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2012
Repatriation
Helping families go home after the famine.
Refugee camps are meant to be temporary solutions for displaced people. Contrary to their intended purpose, these camps have become the alternative homeland for many generations. Dadaab Camp for Somalis in Kenya and the Salmeen/Umsagada camps for Eritreans in Sudan are some examples of refugee camps that have become established communities. Some of these camps are over 40 years old.

Camps are not set up to enable refugees to be productive and sustain themselves through farming or other means that generate income—their residents rely fully on external aid. Refugee camps change the lifestyle of a people from being independent and productive to a life of dependency on others. At ARAHA, we believe strongly that refugee camps should be a temporary solution, not a permanent home. That is why we’ve launched our repatriation program for displaced families.

The famine in Somalia was officially declared over in January of this year. But thousands of families remain displaced in Mogadishu after living in desperate conditions for nearly a year. Our repatriation campaign aims to send these families back to their homes where they can plant crops, replenish their livestock, and begin their lives again. Many have homes on some of the most fertile land in Africa.

So far, since March, we’ve sent 150 families home along with food, household items, and some financial assistance to help them get back on their feet. Special care is being taken to ensure that families go back to safe and secure regions where rainfall has been sufficient for a successful crop to be planted. The program also includes two follow-up food distributions to repatriated families to help sustain them while they re-establish their homes and farms. Your support is needed to continue this critical project. Please give to our repatriation project today and help a family start their lives again.

Mohamed Idris

ARAH Headquarter News

What We’ve Been Up To...

ARAH Action Forum
On January 22 we held our first of a series of Action Forums to engage the community in discussions on issues related to the Horn of Africa. Famine prevention was the topic of the day, and panelists who had visited the region during the famine shared their experience and took questions from the audience. Watch for announcements of our next forum soon and take action!

Our New Website!
An organization’s website is their window to the world. We’re excited to share our new dynamic (and beautiful) site with you at www.araha.org. Please take a look and let us know what you think of the new design. We’ve also made online giving even easier with our improved donation system—make a contribution today to help support our work in the Horn.

Our New Staff!
To meet our strategic planning goal of diversifying our funding sources, we’ve added two new staff to the ARAHA team. Emily Pohl joins us as our full-time Development Coordinator and Yura Fora will work part-time as Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator. Please welcome Emily and Yura to ARAHA!

2011 Audit a Success
Financial health is the cornerstone of a strong organization. We’re proud to announce that the independent firm we hired to review last year’s finances have given us a clean bill of fiscal health following their rigorous one-month audit.

A Visit from the Turkish Embassy
We were honored to be invited to meet with Turkey’s Deputy Ambassador to the US during his visit to Minnesota this past April. After a brief meeting we presented a certificate of appreciation for Turkey’s commitment to helping the people of the Horn of Africa.

Board member Jaylani Hussein presenting a certificate of thanks.
**A Place to Call Home**

**ARAHA’s New Building!**
After 12 years of operation, we have a new permanent home to call our own. We’re excited to announce the purchase of a building to be the base of our headquarters office.

This new building will allow us to use more donor dollars for programs and services instead of monthly rent payments. It will also allow us to expand our programs and offer more services to our beneficiaries here and in the Horn of Africa.

**Open House: Saturday, Sept. 15**
Help us celebrate the new space while getting an update on our programs and projects for the year. You’ll get a tour of the building as well as a chance to meet other ARAHA donors, supporters, and neighbors who drop by during the event. Light refreshments will be served.

What: ARAHA Open House  
When: Saturday, September 15; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Where: Our new building!  
            3900 Jackson St. NE  
            Columbia Heights, MN 55421  

RSVP to info@araha.org now to let us know you’re coming. Bring your friends and family for this casual get-to-know-you neighborhood event!

**The Ultimate Sacrifice**

**Somalia**
This February, during some fighting near the border with Ethiopia, the home of our Mogadishu Office secretary Kader Adan’s parents was hit by a mortar shell. Both of his parents were killed instantly in the blast. This terrible incident is an example of how innocent people suffer due to the fighting taking place in the Horn of Africa. Our condolences are with Kader and his family.

**The Perils of Freedom**

**Eritrea, Sudan**
Thousands of young Eritreans are fleeing their country escaping unlimited military service, human rights violations, and religious persecution, according to the UNHCR. Many are crossing Sudan and Egypt to get to Israel in search of a better life. For too many, this journey ends in unthinkable tragedy as they are either shot by border guards or held for ransom by smugglers. Ransoms range between $5,000 to 30,000 per person. A family here in the Twin Cities recently had to send $10,000 to release their loved one. If they cannot afford to pay, many are beaten, or worse, their organs are taken for sale on the black market and they will die as a result. Many Eritrean and East African refugees held for ransom by border tribes are chained, deprived of food, and tortured using extreme methods to force friends and families abroad to make the payments. Refugees captured by law enforcement are subject to deportation back to Eritrea where they face imprisonment.

This ongoing tragedy has been affecting Eritreans and other refugees worldwide for months. ARAHA is currently working to raise awareness of the issue and to explore ways we can help the refugees on a humanitarian level.

The new building gives us the room we need to continue growing!

These refugees sleep 12 to a tent in the Shegerab camp in Sudan.
Food and Water

A Record Season for Wells

Water, Water Everywhere
In 2010, we built an astounding 46 new water wells in the Horn of Africa, a total that still surprises us today considering the amount of manual labor that goes into digging just one 15-20 meter-deep well. These wells take a lot of human energy to dig by hand, but they’re the only practical solution in remote areas where large machinery can’t be brought in due to the lack of roadways and other access issues. Hand-dug wells are also affordable, costing between $2,000-$5,000 compared to nearly $50,000 for most deep, borehole wells.

This year we’ve already dug 43 wells and it’s only June! We’re well on-track to doubling 2010’s record and we couldn’t be more excited about the prospect of tens of thousands of people having access to clean, safe drinking water for the first time due to our efforts and your support. This access is most important to women and children, who have traditionally been burdened by the responsibility of walking for hours each day to collect water from dangerous sources. With a close-by well, girls can once again go to school and mothers can have more time for social and educational pursuits of their own.

Envisioning an East Africa with enough water to sustain its families and farms is part of our long-term goal of giving the Horn tools to break the cycle of poverty and reliance on humanitarian aid.

Feeding the Forgotten

Asaita Camp for Eritrean Refugees, Ethiopia
Eritrean refugees are struggling all over the Horn of Africa to survive. The Asaita Camp in Ethiopia, where a group of refugees from the Afar ethnic group lives, is a place that has been virtually forgotten by aid groups despite its proximity to the borders with Djibouti and Eritrea. To make matters worse, the camp has no shade from trees, no localized water source, and no prospects for growing crops or supporting livestock. People are forced to sell most of their wheat rations each month for other basics like firewood for cooking, utensils to eat with, and clothing.

After hearing about this camp and seeing pictures of the situation the refugees are in, Life for Relief and Development funded a project to send food and household items to the Afar refugees. After we distributed these items to 5,000 people in the camp, one resident felt compelled to tell us how grateful he felt saying, “People always come, take pictures of this place, and then leave. No one ever helped us before.”

Women line up to try out the new well which will change their lives.

A disabled man talks about the great need for help at the camp.

An elderly refugee gratefully receives his food and non-food items.
Education

Making a Great School Better

Shegerab High School for Girls, Sudan

Our high school for girls in the Shegerab refugee camps of Eastern Sudan is a model facility which has inspired other groups to build schools in the region as well as the UNHCR to fund one year of the school’s operating costs. Even so, improvements can always be made. One amenity that wasn’t in the original budget is an outdoor meeting area which provides a gathering space for meetings, breaks, meals, and other activities while protecting the students and staff from the harsh sun of Sudan. Through a generous donation by Pen and Paper Organization in Australia, we were able to build a pavilion to meet all of these needs and more. We will continue to improve these and our other educational facilities whenever possible so that students can have the best chance for success in their educational career.

Wabaro Primary School, Ethiopia

In rural Ethiopia, where a trip to the capital can take two full days by car over rocky country roads, sending your children to school in urban areas is an impossibility. The lack of even a primary education for kids in places like this means their opportunities for success later in life are severely limited. Residential high schools away from home are an option, but only if the student is able to meet the qualifications.

We are pleased to announce our construction of a primary school in Wabaro village in Bale Zone, Ethiopia. This school, which is supported by the local community members, will give children in several villages surrounding Wabaro the chance to learn basic skills, prepare for high school, and aspire to continue to the university level. Please join us in thanking Life for Relief and Development for their generous contribution to the school.

Students and staff gather to commemorate the new addition to the school, which will be used for breaks, meals, and events.

The pavilion allows for open-air activities away from the sun.

Ground is broken for the new school in May; The ground team poses next to the nearly completed school just two months later.
Sustainability

Dairy Cows

Shegerab School’s Sustainability Project
Building a school in a refugee camp is one step toward educating a community. Sustaining the school so that it can stay open is another step in that process. Teacher salaries, supplies, and equipment all cost money, and there are no taxes to pay for these expenses in the Horn of Africa.

Our creative solution to the sustainability problem for the Shegerab High School for Girls in Sudan is to build a dairy farm. The sale of milk and other products will provide income for the school as well as jobs in the community.

You can grant a dairy cow for this project or for an individual family. Contact us for more information or give at araha.org.

ARAHA can be reached at:
Phone:   (763) 270-5351
Toll-free: (866) 99-ARAHA
Fax:    (763) 270-5349
E-mail:    info@araha.org
Web:    www.araha.org

Developing Opportunities

These projects promote self-reliance by helping beneficiaries generate an income. Change a family’s prospects today—grant an income-generating project at www.araha.org.

Donkey Cart
This vehicle is used to transport goods and people. It can generate enough income to cover the expenses of a family of 6 to 7 people.
Cost: $700

Dairy Cow
A dairy cow will provide milk to a family’s children and will allow them to sell milk to cover their monthly expenses.
Cost: $500

Dairy Goats
These goats become a source of milk for a poor family and their children and also allow them to generate a small income from selling milk. Cost: $200 (for two goats)

Water Tanker
A water tanker allows a family to secure their own drinking water and sell water in their community. The expected income that the family receives from the water tanker is $100 a month.
Cost: $750

Our best website ever!
We’ve designed a brand-new site to better represent our programs and help you, our supporter, stay on top of ARAHA news and events. Check it out!
www.araha.org.
How to Get Involved

**Sponsor an Orphan:**
Help Break the Cycle of Poverty

The Horn of Africa has become home to ongoing war, diseases such as HIV, droughts, and famines which have increased the number of orphaned children in recent years from thousands to millions throughout the Horn of Africa.

For only $40 a month you can sponsor an orphan. We believe that helping the orphans is key to developing long-term solutions for the orphans and their communities.

Visit [www.araha.org](http://www.araha.org) to view profiles of orphans on the waiting list.

**Save the Date:**
Annual Dinner on November 17

Come celebrate with us! You are invited to our gala event as we celebrate the accomplishments of ARAHA from the past year as well as experience the rich cultures of the Horn of Africa through spoken-word poetry, visual exhibits, and an inspirational keynote address.

For more information or to reserve a seat (space is limited), please e-mail us at info@araha.org or call 763-270-5351.

**REPATRIATION CAMPAIGN**

Helping Families Go Home After the Famine

Ali’s family reached Mogadishu ten months ago by foot during the famine. The family has been living in a tent no bigger than a minivan since then. His fertile land back home in Baidobo Bay will go to waste if he cannot return home this year.

**What you can do:**

- Full Repatriation Package for one family: $500
- Provide food for 3 months to a family: $300
- Pay for a family’s transportation back home: $50
- Buy a Repatriation T-shirt to show your support: $10

Call (763) 270-5351 or give online at [www.araha.org](http://www.araha.org) today!
A little girl must take care of her baby brother after losing both parents to the famine, making her a mother long before her time.
**WHAT? is ARAHA’s mission**

ARAHA’s mission is to strive to alleviate the suffering from hunger, illiteracy, disease, and poverty in the Horn of Africa as well as to help the East African community in Minnesota.

**WHERE? do we work**

- **Somalia**
- **Sudan/Eritrea**
- **Kenya**
- **Ethiopia**

**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.

United Nations studies estimate that 13 million people in the Horn of Africa are in urgent need of food and other humanitarian assistance.

**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.

**Income Generation**

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**

- **Annual Revenue**
  - 2001: $16k
  - 2002: $37k
  - 2003: $54k
  - 2004: $29k
  - 2005: $45k
  - 2006: $209k
  - 2007: $339k
  - 2008: $684k
  - 2009: $760k
  - 2010: $1095k
  - 2011: $1,26m

- **No. of Projects**
  - 2001: 0
  - 2002: 4
  - 2003: 7
  - 2004: 6
  - 2005: 10
  - 2006: 17
  - 2007: 20
  - 2008: 27
  - 2009: 30
  - 2010: 30
  - 2011: 32

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Over 50,000 people are served by ARAHAs 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.

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About the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA)

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.

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