

HORN OF AFRICA RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2021

As we look back on this year, we have a thought for all the families who did it tough due to Covid, especially those living in Western and Southwestern Sydney where restrictions were the harshest for long periods. Many people in the Horn of Africa communities have tested positive, in many cases needing hospitalisation. The communities have rallied to assist them in great solidarity; Harda wishes them a full recovery.

Harda also wishes to express its gratitude to all the volunteers whose dedication has helped to bring about this year's accomplishments, and to the organisations that have provided the funds to run our programs.

KEY PROGRAMS/OUTCOMES

SWIM & SURVIVE 2021- 111 children/youth in attendance, our biggest program ever. We achieved one of our long-held goals; one of the instructors at this year's program was a young lady who has graduated out of attending our programs; the first of many we hope.

Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club funded the 2021 program and is also funding the 2022 program - \$13,683. Thank you Dooleys. We are also appreciative of ASTA which charges very generous rates for its instructors; thanks also to the parents who bring the children to the program every day for 10 days.

JOBS FOR AFRICAN MIGRANTS PROGRAM(JAMP)- This program continues to excel, in not only finding jobs for a highly disadvantaged group but also in helping participants to become more active in Australian society.

Harda received a grant of \$49,000 from the Department of Home Affairs (Fostering Integration Grants) to conduct the program from June 2020 to 31 March 2021.

33 enrolled in the project (the original target had to be reduced because of Covid); 508 job applications were filed, and 60 interviews organised. 20 jobseekers found jobs, which met our target of 60%. The in-kind contributions by all the volunteers and use of facilities exceeded well over \$50,000- the mentors spent 1400 hours on the program! . We congratulate them on their splendid contribution.

Since the end of March, the program has continued with funds provided by Scanlon Foundation and Community Underwriting.

The Scanlon Foundation has shown great faith in this project and recently confirmed that it will fund it for another two years to the end of 2023.

Harda is very appreciative of the support from Home Affairs, the Scanlon Foundation and Community Underwriting.

Covid Emergency Assistance- Many families in the Horn of Africa Communities in Western Sydney are suffering hardship as a result of Covid. Harda is pleased that it has been able to help with funds obtained through applying for two grants.

Scanlon Foundation Emergency Funding- \$10,000 received in August 2021.

- Provided food assistance for 13 Somali families in the Cumberland LGA, most of them on temporary protection visas. Each family received \$75 weekly for 8 weeks.

- Provided food support to 10 South Sudanese families and also assistance with prepaid phone cards.

Empowering and supporting Local Communities- NSW Government- \$32,682(incl.GST).

The funds are currently being distributed to families according to their needs as identified and recommended by community leaders. We thank Anna, Ahmed, Girma and Santayehu for their cooperation. We are also helping many Somali families residing in the Cumberland LGA through Harda's recent association with SACA(Somali Australia Community Association) and its President, Maryan Omar.

We estimate around 150 families will receive Woolworths gift cards valued from \$150 to \$250 depending on the size of the household.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, we thank the Scanlon Foundation and the NSW Government.

OTHER ACTIVITIES-

Other grant applications were lodged during the year:

- Invited by local MP Fiona Martin to apply under the Federal Government Volunteers Grant- Waiting on outcome.
- Application to the Australian Embassy in Nairobi under the Direct Aid program of the Australian Government for the upgrade of a secondary school in South Sudan- unsuccessful.
- Application lodged in September 2021 for a grant under the Youth Opportunities Program- NSW Department of Community and Justice. The document was put together by Georgina and Abrar. Outcome will be known early next year.

Harda supported the fund raising activities of:

- Rosemary Kariuki for the Hannah Development Project in Kenya.
- Josephite Refugee Mentor Support Program- Sister Maria Sullivan & Tess Mulvaney doing great work with South Sudanese youth.

OVERSEAS PROJECTS- It has been a quiet period with no major project current at the moment. 3 projects were completed earlier this year:

- **Small Livelihood Project for Vulnerable families-** 24-wheel carts, 24 donkeys and 12 mobile kiosks purchased to help unemployed youth and women in the Wajir district in northeast Kenya start cottage industries. Expenditure \$ 30,000.
- **Educational Support for students-** Abadir primary school in Addis Ababa- Purchase of school supplies and stationery so children can remain at school. Expenditure \$ 10,000.
- **Iftar 2021-** 300 people celebrated iftar in Kenya. Expenditure \$4400.

Harda thanks the Global Aid Foundation for funding the above projects.

Support is continuing to be provided to Nimo Abdukadir Dagane who is studying medicine at the University of Mount Kenya due to the generosity of Ayoob Bhayat and Colleen Moloney.

The Ethiopian community in Sydney raised the funds to pay for the cost of a container to send hospital beds and school uniforms to the troubled northeast of the country. Harda thanks Rotary Australia for donating the goods. We pass our congratulations to the community.

Unfortunately, the cost of freight is now so prohibitive that it will for the time being make it very difficult to ship goods overseas. Ahmed secured a great quantity of hospital grade masks from Rotary that he cannot move because of the cost.

Web Management- It is pleasing to report that after many years of false starts Harda has finally been successful in completing the revamp of its internet pages. Harda is indebted to Jonathan Brough whose know-how and commitment have made the difference. Cindy and Fiona also contributed greatly to this project.

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Again, thank you to the Executive Committee, the Secretariat, all the volunteers, all our funders. We acknowledge the support of the Edmund Rice Centre, its management and staff.

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