

SYRIA, TEN YEARS OF DEVASTATING CONFLICT

The United Nations calls it “the worst man-made disaster since the Second World War.” The civil war in Syria, which began March 15, 2011, has killed nearly 400,000 people, including about 230,000 civilians, and injured several million others, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Triggered by the bloody repression of the Arab Spring’s peaceful demonstrations, the conflict has turned into a civil war that has prompted the exodus of 11 million people, or half of the population. This complex conflict, in which Bashar al-Assad’s regular army, the Syrian Democratic Army, the democratic forces and the Islamic State, as well as other countries (Russia, Iran, as well as an international coalition including the U.S.), has plunged the country into an acute economic and humanitarian crisis. Nearly 80% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Bombing populated areas

The massive use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas is an inhumane trademark of this conflict. Humanity & Inclusion continues to fight to put an end to the use of such heavy bombs near civilians, and calls on States to make a strong political statement to this effect. The use of these weapons, particularly during the sieges of Homs, Aleppo, Goutha, Deraa and Idlib, has caused civilian casualties and a deadly pollution of unexploded remnants in its wake.

A country destroyed

Such bombings have destroyed public infrastructure. With 40% of schools closed, destroyed or damaged, dropout rates are high. Hospitals and clinics are severely affected, to the point that Syria has been described as “the most dangerous place in the world for health workers.” Humanity & Inclusion’s teams are helping injured refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. Basic needs kits, as well as risk education—teaching people to spot and report weapons they might find—are other key components to the response.



Salam was injured by a cluster munition in Syria in 2015, and receives support from HI.

2.9 million

Syrians live with a disability

10.2 million

Syrians live in areas polluted by remnants of war

1 in 3

survivors of an explosive weapon injury have had a limb amputated

Children in the line of fire

According to a January study released by our friends at Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), explosive weapons killed or injured at least 15,248 children between 2011 and 2019. That would only be a fraction of the actual number, as not all victims were reported. According to AOAV, children are seven times more likely to die from blast injuries than adults.

2020: Victims of Armed Violence



29,485
people injured or killed in 2019, including 2,021 children

251,306
people injured or killed between 2011 and 2019



90%
of people injured or killed in urban areas are civilians

Source: Action on Armed Violence, 2020

Syria Response

1.8 million
people assisted/ accompanied*

132,066
mobility aids and specific equipment distributed

178,800
physical and functional rehabilitation sessions

313,187
people received food and essential household items

Figures since the beginning of the conflict

* People may have been counted more than once if they received multiple grants

Learn more:
www.hi-us.org/syriacrisis

Covid-19: One year of response

Humanity & Inclusion has helped more than 2.2 million people in 46 countries through its global Covid-19 response. Teams have adapted their work to keep everyone safe. Thanks to our donor support, work has continued almost without interruption.

In the Philippines, Danwell Esperas is coaching people with disabilities to find gainful employment. In Cambodia, physical therapists are using a doll to demonstrate exercises, so Sreyoun’s mother can help the 3-year-old girl born with cerebral palsy. In

countries like Uganda and Bolivia, physical therapists are using tele-rehabilitation to treat patients virtually. In Madagascar, Offrancia, who has epilepsy, was able to reopen her small business thanks to a financial boost. In Colombia, hundreds of Venezuelan refugee families

receive regular financial assistance to cover housing, food and healthcare.

Collectively, donors like you ensure our frontline teams can respond to the unique needs of program participants. Thank you for sharing our commitment to inclusion.

Donate at www.hi-us.org/donate

IMPACT

Teams respond to fires in Rohingya refugee camp and Sierra Leone



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IN FOCUS

Staff provide at-home care in Afghanistan



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COMMUNITY

A new inclusive fellowship born from friendship & Our Favorite Photos



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Humanity & Inclusion mobilized after a major fire on March 22, at a Rohingya refugee camp.

Fires raze Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh, shanty town in Sierra Leone

Thousands of people are displaced after two fires tore through Cox’s Bazar, the world’s largest refugee camp to nearly 1 million Rohingya people. Thanks to donors, Humanity & Inclusion’s teams have been working at the Bangladesh camp since 2013, and acted fast to respond to the incredible needs.

After the first fire in January, donor funds helped provide supplies to more than 500 households. The humanitarian response

continued after the March 22 fire, which killed at least 15 people, injured 550 and affected more than 40,000 people.

Support from our most loyal contributors ensured the delivery of 34,000 hot meals to families. Through individual and group sessions, more than 1,700 people traumatized by the events have received psychosocial care. Others have received physical therapy and had replacements for their

crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs that were destroyed in the fires. Teams distributed more than 3,000 kits of essential hygiene items and cooking supplies, too.

Just two days after the second fire at the Rohingya refugee camp, and 6,700 miles away, a fire ravaged the settlement of Susan’s Bay in Sierra Leone’s capital of Freetown. Flames claimed more than 250 homes, forcing many to seek temporary shelter in schools

or tents. The fire impacted 8,000 people and more than 400 sustained injuries. Families lost everything.

Frontline staff ensured that no one forgot people with disabilities, and provided inclusive humanitarian assistance. So far, teams have identified dozens of people with disabilities, assessed their needs, provided emergency psychological support, and began replacing the mobility aids lost or damaged in the fire.

Note from the Executive Director



As a Presidential candidate, Joe Biden said that, if elected, he would reverse a Trump-era policy that opened the door for the U.S. military to use antipersonnel landmines. Unfortunately, his Administration has failed to act in its first 100 days.

Instead, just two days after International Mine Awareness Day on April 4, the Pentagon doubled down on the current policy. Department of Defense spokesman Mike Howard called landmines a “vital tool in conventional warfare that the...military cannot responsibly forego....” Landmines are anything but conventional—mines cannot differentiate between exploding on contact with a military member or a civilian, and the damage they cause to lives is ongoing and irreparable. With our partners in the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines, we voiced concerns over this dangerous and, frankly, inhumane approach to warfare.

In acknowledging the immediate public backlash, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield reiterated the Administration’s intent to review and eventually repeal the existing policy. This is some relief to the thousands of people worldwide who live in proximity to these deadly devices, but it is not enough.

It’s time for the U.S. to eliminate landmines. 164 states, including every other member of NATO, have joined the 1997 Ottawa Treaty to ban landmines. Please help the Biden Administration to right this wrong. Sign our petition at www.hi-us.org/ban_landmines. We need every voice to urge the U.S. to do what we have failed to do since 1997!

Jeff Meer
U.S. Executive Director
Twitter: @Jeff_HIUS

THEN & NOW: CATCHING UP WITH CHANNA

When **Channa** was born prematurely in Cambodia, her fingers had not fully formed and the lower part of her left leg was almost detached from her body. Her doctor decided it needed to be amputated immediately.

Channa’s mother worried that her daughter would never be able to walk or play like other children. Her hope was restored in 2012, when Humanity & Inclusion’s team began working with Channa.

At 18 months old, Channa took her first steps with her artificial leg. In November, Channa returned to the rehabilitation center in Kampong Cham, where she was fitted for her tenth prosthesis.

Channa is 11 now. Time flies! A 4th grader, Channa hopes to be a teacher one day.

“I love my prosthesis,” Channa says. “It changed my life. Now I can walk and play jump rope!”



Channa

← 2014

.....

2020 →

.....

2017 ↓



DELIVERING SUPPORT DIRECT TO AFGHAN HOMES

MOBILE EMERGENCY TEAM MEETS NEEDS IN CAMP FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE

Sher Gul Mohammadi
Mobile team leader from
Herat, Afghanistan



Without these teams that travel everywhere, isolated people with disabilities would not receive any rehabilitation care.

The work we do with the mobile teams is vital for the most vulnerable people, as we provide them with much needed emergency services. Among them are many internally displaced people who have lost all their income, their homes, or their farmland. There are also people with physical disabilities who need rehabilitation services.

40 years of conflict

In Afghanistan, nearly 80% of adults live with a disability, according to a 2020 report from the Asia Foundation. More than four decades of war have left millions with amputated limbs, visual or hearing difficulties, varying states of depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress.

In 2019, the country had the highest number of civilian casualties by weapons, with nearly 10,400 people injured or killed, according to the UN. Afghan children are paying a heavy price for the conflict. In 2019, they accounted for nearly one-third of casualties, and today the Asia Foundation estimates that more than 17% of Afghan children live with a disability.

Rehabilitation centers offer care hub

Humanity & Inclusion has managed the Kandahar Rehabilitation Center for 25 years. With mobile teams, 50 professionals support patients from neighboring regions. In 2020, they treated nearly 8,500 people with disabilities or injuries, 20% of whom were victims of explosive weapons.



Juma is one of many patients who receive at-home rehabilitation care from members of Humanity & Inclusion's emergency mobile team.

One night in October 2019, a terrible explosion rocked the lives of Juma and his family. His family's home was targeted in an air strike that killed his 3-year-old sister and injured his father. A severe injury to his brain and spinal cord left Juma, 14, with quadriplegia and difficulty speaking.

After the blast, Juma's family fled their village in central Afghanistan's Ghor Province, and moved to a camp for displaced people near the city of Herat, where they live in a small house.

Plagued by decades of war, violence, drought and poverty, more than 2.3 million people have fled Afghanistan. Another 360,000 people—like Juma and his

family—are displaced within Afghanistan.

Many people live in makeshift camps that are often isolated and lacking access to basic medical care. Donor support has enabled Humanity & Inclusion to send an emergency mobile team into these camps, where staff can identify people who need the most help, and then provide regular physical rehabilitation and psychosocial care.

Juma received a wheelchair and other assistive equipment to help him become more independent. Physical therapists work with him regularly and also taught his parents exercises they can do with him. A counselor meets with Juma's entire family, helping them cope with the trauma they've

endured and the challenges they continue to face.

"When Humanity & Inclusion came to our home, hope returned," explains Juma's mother. "It was really hard for me to carry my son all day. He couldn't move at all and he was depressed. ...He can move his hands again, he is feeling better, and he can do certain things by himself. I am really grateful to Humanity & Inclusion for their help."

4,000 displaced people
living in Herat helped by HI's mobile team in 2020

Safa, 14

When Safa was a child, she fell ill with a high fever. She was soon unable to use her legs. A wheelchair, walking frame and at-home rehabilitation care are helping Safa's independence.



Safa colors while supported by a standing frame.

Fazlu, 6

An air strike on his village killed Fazlu's brother and sister, and left him with severe burns on his legs. After working with physical therapists, Fazlu can run with his friends again.



Fazlu stretches during an at-home physical therapy session.

MICRO NEWS



RWANDA

Aisha, who lives with post-polio paralysis, received a wheelchair makeover after visiting Humanity & Inclusion's local workshop. Aisha was gifted with a new cushion, an adjusted seat, and replaced the rear tires, front castor wheel and brakes.

MYANMAR

More than 770 civilians, including dozens of children, have been killed in Myanmar as a result of the military's widespread use of deadly force. Humanity & Inclusion is calling for an end to the violence and warning of an imminent humanitarian crisis.

MOZAMBIQUE

Attacks by armed groups in March displaced thousands. Since 2017, more than 670,000 people have fled violence in the region. "People are terrified," says Marco Tamburro, Humanity & Inclusion's program director in Mozambique. "People must receive the support they so desperately need."

New fellowship honors a 40-year friendship, and more inclusive path

It's not uncommon for Alan Bennett to receive an email from his friend of 40 years, John O'Donnell. But this email was unlike any other. "To say I was overwhelmed is an understatement," Alan recalls.

John, who lives in Washington, DC, had made a gift to Humanity & Inclusion to establish a fellowship to support the inclusion of professionals with disabilities overseas. It would be known as the Alan D. Bennett Fellowship.

"I admire him a lot," John says of Alan. "He's a smart, thoughtful guy. I'm really pleased that I can make this donation to an organization that's doing this important work. I suppose it's not like buying the naming rights to a sports stadium, but it's as close as I can get, and it has some effect."

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"Part of the appeal of supporting Humanity & Inclusion is how many local people are involved in their work, so that

people with disabilities can be helped in the long term. Locally sourced materials keep costs down, support the local economy and local craftspeople, too."

Both men share a love for travel, having traveled to Ireland a number of times. "John's the poet, and I'm the pragmatist," Alan quips. "If you walk into a pub with John, you'll be talking to everyone in a couple of minutes. John's that kind of person. It would take me weeks to know those people!"

John lives with condition called retinitis pigmentosa, which has gradually taken his eyesight. Most people are blind in their 30s, John explains, but he "didn't go full-in with the white cane" until he reached his 60s. "I've been fortunate that I had eyesight for as many years as I had

it. I had a 30-year career without a lot of assistance. And now, there's computer technology that I can use."

John balances out his generous giving with support to his high school, The Phillips Collection, the Library of Congress and other organizations. He has been a leadership donor to Humanity & Inclusion for the past decade, and is one of the founding members of the organization's Legacy Society, which includes dozens of donors who have named Humanity & Inclusion in their wills.

After Alan read John's email, he called John to ask an important question: "how can I let you know how meaningful this is?" John's answer is simple: "the friendship, and knowing the money will be put to good purpose, is thanks enough."



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Chad: holistic development

Our Chadian teams recently shared new photos from a four-year development project that includes demining, economic recovery, social protection and access to rehabilitation.

Demining teams (top right) are piloting drones that spot remnants of war, clearing explosive hazards, and leading risk education sessions. Their work helps children play safely, and farmers graze their livestock without fear.

Meanwhile, mothers (left) are getting a financial boost to start their own businesses. Physical therapists and prosthetic technicians (bottom right) are helping mine victims and people with disabilities walk again.

The project started in 2017, and is led by Humanity & Inclusion. Partners include Mines Advisory Group, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, and SECADEV.

Learn more at www.hi-us.org/chad.

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