

THE FRONT LINE REPORT

MISSION: SOMALIA
DATE: JANUARY 2012

You are making a difference by your gifts

Thousands of families flee famine

Disease, Famine and Drought Threaten Somalia Millions of lives are at stake

To save her children's lives she would first have to risk their lives. The outcome of her actions would be either life or death for her and her family. Only time would tell which it would be.

Her decision was critical. Should she stay where she was in southern Somalia and face possible death by starvation, or should she walk for several weeks through harsh desert terrain? Hopefully, she could reach one of the refugee camps in southwest Ethiopia that she heard about. If she chose to leave, some of the risks she faced were: capture by terrorists operating in the area, running out of water in the desert, not finding water, starvation, disease, becoming lost on the journey. On top of that, she faced the risk of losing the child she was carrying as well as her other four children and her husband.

This courageous mother's name is Jocynth and her choice was to leave for the refugee camp.

Jocynth and her family made a good living in Somalia before the prolonged drought took the



Jocynth and her children in their sparse hut.

lives of their 30 cattle. They lost everything when the last of the cattle died, leaving them destitute and desperate. All the wells in the area where they lived had dried up, forcing them to make this difficult and dangerous decision.

After several grueling days of walking in the desert, a truck driver saw them and took mercy on them when he noticed that

Jocynth was pregnant. He drove them close to the Ethiopian border possibly cutting weeks off their journey.

As the family reached the transit camp, which is where the UN was processing people to assign them to different refugee camps, they were greeted by the crushing reality that thousands of families were already there waiting. Many would never get



to a camp for weeks or even months. They would have to live in the area already overburdened with too many people surviving the best they could until their time came for going to a camp.

The three days of driving in the back of a truck over rough terrain caused Jocynth to go into early labor. By God's grace she was brought to the attention of a medical group who moved her into a tent where she delivered her fifth child, a boy.

The baby was born severely malnourished. Jocynth was also malnourished and could not feed her own baby. The medical team was able to get food for her and her family and took her into the processing center for immediate assignment to a camp.

*“Every day, more than 21,000 children die—
and they don't have to.”*



Families with food you provided.



The remains of land ravaged by drought.

The family was assigned to a medical camp that was set up for the severely malnourished. The original plan was for the camp to house 5,000 people. The day Jocynth arrived at the camp, there were more than 20,000 people there. Food, shelter, medical care and water were in short supply.

They were assigned to a small hut constructed of sticks (*see photo on page 1*). They had no blankets, plastic sheeting, or pots or pans in which to cook whatever food they could get. They also had no firewood with which to cook the food.



One family's last hope for survival has perished..



Thousands of people try to survive in an over-crowded refugee camp.

ICA met Jocynth and her family while on an assessment trip to develop an emergency feeding program for victims of this famine.

Because of your generosity, we were able to give this family enough funds and resources to fix their hut so that it was livable and enough money to buy several months worth of food.

On a subsequent trip, we were able to get into Somalia and found several areas where refugees were trying to survive on their own. These people were receiving NO assistance from anyone. While



This meager bowl of food is stretched to feed an entire family for a whole day.

there, we were able to purchase food and hire trucks and security to deliver aid to three isolated villages.

We drove for hours on dry river beds and game trails to reach these villages. No roads have ever existed in this region. We gave each

family enough food for 6-7 weeks. This allowed us to “test” the logistics in an unfamiliar area.



Pat Bradley (right) with Jocynth, her husband, and their children.

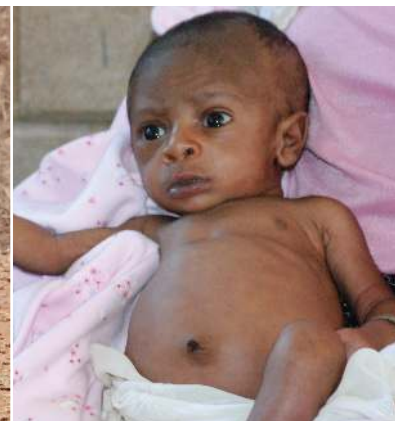
Based on the success of our first food distribution, we began a six-month emergency feeding program in the northeast part of Somalia in December 2011. This feeding program is designed to get families over the peak of the famine. The area we are focusing our effort is called Somaliland.



Pat Bradley with security guards who helped deliver aid.



Somali women carry sacks of aid to their tents.



One of the many malnourished children you saved by your generous donations.



Every day, more than 21,000 children die—and they don't have to. They die from causes most people in the U.S. rarely worry about: malnutrition, unsafe drinking water, lack of affordable vaccine. (Source: <http://www.unicefusa.org/work/>)

Your generosity is allowing us to feed 600 families (approximately 4,000 people) each of which, has at least one severely malnourished child. All are victims of the current drought. Each family is receiving wheat, corn, sugar, and cooking oil. The malnourished children are receiving a peanut butter-based food product developed specifically for severely malnourished children. We are partnering with Global Relief from the United Kingdom on this project.

The long drought, currently ongoing in the Horn of Africa, has caused tens of thousands of deaths. However, because YOU did something by donating to ICA, many lives will be saved by your generosity.

When you think about the gifts you bought for family and friends this past Christmas, *please remember that you gave the gift of life to thousands living in Somalia.*

Our prayer is that blessings will abound for you and your family in the coming year. THANK YOU for making miracles become reality in the lives of thousands this past year.



God bless you.

Pat & Sue Bradley

Pat and Sue Bradley

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