TOP STORIES:

Ongoing Famine-Relief Campaign

Somalia and Ethiopia

ARAHA was first on the scene to help the displaced when the famine broke out last year. Our decade of experience and established presence in the region prompted large organizations like ARC to partner with us to deliver aid to those in need. Families were saved from starvation through food distributions; given materials to make shelters; and provided healthcare items and sanitation facilities to combat disease. This newsletter highlights many of those projects. Most importantly, we made sure the famine victims knew that they were not forgotten by the world. We cannot thank our partners, donors and supporters enough for their continued generosity.

ARAHA Travels to Drought Zone

Seeing is believing, and nowhere is that more true than in a place like the Horn of Africa. To get a first-hand look at the famine, ARAHA staff visited Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia, as well as refugee camps on the border with Ethiopia, from September through November of 2011. The goal of this trip was to assess needs of those displaced and to oversee large-scale relief projects in the region. We were able to get a first-hand look at what works in times of famine, provide much-needed food and supplies to the displaced, and gather information on the current and ongoing needs of the people we serve.

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From the Desk of the Director

We all watched the famine unfold last year. It was the worst drought in the region for over six decades. Over 30,000 children died from severe malnutrition. Hundreds of thousands of families fled their homes in Southern Somalia where the UN declared famine in six regions. These people ended up in Mogadishu, Kenya, and Ethiopia after days or weeks of walking through dangerous barren lands.

During my recent visit to Mogadishu I witnessed horrible devastation among displaced families in areas such as Torabunkaa at the heart of the city. Families were scattered everywhere, forming clusters with no food, water or sanitation. They continue to live in makeshift shelters shaped like nests—you can’t even stand up in them. Most of the kids are unclothed and running around with no school to attend. Upon entering one of these clusters we were overwhelmed with requests for help. I won’t forget the elderly man (maybe in his seventies) who led me to his shelter where his sick wife was staying. He desperately asked us to do something, anything for her. This is not a story of one couple but it is the reality for thousands of families caught in the middle of this crisis. During that visit we were able to help 250 such families with food baskets and items such as blankets, mats, dishes, utensils, water containers and soap.

This was just one of our many programs to aid thousands of families suffering from drought conditions. With the generous help of our donors and partners, ARAHA was able to provide food and non-food items to 16,365 families since our last newsletter. We also built 50 latrines and dug 12 water wells among other projects to benefit the displaced.

The humanitarian crisis is not over in Somalia. There is much that remains to be done. Let’s not forget about the thousands of currently displaced families. Repatriation is our next program, aimed at helping these families go back to their homes and farms to return to a normal life. Would you help us do that?

Mohamed Idris

Latest News

What We’ve Been Up To...

Norway House Peace Expo
On November 15, 2011 ARAHA participated in the Norway House Peace Initiative’s “Dialogue for Peace” expo. The Initiative’s goal is to serve as a global facilitator for dialogue and development of a road map for peace in the 21st Century. We are proud to support this initiative and the work of Norway House.

Famine Relief Dinner a Success
As part of our ongoing and comprehensive famine-relief campaign throughout 2011, we held a fundraising dinner on August 21 to raise awareness of the dire situation in Somalia. In one night we were able to raise over $55,000 to provide emergency food to thousands of families. A big thank you to our staff, board, volunteers, and especially our donors for making this event such a resounding success!

ARAHA in the Media
ARAHA was featured in stories in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, on Minnesota Public Radio, KFAI Community Radio, Fox9 News and KARE 11 within a matter of days at the height of the famine. London’s Sky News even sent a team to visit our office in Minneapolis and record the frenzy of volunteers, phone calls, and visitors we had during that time. The coverage helped us raise awareness of the situation on the ground and share our work with the community.

Adding Staff to Meet the Needs
Over the years, ARAHA has grown from a small operation run by committed volunteers to a strong organization employing several staff. We are now in the process of adding a full-time development coordinator to seek grants and diversify our funding sources. Increasing our capacity to reach out to new and varied supporters will bring us closer to our goal of becoming the nation’s leader in providing relief and development to the Horn of Africa.
Food and Water

Famine-Relief Report

Somalia and Ethiopia
In our last issue we reported that we had fed over 700 families (about 4,200 people) since February 2011. Over the course of our campaign to date, that number has topped 5,000 families.

See the chart to the right for details on each month of our famine-relief campaign’s food basket program since the last newsletter. We would like to extend a special thank you to Life for Relief and Development, Zakat Foundation, the Somali Youth League of San Diego, the American Refugee Committee, the Center for Interfaith Cooperation of Indianapolis, Building Blocks Sisters Youth, and all of the individual fundraisers and donors who gave of their time and generosity to bring relief to the famine victims throughout the campaign.

Feeding the Masses

Food Distribution Totals
The droughts affected the entire Horn of Africa region for months on end last summer and fall. Conditions were the worst the region had seen in 60 years, prompting us to deliver more food than ever before in a three-month period.

The following chart breaks down the food distributions during the peak of the crisis, when six areas of Somalia were declared famine zones, and refugees all over the Horn of Africa suffered as a consequence of the regional droughts.

July
Locations: Somalia and Sudan
Number of Food Baskets: 900 (over 5,400 individuals)

August
Locations: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan
Number of Food Baskets: 1000 (over 6,000 people)

September
Locations: Somalia and Sudan
Number of Food Baskets: 850 (over 5,100 people)

October
Locations: Somalia and Sudan
Number of Food Baskets: 2500 (over 15,000 people)

Total families fed: 5,250 (over 31,500 people)
Note: Most of the food went to famine zones in Somalia.

Mothers appreciate the surprise distribution of food staples.

Trucks begin dropping off thousands of pounds of staple foods.

Women happily receiving food in an Ethiopian refugee camp.
Basic Needs

Famine isn’t About Food Alone

Essential Non-Food Items for Somalia
Families who left their homes on foot in search of food and water left nearly everything they owned behind—most were too weak to carry their children, so belongings weren’t an option. Our famine-relief efforts included supplying displaced families with items like cooking pots, sleeping mats, and soap. These basic supplies allow people a little comfort in a very desperate living situation and ensure their food staples won’t go to waste with no way to prepare meals.

Fighting Disease Along With Famine

Latrines Bring Sanitation to Refugee Camp
Displacement and refugee camps often lack the bathroom facilities required to prevent communicable diseases that can spread from the disposal of waste materials. Human dignity is also compromised when people don’t have any private restroom areas to use.

Through a partnership with the American Refugee Committee, we were able to build 50 latrines in the Rajo Camp near the Somali capital of Mogadishu, where over 30,000 displaced people live. These latrines offer privacy for the residents and help reduce the spread of illness by keeping waste materials out of public areas and water supplies, especially when rains return to the region.

Non-food items help people cook, clean, and care for their families.

Success Begins at Home

Family Shelters in Kenya and Somalia
Most displaced families live in huts made from sticks, old clothes and plastic tarps, without room to even stand up inside. Many of these families have five or more children and sometimes are also taking care of elderly relatives or orphans. Providing a permanent home for families like these helps them feel safe and secure in dangerous areas, shelters them from the elements, and gives them a place to store their belongings or even start a home business to generate income.

In the summer and fall of 2011 we built homes for seven families in Somalia and Kenya where refugees have been living in uncertainty for years.

A grateful family poses in front of their new home built by ARAHA.

The new latrines offer privacy and sanitation for refugee families.
Seasonal Programs: Ramadan/Adahi 2011

A Joyous Season in a Year of Famine and Drought

Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya

During the months of August and November 2011, Muslims all over the Horn of Africa celebrated the two holidays of the year: ‘Eid al-Fitr and ‘Eid al-Adha. These two traditions, which focus on showing gratitude for the food we are provided, held an even greater significance this year due to the ongoing famine and drought, which left so many people starving.

Thanks to our generous donors and partners, we were able to distribute over 1,020 family food baskets during Ramadan and provide fresh meat to 7,180 families on the ‘Eid al-Adha days. These gifts not only brought joy to their recipients but may well have saved the lives of thousands facing starvation.

An ‘Eid to Remember for Orphans

Feeding families is a basic and critical component of famine relief, but children also need some distractions from the nonstop worries of daily life, especially during the holidays. One of ARAHA’s annual programs is to provide children with ‘Eid gifts to bring joy to their holiday and help relieve the stress of life in an orphanage or refugee camp. This year, the gifts included toys, personal care items, and of course, fashion accessories for the girls and electronic games for the boys.
**Sustainability**

**Donkey Carts**

*A low-tech, high-profit family business*

In most of the areas where we work, motorized vehicles are out of the reach of everyday villagers. Roads are also undeveloped and make travel by car or truck very difficult. This is why donkeys are used as the main source of transportation in rural areas of Horn of Africa. We highlighted our water tanker project in the last issue, which allows families to deliver and sell water in their villages.

The donkey cart project is very similar and consists of a donkey and a large flat-bed cart that can be used to transport people or goods for a fee, generating enough income each month to cover their household expenses including food, clothing, and school fees.

**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: $150 (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*

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**ARAHA can be reached at:**

Phone:  (612) 781-7646  
Toll-free:  (866) 99-ARAHA  
Fax:  (612) 781-7653  
E-mail: info@araha.org  
Web: www.araha.org

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**Do you “like” us?**

ARAHA’s on facebook! Check out our page and “like” us to stay on top of important updates. Find our page under American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa.
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.

**Take Action: Put your Passion to Work for the Horn of Africa!**

Dozens of people just like you held successful dinners, car washes, bake sales, and other events all over the country, raising over $47,500 in 2011 to advance ARAHA’s mission of alleviating suffering in East Africa. Contact us today to learn how you can do the same. We’ll provide publications, promotional items, and other resources to help make your event a success!

**Contact us for more information or to view profiles of orphans on the waiting list.**

**Host an ARAHA fundraiser at your school, club, or community event!**

Many business owners have sponsored orphans without paying a penny from their pockets. How? If we collect an average of $40 a month from your store’s donation box, this will designate you as a supporter of an orphan in East Africa. You will receive a report from us about your orphan every six months.

**Sustaining Support for Orphans one Box at a Time**

Donation boxes are one of the revenue sources that support the orphan program. We would like to invite you to participate in this noble effort and place a donation box in your store or a store in your neighborhood.

Many business owners have sponsored orphans without paying a penny from their pockets. How? If we collect an average of $40 a month from your store’s donation box, this will designate you as a supporter of an orphan in East Africa. You will receive a report from us about your orphan every six months.

**We can bring a box to your site upon request. Call: (612) 781-7646 or 1-866-99ARAHA**
Featured Photo: Thank You

An elderly woman stops to express her gratitude for the food delivered by ARAHA in her refugee camp.
**WHAT?**

**is ARAHA’s mission**

ARAH$’$ 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.

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**WHERE?**

**do we work**

[Map showing countries: Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan/Erithrea, Kenya]

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**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.

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**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**

ARAH$ 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.

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**WHEN?**

**was ARAHA started**

ARAH$ 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.

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**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.

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.

e-mail us: info@araha.org
call us: (612) 781-7646 or 1-866-99ARAHAtoll-free
write us: P.O. Box 141117, Minneapolis, MN 55414-9981

www.araha.org

the results

95 Water wells built
Food distributed to over 273,000 people

Over $10 Million in medicine and medical supplies shipped

Built the first high school for girls in a refugee camp in Sudan

Established computer labs in 5 high schools

More than 100 orphans sponsored

470 families granted income-generating projects

Hundreds of families given clothes, school supplies, shelters, and more.
About the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA)

ARAHA is a non-profit 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.