



**Mohamed Adam** - In the summer of 2002, I traveled to Somaliland after eighteen years outside of the country. One day, as I walked through the ruins of my hometown, I encountered two young elementary students on their way home from school. As I talked with them, I was impressed by their determination to be educated. As they made clear, neither of them saw their situation as a deterrent for their potential. The next day, I visited a few schools to find out more about the state of education in the area. All of them lacked the basic resources. Books, desks, chairs and even electricity were missing from their facilities. Teacher training was limited and teacher salaries were dependent on community contributions. When I returned to the United States that summer I was determined to change this. The story of those two youngsters and their peers inspired me. My admiration for them led me to make a promise to give back. Out of that promise, AHDI-promise was born.



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