## Lions Clubs International

MD 105 British Isles & Ireland We Serve

## The Drought and Famine in East Africa



March 2017

Fellow Lions

We know that members will wish to assist those suffering from the effects of drought and the rapid and associated onset of famine in East Africa.

Contact has been made with our colleagues at LCIF, but they are unable to launch an appeal because of the terms of the LCIF Trust, which requires donations and grants to be made through the Lions of the destination country; and, unfortunately, there are no Lions in either South Sudan or Somalia able to administer such monies. LCIF also advises that it is unable to provide grant assistance to situations of drought, as there is no accurate way to identify a determinable end to an emergency of drought. We have been advised that the International Board may discuss this position when they meet in a few weeks.

The political situation in the area suffering this humanitarian disaster also makes access to those in need very difficult, but some other international humanitarian agencies such as UNICEF and the Disasters Emergency Committee do have some permissions to have access in the area. As there is not at present, for the reasons mentioned above, an LCIF appeal, collecting funds and routing them through those existing links of other humanitarian organisations seems therefore to be at present the most effective way of doing so.

As LCI has a special relationship with the United Nations and UNICEF is one of the humanitarian organisations with access to the areas affected collecting donations and routing them through UNICEF would appear to be the most effective way of providing immediate relief in the form of fresh water, food, and warmth to the children in these areas.

Please therefore consider making urgent donations through your District Treasurer to UNICEF, marked East Africa Drought Appeal. We attach a poster which has been produced explaining how we can work with our long-term partner UNICEF to help in this unfolding humanitarian disaster.

With many thanks

Yours in Lionism

IPDG Heather Jeavons

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Chairman of the Council of Governors

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