

On the Road: First Person Story

Grades 4 – 8

Background

This is a good follow up lesson to *Journey from Home*. Basic human rights are things every person is entitled to in order to survive and live a fully-rounded life. Rights for children are articulated in and protected in the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) and for all people in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#). Thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in the Horn of Africa face the daily challenge of not having their most basic needs met or rights protected, such as access to food, safe water, shelter and protection from abuse.

Students will

- demonstrate understanding of basic human rights
- make connections between their lives and the lives of children living in IDP or refugee camps
- describe Canada's participation in addressing current global issues

Materials

- A copy of *On the Road: First Person Story* and *World Vision Horn of Africa Response* map
- Access to computer and Internet for playing video and podcast

Time 60 minutes

Instructions

1. Organize students into small groups. Ask each group to read *On the Road: First Person Story* and use the *World Vision Horn of Africa: Response to Drought and Hunger* map to identify both the Dadaab camp and Mogadishu, the area where Alihassan's family likely began their journey.
2. Share this podcast and video with the class depicting conditions in Dadaab Camp:
 - a) Waiting in Dadaab (World Vision Report, April 2011)
 - b) <http://www.worldvisionreport.org/Stories/Week-of-April-2-2011/Waiting-in-Dadaab>
 - c) Somalis flee drought and civil war (AlJazeera, July 2011)
 - d) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLHjb_QTmkw&feature=relmfu

Discussion

- Is Dadaab an IDP camp or refugee camp? What is the difference?
- What are some of the challenges facing children and families in the camps? Compare the daily lives of children living in the camps to your own. Who is responsible for protecting the rights of children who are IDPs or refugees?
- What interventions are being used to address the needs and rights of people in the camps? Who are the main players in these interventions? What role can Canadians play?

On the Road: First Person Story

Who: Alihassan Hussein, age 13

Date: Monday, 08 August 2011

Location: Dadaab Camp in Kenya. Migrants fleeing from the current drought in Somalia make their homes here out of sticks and found materials. They beg and borrow to survive. Alihassan lives with his mother and six siblings—four brothers and a sister.

“My name is Alihassan Hussein. I am from Somalia, a district called Sagale. I am 13 years old. We are seven. My father is dead. I am staying with my mother and my older and little brothers. We sleep here, all of our family members in this tent.¹

We have been here a week. We took one month to come here. We walked. We were fired at by militia. We reached the border. No one was hurt. The TFG² along the Kenyan border helped us. They gave us food and water. Then we crossed. We came because there was no food.

I do nothing. We just wake up and cook whatever we have which is provided by the agencies who work at the refugee camps. We beg people for what we eat since we are newcomers. My mother begs. She borrows food from our neighbors. I only eat once a day.

We don't have football here. We just run and clap our hands. I just stay in my house. When I get tired, I go to the neighbors and see if there is any food to eat. Then I just sleep when the day is over. I would like to go to school.

I see people collecting sticks to build houses. I have seen some men digging toilets. My mother collects firewood for us from a far distance and she looks for something to eat for the day. And she's pregnant. I am worried about my mother. She is the one who keeps us. She is the one who provides us our daily bread. She is the one who provides for our family.



I am concerned about my brothers. We love each other. They are good. We belong to one family. I am worried when we are sleeping here in the night. This is an open area. I am afraid of the wild animals like lions and hyenas. There is no fence here.

I don't want to stay here, but if my country becomes peaceful I will go back. For the moment, I am here.”

¹ There is one single mattress for all 7 family members.

² Transitional Federal Government. This is the internationally recognized government of Somalia.

World Vision Horn of Africa Response to Drought & Hunger

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