



Dedicated to Omar Ismail

In honor of our late founder, Sh. Omar Ismail, who played a key role in the inception of ARAHA. He was adamant about wanting to do something more than just the basic to help the people back home in East Africa. He was the type of leader who would take the initiative for an idea, mobilize people around it and take a step back and allow others to lead.

He was humble, gentle, caring, righteous, and full of wisdom.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.



Dear Supporter,

20 years ago, a diverse group of professionals and community leaders from the East African community in Minnesota came together to discuss the idea of ARAHA. They discussed how they could leverage their collective assets and energy to improve the lives of families across the Horn of Africa. Many of whom faced severe drought, conflicts, and war. This is how ARAHA was founded, and I'm honored to be a cofounder of this amazing organization.

Today, when we look back at what we accomplished, we are incredibly humbled by the impact we made across the region, from water wells, school constructions, scholarships, solar projects, food distribution, family shelter, and much more. The numbers give an incredible insight, but the real impact lies in the individual lives saved. Those stories of lives uplifted and those who you helped us to empower and provide hope. That's what matters, and that's where the real change happened.

But most importantly, we wouldn't be able to save lives and accomplish all the great work without individuals like yourself. One of the essential achievements for ARAHA was to be a platform and a vehicle for thousands of people worldwide to do noble work and assist those struggling in the Horn of Africa region. If there is one thing I learned over the years of working in the humanitarian sector, the world doesn't have a shortage of good-hearted people. They are ready to extend a hand to uplift another fellow human being as long as they find an honest and trustworthy organization that can deliver.

As we embark on our next 20 years in delivering essentials and developing opportunities for those in need, I want to thank you for trusting us and continuing to join us on this fantastic and rewarding journey. Together we made a difference, and together we will continue making a difference.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Idris
ARAHA Executive Director



Where we started



Mission

ARAHA strives to alleviate human suffering and build self-reliant communities by providing humanitarian aid and empowering individuals in the Horn of Africa and here at home.

Vision

A Stable, sustainable, and thriving Horn of africa.

Where we started

Against the backdrop of famine and humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa in 2000, a diverse group of professionals and community leaders from the East African community in Minneapolis/St. Paul came together to discuss how they could leverage their collective assets and energy to improve the situation for families in the Horn. From these conversations, the need for the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA) emerged. Since then, ARAHA has achieved an impressive record of success while serving some of the most vulnerable populations in the Horn, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and residents of rural areas. In seeking to nurture these communities, the organization has focused on providing both immediate crisis relief in the form of food and medical supplies and long-term development in the form of education, self-sufficiency projects, and access to clean water. To allow ARAHA to better support and understand the communities it serves, the organization opened a network of field offices across the region and has cultivated partnerships with local community organizations, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and governments at all levels.

The ARAHA Difference

ARAHA's connection to and focus on the Horn of Africa region makes it unique among peer organizations. ARAHA is present in the Horn not just to serve communities in need, but rather to impact its supporters' and founders' own communities in need. The organization's staff speak the languages of the region, understand the cultural context, know the challenges at stake, and are passionate about empowering and sustaining their brothers and sisters in the Horn. From deep roots in the region, ARAHA has grown a strong and robust network of field offices. In Isiolo, Kenya; Khartoum, Sudan; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Mogadishu and Hargeisa, Somalia, the organization has talented and dedicated teams who

go out into the field to forge the relationships with communities that make ARAHA programs so successful. At all levels of the organization, ARAHA is intimately aware of the diverse needs present throughout the Horn. ARAHA is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit, tax-exempt organization based in Minnesota. All donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID #41-1989714.

Well Respected and recognized.

ARAHA is recognized by multiple organizations for its financial health, accountability, and transparency. Including a four-star rating from charity navigator, the premiere charity evaluator, ranking us in the top 10 percent of all U.S. charities for four consecutive years.













A brief timeline of ARAHA's history and milestones

Famine



2000

A group of individuals from the East African diaspora community meet to discuss the idea of establishing ARAHA.

September | 2001

ARAHA is officially registered as a 501c3 non-profit organization.



January | 2002

We launch our website



August | 2002

First part-time employee hired; today we have over 30 employees.



December | 2002

Our first project in the field, a food basket distribution.



March | 2003

First orphan to be sponsored by ARAHA.



December | 2011

Monetary donations exceeded 1 million dollars for the first time!



November | 2011

Met the standards for accountability and transparency under CRC



Famine

July | 2011Famine hit Somalia causing



June | 2010

ARAHA builds it's first school in Sudan serving over 300 students.



April | 2009

We ship \$10 million worth of medicine and medical supplies to Somalia.



Floods

May | 2007

We officially open our first office in Somalia.



August | 2012

ARAHA Headquarters moves to Columbia Heights, MN



October | 2012

ARAHA builds it's first school in Ethiopia serving over 500 students.



November | 2012

We officially open our first office in Sudan.



May | 2013

ARAHA redesigns and adopts a new logo.



October | 2013

ARAHA recieves 4-star charity ranking from Charity Navigator.



March | 2014

We officially open our first office in Isiolo, Kenya.



riooas

December | 2020 Built our first sand dam in Ethiopia

supporting over 2000 people.



October | 2019

Distributed electric wheel chairs to 65 people with disabilities.



June | 2018

Floods

Installed solar panels for two high schools in a refugee camp in Sudan.



Famine

April | 2018

ARAHA recieves golden seal of transperancy from Guide Star.



December | 2015

We officially open our first office in Ethiopia.



August | 2014

ARAHA builds it's first school in Somalia serving over 500 students.



20 years ofimpact

These past twenty years, we have taken your contributions and tried to make the most of it. Indeed, numbers are not everything, but they give an overall look at the impact of the achieved work. Also, these are not just numbers, but they represent people who have been impacted.



1,182,000+ People served through our various food program in the region.



14,500+ Orphans served through our orphan program.



131,000+ Students received support to continue their education and pursue their dreams.



735,000+ People received access to clean potable water, including 524 water wells and 1 sand dam.



60,500+ People benefited from our emergency aid program



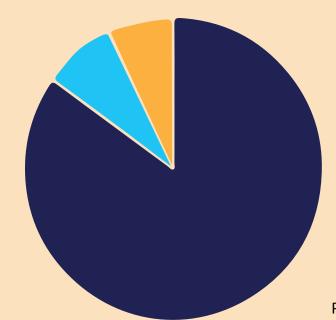
9,500+ People supported through our Self-Reliance Program.



5,000+ People benefited from our Solar energy projects.



1,050,000+ People supported through our health program.



\$38+ MILLON

spent on implementing the project across the Horn of Africa region.

500+ PROJECTS

Providing relief and development to Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, South Sudan, Djibouti.

Financial expense average for 20 years







	the state of the s
gram 90%	Fundraising 5%

IMPACT BY:







Food	163,000	94,000	500,000	103,000
Water	115,000	45,000	410,000	75,000
Education	2,400	2,000	84,000	37,000
Health		1	712,000	27,000
Orphan	1,256	650	2,433	3,128
Self-Reliance	1	1,500	2,500	2,500
Emergency Aid	26,000	663	12,000	4,600
Climate Change	1	1,250	1,000	1,200
TOTALS:	307,656	145,063	1,723,933	253,428

Special cases

From time to time, ARAHA is approached by families dealing with a unique circumstance. Usually, these are surrounding medical conditions. In the past few years, we have created fundraising campaigns to support these families or reached out to some of our donors or partners for assistance. Here are some incredible stories:

A little help for Ali | 2007

Ali had been one of the many sponsored orphans under ARAHA's care and our donors' support. But in 2007, Ali's sponsor here in the state noticed that his grades had not been improving and thus reached out to our office to inquire about the orphan report he received.

With his concern in mind, we reached out to our field office in Sudan to determine why Ali's grades were not good. We eventually realized that Ali was mute due to a speech impediment, but he was too shy to tell anyone of his condition. This impediment kept him from doing well in school, socializing, and making friends.

When we got back to his sponsor about Ali's condition, he wanted to provide the orphan with speech therapy and pay for the cost.

Our team immediately got in touch with a local therapist to help Ali. Within just a few months of therapy, Ali was able to speak and socialize again. More importantly, his grades improved, which brought a sense of joy to his sponsor.

This is how giving can uplift and impact people's lives.



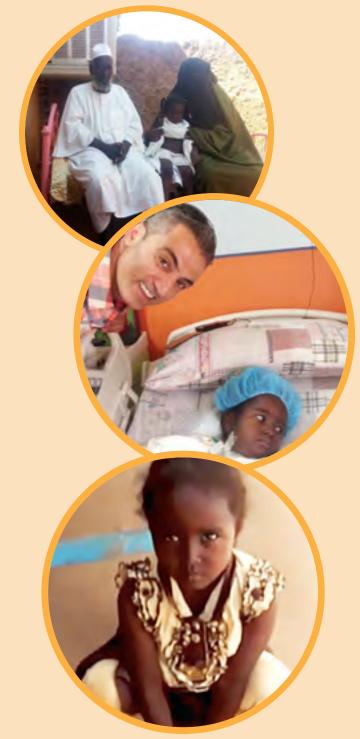


Shaimaa's rare condition | 2014

Adem and his wife were heartbroken when their daughter Shaimaa was born with a medical defect called Anorectal Malformation; A disorder that prevented Shaimaa from passing stools naturally. They tried their best to give Shaimaa a normal childhood. But after living with a tube attached to her stomach for five years, it became unbearable.

When ARAHA donors heard of Shaimaa's condition, they were eager to help. They collaboratively collected enough funds to cover her surgery cost and travel with her parents to the city of Amman in Jordan, where the surgery was performed.

A good neighbor of ARAHA and business owner, Majdi Wadi of Holy Land Bakery & Deli, made a considerable contribution and hosted Shaimaa and her parents to stay at his home in Amman until they returned to Sudan. As the worried parents waited at the hospital, doctors assured them that Shaimaa's operation would go smoothly. After a successful surgery, Shaimaa and her parents returned home. Shaimaa is now 13 years old and attending school. She is enjoying a full day of smiles, laughter, and play.



Suleman cancer treatment | 2018

Suleman, a 13-year-old child from Sudan, was diagnosed with cancer in his left leg. In seeking to cover the cost of treatment, his family sold his house.

The family fund eventually depleted during the diagnosis process and traveling between hospitals. Doctors warned the family that cancer could spread to the rest of his body if surgery is not done as soon as possible.

Once our HQ was notified, we immediately started a crowdfunding campaign, and within a day, a donor called to take care of the entire medical bill!

After a successful surgery, Suleman and his family returned to Sudan. Today Suleman is a healthy teen enjoying his days going to school and playing soccer.



Abdo's tumor | 2018

Abdo was a young boy dealing with a tumor on the right side of his face. The tumor became so large that it blinded his right eye. When we were notified of his condition by some of our donors, we immediately encouraged them to set up a lifesaver crowdfunding campaign. Within a few weeks, funds were raised in partnership with Ethar Relief; soon after, Abdo was on his way to Egypt to get the urgent care he needed.

Today, Abdo is a healthy young boy, enjoying the small moments of childhood.



Marwa stranded | 2020

Marwa, who is only six years old, was born with a congenital heart defect that required immediate surgery. Another nonprofit organization had already covered the cost of the surgery, and Marwa went through successful treatment. However, as they prepared to travel back to Sudan, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world.

So the family was unable to travel for over four months, and with the hotel bill piling up, expired visas, and no relatives near, they were left in a very vulnerable place.

After hearing of their despair, our ED stepped in to raise funds to help cover the hotel's cost, flight, and visa renewals.

We can happily report that the family is back in Sudan, and Marwa is healthier than ever.



We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

-Fred Rogers

A projector = :

I cannot believe it's been 20 years, first of all. ARAHA 20 years ago for me was an alignment between, I guess what most immigrant families or younger generation think about – They think about how can I help the place that I escaped That so many people that you know are still struggling with.

I know that most of the people who came from Somalia-for example, where I came from; that only you know a small percentage of maybe even one percent or even less than one percent actually is here has the privilege of being in America. And so, as a young kid growing up in Minnesota with my family, I was instilled in this idea of helping others. And that's something that I think both of my parents instilled in me—and obviously through my faith and through the teachings of our prophet.

So it's interesting how I eventually connected to ARAHA...ARAHA at the time was a brand new organization; I was at Masjid (mosque) Al-Huda in Minneapolis, and this was Ramadan—At the time, I was just starting College. At the College, I was helping out as a work-study job. I was an AV Tech, so I was at the Masjid and here comes at the time I think brother Mohamed and Sheikh Omar and I don't remember anyone else (I think brother Adam). they come to the Masjid they have this projector, they have a screen, and they're presenting. And it's a very short time

in Ramadan when people can do that, very limited, maybe 10 minutes or less sometimes and they're struggling as the projector is not working and they're trying everything figuring out which cable and I really feel bad for them and at the time you know, I knew a little bit about how to do A V. So I said "I can help" I got up there And started to figure out; quickly fixed it. They're up there. They showed the video, and I think it slides PowerPoint slides, and you know, at the time, I didn't think of anything. I just help them get their projector, but the organization spoke to me; but it wasn't that.

It was also the way the board at the time and these brothers also reached back, so I help them, and then they're like, "are you interested in helping us tonight? We still need people to help count this money," And I help them count the money help a few more things. And I found myself that ARAHA wasn't so distant.

If I was willing to do something, then here's an opportunity and... at that time was such, you know the beginning stages, the entire organization was run by volunteers. Since then, I've I have been part of this organization. I would say that I don't know what I would be without this organization.

I think everything that I do today. The way I carry myself the skills that I've learned,

and the ability to feel that there's a lot of possibilities in difficulties, in places, or ideas. When you go from starting, you know, brand new organization To getting it to where ARAHA is today and seeing the amount of hard work that has been taken over years to develop It's is really remarkable. So that's how I got introduced to ARAHA.

Since then, I've been on the board. I've traveled to the region many, many times. And every time I travel–Every time I get more engaged. I become even more closer to the work, and I think that's true to anyone who volunteers, you know. I would say the people who inspire me the most are even our donors.

The more even if (one) donor shows up to one of these refugee camps or sees one recipient, they probably will donate three times more. Because they'll see not only the work, but they will touch the impact. They'll see how big of an impact ARAHA has on people's daily lives.

And so as the organization grew, And today I would have to say that I'm proud of the work of ARAHA And I'm proud of the ability and the progress this organization has made. I think for many people who wanna know how this organization started. It really started with people with big hearts, big ideas, little resources. But knew that there are a lot of people, who if they heard the message—
They would also be able to respond.

I hope my story inspires you to take the journey with ARAHA as a volunteer, a donor, and more in the next 20 years and beyond.





There are no words to describe my feelings during my last visit to the Shegerab refugee camp in East Sudan. I am happy and beyond blessed to see that our efforts are impacting the lives of thousands of people in these camps; I am sad and in pain for these people whom I called the FORGOTTEN., living in extreme poverty, with no medical attention, and missing the very basic necessities of life such as clean water and electricity. There are thousands of refugee camps and millions of people around the world living in similar or worse conditions, and they need all of us to unite to try to make a difference in their lives.

A special thanks to brother Mohamed Salih Idris and his great team from ARAHA for partnering with Holy Land and giving us the opportunity to be part of these efforts and for all that they are doing in the Horn of Africa. In the beginning, I was hesitant to take this trip, but now after having made it, the least I can say is "it was the best trip I ever took" and a trip that definitely will change my life forever.

A very close friend of mine once asked me what I wanted to leave behind after all these years of continuous hard work, accomplishments, and success in my life; my answer was "a legacy to be always remembered."

he replied, "then leave it in the people's hearts."

I didn't understand him at the time, but after this visit, I understood exactly what he meant.

Never too young



Over the past few years, we have had a few passionate young people walk in our offices with enthusiasm, joy, and passion for making a difference in the Horn of Africa, but not quite like Abby and Mia. Abby and Mia spent a good portion of their summer raising funds for people in need in the Horn of Africa, taking time to get together, prep, craft, plan and execute. To them, this had become more than just a fundraiser; it was an opportunity to bond over something more than sports, fun activities, or hanging out. It was the idea of making an impact halfway across the world, and the experiences and values you develop along the way...Here is their story:

"We found this experience to be very important in developing good values and skills."

Hello! We are Abby and Mia. We are currently 7th graders in South Minneapolis. After spending a unit in school focusing on Somalia and its culture, we wanted to do something. When we learned about the



famine, drought, and poverty so prevalent there, we felt that as we are so fortunate, it's our obligation to help those less fortunate. We began brainstorming ideas for how to do so, and focused in on wanting to help children in the Horn of Africa receive an education.

We realized how fortunate we are to get a free education and wanted to help others get an education of their own. After researching organizations to assist us in our goal, we found ARAHA. We exchanged emails and met with them, appreciating their interest in our idea. We began fundraising by setting up stands and going to family and friends. Eventually, we began selling bags we had sewn. We had a Youcaring page set up, and fundraising was going really well. Our beginning goal was to raise \$1000. Mia's grandfather was so generous as to offer to double our fundraisings, so we ended up raising \$2286.32.

We found this experience to be very important in developing good values and skills. We are very happy with the work we have done and hope that others will be inspired to do similar work. This experience made us realize how privileged we are and how different the rest of the world is.

The color of water

Over the years, our executive director has traveled to the region to oversee some projects and meet with our offices in the Horn of Africa region, local communities, and government agencies.

It was just another day of assessing a project impact for Mohamed Idris, our Executive Director, as he visited the site where one of our water wells was installed. As he observed people from the community fetching water, he noticed an elderly gentleman animated with joy and expressing something in his mother tongue. So Mohamed asked one of our team members what the older man had said and why he was so animated. what he found out moved him...

See in many parts of the Horn of Africa region, mainly in rural areas, people have to walk for miles at times to be able to fetch water. Yet, this water may not even be potable. In addition, many times, those who are tasked with bringing water usually are kids or women in the family, and they lose valuable time; not able to attend school or meet their daily needs since they spend more than half of the day fetching water.

A simple yet effective solution ARAHA provides is installing hand pump water wells within the vicinity of villages or a nearby school. This cuts the time of fetching the water to less than an hour in most cases and provides easy access for the community and



school. Some of these recipients have lived almost their entire lives without access to clean water, so when we think of the old man's gratitude, we can truly appreciate his feeling.

So, what exactly did he say? Well, our team member translated to Mohamed what the old man had said—He said, "For my whole life, I thought the color of the water was brown...this is my first time seeing clear, clean water": A profound statement that makes you think about the value of water.

Can you imagine the raw emotions he felt, what it's like not knowing that the color of clean water is clear and pure? It is mind-boggling for a person in a developed country to even comprehend what it's like for that older man. Having access to drinking water from our kitchen sink, right at our fingertips in less than a second. Not knowing what it's like to live your entire life without it.

This puts it into perspective for any human being.

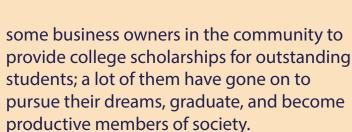
More than a refugee

A child awakens in the morning by the ray of light that pierces through the humble abode they live in. As they sit up from their bed, and the smell of the cool morning dew brushes their nose, they realize that it was here in Sudan, in the Shegerab Refugee Camp, that they finished their Elementary school education. And for that period, they were not just refugees; they were students. But today, without a secondary school, they assume their identity as a refugee. Going through the motions of life trying to find their path and their place in this world.

Desiring to keep the dreams of these young children alive, ARAHA stepped in and took on the immense task of making sure these very children keep their identity as students. With our donors and partners' support, We built the first high school in Shegerab Refugee Camp. In a camp that has been around for over 40 years, this was a massive milestone for the community. Understanding that women are the backbones of society, we initially opened the door to educating girls first. In time as we grew, we were able to expand and accommodate boys as well.

Since its inception, the school was blessed to have over 300 students graduating—several of them bound for college—it has become a cornerstone of this humble community in Sudan.

In recent years, we have also partnered with



Furthermore, one of the high school alumni went on to pursue a degree in education and returned to the camp, and assumed a new identity as a teacher at Shegerab High School. Thus, bringing everything into a full circle – This is what we call the cycle of change. So as these young men and women go in pursuit of dreams and find their places in life, we can say that change is possible with these small steps.



Refugee camps are no longer temporary

There is no doubt that the international community provides critical help during a crisis. However, we may need to examine the approaches we use to assist those in need to make sure each effort is effective.

One of these approaches in need of review is refugee camps. Whenever people flee their homes and cross borders due to war, natural disaster, or dictatorial policies that turn normal lives upside down, the UN sets up temporary camps for them, housing families in tents that offer barely any protection or privacy. UN agencies provide basic life necessities to keep refugees alive until they are able to return to their home countries. Because decision-makers have the mindset that refugee camps are only temporary, education is rarely provided in refugee camps. When it is provided, it does not exceed elementary grade levels.

Yet, in reality, many refugee camps cannot be described as temporary. Some camps are over 60 years old, such as the Palestinian refugee camps that originated in the 1948 war. Others, like the Eritrean refugee camps in Sudan, have been around for over 45 years. Even Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp (with over half a million people), has already been housing people for 25 years. It's not unlikely to find two generations born and raised entirely within these camps. But the severe lack of high schools or vocational training centers available to refugees means they never have a chance to learn a craft and become productive members of society. These refugees thus become dependent on the food rations they receive monthly or regularly. They forgot what it means to live on their own earnings.

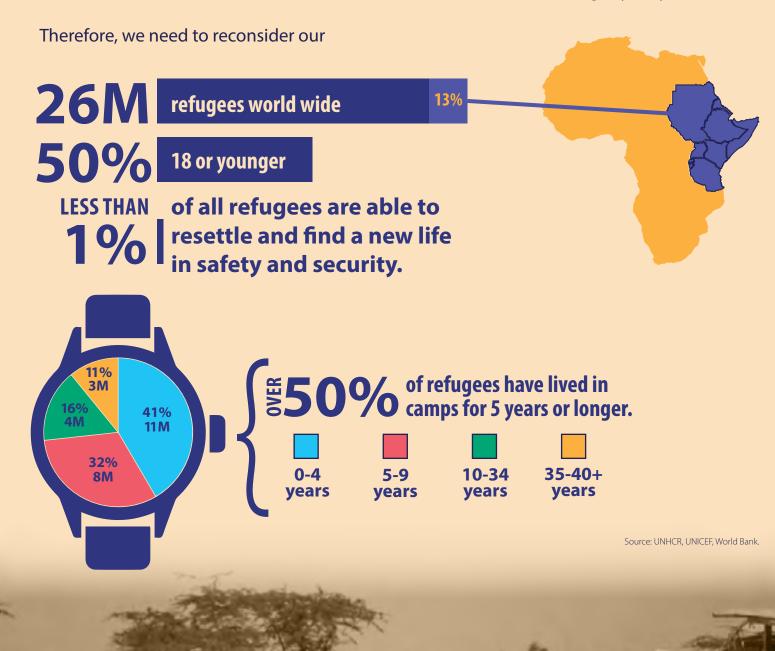
They are not to be blamed; they have been set up to fail. How can they succeed if they are put in an isolated area and not allowed to own property, train for a profession, or pursue higher education? They are not even allowed to move outside these camps without a permit from the host country. Consequently, millions of people within these generations go without educations, jobs, or skills, fully dependent on foreign aid to survive.

With each political conflict, war, and crisis around the world, the international aid community opens up new camps with the same "temporary" mindset, hosting

thousands of new families that will be fully dependent on the aid provided by relief organizations.

As a load of refugee camps becomes increasingly heavy and unbearable, UN agencies and NGOs find themselves unable to afford the ongoing costs. As the media spotlight fades from these old camps and new crises get the attention, refugees find themselves left behind.

approach to refugee camps. Currently, we are not only setting up millions of people to fail in their lives; we are also making it difficult for donors and funders to help and for the UN and NGOs to cope with any new refugees. We need a new approach that promotes refugees' policies to sustain themselves and be able to return to normal life within a certain period of time. We need a path that enables refugees to stand on their own two feet and live with the dignity they deserve.



Saving lives together



Over the past few years, we have joined hands with our donors to further amplify the voices of those in need by launching our crowdfunding platform: Lifesaver campaign.

The platform allows our supporters to rally around a cause they care about in the Horn of Africa region where ARAHA works. Donors, friends, family, and colleagues gathered to support a specific cause. Together with our donors we have raised funds and awareness for projects like water well, sand dams, solar roofs for schools, meals for families and much more.

50+ LIFESAVER CAMPAIGNS HAVE RAISED OVER

\$250K IN DONATIONS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS.



Unsung Heroes and Sheroes



From our staff in the Headquarters who work tirelessly to bring our mission to the forefront. To our field office team across the Horn of Africa region who sacrifice holidays with family to make sure that the people in need are served. To the volunteers who lend us time out of their day to amplify our voice, raise awareness and donations. To the board, who provide their leadership, guidance, and advice to uplift the organization. To the founders who brought a small idea to life. And to everyone in between who made even a small contribution—Thank you for making this 20-year journey worthwhile.

Thank you for your contributions, sacrifices, dedication, and the time you give to bring our mission to life. You are the real heroes and sheroes of what we do.



Some major contributors

To all of our partners, donors, supporters who have given both monetary and support over the years. We say thank you for trusting us and allowing us to continue to make a difference across the Horn of Africa region.











\$500K-1 Million+

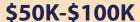






\$100K-\$250K







\$25K-\$50K



Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference -Cathy Calvin



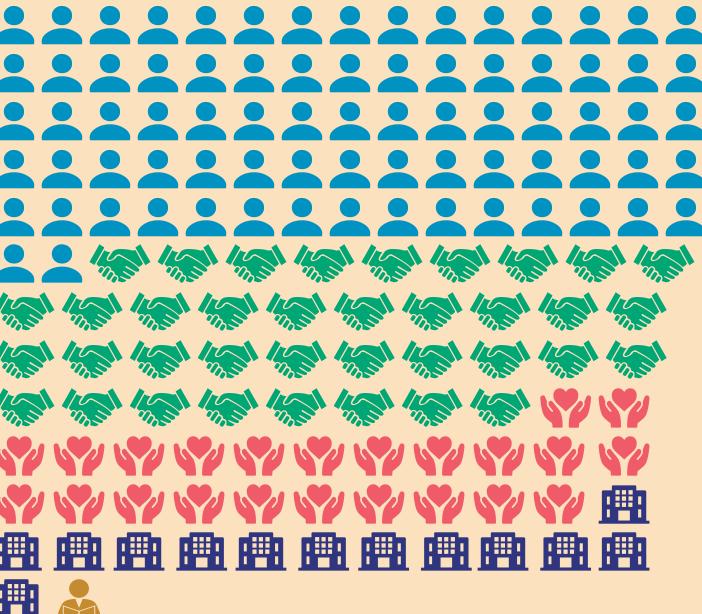
LOYAL DONORS

15-20 YRS 109

10-15 YRS 1678

05-10 YRS 1562

\$10K-\$25K



All of our partners over the years

Major Partners:















Other Partners:































penny

appeal

usa



























Also:

The Wasily foundation **Kaseb Foundation** Children of Abarahim **Healing Bridges** Somali Relief Fund





Giving is easy, so long as it comes from the heart it comes from the heart.

Go Online

www.araha.org

Text Us

Text the word "araha" to **33339**

Call Us

763-270-5351 info@araha.rog

Mail Us

ARAHA P.O.BOX 21134 Minneapolis, MN 55421

Stop by our office

ARAHA 3900 Jackson St. NE #10 Minneapolis, MN 55421

ARAHA is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt organization based in Columbia Heights, Minnesota with tax ID #41-1989714. ARAHA works in the Horn of Africa region (Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti) to deliver essentials and develop opportunities for all those who live there.









www.araha.org
© f
© @araharelief



info@araha.org