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Northwest Aid Organizations Team Up in Horn of Africa Famine Response

August 3, 2011 (SEATTLE) – Two Northwest-based humanitarian organizations, World Concern (Seattle) and Medical Teams International (Portland), have partnered in the famine response in the Horn of Africa. Teams from both organizations are among the first to provide critical aid to displaced people in an area of southern Somalia along the Kenya-Somalia border.

On August 1, the partners opened a medical clinic in the town of Dhobley, Somalia, and immediately had 120 people lined up who had just arrived in town – some having walked as far as 400 km. Children and adults are receiving treatment for famine-related illnesses, such as malnourishment, malaria, intestinal parasites, urinary tract infections, and upper respiratory infections. Families are also receiving emergency food rations and “wet feeding” – a highly nutritious porridge for malnourished children.

“The adults looked worse than the children,” said World Concern Emergency Coordinator Tracy Stover. “I am certain that parents are sacrificing [food] for their children.”

Most displaced families are traveling toward the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya. They typically spend a few days in Dhobley until they have enough strength to walk the last 100 km to the camps.

Medical Teams International is providing medical care and World Concern is providing emergency food, water and supplies to families affected by the famine.

An estimated 11 million people are in need of humanitarian aid in Northeastern Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia.

For more information, or to donate to either organization, please visit www.worldconcern.org/crisis and www.medicalteams.org/drought.

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.

Medical Teams International is a Christian global health organization working to demonstrate the love of Christ to people affected by disaster, conflict and poverty around the world. Since 1979, we have sent more than 2,100 volunteer teams and shipped more than \$1.4 billion in lifesaving medicines and medical supplies to care for 25 million people in 100 countries. Each year, more than 2,000 volunteers contribute their time to care for those whom Jesus called “the least of these” in our world today.