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# Mercy-USA News

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## Lack of clean water is worsened by Climate Change

Mercy-USA has been building wells in Somalia for almost 25 years, and each year the need increases due to successive droughts now recognized as caused by a warming planet.

The people of Somalia are

historically pastorlists who raise their families on the strength of their livestock herds. Traditionally, a family's wealth is counted in the number of head in their herd and not in currency. *Continued...*

### 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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#### Other Mercy-USA Offices

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Tuzla, Bosnia	Mogadishu, Somalia
Bogor, Indonesia	Antakya, Turkey
Nairobi, Kenya	



**Mercy-USA**  
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

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# Somalia's Climate Change Challenge

*Continued from page 1...* Somalia has two rainy seasons known as the Gu' that falls from April until June and the rains known as the Deyr typically fall from October until December. Farmers and pastoralists thrived on this predictable weather cycle for generations.

The combination of armed conflict and political unrest for the last 30 years has created an extremely vulnerable population. Without a strong government infrastructure to respond to natural disasters, families are at the mercy of the weather. Over the last two decades severe drought has struck Somalia three times: in 2007-2008, 2011-2012 and 2015-2017.

When families lose their livestock or are unable to farm their land, they're forced to seek humanitarian aid in overcrowded camps for displaced persons that further exacerbates the vulnerable condition of millions.

Now the country is experiencing weather extremes like failing spring rains and exceptionally heavy fall rains that create floods – an entirely new kind of devastation.

Mercy-USA has been building wells around villages and in cities for nearly a quarter century and has the expertise to respond to the worsening impact of climate change with permanent wells; keeping babies safe from waterborne diseases while protecting women and girls from long daily treks into the bush in search of water. Our wells are built to safeguard the drinking water from animal contamination while providing a safe manner in which to water livestock keeping a community strong.

Donors can provide a permanent well for a community in Somalia for \$3,500. This lasting gift of clean water will help lessen the impact of climate change on a community for generations.



Mercy-USA serves the community of Bali-Mataan, located in the "horn" of Somalia where the existing village is hosting at least 100 internally displaced families from other areas. The need for nearby safe access to clean water was a necessity and we have built wells there to support the clean water needs of families in Bali-Mataan, including 13-year-old Amira. She is the subject of a short film about a typical day in her life before and after the well was built. The dangerous 2-hour morning trek to find water became an easy 10 minute walk after the well was built. Before this easy and safe access to clean water, Amira missed her morning classes and was always behind in her studies, but now she has all the time a young girl needs to learn, study and play with family and friends. Look for the video in April 2021 on the Mercy-USA website, [mercycusa.org](http://mercycusa.org) or find Mercy-USA's channel on Youtube.



# Stoves and Fuel Make Winter Bearable in Syria



Through generous support from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Mercy-USA was again able to distribute cast iron stoves and eco-friendly olive pit fuel for thousands in northern Syria. Last year's winter was the coldest in recent memory. In 2020, deaths associated with the cold were reported in northwestern Syria's camps for displaced persons. Most fatalities were among babies and children caused by hypothermia and carbon monoxide poisoning from non-ventilated heating devices. Severe upper respiratory infections and pneumonia exacerbated by toxic smoke inside dwellings or freezing temperatures were also causes for death.



Abo Mohammad and his young family were forced to flee their home to a camp for internally displaced people in northwest Syria. Having lost his job as a stone cutter and his home, Abo Mohammad, his wife and three young children struggle to find enough to eat each day. So staying warm in an increasingly colder winter season was beyond what he could provide without a job. After receiving a new stove and fuel, Abo Mohammad invited our team in for tea in his warm tent featuring a clean burning fire in his new ventilated stove. He told us, "The children are warm, they have not spent this past winter coughing and crying from the cold. Thank God."

# New, Warm Clothes for Kids

Most internally displaced families in Syria left everything they owned behind when fleeing for safety from air strikes. This loss is felt deeply when it comes to providing for the basic needs of their children.

Every kid grows out of their clothes and providing anything new is out of reach for most IDP families when the scramble to provide shelter and food is already nearly impossible. Winter weather brings extra challenges for keeping kids warmly dressed. Mercy-USA donors provided families with vouchers that were used to purchase new winter clothes for their children.

Mohammad Jumaa, father of 7 told us, "These vouchers were a happiness I can't describe to you. When I told the children that the next day they would be able to shop for brand new winter clothes according to their own taste, their joy was overwhelming!"



# Spring Advice Agricultural in Albania



Mercy-USA supports small farmers in Albania with year-round technical advice from skilled agronomist, Skender Hamza. He visits the farms and provides technical workshops numerous times a year in advance of the growing season, during the season and at harvest. The farmers learn better methods for growing, fertilization, best practices for crop rotation and more. He is available via phone to the farmers year round. Farmers rely on his technical expertise for better yields year after year and he has helped keep these family farms growing strong for generations to come.

# Combating Food Insecurity

Fatuma Hassan is a 25-year old mother with an infant and a one and a half year-old. Her family lives in Dahad village, in the Abduwaq district of Somalia. For the past year, her community has suffered an extreme food shortage crisis.

Currently, Abudwaq district is experiencing consecutive seasons of poor rainfall and the worst desert locust outbreak in twenty-five years. According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a single locust plague can create a loss of 170,000 tons of grain - enough to feed one million people for a year in Somalia. As a result, Abduwaq is experiencing a food insecurity crisis.

This crisis has hit vulnerable populations - including breastfeeding mothers and young children - extremely hard. Unfortunately, Fatuma Hassan and her children were no exception.

When Mercy-USA reached out to Fatuma's community in Fall 2020, medical teams brought a range of screening equipment and medical expertise in addition to distributing biweekly rations. Through the use of



Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes, scales, and height boards, they were able to quickly identify children who were in the most dire need of medical assistance. Fatuma's one and a half year-old daughter was among them.

The baby was identified as in need of urgent medical care. She was severely ill and malnourished. Fatuma worked together with medical professionals and received her family's therapeutic porridge alongside learning best practices for preparing it. She was then able to provide consistent, nutritious meals for her family and her daughter began to recover.

During a later interview, Fatuma said that her daughter "can now play happily like other normal energetic children" and she is no longer worried for the baby's health.

With the generous support of the UN's World Food Program (WFP) and UNICEF, Mercy-USA is saving the lives of mothers and children in Somalia by providing critical health and nutrition care.



LEBANON

## Ramadan Iftar Baskets

### A Cultural Reflection of the Countries We Serve

According to a Pew Research study, 93% of Muslims worldwide say they fast during Ramadan. Mercy-USA distributes special iftar food baskets to our valued beneficiaries, according to their own traditions. For example, in Lebanon and Syria, Ramadan is made better with tea and sugar plus apricot jam. Cooking oil, flour

and beans are important in East Africa and Indonesians look forward to condensed milk and a special fruit drink. Dates are distributed. The Corona Virus will again make this year's distributions more difficult, but we look forward to delivering happiness with a hearty "Ramadan Mubarak!"



INDONESIA



SOMALIA



SYRIA



ROHINGYA

# Where We Work • [mercyusa.org](http://mercyusa.org)



## 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

With grant funding to UNRWA, support for a special school for blind and visually-impaired elementary school-aged children.



## Indonesia

Aiding farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Also assisting farmers in forming cooperatives.  
Seasonal food aid



## Kenya

Seasonal food aid



## Lebanon

Mobile Medical Clinic for Syrian Refugees and their hosts in Wadi Khalid  
Major Surgery support for Palestinian Refugees  
Neonatal support for Palestinian Refugees  
Meals for hospitalized Covid-19 patients  
Seasonal food aid



## Pakistan

With funding to implementing partner, The Citizens Foundation (TCF) built and supports a secondary school in Sindh Province



## Somalia

Over 700 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

Covering the daily food needs for approximately 250,000 vulnerable persons in northern Syria  
Winterization projects for vulnerable children and their families  
Shelter, blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families  
Nutritional support and health services  
Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion



## United States

Seasonal food aid  
Support for refugees  
Support for Detroit area homeless shelters and disadvantaged students

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

Check

Credit Card (Fill out Credit Card Section)

Monthly Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

**Credit Card Information (Charged in US Currency)**

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Many companies match their employees' donations; ask your employer if they have a "Matching Gift Program". 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.