A joyful year
I am always amazed and inspired by the countless kind-hearted people who want to help others around the world. At ARAHA, we frequently come across individuals who want to help those in need in the Horn of Africa region but don’t know how to get started. They feel that they cannot make a difference on their own.

That is why ARAHA has introduced the Lifesaver initiative. With this campaign, we provide a platform for passionate individuals—or even groups like schools or families—to complete humanitarian missions without worrying about the administrative, legal, or financial logistics.

Becoming a Lifesaver is easy: just share your vision with us and we will help you create an individualized campaign page on ARAHA’s website. You can use this page to reach out to your network and raise funds for your project. Once your targeted funding goal is reached, ARAHA will use its field offices throughout the Horn of Africa to implement the project on your behalf. When it has been successfully completed, you will receive a full report with pictures and videos to show you the outcome of your project and help you share the joy of helping others with your friends and family.

Whether it’s providing medical supplies to those suffering in Somalia or helping a family in Sudan educate their children, your vision can be achieved by partnering with ARAHA, and we hope you will choose to become a Lifesaver.

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**2015 HIGHLIGHTS**

- **90,175** people received food support, and emergency food aid.
- **21** water wells built to serve over 21,000 people.
- **1,458** received support from one of our education projects.
- **217** orphans received support from our Orphan Program.
- **13,252** people benefited from medical treatment, and medical supplies distributed.
- **2,010** Benefited from ARAHA’s Dairy Goat, dairy cow project.

Mohamed Idris | Executive Director
Due to our commitment to data transparency, we recently earned the Guidestar Exchange Gold participant seal. This is a great achievement in which gives our organizations even more credibility, and provides more security for our donors and supporters.

**Guidestar Gold Member**

ARAHA has earned a 4-star rating for 3 consecutive years from the independent evaluator Charity Navigator. Placing ARAHA in the top 14 percent of all non-profits and charitable organizations rated in the US for transparency, good ethics, and fiscal responsibility.

**ARAHA earns 4-Star Rating**

We continued our fight against illiteracy in the horn. This year alone we successfully build three libraries and distributed books to high schools and universities in Somalia. We are also moving closer to expanding our Shegerab School, thus providing more service to more students in the refugee camp.

**Emphasis on Education**

With the ongoing conflict in Yemen, ARAHA took a step to help the refugees stranded in Yemen as well as the ones who are in Somalia now. We distributed emergency relief kits containing food, medical treatment, Nutrition packs, bed sheets, cups, flask, mosquito net, kettle, soap, jug, and clothes. We also extended aid to families affected by the floods in Sudan. In total we were able to send needed relief to over 1000 families.

**Emergency Relief**
The United Nations estimates that by the end of 2015, there will be about 600,000 displaced persons-half of them Somali. In terms of size, the number is five times what it was last December. There are many factors that play a role in the crisis; one of the biggest is food scarcity. With Yemen suffering from a drought, even those not forced to flee their homes are faced with starvation. Thus you have waves of refugees fleeing to Somalia, and many left in Yemen amidst the war.

With Somalia already harboring over one million displaced people, the additional influx of over 60,000 refugees has put a heavy strain on the Somali government. Furthermore, Somalia is in fragile stability with little to no experience, logistics, or infrastructure in dealing with refugees. Although commendable progress is being made in Somalia, there is still limited access to hospitals, transportation, shelter, and sustenance. Families who are caught in this cross fire flee to the closest neighboring country they could get to, in these cases, Somalia.

International Agencies have moved swiftly to register the refugees and provide them with specific individual needs. As some individuals are lucky enough to have relatives or families in the area to go to, while some don't have anyone, making the refugee camp their temporary home.

In between this there are also people who are far from the nearest refugee camp and are in dire need, these individual and families are usually aided by the local community. For instance, in Qardho, Somalia, The university of Qardho took it upon themselves to shelter over 75 families in small classrooms. Although, the resources are limited, it seems that everyone is pitching in to do what they can to help these families.

With a region already facing drought almost on a yearly basis, crisis like this could not come at a worst time. But it also goes to show the resilience of the Somali people. Even though a lot of them are in poverty, they will open their arms and homes to anyone in need.

On the contrary, those who remain in Yemen are in no better predicament. In addition to the food crisis, thousands have been left without medical care, mainly due to 600 hospitals being destroyed or closed. This not only intensifies the situation, but makes it much more difficult, as diseases and injuries are left untreated, many lives are lost.

With that in mind, ARAHA’s aimed to reach and aid both affected parties. Our team in Somalia swiftly moved to respond to the crisis at hand. Knowing other organization’s emphasis was on food and water, we shifted our focus and was the first organization to distribute Non Food Items (NFI). We were able to distributed support kits of NFI’s to over 100 families in Berbera, Somalia. Each kit containing; bed sheets, cups, flask, mosquito net, kettle, soap, jug, and clothes.

In Yemen, we continue our efforts in delivering relief packages containing food baskets, nutrition packs, and medical supply to aid 600 families. As we continue in our journey to aid these refugees, we ask you to join us, by donating today. We all have the power to choose to make a difference, choose to change a life, and choose to help a child.

So the question remains – what is your choice?
In the light of increasing restrictions on banks facilitating remittances from the United States to Somalia, the largest facilitator of such transfers – Merchants Bank of California – announced in January of 2015, it would discontinue these services. The cessation of ‘hawala’ funds from relatives and friends in the US puts economic independence in jeopardy for millions of Somalis and further complicates ARAHA’s efforts to deliver essential resources and develop sustainable pathways to opportunity in one of the world’s most underserved countries.

Hawala funds represent an essential lifeline for approximately 40 percent of the Somali population. Conservative estimates place the value of these remittances at $1.3 billion per year in a country starved for foreign capital and investment. Money transfers play an outsized role in the economy and commercial life of Somalia due to the absence of an established banking sector. Indeed, they represent the sole channel for businesses and nonprofit organizations like ARAHA to carry out projects on the ground. Disruption of this crucial pillar of the Somali economy will destabilize millions of families, as well as the country’s fragile social and political concord.

This crisis need not come to pass. Federal regulation ought to robustly encourage collaboration between banks in the US and money transfer operators (MTO) in Somalia. Increasingly, however, it has achieved much the opposite. As banks face mounting bureaucratic hurdles from the Treasury Department regarding work with Somali MTOs, they can no longer afford to provide this essential banking service.

In the interest of guaranteeing economic security and continuity of humanitarian aid for millions in Somalia, ARAHA exhorts the Minnesota congressional delegation and officials in the State and Treasury Departments to intervene. Government should work swiftly to devise more agile regulation or alternative solutions to ensure the livelihood of Somali families and the enduring stability of Somali society.

The people in Somalia rely heavily on funds from international money transfers more than any other source.
Becoming a life saver

ARAHA life Saver Campaign is a peer-to-peer crowd funding campaign on our website designed to help our supporters to launch their own fund raising campaigns to support ARAHA’s projects in the Horn of Africa region.

The following is an interview with one of our donors highlighting the importance of this campaign and why she joined.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?
My name is Leila and I’m from Northern California, married with two kids. I am a registered nurse.

What is your role with EMC?
I’ve been an active member of the Eritrean Muslims Council (EMC) for over 10 years and actively participate in the relief committee. By God’s will, my friends introduced me to projects focused on aiding refugees living in camps in Sudan and I watched video clips such as the “Forgotten Refugees” and more by the Ethar’s organization. This led to EMC brainstorming relief projects we wanted to focus on, eventually leading us to ARAHA and its executive director, Br. Mohamed.

Through the relief committee we have worked on the building and opening of a high school health clinic in a Sudan refugee camp and in partnership with Kind Hearts, assisted in the building of a school library.

I am motivated and encouraged to continue my participation on relief projects by the people doing this work and by those who support the projects with their time, donations and prayer. Most importantly, the increasing support from the community at large, both Eritrean and non-Eritrean that fund our water well projects and our annual Eid gifts for orphans and Ramadan food baskets campaigns.

How has the partnership with ARAHA helped you achieve your goals over the year?
Without a doubt, Arah is a critical factor in our success. They have assisted us in executing our projects and reaching those who need assistance the most. They are dedicated, efficient, and transparent every step of the way. Arah is one of the few organizations that we officially work with to help refugees in the Horn of Africa and I hope we can continue to work together to expand our reach.

Why is it important for you to give back?
As Muslims it is important for us to give back, even if it’s small because when individuals who make small contributions come together, great things can happen. We have seen this with our EMC relief committee and through the partnership with ARAHA.

How has the Life Saver Campaign on our website helped?
The life saver campaign was amazing! Our original goal was to raise $16,000 for the building of two water wells, orphan gifts and food baskets. In three weeks, we raised $22,000, far exceeding our goal! So we had enough to build two water wells and increase the number of orphan gifts and food baskets. The experience gives me hope that there are many people, both Eritrean and non-Eritrean, who are passionate, caring, and willing to give.

The website was really helpful, there was some confusion at the beginning, a lot of donors felt it was not user friendly, it confuses between the general donor and specific life saver campaign donor, which I shared with Arah and they were able to accommodate my request.

What would you say to someone who is interested in starting their own life saver campaign on our site?
You should go for it! You can really make a difference!

What inspires you about ARAHA?
ARAHA is a pleasure to work with. They answer my questions promptly, provide timely updates, and delivered full reports at the end of projects. They are licensed with official tax ID which gives everyone a peace of mind.

Any other comments?
I thank God for giving me the opportunity and ability to give back and work with amazing people. A special thanks to the EMC leadership for supporting the many relief projects I have worked on over the years and ARAHA’s team for helping me every single step of the way!

I thank all those who helped during the campaign, whether that was through donating or spreading the word.

Choose to make a difference, choose to change a life, and choose to help a child.
For years ARAHA has worked with communities like churches, synagogues, and mosques, to raise awareness and funds for the Horn of Africa Region. But we wanted to extend that to something more tangible, something we can instil confidence, and inspire the community with. We wanted to empower them by providing a direct link to the impact being made with the projects and partnerships.

This is how Faith in Action was established. A campaign in which we work with communities to help them select an impact project such as water well, or even establish a sister village in which they can perform multiple projects for greater impact.

One of the first to take on this campaign was the Northwest Islamic Community Center (NWICC) in Plymouth, Minnesota. “We want to make sure that we can feel where we are making a difference.” Said Tamim Saidi, a pharmacist by profession, and a board member of NWICC. Mr. Saidi was one of the key members of the Islamic center to champion this campaign and bring in a new way of making a difference.

“We wanted to have something that we could put our anchor on, and say ‘this is our sister village’ ” Mr. Saidi said passionately. Today, NWICC has taken Harirad Village in the northwestern part of Somalia as it’s sister village. The consecutive years of drought in this region has crippled this village. With a population of about 4,000 people, who mostly depend on livestock, this partnership couldn’t come at a better time.

With NWICC’s efforts and ongoing campaign for the village, they were able to fund a water well serving 300 families, fed over 100 families, and sponsored 3 orphans. It is partnerships like these can move to inspire people and communities. When you build a bridge across the world between the sponsor and the beneficiaries, the two communities seem to align and the world tends to be a smaller place.

“They don’t know us, we don’t know them, but we are doing this purely for the sake of God”

These are the types of donations, and gifts that go beyond the dollar or the tax benefit. It is build by relationships established across the world; love for your fellow human being, and love for changing some ones life. The like of it is that of homemade food cooked with love by your mother, compared to a restaurant dish - there is no comparison. No mater how fancy that restaurant dish may be, nothing can replace the special ingredient of love. This is why the Faith in Action Campaign and the sister village are so important.
The proper Foundation

Malnutrition, and war has always been a discussion point for developing countries, and countries with no or unstable government. But like all matters, many of these problems can be linked back to lack of education. The lack of education goes beyond lack of facilities and supplies. It is a deeper problem rooted in the lack of a proper foundation.

So what is this foundation? This key to education? Women- Yes - women. They are the backbones of our society; they are our mothers, sisters, wives, aunts, and daughters. It is they, if are empowered will raise the standards of the society, it is they if are educated well will pass that on to their children, it is they if are given their rights, will break barriers.

It is no coincidence that countries that put a heavy emphasis on educating, and empowering girls have a higher GDP, are more peaceful and cultured.

This is why ARAHA emphasises so much on educating and empowering young girls and women in the Horn of Africa Region.

A couple of years ago two young energetic girls came to our office with this same idea of empower young girls in the Horn of Africa region. Their main goal was to ensure that girls in the Horn of Africa stayed in school and received the proper education they deserved. They envisioned a world where East African diaspora youth can unite in solving problems of civil strife and famine in their native countries, while advocating for universal education. Thus, the Lighting The Way initiative began.

From the start of the initiative, we moved to build 2 libraries in Somalia serving over 2,000 students. Along with the library, Lighting The Way also delivered support to the university of Gardho by supplying books, sponsoring 20 professors, and assisting 203 university students in the following areas of study; Business Administration (47), Community Development (53), Law (38) Computer Science (40), Public Health (25).

As we continue on this journey of empowering and educating girls, we hope that these projects we do, have a large impact on the shaping of the community. We also hope that you join us in hand to celebrate education by making a contribution one way or the other.
A child is awakened in the morning by the ray of light that pierces through the humble abode they live in. As they sit up from their bed, and the smell of the cool morning dew brushes their nose, they realize that it was here in Sudan, in the Shegerab Refugee Camp that they finished their Elementary school education. And for that period of time, they were not just refugees, they were students. But today, without a secondary school, they assume their identity as a refugee. Going through the motions of life trying to find their path and their place in this world.

Desiring to keep the dreams of these young children alive, ARAHA stepped in and took on the large task of making sure these very children keep their identity as students. With the support of our donors, and partners, we built the first high school in Shegerab Refugee Camp. In a camp that has been around for over 30 years, this was a huge milestone for the community. Understanding that women are the backbones of society, we initially opened the door to educating girls first. In time as we grew, we were able to expand and accommodate boys as well.

Ever since its inception, the school was blessed to have over 95 students graduating—several of them bound for college—it has become a cornerstone of this humble community in Sudan.

As the school grows, we are faced with the difficult challenge of adequately accommodating all students. Due to this, our high school is in danger of closing. Today, we are embarking on a mission to further expand our school by building at least five new classrooms to give opportunities to more kids who want to be more than refugees.

To make this happen, we are raising $50,000 to cover the cost. If you choose to give, the impact of your gift will not be temporary; it will be a lasting donation that will serve the Shegerab community for many generations, and kids can wake up every morning as students.
WHAT? is ARAHA’s mission

ARAHA strives to alleviate human suffering and build self-reliant communities, by providing humanitarian aid and empowering individuals in the Horn of Africa and here at home.

WHERE? do we work

SOMALIA
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
SUDAN/ERITREA

WHY? the Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa has become the land of hunger, war, famine, and disease. It is one of the poorest regions in the world, and ongoing droughts continue to plague this region. Long wars and ethnic conflicts have further complicated the already deplorable situation.

WHEN? was ARAHA started

ARAHA was formed in the year 2000. For over a decade, ARAHA has been delivering the essentials necessary to provide relief to those suffering in the region from drought, disease, hunger and illiteracy. ARAHA also helps families lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty by developing opportunities for them to generate income and educate their children.

HOW? do we help

ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP

Millions of children are orphaned due to war, famine, HIV/AIDS, and drought in the Horn of Africa. Our sponsorship provides basic food, clothing, and school fees to ensure that children who have lost their parents are able to stay in school and have hope for a better future.

SELF RELIANCE

ARAHA has developed several projects like water tankers and dairy cows which promote self-reliance by helping beneficiaries generate an income. By making their own money, families don’t need to wait for another round of emergency aid to feed or clothe their children.

THE NUMBERS

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ARAHA’s goal is to give families the opportunity to help break the cycle of poverty in the Horn of Africa through the building and maintenance of schools and computer labs, distributing textbooks and other essential supplies, and paying teacher salaries.

Over 50,000 people are served by ARAHA’s food distributions each year. We employ a rigorous process of working with local officials and trusted community representatives to identify the specific families that would benefit the most from our regular food programs.

ARAHA works tirelessly to help those in the Horn who struggle to find water on a daily basis. Thousands of people and livestock now have easy access to water that is necessary to sustain life, thanks to the dozens of shallow, hand-dug wells ARAHA builds each year.

ARAHA brings relief to thousands in East Africa when drought, disease, or famine come to the region. Whether it’s setting up a mobile cholera clinic on the ground or delivering emergency water rations during severe drought seasons, our goal is to reach as many people as possible when disaster strikes the Horn.

We have developed this program to explore the uses of solar energy in the Horn of Africa. The Solar Stove is a great start as we look forward to other projects such as solar lighting.

The very well-being of our beneficiaries relies heavily upon sustaining good health. We have distributed medical supplies and built our first nursing school in 2014.

ARAHA got its start in 2000 when concerned individuals decided that they could do something to help the people suffering in the Horn of Africa. They reached out to their friends and families for donations to start their first projects and used a home office for the administrative operations. Without the visionary leadership and hard work of these founders, ARAHA would not be here today.

From the first person to pledge their support over ten years ago to the youth dropping cash into the boxes at conventions and events, every single ARAHA donor is an honored and valued part of this organization. We can’t say thank you enough to the thousands of people throughout the years who have put their trust in ARAHA to help those in need in the Horn of Africa region.

ARAHA volunteers built this organization and continue to support our work in many ways. Whether helping to collect donations, stuffing envelopes for our mailings to our supporters, or staffing our tables at bazaars, the continued dedication of our volunteers is critical to our success.

Our operations have grown significantly over the years, leading to the hire of full and part-time staff both here at the headquarter office as well as in our field offices in Africa. The people employed by ARAHA bring passion to their important work and carry a sense of obligation to the people we serve. Their contributions cannot be overstated.

Support ARAHA by giving what you can to save lives in the Horn of Africa.

Be a part of ARAHA by lending some time, energy, and skills to our work.

Spread the word about ARAHA to your friends, family and colleagues.

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ARAHA is a nonprofit humanitarian organization based in Minneapolis, MN. For over a decade, the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa has been delivering the essentials necessary to provide relief to those suffering in the region from drought, disease, hunger and illiteracy. ARAHA also helps families lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty by developing opportunities for them to generate income and educate their children.

ARAHA provides humanitarian aid where it is needed; builds family shelters and community wells; administers a program that sponsors orphans and families; supports education; and collects and distributes charitable donations.

ARAHA's programs serve those in need regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, religion, or any other discriminatory factor.

ARAH is a registered 501(c)3 organization and, as such, all donations are tax-deductible. Federal Tax ID #41-1989714.