

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Derek Sciba, World Concern
206-713-5564
dereks@worldconcern.org

Cathy Herholdt
206-546-7374
cathyh@worldconcern.org

July 22, 2011



World Concern Provides Famine Aid in Somalia, Kenya despite obstacles

World Concern is scaling up its response to the Horn of Africa drought and famine as the number of people in need of humanitarian aid continues to rise. Disaster response teams from the humanitarian aid organization are establishing a base in the Garissa district of northeastern Kenya and will provide aid to more than 10,000 of the most severely affected families in a cross-border response in Somalia and Kenya.

World Concern is uniquely positioned to provide immediate and critical aid to those suffering in the famine as one of the first humanitarian organizations to be able to help in southern Somalia. Assessment teams identified several underserved areas, including the border towns of Liboi in northeastern Kenya and Dhobley in southern Somalia. World Concern was the only international NGO responding in Dhobley at the time of the assessments.

In Dhobley, an area controlled by the Somali Transitional Federal Government, World Concern is responding with food, water and emergency supplies. Increasing the capacity of existing wells and ensuring families can access water from community wells are among initial interventions. World Concern will also provide emergency food and non-food items as well.

“There is an ongoing response from relief organizations and the Kenyan government in and around Dadaab refugee camps. However, the surrounding pastoralist communities are under increasing strain and need help as well,” said World Concern Deputy Director of Disaster Response, Chris Sheach. “These communities are along the route for refugees to camps around Dadaab. Food and water are needed in these areas to save lives.”

Although there is limited food support in Kenya, there is a need for water, as well as hygiene and sanitation, to prevent the spread of disease. World Concern will help with these interventions in Kenya as well.

World Concern has worked in both Somalia and Kenya for more than 30 years. The agency plans to scale up its initial response to include more than \$1 million in aid over the next six months.

To learn more, or to donate, visit www.worldconcern.org/crisis.

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact **Derek Sciba at (206) 713-5564** or **Cathy Herholdt at (206) 546-7374**. You can also visit www.worldconcern.org.

***World Concern**, part of CRISTA Ministries, is a Christian humanitarian organization that helps lift people out of poverty through activities including microfinance, agriculture, disaster response and small business development. World Concern works with the poor in 22 countries, with the goal of transforming the lives of those we touch, leading them on a path to self-sustainability. Worldwide, World Concern offers life, opportunity and hope to nearly six million people.*

