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World Concern Provides Aid after Attack on Somali Border Town

September 30, 2011 (Dadaab, Kenya) – World Concern is assisting after an al-Shabaab attack on the Somali border town of Dhobley. In the early morning hours of Sept. 30, the militant group al-Shabaab attacked the town where World Concern, along with partners Medical Teams International (MTI) and AFREC, have been providing aid to families affected by the famine in Somalia. No staff members were in Dhobley at the time of the attack, but are providing aid across border into Liboi, Kenya.

According to local sources and World Concern staff on the ground, approximately 44 Somali military members were injured and 30 were killed in the attack. Two civilians were also killed and two others injured, including a young girl. There are reports of seven al-Shabaab members being killed in the fighting.

World Concern and MTI staff will continue to assist in the response, working in Liboi until security improves enough to cross back into Somalia. World Concern is one of a few international organizations able to help in this critical area.

Dhobley is a transit point for displaced families traveling from all over southern Somalia to refugee camps in Kenya. Despite daily security issues, World Concern has been able to feed 13,000 people with two-week rations of beans, rice, oil, sugar and salt, and provide emergency supplies such as blankets, water jugs, mosquito nets and more to another 1,300 families.

Insecurity has been a major challenge for humanitarian organizations to reach people affected by the famine. “We could double or triple our food distribution with better access,” said World Concern Deputy Director of Disaster Response Chris Sheach. “Every day we’re not able to get into Dhobley represents 2,500 people who don’t receive help,” he said.

World Concern is distributing vouchers to families in need, which are redeemed for food and emergency supplies at local merchants. World Concern reimburses merchants through direct cash transfers. This system supports the local economy, builds relationships with community leaders, and ensures food ends up in the hands of those who need it most.

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact Derek Sciba at (206) 713-5564. To learn more and donate, visit www.worldconcern.org/crisis.

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 18 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.