

GLOBAL TEAM FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Global Team for Local Initiatives (GTLI) was chartered as a Washington state-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation on October 4, 2007. We work with indigenous people in the developing world whose existence is threatened by starvation, dehydration and disease. Our mission is to help them develop practices and leadership that will enable them to survive for the long term. Currently we are working with the 23,000 member Hamar tribe in southwest Ethiopia.

Between February and April of 2008 we lived with the Hamar for two-and-a-half months, learning their culture, forming relationships and building trust. This visit laid down the foundation for all of our future work with the tribe.

As a result of the visit we completed two major status documents about the tribe:

- *a comprehensive quantitative needs assessment*: working with an Ethiopian consultant, we measured the status of the tribe in numerous key areas: access to water, health status and access to health care, education level and access to education, nutrition and access to food, size and condition of livestock herds, etc.
- *a comprehensive qualitative needs assessment*: working through translators, GTLI staff surveyed 292 people representing a broad cross-section of the community. The 78 survey questions explored the Human Experience, Community and Leadership, Family Life, Income Generation Activities, issues regarding Crops, and Livestock and Aid received from the government and NGOs working in the area. The goal was not only to identify issues, needs and concerns, but also to improve the likelihood of adoption of new practices and to positively influence the implementation of GTLI initiatives.

These two surveys will form the foundation for all of our work. By establishing the needs and capabilities of the tribe they establish the direction for all of our programs. They also form the baseline against which we will measure our success.

Living with the tribe for 2 ½ months also enabled us to learn how to work with them most effectively. We learned, for example, that the Hamar are elder-driven. That means that before we can introduce new practices, we must first gain the support of the elders. We will now design our programs and timelines with that in mind.

GTLI's goal is to help the Hamar survive for the long term; the new practices we introduce must sustain themselves long after we are gone. For that to happen, the tribe must take ownership of the practices and must develop leaders who can keep the practices going. Our 2 ½ months with the tribe enabled us to assess the tribe's willingness to change as well as its existing and potential leadership capacity. We found them extremely eager to learn what we could teach them and met many men and women in tribal communities who can step up as natural leaders.

In April, May and June, with help from our board of directors who are experts in international development, we developed a set of proposed programs that we felt would respond to the tribe's needs and capacities. These programs are grouped into two major initiatives: Sustainable Water and Integrated Management System (SWIMS) and Self-Help Integrated Programs (SHIP). SWIMS will bring clean water to the tribe through the creation of hand dug wells, cisterns and subsurface dams, and will train tribal members in sanitation, hygiene and disease prevention practices. SHIP will introduce practices that will improve nutrition, generate revenue, and educate community leaders so that they can communicate in the national language, thereby empowering the community to become self-reliant and improving their chances for long-term survival.

GTLI's development model calls for using "best practices" and strategic partnerships in order to maximize our efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, throughout the year we formed relationships with, and learned from, other NGOs that work in similar situations or in nearby areas. These include the Kossoye Project affiliated with the Medical College in Gondar, Ethiopia; Farm Africa; Save the Children Norway; EPaRDA; PATH; and others.

Toward the end of the year we did a small amount of fundraising to raise money to support our programs. In May we held a fundraising luncheon on Bainbridge Island, WA which raised approximately \$11,000; in June we held a second luncheon in Minneapolis which raised approximately \$6,000. We have promised our donors that we will keep our operating and fundraising costs to a maximum of 10-15% of our expenditures and that we will direct 85-90% of all revenue to programs.

To begin educating the public about the plight of the Hamar we created a set of four greeting cards featuring photographs of Hamar tribe members. We began offering the cards for sale at our fundraisers and on our website.

As the year came to a close we were beginning to firm up the programs we would pilot during our 2 ½ month visit with the tribe in the fall of 2008. We determined that these programs will probably focus on teaching the preparation of oral rehydration treatment to stop active cases of diarrhea, teaching waterless hygiene, and teaching the women how to make a goatskin product for sale in western markets.

Prepared by Robin Simons, Executive Director, October 2008