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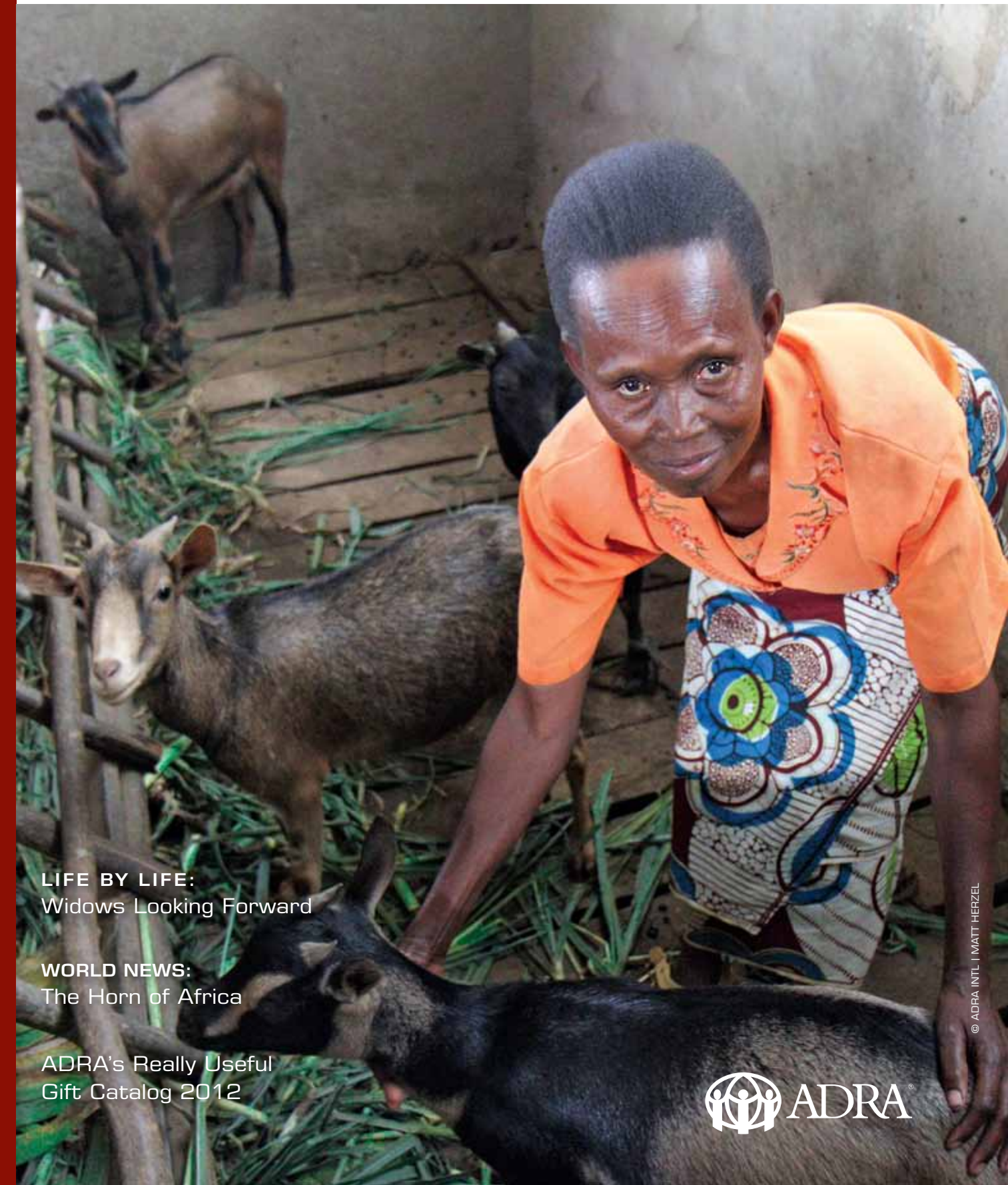
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LIFE BY LIFE:
Widows Looking Forward

WORLD NEWS:
The Horn of Africa

ADRA's Really Useful
Gift Catalog 2012



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WIDOWS LOOKING FORWARD

CHANGING THE FUTURE FOR RWANDA WIDOWS



RWANDA

“I used to spend all day in my house alone. I was very lonely; I talked to no one, and no one talked to me,” says Siforo. “Now, because of ADRA, I am part of this community. Everything is different here.”

The “Goats for Widows” project in *ADRA’s Really Useful Gift Catalog 2008* has given widows a brighter future in the western mountains of Karongi, Rwanda. The genocide brought widowhood to 500,000 women, many of whom moved to remote rural areas. ADRA, the only organization to answer the pleas of the Rwandan government to work in this nearly impossible-to-reach village at the

top of a mountain, first taught women to read and write. At the end of the training, we asked the women to identify the widows in their villages. Visiting with the widows, we introduced the idea of goat banks and the Goats for Widows project.

“I have been a widow for 17 years raising my four children. There was no one to help me,” says Siforo. “First, ADRA taught me to read and write. Now I am teaching other women. With ADRA’s guidance, we formed a cooperative and learned to work together. We did not do this before because we did not trust each other. We started planting vegetables together. Then ADRA helped us build a goat house.

“When we started to build the goat house, we started to feel hope. Before then, we found it impossible to believe that we would be given goats,” Siforo continues. “I was named president of the cooperative. ADRA inspired us to work hard and quickly. We planted elephant grass for our future goats.

Siforo tends to their prized male goat.

“Then one day, ADRA took all the widows in the cooperative to the market to buy goats!” Siforo exclaims. “We were each allowed to choose a goat. Each woman did not choose her own goat; we chose goats together as a cooperative. Then we created groups to care for the goats—one group one day, another the next, and so on. This way, no one has to stop working in the garden or caring for their home and children.”

“We are one of 15 ADRA widow cooperatives in this area,” says Rachel. “ADRA helped us build the goat building so that we can easily capture both the goats’ urine and manure. They taught us to make our own organic compost that we use in our vegetable gardens. Today, we have 36 goats and 13 kids.

“We have repaid our goats to the ADRA goat bank and have not sold any goats,” says Rachel. “Together, we have decided to have a better hybrid stock. When we do sell the old goats, the income will solve many problems. We have decided that some of the income will be used to pay the health costs for all the widows in the cooperative. To have health coverage from the

government we must pay 3,000 Rwanda francs [\$5] each year. This is a luxury we do not have. Soon this will be possible.”

“These are our goats, and it will be hard to sell them,” says Siforo, starting to cry. “These goats have brought all of us widows together. They have made us family. This cooperative will continue because we have learned how much better our life is working on everything together.”

“We say thank you,” says Rachel. “We recognize that this is a gift. This shows the love you have for us, though you did not know us. We have no way to



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repay our thanks to ADRA, so we show our gratitude to our fellow widows. We believe that God did something big in our lives. We believe that the idea for this project came from Him.” ■

A SISTERHOOD OF *Widows*



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BEFORE

- ▶ Daughters of widowed mothers often **DROP OUT** of school to help support the family.
- ▶ About 70% of children in Rwanda are **DEPENDANT** on widowed mothers.
- ▶ Widows in Africa are commonly the most destitute and **VULNERABLE** women on the continent.

AFTER

- ▶ ADRA is **TEACHING** girls and their mothers to read and write.
- ▶ ADRA's programs **EASE** some of the hardships these women face.
- ▶ The "Goats for Widows" project brings a **HIGHER LEVEL OF INCOME** and financial stability than these women would otherwise enjoy.

ADRA IN THE MEDIA



THE LACOMBE GLOBE

CLASSROOMS IN AFGHANISTAN

www.interaction.org

Azalea Lehndorff writes about ADRA's work in Afghanistan building 100 classrooms with partner A Better World. In this article, Lehndorff describes her journey from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, to Kabul, Afghanistan. This article gives keen insight into the everyday lives of ADRA field workers and the challenges they face. Full article: <http://bit.ly/sGawZT>



THE HIMALAYAN TIMES

MATERNAL HEALTH IN NEPAL

www.thehimalayantimes.com

A story out of the city of Baitadi in the north central region of Nepal reports on the lifesaving activities of ADRA's support of 10 maternal centers. The equipment provided by ADRA has improved the success of complicated types of child deliveries. Full article: <http://bit.ly/tQ37m3>



ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN THAILAND

news.adventist.org

ADRA distributed more than 2,000 packages of food, drinking water, and medicines to the victims of Thailand's worst flood in 50 years. In this article, the ANN staff provides detailed information of the church's response to this natural disaster. Full article: <http://bit.ly/tOO8mP>

ADRAWORKS

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DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA The severe drought that has plagued the Horn of Africa persists, and although reports from intergovernment agencies are projecting improved rains in parts of the Horn by the end of the year, millions continue to suffer.



ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA: The Western Somali region in Ethiopia has experienced very low rainfall, which has had a devastating impact on pastoral communities. Along with emergency water trucking and distribution of essential nonfood items, ADRA has provided livestock feed and veterinary assistance to protect the assets of the farming communities. Through this assistance, ADRA is helping secure the livelihoods of thousands of people who are dependent upon their valuable livestock.

SOMALIA: In Somalia, the number of malnourished children is now reaching 450,000. ADRA has enhanced its existing interventions with additional distributions of urgently needed food and emergency nonfood items. ADRA is rehabilitating water points and is trucking water to drought-stricken areas. ADRA's interventions in Somaliland, Puntland, and Central Somalia have benefited more than 120,000 people. The lack of adequate rains will prolong and exacerbate the emergency conditions.

KENYA: In Kenya, with refugees fleeing Somalia at the rate of 800 per day, the country remains overburdened. ADRA is implementing a multifaceted response that includes the distribution of food, installation of water tanks, water trucking, construction of sanitation facilities, training in hygiene and sanitation, and distribution of livestock feed, shelter, medicines, and health staff. An estimated 520,000 people will benefit from the agency's response.



UGANDA: Parts of the country of Uganda continue to experience acute food shortages, especially in the northern Karamoja region. ADRA has initiated a six-month intervention, providing 5,000 households with ongoing food rations. Officials state that more than 1 million people in the region are experiencing hunger and/or malnutrition as a result of the drought. The situation in Uganda grows more tenuous as mudslides and floods are destroying drought-resistant crops expected for harvesting this fall.

UGANDA



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BECAUSE OF YOU, ADRA is making a difference in the lives of widows in Rwanda! Thank you for your faithful support.

The plight of widows in developing countries is a tragedy that receives very little attention. Groups such as the World Bank are just beginning to study the devastating economic effects that widowhood brings. Too many are forced from their homes when their husband dies.

The Bible mentions the plight of widows many times—from the harvest of grain or grapes that was deliberately left behind for the fatherless or widows in the Old Testament to Isaiah 1:17:

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow” (NIV).

I believe it is the duty of every Christian to remember the widows in their midst. How are you changing the world for the widows around you and the deeply impoverished widows that you may never meet? ■