# THE STEP WAR 15 THE NEWS for friends and partners & inclusion

# 'APOCALYPTIC': ONE-THIRD OF PAKISTAN UNDERWATER

Heavy monsoon rains starting in June resulted in the worst flooding Pakistan has experienced in more than a decade, leaving one-third of the country underwater.

The waters damaged upwards of 1.3 million homes, injured at least 12,900 people and claimed the lives of more than 1,700 people. Experts estimate it will take months for the waters to recede. Meanwhile, 6.4 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

"It's a bit apocalyptic," says Caroline Duconseille, Humanity & Inclusion's country manager for Pakistan. "You see houses that have completely collapsed from the passage of water. Bridges are destroyed. On the side of the roads, people have built temporary shelters and are sleeping in tents—with nothing left but the clothes on their backs. Not to mention the trauma that this represents for these people."

Working in Pakistan since the early 1980s and with experience responding to the 2010 floods there, Humanity & Inclusion launched an immediate emergency response. In the initial phase of intervention, more than 2,000 individuals were assessed in an effort to prioritize people with the greatest needs.

With donor support, Humanity & Inclusion's response is ongoing and long-term.

Even before the floods, the population was facing increased food insecurity. The climate disaster has only exacerbated the crisis. According to the UN, approximately 73% of affected households have insufficient access to food, more than 2 million acres of agricultural land were damaged and more than 1.2 million livestock were lost.

Teams began by distributing food, cookware, blankets, soap and emergency supplies to 1,500 families in the affected regions of Nowshera and Charsadda.

Psychological experts are working with people displaced from their homes to assess mental health

Parveen, whose family received a kit of non-food items, says that the support from Humanity & Inclusion "will help us in resettling and restarting our life."



Families displaced by flooding in Pakistan set up temporary roadside shelters. Humanity & Inclusion is distributing food and other emergency supplies to people who have lost everything in Nowshera and Charsadda.



The flood in my village completely destroyed our way of life. It took away everything from my house. Our bicycle business is also destroyed completely.

The Humanity & Inclusion team came to our house, consoled us and asked about our immediate needs. This kit will help us in resettling and restarting life.

## Parveen

Nowshera, Pakistan







Relief Fund

# Unrelenting reality of war in Ukraine

Ukraine continues to face the unrelenting reality of war with a devastatingly cold winter approaching. Millions of people are displaced, fleeing violence inside the country or taking refuge in neighboring countries. People with disabilities and aging individuals face more challenges in escaping the attacks than others.

Nadezhda, 66, was diagnosed with diabetes 22 years ago. She has survived two strokes, two heart attacks and cervical cancer—and uses a cane to get around. She lost her husband and son to cancer.

"The shelling and stress from the war has further deteriorated my condition," explains Nadezhda. "I tried to tough it out—at my age, I just want to be home—but the constant explosions forced me to leave."

country or taking refuge in neighboring countries.

People with disabilities and aging individuals face more challenges in escaping the

She was referred to a center for displaced people, where she first met Humanity & Inclusion's rehabilitation team.

"Before I met Humanity & Inclusion, I only wanted to walk again," Nadezhda adds. "Now, I believe that I can even run! I have had wonderful progress."

Humanity & Inclusion offers an array of rehabilitation services in Ukraine, for those with pre-existing conditions or ones that resulted from



A family takes shelter in an underground metro station in Kharkiv, Ukraine

bombing. Gaëlle Smith, an emergency rehabilitation specialist, supports local hospitals treating blastinjured, poly-trauma patients during the early stages of their recovery. Rehabilitation from day one is vital but is dependent on readily available resources.

"The weapons being used do not discriminate and are far more advanced, mutilating and destructive than anything I've ever witnessed," Smith explains. "Ukrainian medical professionals are doing an incredible job, but the heart-breaking reality is that civilians need more care than they can provide. More people will continue to be injured daily, not only until the war ends, but until each item of explosive ordnance has been safely disposed of."

# IMPACT Responding to food insecurity in Ukraine and the Horn of Africa







# **Q&A:** Confronting global food insecurity

Madeline Sahagun, Global Food Security Specialist, is based at Humanity & Inclusion's U.S. office in Maryland. She shares how the organization is confronting the global food crisis, including reflections from her recent visit to Ukraine.

### Q: What does the day-today look like for someone facing food insecurity?

A: It depends on the context, but households are forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms. It can be a matter of survival. People go through desperate measures to feed their families. For example, to have food on the table, people sell their tools and other work equipment, negatively impacting their livelihoods, and ultimately, their access to food. Some households reduce the amount of food they consume to one meal a day, which directly impacts their nutritional and caloric needs. Some households are forced to have everyone in the family work, including children—so they can't go to school and their risk of exploitation is increased.

## Q: What is the importance of an inclusivity lens when

confronting global food crises? A: Evidence shows that people with disabilities and their families often lack access to sufficient and quality food for growth and development, and are more at risk of undernutrition or malnutrition. Disabilities can pose limitations in accessing food: mobility limitations, cognitive limitations, work limitations. 36% of households that are food insecure include at least one person with a disability.



Global Food Security Specialist Madeline Sahagun, left, and Program Manager Emilie Viard Gaudin, visit a warehouse operated by Humanity & Inclusion in Ukraine.

A: The Horn of Africa has

been experiencing years of drought so there is no rain to support crops and thousands of livestock have died. A holistic approach to addressing food insecurity is the best practice. That entails responding to people's immediate needs, whether with cash or food. but also looking to longerterm solutions that address the root causes of food

### Q: You recently spent some time in Ukraine. What stood out to you?

A: What struck me the most is the strength of the people and their sense of nationalism and as opposed to rations community. Communities

Q: How is HI addressing are welcoming internally food insecurity in the Horn displaced people into their cities, towns and villages and establishing centers where local community members are providing

### food, water and shelter. Q: What role does cash assistance play in response to the war in Ukraine?

A: There is a big push from the humanitarian community to distribute multi-purpose cash assistance for food and other basic household needs like hygiene items, medication and shelter. The distribution of cash provides people with a sense of choice and dignity. Cash assistance can stimulate the local economy and can be done on a larger scale

that have complicated

supply chain and logistical

considerations.

The amount of cash provided is determined by what is needed to cover a household's monthly expenses. Individuals in Ukraine receive around \$60 a month, and Humanity & Inclusion adds a top-up for other specific needs that is distributed through an online banking system.



Scan to read the full interview

# Note from the **Executive** Director

As I write, we expect a new international agreement limiting the use of exploding weapons in populated areas (EWIPA). This significant accomplishment seemed unachievable when work first started three years ago. Even six months ago, it was still in doubt. Yet, on Nov. 18 in Dublin, the Irish Government will announce the "Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas." All signs point to it being immediately endorsed by a number of nations including the United States. Humanity & Inclusion has been involved in the process all along and expects the declaration to fundamentally change how

war is waged, especially in cities. How did this stunning achievement come to pass? Ireland deserves credit for carefully shepherding the drafting process. Initially quite skeptical, the United States and others had to be convinced. And there was an important push from organizations like Humanity & Inclusion, who see the consequences of these weapons every day.

Humanity & Inclusion's success in helping gain endorsements is a direct result of the public support we received, including the 17,000 Americans who signed our petition, many of whom are readers of The Next Step.

The benefits of this political declaration on EWIPA will only be clear years from now, when its impact is analyzed through the lens of history. Forcing those who wage war to consider the effects on civilians is not new, but this new political declaration may yet mean the difference between life and death for some, which means the effort will have been more than worthwhile.

## Jeff Meer

U.S. Executive Director Twitter: @Jeff\_HIUS

# **THEN** &NOW

# SREYKA FROM CAMBODIA

Sreyka was walking home from school in May 2019 when she was hit by a speeding driver. Seriously injured, she was rushed to a nearby health center and then to the nearest hospital, which lacked the equipment needed to treat her. Sreyka was taken to a pediatric hospital in Cambodia's capital city, where doctors saved her life by amputating her left leg.

Seven months after the accident, Sreyka visited Humanity & Inclusion's rehabilitation center in Kampong Cham, an hour from her village. Our team of experts immediately took good care of her, providing her with a custom-fit artificial leg and teaching her how to walk with it. She also participated in physical therapy and mental health counseling sessions, boosting her confidence for her return to

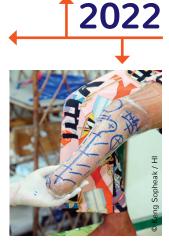
Having outgrown her first artificial leg, Sreyka recently returned to the center to be measured and fitted for a new one. With help from donors like you, Humanity & Inclusion's prosthetic technicians repair and replace artificial limbs when users need them.











www.hi-us.org

# UYOUR IMPACT:

Thank you for supporting inclusive aid, rehabilitation care, disaster response and mine action in more than 85 countries since 1982.

**THROUGH THE YEARS** 

Outraged by the injustice experienced by victims of antipersonnel landmines at the border of Cambodia and Thailand, Humanity & Inclusion (then Operation Handicap Internationale) sets up workshops to produce braces and artificial limbs from local materials.

# 1994

In response to the genocide in Rwanda, HI provides food aid, rehabilitation and mental health care.

### 1997

The Mine Ban Treaty is signed. HI—along with other founding members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines—is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

## 2006

The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is adopted, with support from HI.

In the wake of the deadly Haiti earthquake, HI responds on an unprecedented scale.

Typhoon Haiyan strikes the Philippines. HI offers emergency aid and implements risk reduction programs for future disasters.

An HI pilot project launches, studying the use of 3D printing to create artificial limbs and

## 2020

Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, HI adapts to continue serving communities and prevent the virus' spread. In August, teams spring into action following explosions in Beirut, Lebanon.



HI launches its first program in Africa: an orthopedic-fitting and rehabilitation workshop in Angola.

# 缀

In Cambodia, HI pilots its first humanitarian mine clearance operation.



To support children with disabilities, HI commits to inclusive education actions.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions marks a major step toward banning weapons with wide-area effects, another HI advocacy victory.

HI provides emergency aid following a devastating earthquake in Nepal

In Chad, HI launches the first-ever test of drones to assist with mine clearance.

HI teams deliver emergency aid in the wake of two major disasters: armed conflict in Ukraine and catastrophic flooding in Pakistan.





Gniep Smoeun Landmine survivor R policy advocate

I was 5 years old, living under Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. Antipersonnel landmines were all over. We were not informed about the risk they posed. I went to fetch water and that's when it happened: I stepped on a mine.

I tried to get up three times before understanding that my right leg was torn off at the calf.

Soldiers brought me to a makeshift dispensary. The analgesic I was given was a stick to bite on when the pain became too much. I was transferred to a refugee camp. I had to undergo 17 operations, but my leg was gangrenous and I fell into a coma for a month

Not long afterward, I met the founding members of Humanity & Inclusion. They were a small group of young people, full of dreams, animated by a desire to help people like me who had been stripped of everything. With great humanity and respect, they put me back on my feet.

My first prosthesis was simple, made of recycled materials like wood, car tires and resin. I admit that I had a hard time accepting it because it was heavy and hard to

It's hard to believe that was 40 years ago. Today, I lead my life like everyone else. I am a night nurse, working for young people with disabilities. I am a mother of a beautiful girl. I am so grateful to those who helped me all those years ago. They gave me back my smile and dignity, which everyone



## **MICRO NEWS**



# COLOMBIA

In July, Humanity & Inclusion declared the Inzá municipality free of landmines. Over two years, deminers surveyed and cleared more than 215,000 acres of land that has been released back to its 27,000 residents. For the first time in a decade, Justiniano (left) can safely operate his coffee farm.

# NYC MARATHON

Lauren Oliva (Boston), Nick Cooper (San Francisco) and Tony Searing (Morrisonville, NY) raced the New York City Marathon on Nov. 6 as ambassadors of Humanity & Inclusion. Together, the trio raised \$12,000 to support inclusion. Thank you, Lauren, Nick and Tony!

## COVID-19

Humanity & Inclusion is thrilled to announce a new funding partnership with the Center for Disaster Philanthropy to support community-based Covid-19 prevention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. The projects center people with disabilities and their caregivers, and local women's clubs.

# Changemaker Spotlight: Hope Services

Hope Services is Silicon Valley's leading provider of services to people with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. The non-profit serves approximately 3,500 people and their families in six California counties, providing a wide spectrum of programs ranging from community enrichment to individual interventions, from babies to aging adults.

The organization also operates three HopeTHRIFT secondhand stores. Sales of clothing and household goods help raise funds and provide employment for people with developmental disabilities.

To expand their philanthropy, the Hope Services community came together to stand in solidarity with civilians afflicted by the war in Ukraine. From April 13 to July 1, HopeTHRIFT pledged 25 percent of all Wednesday and Thursday sales to support relief efforts in Ukraine. In the three months, the stores welcomed more



than 600 new customers and the result of their charitable shopping campaign was an astonishing \$56,000.

To maximize their already incredible impact, Hope Services chose to channel these funds into international humanitarian organizations that deliver direct and essential aid in Ukraine. They graciously selected two recipients: Save the Children and Humanity & Inclusion.

"When it came time to select recipients

for this donation it was a task we did not take lightly," explains Charles "Chip" Huggins, President & CEO of Hope Services. "There are so many wonderful organizations doing relief work in Ukraine but our decision to select Humanity & Inclusion was a natural and promising one."

Cathy Bouchard, Hope Services' Specialty Director, first looked to Charity Navigator to research and assess potential organizations. Finding that Humanity & Inclusion ranks in the top nine organizations doing work in the medical service field; has a comprehensive network of specialists that work directly on-site; is a leader in inclusive policy that other humanitarian organizations look to; and that 86 percent of monetary assets go directly to comprehensive programs and services—Bouchard made a "proud" decision. These factors were in addition to the vital and clear intersection between Hope Services' and Humanity & Inclusion's missions: providing support to people with disabilities.

Hope Services' generous donation of \$28,205 will do just that. Donor support allows Humanity & Inclusion to continue delivering specialized rehabilitation services, psychosocial support, mobility devices, cash and other emergency relief to those with the greatest needs in

### **OUR FAVORITE PHOTOS**







# Afghan children conquer war wounds

More than a year after U.S. troops withdrew from Afghanistan and the Taliban seized control, Humanity & Inclusion's teams continue to work with civilians injured in conflict. These photos from Herat show three children who are thriving with rehabilitation care and psychosocial support—thanks to generous donors like you!

After being struck by a bullet, Sosan lost the use of one of her legs. She's received a walker and participates in physical therapy and counseling sessions. If she doesn't become an English teacher, Sosan sees herself as a professional artist.

Asef lost his right leg in a landmine explosion. With his artificial limb, he walks to the mosque each day for religious classes with other boys in his neighborhood. He dreams of becoming a doctor.

Yasamin was injured by shelling as her family attempted to flee their village. Strengthening her muscles with physical therapy and using a leg brace, she's able to walk again and has returned to school.

# YOUR PLANNED GIFTS CAN TRANSFORM A FUTURE WE ALL SHARE



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# Are you or someone you know 70.5 or older?

You might be eligible to dedicate a portion of your IRA to make a difference with Humanity & Inclusion. IRA gifts make an immediate impact in the communities we serve. And, they often come with tax benefits—including helping you meet a Required Minimum Distribution for 2022. Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution today!



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