

# Mercy News



A Publication of Mercy - USA for Aid and Development, Inc.

October 2008

## Mercy-USA Receives Million Dollar US Government Grant to Help Women and Children in Somalia



*A young girl being weighed at an M-USA feeding center in Somalia.*

On July 14, 2008, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development received new grant funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This funding increases our current grant to \$1,064,224 and will help us provide health, nutrition, fresh water and sanitation assistance to over 193,000 vulnerable persons in eight districts in south-central Somalia. Beneficiaries include 36,000 children under five, over 5,600 pregnant women and nursing mothers, as well as over 22,800 internally displaced persons.

This expanded grant will help us to support six Mother/Child Health Clinics (including opening three new ones). It will also support twelve feeding centers (including opening nine new ones) for moderately and severely malnourished children. Additionally, Mercy-USA will construct fourteen new water wells and rehabilitate fourteen others.

The six Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centers are in the districts of Buloburte, Jalalaqsi and Beletweyne in the Hiraan Region and in the districts of Jowhar, Aadan Yaabale and Mahadaay in the Middle Shabelle Region. These MCH centers will primarily serve 3,840 pregnant and lactating women and 19,200 children in these isolated communities. Medical services provided will include prevention and treatment of malaria, diarrhea and other infectious diseases, immunization, pre-natal and post-natal care, as well as health education. The education activities will focus on best practices at the household level to prevent common illnesses and infections.

The seven Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program (OTP) centers and five Supplemental Feeding Program (SFP) centers are in the districts of Buloburte, Jalalaqsi and Beletweyne in the Hiraan Region and in the districts of Jowhar and

Jilib in the Middle Shabelle and Middle Juba Regions respectively. These OTP and SFP centers will primarily serve 31,400 children and 4,720 pregnant and lactating women in these isolated communities. The services provided will include emergency and therapeutic feeding for moderately and severely malnourished children, de-worming, provision of vitamins, immunization and nutrition education activities. To promote improved feeding practices, Mercy-USA will carry out food demonstration exercises to train mothers on the preparation of balanced meals using locally available food.

Twenty-eight newly constructed and rehabilitated wells will provide safe drinking water to over 46,200 persons and their estimated 365,000 livestock in the districts of Jowhar, Aadan Yaabale and Mahadaay in the Middle Shabelle Region and in Ceel Bur District in the Galgaduud Region. Mercy-USA will also chlorinate these wells and other water sources in Hiraan, Middle Juba, Galgaduud and Middle Shabelle that provide safe drinking water to over 193,000 people. Additionally, Mercy-USA will provide hygiene education to communities and help them to dig garbage disposal pits and arrange clean up campaigns in areas around the newly constructed or rehabilitated water points. Communities will also be assisted to form water and sanitation committees to supervise all hygiene-related matters.

Somalia has one of the highest child and maternal mortality rates in the world. One in eight children dies before reaching the age of five and 1,600 women die for every 100,000 live births.

A recent study by UNICEF estimates that 83,000 children in the central and southern parts of the country, where Mercy-USA is working, are suffering from malnutrition and 13,500 of these children are severely malnourished and at risk of dying.

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## *Fresh Water for Somalia's Children and Their Families*

From October to December 2008, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is planning to dig seven new wells in the Jilib and Jowhar districts of southern Somalia and to repair and improve eleven existing wells. These wells will provide fresh drinking water to approximately 13,435 families (about 80,600 persons).

Access to safe water, a critical factor in health and child survival, is a major problem in much of the world and especially in Somalia. The United Nations estimates that only about one-third of families in Somalia have access to clean drinking water. Since 1998, Mercy-USA has dug, repaired and rehabilitated 95 wells there.



*Children in Somalia forced to collect drinking water from a muddy hole.*

## *Board of Directors*

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Sidon

### **Somalia**

Mogadishu

## ***Vocational Training for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Palestinian Refugee Youth***



*A computer-software training course in the Beddawi Palestinian Refugee Camp in Lebanon.*



*A computer-hardware maintenance course for orphans and other vulnerable Palestinian refugee youth in Lebanon.*

Since April 2008, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development, in partnership with the Women's Program Center in the Beddawi Palestinian Refugee Camp near Tripoli, Lebanon, has been providing vocational training to orphans and other vulnerable youth. About 100 students are enrolled in courses that range in length from three to six months. Courses include basic computer software, computer and cell phone maintenance, hair cutting, photography, sewing and basic accounting. In April 2008, Mercy-USA also provided the women's center with an electric generator, two computers, a copy machine, two heat/air-conditioning units, and supplies specific for the vocational training courses.

## Helping Orphans in Indonesia to Support Themselves



*Orphans in Indonesia studying English.*

From November 2007 to April 2008, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development carried out training courses for orphans in Aceh Province, Indonesia. They studied English or commonly used office computer software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and internet skills). The objective of these courses was to provide the orphans with knowledge that will assist them in finding employment. About 30 orphans successfully completed these courses, which were held at Mercy-USA's office and two orphanages, the Muhammadiyah and Penyantun Islam Orphan Centers.

## Pediatric and Obstetric Care for Vulnerable Lebanese Villagers



*An elderly woman receiving medicines at the Mercy-USA supported clinic in Kfar Chouba, Lebanon.*

Since May 2008, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development has been supporting enhanced pediatric and obstetric care for vulnerable women and children in the village of Kfar Chouba in south Lebanon. Mercy-USA is providing the local clinic with a pediatrician and an obstetrician, as well as needed medicines.



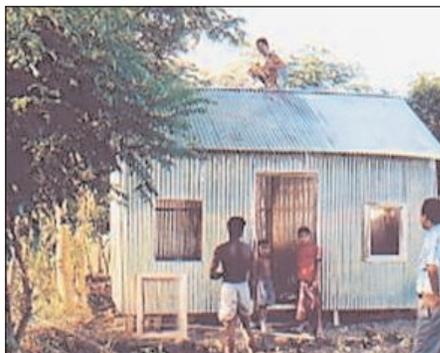
*A toddler waiting to be examined at the Kfar Chouba clinic.*

In April 2008, Mercy-USA provided the Kfar Chouba clinic with an ultrasound examination machine and related peripherals, an examination chair for women, a delivery chair, a Doppler pulse monitor for checking fetal heartbeats, and other obstetric and gynecological equipment.

## Helping Cyclone Survivors in Bangladesh to Rebuild

From May to November 2008, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development, through our local partner Assistance for Humanitarian Development (AHD), is helping 925 cyclone-affected families in Bangladesh to rebuild their lives. This project, which is being implemented in the sub-districts of Patuakhali Sadar and Morelganj, involves the construction of 40 new homes, the digging of 77 water wells and the building of 135 sanitary latrines. As of July 2008, 24 houses, 77 wells and 56 sanitary latrines have been completed.

In November 2007, Cyclone Sidr struck Bangladesh with winds in excess of 150 miles per hour and a 16-foot tidal surge. This devastating storm, the worst to strike Bangladesh since 1991, killed about 3,500 people and left approximately three million others homeless.



*A cyclone-destroyed house rebuilt by Mercy-USA funding in Bangladesh.*



*A woman in Bangladesh enjoying her new well.*

## Saving Malnourished Children in Somalia



*M-USA staff in Somalia checking the weight of a baby.*

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development -with the support of USAID, UNICEF, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and our generous individual private donors- is saving malnourished children in southern and central Somalia.

Mercy-USA operates seven supplemental feeding centers in Jilib District and the Hiraan Region. These centers identify and treat malnourished children, distribute food and provide immunization and vitamin A.

From January 2007 to August 2008, Mercy-USA's feeding centers examined and treated over 15,800 malnourished children. These children and their families are also supplied with take-home food rations provided by UNICEF and WFP.

In addition, M-USA's nutrition workers educate pregnant women and nursing mothers about proper nutrition through demonstration exercises that focus on the preparation of well-balanced meals using locally available nutritious foods.

## Helping Displaced Persons in Somalia

During June 2008, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development, with funding from CARE International and USAID, provided household kits to 3,000 displaced families (over 18,000 persons) sheltered in twelve villages. Each kit contained three blankets, one plastic sheet, two sleeping mats, one kitchen set (a cooking pan, two plates and a plastic washing basin), eighteen bars of soap and two jerry cans.

Mercy-USA, with funding from the Italian NGO COSV and the European Union, is supplying emergency water and sanitation services to two camps (Marino and Nucman) for internally displaced people (IDPs). During April and May 2008, M-USA constructed two water wells and ten sanitary latrines for 1,000 IDP families - about 6,000 persons.

Mercy-USA also established a health post in the Nucman camp that is providing immunization, pre-natal and post-natal care, and other health services to the 400 IDP families present there. Additionally, M-USA has organized hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns for families in both camps. Months of clashes in Mogadishu and other areas have displaced hundreds of thousands, according to the United Nations, worsening the humanitarian crisis that has ravaged the country for sixteen years.



*A baby being examined at Mercy-USA's health post in the Nucman IDP camp in Somalia.*



*A displaced woman in Somalia receiving household items.*

## *Mercy-USA is participating in the CFC and State Employee Campaigns in California, Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey*

For the tenth consecutive year, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development (CFC identification number 10914) is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), an annual campaign that encourages United States government employees to contribute to their favorite eligible charities.

Mercy-USA is also participating in the annual campaigns for State government employees in California, Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey. If you are a US government employee or an employee of CA, IL, MI or NJ, kindly choose Mercy-USA for Aid and Development as your designated charity and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Please contact the CFC/State Campaign representative in your office or on your base for more information on how to participate. If you do not work for the US government or one of those four states but know friends or family who do, please ask them to designate Mercy-USA as their charity.

### *Your Used Vehicle Can Help Those in Need*

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development participates in the Charity Motors Car Donation Program. This program accepts vehicle donations (including cars, trucks, motor homes, boats and motorcycles) in most States and provides free towing services. Your donation is tax deductible. Charity Motors will issue a tax receipt to you for the fair market value of your vehicle.

The process is simple. Just contact Charity Motors toll free at 1-888-908-2277 and designate Mercy-USA for Aid and Development as the charity to receive the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle.

### **Your Employer May Match Your Donations to Mercy-USA**

Your employer may increase your gift through its corporate matching program. Many companies in the US and Canada will match the donations of their employees, retirees, and employees' spouses.

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development has received matching gifts from companies like American Express, Cisco Systems, Citicorp, Ericson, Microsoft, Pfizer, Sun Microsystems, etc.

Corporate matching gifts are a very easy way to stretch the benefits of your contribution. Please ask your employer today, if they have such a matching gift program.

Also, if your company has a "United Way" campaign that allows you to direct your contribution to charities other than United Way, please take advantage of the opportunity to do so. If your company restricts giving to a list of "approved" charities, please ask your human resources department how you can add Mercy-USA to that list.

We have found that merely having an employee ask to include his or her special charity to the list is usually all it takes. For more information on this and other alternative ways to give, please call us at 1-800-55-MERCY.

# For Your Information

- Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is certified as one of the Best in America: The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to the members of Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, and program and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the US Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world. Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal.
- The privacy of our donors is of paramount importance to Mercy-USA. Therefore, we do not sell, lend or share our mailing or email lists with anyone.
- Mercy-USA sends donation receipts monthly. However, if you would like to receive your receipt on a quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis, please let us know.
- To make your giving experience as easy as possible, Mercy-USA is able to accept donations by many methods. However, automatic withdrawal from your bank account is the easiest and the least expensive way to give. If you would like to use this easy cost-saving method, please fill out and return the form on the back of this newsletter.
- If you move, please provide Mercy-USA with a complete updated address and telephone number. This will help us serve you better.
- Please let us know if you receive duplicate mailings. This will save us time and money and help your gift to have an even greater impact on those who need it most.
- Providing us with your Donor ID number (the number on your tax receipt and on the exterior envelope above your name) saves us time and money in processing your donation.
- Mercy-USA has developed a very thorough and comprehensive listing with GuideStar (<http://www.guidestar.org>). GuideStar provides a comprehensive Web-based reference tool on charities. Major Web portals use GuideStar information for their online donation systems.



*Founded in 1986, Mercy-USA, for Aid and Development (M-USA), 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. M-USA's projects focus on improving health and promoting economic and educational growth around the world.*

## Special ways to join Mercy-USA in "Helping People Help Themselves"™

These special ways of joining M-USA in this vital effort include:

- 1) encouraging your employer to match your donation, or
- 2) donating stocks, or
- 3) making a bequest.

Please call us at

**1-800-55MERCY**  
(1-800-556-3729)  
to discuss options.

You may also participate in the Automatic Giving Program; a gift of your choice is automatically deducted monthly from your bank or major credit card account (please clip the adjoining form and mail it along with a voided check).

# Contribution / Pledge Form

## Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

One Time Donation     Monthly Donation

\$10     \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check

Credit Card (Fill out Section A)

Bank Auto Withdrawal (Fill out Section B)

Pledge

I give my permission to Mercy-USA/Mercy-USA (Canada) to withdraw from my **Credit Card** or **Bank Account** 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.

## A) Credit Card Information (Charged in US Currency)



Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## B) Banking Information (For Banks in the US Only)

Please include a voided check to avoid any delays due to inaccurate data.

Checking Account

Savings Account

Bank Route (ABA) No. (9 digits) \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Starting with the \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Important!

Please fill out the Personal Information section.  
Kindly send your tax deductible donation made payable to:  
**Mercy-USA for Aid and Development**

US Federal Tax # 38-2846307

44450 Pinetree Drive, Suite 201, Plymouth, MI 48170-3869

or

**Mercy-USA for Aid and Development (Canada)**

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