

MOUNT KILIMANJARO INSPIRES CANADIAN TO GIVE BACK

It was a charity climb on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania that first sparked Mary Ann MacKenzie's interest in Africa. Seeing so many disadvantaged children, she wanted to do what she could to help improve their lives. "I really have a love for children and am very lucky to have two healthy daughters of my own," the Toronto-based financial services executive says.

But it was her introduction to Amref Health Africa in 2011, through an event she attended with a friend, which fuelled Mary Ann's passion. "Once I learned of Amref Health Africa, I was immediately interested in getting involved. So much can be done for so many people without a huge expense.

Mary Ann MacKenzie visits an Amref Health Africa project in Kenya

It is changing people's lives right now so they can help themselves and their children, and start on the path towards a better future."

Mary Ann dove right in. She began contributing as a monthly donor, with additional one-time donations, and quickly looked for other ways to get more directly involved. She joined the volunteer Board of Directors of Amref Health Africa in Canada, and, for the past two years, has served as its Chair. She also sits on the International Board of Directors for Amref Health Africa, one of 14 volunteers from around the world who oversee the organization's global operations. And, twice a year, Mary Ann visits Amref Health Africa-funded projects to see first-hand how her support, and the support of Canadians, is making a lasting difference.

"We are so very lucky in Canada to have the lives we do and have the opportunities we do, and once I saw the challenges of people growing up in poor communities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, for example, I felt very indulged in my own life and wanted to give back," Mary Ann says. "The work that Amref Health Africa does is not a band-aid – they create sustainable projects that change people's lives. I am very proud to be a part of Amref Health Africa and will continue to contribute as long as they continue their great work."



SEVERE DROUGHT HITS ETHIOPIA. AMREF HEALTH AFRICA RESPONDS

El Niño has been wreaking havoc on the weather in many parts of the world this winter – record floods in parts of the US and the UK, spring-like temperatures in areas of Canada during the depths of December.

In Ethiopia, El Niño has meant much less rain than usual. And, that has led to a severe drought in some parts of the country.

The Afar region is one of the hardest hit areas. We've been working with pastoralist (nomadic) communities in this region on creating lasting health change for more than a decade. "The trust we have built up with community leaders through long-term projects means we can play a vital role in reducing the potentially severe health consequences of the drought and food shortage," says Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Amref Health Africa's Group CEO, based at our head office in Kenya.

We are ramping up a number of key activities to assist with the emergency response:

- ➔ Training health workers, community members, and health facility managers to screen children for malnutrition.
- ➔ Logistical support to provide at-risk children and pregnant women with nutritional supplements.
- ➔ Training health workers on emergency response.
- ➔ Working with communities to ensure access to clean water through various means, such as water treatment chemicals and supplies and trucking in clean water.
- ➔ Building the strength of the health system to help ensure ongoing, life-saving prevention and treatment services continue despite the emergency (e.g. immunizations).



Photo by Fikrie Gashaneh. A health worker in Ethiopia checks a baby for signs of malnutrition and stunted growth.

Visit our website for up-to-date news on our response to the drought in Ethiopia: <http://www.amrefcanada.org/why-africa/ethiopia/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Gitahi

Amref Health Africa Welcomes new Group CEO

Dr. Githinji Gitahi joined Amref Health Africa as its Group CEO in June 2015. He is based at our headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Until his appointment at Amref Health Africa, Dr. Gitahi was the Vice-President and Regional Director for Africa at Smile Train International, where he successfully established partnerships for long-term sustainability with various African governments. Prior to that, he worked with the Nation Media Group where he was the Managing Director for Monitor Publications in Uganda as well as General Manager for Marketing and Circulation in East Africa. He also held progressively senior positions at GlaxoSmithKline, Avenue Group and in the insurance industry. Dr. Gitahi has a bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery and a Masters in Business Administration, majoring in marketing.

ABOUT AMREF HEALTH AFRICA

Amref Health Africa (formerly AMREF – the African Medical and Research Foundation), the largest African led international organization on the continent, provides training and health services to over 30 countries in Africa. Founded in 1957 as the Flying Doctors of East Africa to bring critical health services to remote communities, Amref Health Africa now delivers preventative, community-based health care. With a focus on women and children, Amref Health Africa manages a full range of medical and public health programmes tackling the most critical health challenges facing the continent: maternal and child care; HIV, TB and malaria; clean water and sanitation; and surgical and clinical outreach.

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"Habari" is a greeting in Swahili, a widely used language in much of East Africa. It is also used to mean "What's new?" or "How are you?"

Amref Health Africa in Canada exercises every effort to minimize costs and provide more funding to our programs. By spending less than \$2,500, the cost of postage, we hope to raise \$50,000 to improve health in Africa.

HABARI

news from Amref Health Africa in Canada



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