group hosted bake sales and another youth group from Masjid Salaam hosted a movie night with snack sales, all to bring warmth to young people and their families in Syria.



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Encourage your employer to match your donation.

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Mercy-USA accepts stocks as a charitable contribution.

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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



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- 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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 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.