

Below is a sample letter to the editor of a local newspaper on the famine in the Horn of Africa. Letter writers are encouraged to adapt and personalize this text. They can make reference to their particular congregation by replacing "I" with "As members of ____, we ..." They can make reference to their members of Congress by replacing "our Congressional representatives" with the names of their senators and their representative. These names can be found online at senate.gov and house.gov.

Dear editor,

We are witnessing a great catastrophe in the Horn of Africa. A massive drought in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya has destroyed the crops and livestock that more than 13 million people depend on for food. Ongoing conflict in Somalia has made it even worse. According to the UN, 750,000 people could starve.

This is the first famine of the 21st century — a deeply troubling milestone. I encourage your readers to contribute to humanitarian ministries such as Week of Compassion, the disaster and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Such organizations are working to save lives in the Horn of Africa. I also urge our Congressional representatives to maintain funding for international agricultural assistance and other humanitarian aid in next year's federal budget.

With help, the people of this region can make famine a thing of the past. We must do our part.

Sincerely,