

# **HORN OF AFRICA RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017**

Since its formation in 2003 Harda's mission has been to assist humanitarian entrants from the Horn of Africa countries in settling in their new country-"New Land/New Life".

In the last twelve months, Harda has run a number of programs with local communities to fulfil its mission. Harda has also supported and participated in several initiatives overseas designed to alleviate some of the urgent needs in East Africa.

The delivery of these projects have been made possible through the work of a small group of volunteers and by the generosity of organisations and individual benefactors who have supplied the funds by way of grants and donations. Harda also acknowledges the ongoing support of the Edmund Rice Centre that provides free facilities to the volunteers.

A summary of the projects follows:

### **Local Projects**

**Swim, Survive and Socialize:** In January 2017, Harda conducted its 6<sup>th</sup> successive water based program at the aquatic centre in Seven Hills. This very successful annual program has seen increased demand for places each successive year. This year's sessions were our biggest yet with 70 boys and girls attending, with several families missing out as we reached maximum numbers.

Harda has sought funding from multiple sources in an attempt to increase the budget that would enable us to expand the project in 2018. Harda is once more grateful to the DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club for funding the program in 2017 (\$10,000).

**African & CALD Youth Mentoring ((Outreach) Program:** Some 60 youths from Western Sydney took part in this program, a mix of workshops and sport. This has proved a successful formula for Mohammed Omar, the driving force behind this project. His objective is " to demonstrate to African and CALD youth that they can be supported to gain pride and satisfaction from participation within the wider society"

## **HARDA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017**

The workshops covered a number of topics such as Cyber Safety, Young People and the Police conducted by liaison officers from the local Area Command and the Australian Federal Police.

The highlight of the program was the African Soccer Tournament held in Auburn from October to December 2016 involving 11 teams and over 300 players.

This project was organised in partnership with the Auburn Sports Club.

Grants were provided by the NSW Government- Department of Family and Community Services and Multicultural NSW (\$ 30,000)

**Connecting Communities:** This is the second year of a cultural exchange program where children and their parents from a Horn of Africa background meet with families residing in the Eastern Suburbs of a non-African background. Taking part in 3 planned activities brings them together. This year we have had a Rock Climbing day and a Trampoline day and on November 12 is scheduled an outing at Coogee Beach with members of the local surf club.

**African Women Employment Program (AWEP):** The objective of this program is to assist South Sudanese women living in Western Sydney find employment after in most cases many years without paid work. A group of 16 ladies commenced the program earlier this year; they attended a series of workshops designed to get them job-ready and were paired with mentors who would assist and support them with job applications and interviews. The original group lost a few members along the way for various reasons but were replaced by others who became aware of the program.

The program underwent a significant change in approach when it became clear that the ladies required a much greater one-on-one support than anticipated in the initial stages. The revised method has worked and, as the program nears completion, it is pleasing to report that 9 women are now in full time/part time permanent employment.

We congratulate the ladies who persevered with the program and found jobs. Fiona Carr and Georgina Clark drove this project with tenacity and patience; it has paid off.

## **HARDA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017**

The project is funded by a grant from the Scanlon Foundation (\$13,750).

**Food for the Homeless:** Assisted by a group of young men from Brothers in Need, Harda delivered food and hygiene packs to 'homeless' persons in Martin Place and Parramatta Park.

A donation of \$ 5000 from the Global Aid Foundation enabled this initiative.

**Mental Health-** The University of Newcastle has just completed a research project titled "How the health beliefs of African refugees influence attribution of mental illness and health seeking behaviour following resettlement in Australia". Harda has been briefed on the findings of the research and Ahmed Mohamed is working with Professor Kewley with a view to design a project for Harda that will address some of the issues on Mental Health specific to East African communities.

**Assistance for Harda volunteers:** Harda has secured a grant of \$ 4400 from the Commonwealth Government (Dept of Social Services) for the purchase of equipment for the use of volunteers and costs associated with the training of volunteers.

## HARDA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017

### Overseas Projects

**Computers and beds to Ethiopia:** This was the second phase of a project planned and delivered by Girma Dabi and Michael Power. Earlier this year, 216 computers and 28 hospital beds were shipped to Ethiopia. Some of the costs were funded through an appeal (Chuffed.org) that raised \$ 5600.

**Beds and medical equipment to Somalia:** The Somali community of Sydney has worked very hard to bring some relief to their country of origin. It organised the shipment of 300 beds and other medical equipment to Kismayo hospital.

The freight cost was covered by a donation from the Global Aid Foundation; monies raised by community members and the above-mentioned appeal.

Harda's thanks go to NSW Health for supplying the beds and to Rotary Australia World Community Service Limited (Mr Keith Roffey) for facilitating the transfer of the beds.

**Projects funded by Global Aid Foundation:** Harda supports and facilitates projects in the Horn Of Africa that provide emergency relief or sustainable long-term benefits to vulnerable communities.

In the year to 30 June 2017, the Global Aid Foundation has funded several projects meeting the above criteria. They are:

- Water wells in South –Central Ethiopia. Potable water for 5000 persons.
- Iftar Food Relief in North East Kenya. Assistance to communities displaced due to the prolonged drought.
- South Ethiopia Emergency Food relief.
- Kenya Famine Emergency Appeal.

On the ground, the Siltie Aid Development Organisation (SADO) in Ethiopia; and Waso Resource Development Agency (WARDA) in Kenya implemented the projects.

Harda expresses its gratitude to the Global Aid Foundation and all the donors associated with the Foundation for these humanitarian initiatives.

# **HARDA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017**

## **Harda Executive Committee**

**President:** Sajjad Versi

**Vice President:** Degeufe Hailu

**Treasurer:** Linda LIn

**Secretary:** Michael Muhlbauer

**Committee Members:** Anna Dimo; Omar Mohammed and Abrar Ahmad.

**Associate Members:** Carmel Clark and Cindy Larson

**Executive Director:** Ahmed Mohamed

## **Harda Secretariat**

In addition to the above, the following have also given volunteer service to Harda.

Fiona Carr

Michael Power

Georgina Clark

Jordan Lau

Prapti Fatima

Krishna Valabjee

Deepak Parbhoo

Jennifer Druce

All mentors in the AWEP program

John Cornwall

Mohamud Sheik

## **HARDA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017**

### **Harda wishes to thank the following for their much appreciated and needed support**

The Edmund Rice Centre  
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club  
Scanlon Foundation  
Global Aid Foundation and associated donors  
Shabbir Kharodia  
St Bakhita Centre  
The Clark Family Foundation  
Kids Giving Back  
Auburn Sports Club  
Aquatic Safety & Training Academy at Seven Hills  
Work Ventures  
Brothers in Need  
Australian Somali Community Association  
NSW Health  
Rotary International (In Kind Donations)  
Commonwealth Government (Dept. of Social Services)  
NSW Government (Dept. of Family and Community Services & Multicultural NSW)  
Girma Dabi  
Colleen Moloney  
Ayooob Bhayat  
Imtiaz Bhayat  
Danny Long  
Sydney Forex  
J Glass & D Cohen  
Phil Waugh  
Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
MLA Holdings Pty Ltd  
Sydney Grammar School

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Signed by:

President: Sajjad Versi

Secretary: Michael Muhlbauer