

**IMPORTANT: YOUR URGENT ALWS  
ACTION CAN PROTECT CHILDREN IN  
SOMALIA FROM HUNGER THIS  
CHRISTMAS**

*Dear Lutheran Friend,*

Rice. Wheat flour. Sugar. Dates.

I'm guessing that's not your Christmas lunch this year ...

... but I pray it might start a month of meals you give a family in Somalia facing famine this Christmas.

**Children are in deadly danger from hunger.**

5 years of drought have killed livestock and destroyed crops. Families have used all their savings, and have nothing left.

Russian shipping blockades have disrupted grain supplies from Ukraine, which Somalia relies on.

Widow, Fatuma Osman Mohamed, told the front-line team our Lutheran family supports in Somalia:

*"I have been forced to move away with my children due to the severe drought. Now I must rely entirely on aid for my family's daily food and protection needs."*

**Can you give a special Christmas gift to provide food aid to a family facing famine in Somalia?**

- **\$25** can provide one week's food aid for a family of six, like Fatuma's

- **\$105** can supply one month's family ration:
  - 25kg rice • 25kg wheat flour • 25kg sugar
  - 1kg dates • 3 litre jerry-can of vegetable oil
- **\$630** can deliver a full six months family ration (supplied monthly) – **nearly half a tonne of food!**

Simply complete the Action Slip enclosed.

You can place it on the Offering Plate at church over Christmas, OR FREEpost it in a letterbox.

If you prefer, call ALWS on **1300 763 407** OR go to **alws.org.au** OR use Bank Transfer – whatever suits you best.

## **WHY YOU ARE NEEDED NOW**

If you've seen any of the news reports on the ABC about the looming famine, you need no further words from me about why your help is critical.

Girma Gudina, who leads our Lutheran-supported team in Somalia, just returned from the front line. Girma told us:

*"It was heartbreaking to visit one household, where we saw four generations of family who were displaced. They were limited to one small shelter.*

*"When we asked about the future, the answer was:*

**"What is the future? We cannot think about the future. We can only think about living today."**

Families can only think about living today.

That's why I'm talking to you today.

Your urgent help this Christmas can help save the lives of children in danger from hunger.

Rice. Wheat flour. Sugar. Dates. Vegetable oil.

Whatever amount you feel blessed to give.

\$25. \$105. \$630 for a half tonne of food to support a whole family for the next six months.

## **YOU HELP FAMILIES IN MOST DANGER**

Through ALWS, you have a special focus on families where there is extra risk of suffering.

Families of widows like Fatuma.

Families where there is disability or sickness.

Families where there may be frail and elderly.

Mr Abdullahi Hassan Ahmed, dad of a family in danger, explained the horror they face:

*"... in the process to find food, we often find ourselves in other serious protection risks such as leaving behind the weak amongst our families including persons living with disability, children and women.*

*It's so heartbreaking for us to be separated from our loved ones."*

### **No parent should face this 'Sophie's Choice'.**

That's why my prayer this Christmas is that you consider bringing love to life by helping provide food for families facing famine.

## **YOUR HELP IS EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT**

Your donation will go to work in Somalia, and in Ethiopia, where families also face hunger.

Your gift is tax-deductible.

Your aid is closely monitored by experts to ensure every kilogram of food is accounted for.

Your ALWS action is efficient, with 'overheads' averaging only 15.4% over the last 5 years.

## PLEASE DON'T DELAY ...

... each day matters when a child faces hunger.

I remember being in a Feeding Centre in a bombed-out building in a war zone in Mozambique during a famine.

There were 37 babies in that building...

... but there was absolute silence.

The babies were too weak to cry.

Their mothers too weak to produce breast milk.

We cannot let this kind of catastrophe happen to children in Somalia. God has blessed and equipped our Lutheran family to bring food to them this Christmas to save their lives.

**Please give your Christmas donation now - \$25, \$105, \$630, however you feel blessed - to help fight famine and save children's lives.**



I promise you will be a blessing ALWayS.

Yours in service,

*Jonathan*

Jonathan Krause  
Community Action Manager, ALWS

**PS: If you have any questions about your ALWS action, please feel free to ask! Simply phone 1300 763 407, or email [alws@alws.org.au](mailto:alws@alws.org.au) You can also invite an ALWS guest speaker to share more about the work our church does for others through ALWS - like building bomb shelters in the basements of schools in Ukraine to protect students from Russian missile attacks!**