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22 February 2012

Subject: Empowering young people to make a difference and save lives in East Africa

Dear Sir/Madam,

Many young people approached us last year, concerned about the famine in East Africa and asking how they could possibly make a difference. Hoping to empower them, we have designed a fundraising package for schools; a copy is attached for consideration by your staff and students.

The famine in East Africa appears to be the worst in 60 years and has already caused tens of thousands of deaths and forced millions to leave their homes. Children are the worst affected. The aid that the world has delivered so far has saved many lives, but the crisis continues. Food security remains the worst in the world, and under-five death rates are up to six times the already high rate for sub-Saharan Africa.

HARDA is a not-for-profit organisation, and the majority of our members are East African refugees now settled in Australia. This gives us unique connections to a number of NGOs in Africa. **100% of the money HARDA receives for famine relief goes to NGOs on the ground in East Africa.**

We are asking your school to join us in this famine relief effort. This could involve:

- linking the famine to lessons about development, inequality and social justice
- empowering students with the means to transform their values into actions
- building cohesiveness, participation and community spirit through holding a fundraising event
- promoting awareness of world issues and an interest in Africa and the effects of drought, famine and war
- helping students to develop empathy and compassion for people who may seem far removed from our daily lives

Schools in NSW that have already worked with HARDA on fundraising feel that their involvement had educational benefit, was positive for the school community and gave students and staff alike a sense of agency of which they were proud.

Just \$5 can feed a child for a week. We want our young people to understand that it is important not to get overwhelmed by the situation and to realise that they can make a difference.

Attached you will find background information on the famine and on HARDA, along with event ideas, as well as a link to a short video designed for secondary school audiences highlighting the situation in East Africa. HARDA volunteers will be happy to provide additional materials, answer your questions, or provide a speaker for a school-based event.

We would be most grateful if you could share these materials with your students and staff, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Yours sincerely,

John Cornwell

Executive Officer