Let’s Help the People of East Africa
By Mark Crea, CEO/Executive Director

The worst drought and famine in 60 years has seized the Horn of Africa—Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan—threatening 11 million people. We have worked in East Africa since 2007 with capable partners, and are well-positioned to help. Our three formulas of MannaPack™ meals are perfectly suited to this emergency—helping people recover from severe malnourishment.

FMSC has initiated a three-phase response:

Phase 1: Relief

Our objective is to immediately get as much food “in the pipeline” as possible. Right now, FMSC has committed a total of 1.36 million meals to East Africa famine relief within our current inventory and budget. This includes these loads of 272,000 meals each:

- A shipment through Reach Now International that arrived in March and is serving a displaced persons camp in Somalia;
- Another shipment to Reach Now International tentatively leaving next Fri., Aug. 4
- A shipment for Qoryoley Development Community (the Jiiddu tribe of Somalia, at the request of its Minnesota sultan; see related article); and
- Two more shipments tentatively accepted by Reach Now International and ready to ship in August, contingent on raising shipping costs.

Matt Muraski, FMSC Director of International Programs, and his staff are exploring ways to expedite these shipments in the most secure manner. Shipping to this region has risks and high costs, so keep this effort in your prayers.

Phase 2: Rehabilitation

The FMSC Board of Directors will meet soon to set a meal goal and budget for East Africa relief that would extend through this fiscal year, ending February 2012.

Phase 3: Development

This is a long-term humanitarian crisis that involves helping millions to recover health and livelihoods. FMSC will incorporate East Africa into our new FY 2011-12 goals, determining how we can best support local organizations in the Horn of Africa region.

So far, our current response to East Africa does not require extra packing sessions or volunteers, although production goals may be increased. In Phase 2, we anticipate extra food costs beyond our current budget. We have opened a special Horn of Africa Relief Fund on our website home page (www.fmsc.org), and will be sending a special email appeal to our supporters soon.

Please go to our website to donate right from the home page, and look under “News and Resources/Press Releases” for detailed information.
Love Without Borders:
Christian Connections Help Our Minnesota Somali Neighbors
By Holly Donato, National Marketing Director

FMSC has the privilege of answering a food aid application for Somalia from a Somali tribal leader living in our organization’s backyard. As you may know, Minnesota is home to the largest population of Somali people outside Somalia itself.

Sultan Hassan Aliyow is one of those immigrants, but is still chief over 40,000 fellow Jiiddu tribe members back in the Qoryoley region of his native southern Somalia. He inherited this responsibility upon the death of his father last fall, and now has in his care thousands of displaced farmers and their families—people who normally raise cattle and crops in the “bread basket of Somalia.” With their cattle dead or sold during the two-year drought (now famine), the Jiiddu have congregated in 15 feeding centers organized by Sultan Aliyow, who is scouring every conceivable contact for food sources.

Enter a past FMSC volunteer, Michael Neterer, who leads the Somali Adult Literacy Training (SALT) center in Minnesota, with the Christian mission of “Sharing Jesus with our Somali Neighbors through Literacy and Friendship”. Michael told the Sultan about FMSC and arranged a meeting with our International Programs staff. A formal food aid application quickly followed, and soon the sultan had raised at least $7,000 for shipping. Those funds came from the Amoud Foundation, a Muslim aid group based in Texas that normally aids only northern Somalis!

As a Christian organization, we get to demonstrate the love of Jesus by sending meals to the Jiiddu people of Somalia. “Love without borders” is how many African Christians translate the phrase “Agape love.” This arrangement expresses that kind of love.

Please be in prayer for this special allocation. The 272,000 meals (one 40-foot container) would supply the 15 Jiiddu feeding centers for an initial 30 days. The Sultan’s aim is to get microloans to his people so they can return to their home communities and resume producing food for the rest of Somalia after the expected October rains.

Pray for the International Programs staff as they arrange for secure shipping into Nairobi, Kenya; and against the terrorist group Al-Shabaab, which has thwarted past Western aid. Also pray that the Jiiddu people would recover their health and livelihoods, and sense the love of family and Christian “neighbors” across the ocean and across cultures.

JIIDDU FEEDING SITE

Sultan Hassan Aliyow of Minnesota is responsible for 15 feeding sites like this one for his Jiiddu tribe in the Qoryoley region of southern Somalia. They are normally self-sufficient farmers who have lost everything in the drought.

VERSE TO REMEMBER
“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” — Luke 10: 36-37 (We recommend reading verses 30-37)