



# Advocacy Update

Sent August 17, 2011

The drought in East Africa, the worst in sixty years, has devastated the water supply and is causing the deterioration, if not destruction, of crops and livestock. The countries in the Horn of Africa that have been impacted by the drought include Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia, resulting in about twelve million people desperately needing food, water, and other humanitarian assistance. The people of Somalia, where a famine has been declared in five regions, are overwhelmed by the lack of food and water and are fleeing to neighboring countries. About 2,000 Somalis are fleeing daily into Kenya and Ethiopia – adding to the approximately 600,000 that have already fled.

The Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR) website indicates that “Over US \$2.4 billion is needed to help people affected by the food crisis in the Horn of Africa. Less than half of that has been received so far. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has made an appeal to all to urgently bridge the gap and reduce the loss of life.”

The Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR), which includes WRJ and the URJ, is working to provide a united Jewish response to humanitarian disasters, and has established a coordinating group and website to respond to the drought and consequent famine and malnutrition. The JCDR website has updated information about the crisis in the Horn of Africa, as well as a coalition update, list of members, and a link to donate online.

The URJ, working in partnership with the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief and the American Jewish World Service to provide relief during this crisis, has set up a disaster relief fund for East Africa for donations from the United States and Canada.

#### U.S. Donations

Donate to the URJ Disaster Relief Fund (Indicate Africa Relief in the ‘Comments’ field).

Checks can be sent to:

Union for Reform Judaism (Attn: Africa Relief)  
633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017.

#### Canadian Donations

The CCRJ Social Action Committee has recommended that donations be made through the Humanitarian Coalition.

Checks can be sent to:

Humanitarian Coalition  
PO Box 7023, Ottawa, ON, K1L 5A0

Please donate now!