



Shayan Khan, 9, who is an active member of HI's children's club, does the honor of cutting the ribbon at the inauguration ceremony.

Playground helps kids swing toward inclusion

Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province runs along the Afghan border. Since the 1980s, it has experienced unrest, religious extremism, and conflict—scarring the local society. Among the most heartbreaking: children left with no safe places to play.

Recently, that changed. Nine-year-old Shayan Khan, a boy with a disability and an active member of one of Humanity & Inclusion's children's clubs, cut a bright red ribbon, opening the area's first inclusive playground!

"This is a big step," says Tabriz Shamsi, program

officer for Humanity & Inclusion in Pakistan. "In this region, children with disabilities are generally kept at home. Parents and local organizations have a charity-based approach towards them, meaning they are the passive recipients of aid. The idea of inclusion is rather new."

A local orphanage, the Rashid Shaheed Foundation, donated secure and accessible land for the playground in Jalozaï. Humanity & Inclusion teams constructed the swings, slides, and recreational equipment with help from community

members. Two hundred children from the orphanage will plant trees to build a natural wall around the playground.

The playground is a result of HI's Growing Together Project, financed by IKEA Foundation. The goal is to improve the lives of vulnerable children—especially kids from displaced and permanent resident families—in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Thailand. Jalozaï once held one of Pakistan's biggest refugee camps and still has a large internally displaced population. Thanks to IKEA Foundation and to HI donors

for supporting this fun, inclusive project.



A little girl smiles while swinging on the new inclusive playground.

Note from the Executive Director



January 2020 marks ten years since a devastating earthquake scarred Haiti and Humanity & Inclusion responded. Before that, most donors knew us for physical rehabilitation, disability rights and inclusion, and our work to protect civilians from weapons like landmines. They were not yet aware of the critical role that HI plays in so many emergencies.

Since then, many donors have come to know us through the lens of conflict and disaster response. You were drawn to HI because of our insistence that the most vulnerable not be left on the sidelines. Because of you, we have taken action in places like the Philippines, Yemen, Nepal, Iraq, Indonesia, and Mozambique. With your support, HI is there when disasters strike and for the months and years that follow.

I hope our newsletters and stories broaden your understanding of the tremendous impact you make. We are especially indebted to those who sustain our work through monthly donations, as these gifts give us the ready cash we need to respond right away. It is also wonderful that many donors make provisions for HI in their estate planning, as these gifts ensure steady progress for the most vulnerable.

As we approach 2020, I thank you for that first gift you gave HI, your latest gift, and all of those in between. Let's keep building a better world together.

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

THE CHILDREN OF HAITI: THEN AND NOW

This January marks the tenth anniversary of the catastrophic, 7.0-magnitude Haiti earthquake, which killed at least 220,000 people, and forever altered the lives of thousands, including children like **Christella** and **Moïse**. Humanity & Inclusion deployed hundreds of staff, including rehabilitation experts, to provide care. Many of the people our donors supported were kids who had lost limbs and peace of mind.

Our donors rose to the challenge. Thanks to their generosity, Humanity & Inclusion's Haitian beneficiaries stand tall today!



Christella

← Age 14
.....
Age 20 →



Moïse

← Age 9
.....
Age 13 →



DEDICATED TO DEMINING

PROTECTING OTHERS FROM HER FATHER'S FATE

More than 50 years after the U.S. Air Force dropped its first bombs on Laos during the Vietnam War, it remains the country most heavily polluted by cluster munition remnants, which have killed and maimed more than 50,000 people since 1964. Since 2006, Humanity & Inclusion has cleared more than 40 million sq. ft. of land and destroyed some 28,000 explosive remnants of war in Laos. Across 229 villages, we have taught Laotians, especially children, to spot, avoid and report these weapons.

Humanity & Inclusion's dedicated deminers like Lumngen risk their lives every day to make the land and the people safe. Lumngen, a mother of two, is passionate about her job. "I am a deminer because I want to make people in Laos safe," she says.

When Lumngen was a little

girl, her father went to plant his field. When he struck the ground with his hoe, he hit a cluster munition and was seriously injured. Lumngen says that her dad's experience is what gave her the power to become a Humanity & Inclusion deminer.

Now as a section commander, Lumngen works alongside six other Humanity & Inclusion staff on the technical survey team. Their job is to find evidence of cluster munitions on or under the ground. The terrain makes this work challenging. Once they find weapons through the thick vegetation and dirt, they mark the contaminated areas and notify the team leader. Later in the day, a roving team comes by and destroys the unexploded ordnance, making land safe again.

Thanks to deminers like Lumngen, hundreds of areas

have been made safe for farming, building schools, clinics, roads, and expanding villages in Laos. Support from Humanity & Inclusion donors makes this work possible.

Every 8 MINUTES, the U.S. dropped a planeload of bombs on Laos, 24-hours a day, from 1964 to 1973.



Lumngen crouches down in a dense field in Laos.

RESTORING SAFETY

Soksai Sengvongkham
Deputy Humanitarian Mine Action Coordinator



Near the Vietnam border sits the Houameung district in Laos' Houaphan province. It is a region of dramatic scenery, extensive caves, and beautiful textiles. But, it is also littered with unexploded ordnance from the Vietnam War—what the mine action community calls "UXOs" and the locals call "bombies." This is where our local demining team is currently working to clear a new area from the threat of explosions.

When villagers in Houameung discover UXOs, they rely on Humanity & Inclusion demining teams to get rid of them. Once a weapon has been reported, Humanity & Inclusion sends a team to determine what kind of explosive has been found and how best to destroy it. There are many types of submunitions found in the area, but the BLU26—a cluster munition fragment about the size of a tennis ball—is quite common.

Once we identify the submunition type, our team makes preparations. They carefully isolate the area, then safely destroy the UXO by packing explosives around it and triggering a controlled explosion.

I am very thankful for Humanity & Inclusion's donors—individuals and governments—who allow this project in Laos to continue to save lives.

It is hard work, but with your support, we are restoring safety to an area that has been polluted for decades.

Empowering children with disabilities to read



Children in Laos practice reading together.



Two young school boys in Laos enjoy each others company.

Learning to read is one of the most fundamental stages in a child's development. Reading brings joy, it sparks the imagination, and opens the door to success. That's why earlier this year, Humanity & Inclusion—in partnership with Save the Children and Room to Read Laos—launched a project called Learn to Read. This new, five-year project will improve reading outcomes for all children—including non-Lao speakers and children with disabilities.

In Laos, drop-out rates at the primary school level remain high, especially in remote areas. Half of the children don't speak Lao as their first language, and as a result face additional barriers. The outlook is more dire for children with disabilities who require additional support.

Learn to Read will be implemented in all

pre-primary, first, and second grade classrooms at public schools in 16 target districts. Humanity & Inclusion provides technical expertise and ensures the project is fully inclusive—leaving no child behind.

Our team will support the design and development of reading improvement resources for teachers, so that they can help ensure children with disabilities are included in the project. We will also implement a student screening process along with assessment tools and materials to ensure they are inclusive for all.

Because of donors like you, more than 65,000 children are expected to benefit.

32 MILLION

children with disabilities do not go to school.

MICRO NEWS



BBC VISITS COLOMBIA

In July, a BBC film crew visited HI's team in Colombia, where they followed the work of 24-year-old deminer, Paola Sanchez. Paola risks her life every day, finding and deactivating explosive remnants of war. With support from HI donors, these weapons of war are being cleared. Watch the news clip: bit.ly/PaolaCol

CLUSTER MUNITIONS IN SYRIA

The 2019 Cluster Munition Monitor tallied at least 674 cluster munition attacks in Syria since mid-2012, with 38 attacks in the last year alone. The majority (53%) of 2018 global casualties from the weapon were recorded in Syria. Twenty-six States and three regions remain contaminated by deadly sub-munition remnants worldwide.

MIGHTY BIG GRANT

Mighty Citizen, an Austin, Texas-based marketing firm, marked its 20th anniversary, by offering \$25,000 in strategic marketing services to one lucky, mission-driven organization. More than 500 groups applied, and Mighty Citizen's team chose Humanity & Inclusion! We are grateful for this creative, pro bono support.

A DECADE OF DIFFERENCE



Phyllis and Dick Taylor

With the 10th anniversary of the Haiti earthquake on January 12, we take a moment to recognize the dedicated donors who have stood alongside Humanity & Inclusion’s beneficiaries, fighting for their right to live with dignity and independence, advocating to shift attitudinal barriers, and even clearing explosive remnants of war from their paths. These generous Americans have been committed to fighting injustice since we opened our U.S. doors in Maryland in 2006.

One of these loyal donors is Phyllis Taylor. Phyllis and her husband, Dick, live in Philadelphia, PA, and have supported Humanity & Inclusion for the past 13 years! They’ve seen Humanity & Inclusion expand programs to 60+ countries and have helped our teams reach more than 2 million individuals with care in 2018. Phyllis took time recently to talk to Humanity & Inclusion’s U.S. Development Officer, Emily Grimes. Here’s her story:

“We support Humanity & Inclusion because we are passionate about helping vulnerable populations, providing support to poverty stricken countries, and

getting rid of a culture of exclusion toward individuals with disabilities,” Phyllis explained. She notes that Humanity & Inclusion’s commitment to promoting disability rights, providing rehabilitation, and ensuring people live safely after conflict perfectly aligns with her and her family’s interests and values.

Making a difference in the world has always been a vital part of who Phyllis and Dick are. Married for 56 years, the couple met through civil rights work, sharing a passion for social justice. Their work with families in war-torn areas is the reason they were drawn to Humanity & Inclusion’s demining efforts and rehabilitation projects for victims of conflict in urban areas. They have first-hand experience working with people who have lost limbs after happening upon explosives, and they have seen how disabilities to can lead to exclusion.

Phyllis expressed concern about the lack of awareness surrounding civilian casualties from explosive weapons, including landmines and cluster munitions. Here in the U.S., we are very removed from the threats of dormant explosives, but the story is not the same for more than half of the world’s countries that are contaminated by explosive remnants of war.

From donors who have been with us since the beginning, to new donors who joined Humanity & Inclusion last month, we are grateful—and proud!—to

have so many individuals ensuring that we can act where the need is greatest, and for the people who are so often excluded. Every gift makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. People like Phyllis, Dick, and you make this work possible. Thank you!



Sanaullah, 5, stands tall on his new artificial leg in Afghanistan.

ROHINGYA AID UPDATE



OUR DONORS HAVE HELPED...

- 13,000+ Rohingya attend rehabilitation sessions
- 9,100+ Rohingya benefit from psychosocial support sessions
- distribute 1,800 mobility aids, like walkers and crutches
- organize fun activities for children living in the camps
- build two humanitarian storage centers, with 15 trucks to move humanitarian supplies
- distribute 1,000 kits with cooking utensils, blankets & food (4,000+ beneficiaries)
- distribute 12,700 food rations (63,500+ beneficiaries)
- distribute 900+ housing kits

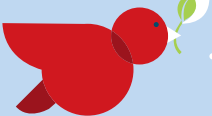
WAYS TO GIVE

Support HI when you shop via Amazon Smile!

amzn.to/2KWV1Ao 

MAKE AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BY:

PURCHASE A HOLIDAY CARD!

bit.ly/HIHolCards 

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

If you have a car, boat, or other vehicle to donate to HI, please contact Donate for Charity Inc, at 866-392-4483 or online at www.donateforcharity.com

- Giving through a Donor Advised Fund
 - Donating your IRA’s required minimum distribution (if you are 70½ or older)
 - Transferring appreciated securities
 - Naming Humanity & Inclusion as a beneficiary of your estate plan, life insurance policy, or retirement plan
 - Sponsoring a specific country or project with a multi-year commitment
- For securities transfer instructions and additional information, please email Sara on s.goldberg@hi.org or call (301) 891-2138