

## NAVIGATING NARROW PATHS

Lalu was lying on a straw mat when our teams met her in October. Born with cerebral palsy, and forced to flee her home in Myanmar weeks before, she had no way to sit up and certainly couldn't go outside.

Since August, nearly 700,000 Rohingyas like Lalu have crossed the Myanmar border for refuge in Bangladesh. They arrive exhausted, frightened, and in desperate need of basic aid, psychosocial support, and rehabilitation care.

"For Lalu, as for many refugees with a physical disability, the first difficulty in a camp is getting around," explains Paola Valdetaro, Humanity & Inclusion's head of mission in Bangladesh. The drainage of roads being almost nonexistent, refugees must dig canals and build bridges with sandbags, making it almost impossible for people with physical disabilities to travel.

Access to water points, health centers, schools, toilets, and other basic services is also a challenge. Sometimes refugees have to go to the other side of the camp just to get food.

Lalu met Humanity & Inclusion in October, and her situation changed within days. Thanks to support from our donors, Lalu is receiving physical therapy sessions that allow her to regain more and more mobility. She also has an armchair which allows her to sit up and move around with support.

It will take months of rehabilitation before Lalu can sit up properly and have enough strength in her arms to be able to move independently. In the meantime, her family cleared the entrance to their shelter by filling the holes in the ground and removing tree roots, so Lalu can go outside to feel the sun on her face and make new friends.

Thanks to you, Humanity & Inclusion has more than 300 staff working in Bangladesh to support the most vulnerable refugees with basic and specific aid, so that people with disabilities like Lalu can live in dignity.



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## YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK: MAKING 3D LIMBS

In many low and middle-income countries, only 5%-15% of people who require assistive devices, including artificial limbs, have access to them. In remote or dangerous areas, specialized health professionals can be scarce and materials expensive. If poorly made or unadjusted, artificial limbs can make life uncomfortable by causing skin sores, pressure wounds, and muscle fatigue.

Always looking for innovations, Humanity & Inclusion turned to 3D printing technology to see if it might be a solution. Last year, our teams tested the technology on people with amputations in Togo, Madagascar, and Syria by using a small, lightweight 3D scanner to create a digital mold of amputated limbs. Molds were then adapted according to the

patients' needs using computer-modeling software. Finally, the measurements were sent to a 3D printer. The printer creates layers of thermoplastic to produce a socket that perfectly corresponds to the shape of the amputated limb.

The preliminary findings are exciting. 3D-printed sockets are a safe and effective alternative to current socket designs. The process saves time and allows the patient to give input. Importantly, the required scanning materials are portable and relatively simple to use.

3D printing will bring much-needed devices to our hardest-to-reach patients. Further research is underway, but as our first clinical trials conclude, we're pleased by the positive results that are helping more people with amputations stand tall.



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A woman in Togo tries out her new, 3D-printed socket and artificial limb during the first phase of clinical trials.

## THE OTTAWA MINE BAN TREATY TURNS 20

The adoption of the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty marked an unprecedented diplomatic victory against anti-personnel landmines in 1997. Brought about thanks to efforts from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which Humanity & Inclusion co-founded, the Treaty bans the use, production, transfer,

and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines, and places an obligation on countries to assist victims. The world's first treaty banning a conventional weapon, it was a major victory for the countries and organizations involved.

Today, the treaty counts 162 countries. Twenty-eight countries and one territory

have completed mine clearance, with more than 51 million stockpiled mines destroyed. Yet since 2014, the use of mines has increased in many conflicts, prompting a rise in casualties.

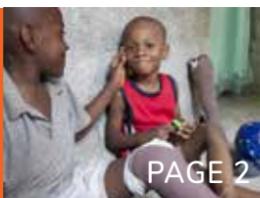
"Our struggle is not over," says Anne Héry, HI's head of advocacy. "Mines, still present in 63 countries and territories,

continue to kill and maim. More than three quarters of these casualties are civilians, and a third are children."

The U.S. has yet to join the Mine Ban Treaty. Sign our petition, urging President Trump to submit the treaty to the Senate for ratification now! Sign at [www.hi-us.org/landmine\\_petition](http://www.hi-us.org/landmine_petition)

### IMPACT

Helping Syrians beat the odds, and our Haitian buddy Moïse



PAGE 2

### IN FOCUS

Decent work, inclusive education, and more from Nepal



PAGE 3

### COMMUNITY

Giving from all ranks, a fun activity, and how to reach us



PAGE 4



## DEDICATING HER CAREER TO REFUGEES

Syria's seven-year conflict has devastated the country, resulting in unprecedented population movements. More than five million Syrian refugees are living in neighboring countries, including more than one million in Lebanon.

Mariam, a physical therapist with Humanity & Inclusion, has been working with our team in Lebanon ever since we launched an emergency response in 2012. She is accustomed to the human cost of war.

"I've seen a lot of people injured in the conflict," she explains. "What really strikes me is how they're just as

likely to be affected mentally as they are physically. It's hard to see people looking so desperate. But I try to do what I can to make their lives easier."

Her outlook on the humanitarian crisis and her approach to working with refugees has changed over the years. "I can remember when I started working here. People were in dire need. The majority of them were coming from Syria and there were hundreds, thousands of casualties. It was quite daunting.

"The refugees who need physical therapy care – I could have been one of

them. So I'm doing what I'd want them to do for me if the shoe were on the other foot. I've come across so many people who have really benefited from our work. I've seen what a big difference we make in their lives.

"Most of the people I visit live in makeshift camps. They may have lived there for years, but their homes are still far from comfortable. They live in tough conditions, and as the war grinds on, things are getting worse.

"Very few organizations in the country offer services like physical therapy. But physical rehabilitation makes a big difference to the lives

of conflict-affected people. We absolutely need to do everything we can to help these refugees and to meet their essential needs as long as the conflict lasts and even once it's over."

Thanks to the support we receive from donors like you, Humanity & Inclusion is on the ground at this very moment in Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. Staff like Mariam provide urgently needed emergency rehabilitation care, distribute walking aids, provide psychosocial support, and support hospitals in the care of wounded civilians.

## Note from the Executive Director



We hope that this Spring issue of *The Next Step* demonstrates that, as Humanity & Inclusion, we continue to put your generous gifts to work empowering people with disabilities and supporting the most vulnerable.

Since we announced our new brand in late January, we've had great feedback from supporters, disability rights advocates, partners, and social media followers. It's been overwhelmingly positive. One leadership donor even told us it is the reason they will continue to support us.

But we've also heard from a handful of donors who were surprised that the new name didn't include the words "international" or "disability." Most of these friends are warming to the name, but we know change can take some getting used to.

I'd love to know which group you fall into. Do you love and welcome the name change, or are you hesitant?

We've included a reply card with space for you to share your feedback. I hope you'll drop me a note, or even call if you'd like to discuss the brand, or anything else related to our work.

As always, thank you for your support.

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

## SCORING GOALS IN HAITI



### ← Age 4

Thousands were injured when an earthquake struck Haiti in 2010. Four-year-old Moïse was trapped under the rubble of his house. To save his life, doctors amputated his crushed left foot. With support from our donors, HI teams provided rehabilitation care and fit him with his first prosthetic leg.

### Age 9 →

Humanity & Inclusion has been following up with Moïse ever since the day we met him in 2010. As he grows, his artificial leg needs to be repaired and changed out on a regular basis. Without this care, life would be much harder for this little boy.



### ↑ Age 12

Today, all thanks to supporters like you, Moïse doesn't think twice about grabbing a soccer ball and kicking it around with his friends.

Eight years after the Haiti earthquake, HI and our Global Ambassador Neymar Jr. continue to empower Haitians like Moïse. Watch the video! [bit.ly/MoiseNeymar](http://bit.ly/MoiseNeymar)



# KAMALA PAYS IT FORWARD

## PAVING THE WAY FOR WORKING WOMEN IN NEPAL

Kamala Tamata has made a life for herself, and now she is paying it forward.

When she was less than a year old, Kamala acquired polio, which severely damaged her left foot. Doctors suggested amputating, but her mother wouldn't let them. Still, walking was extremely difficult for her, and as she grew, other children made fun of her. She and her parents thought her future was limited.

That all changed when she met a community disability worker with Humanity & Inclusion in the Kailali district

in southwest Nepal. Thanks to a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) grant and donors like you, Kamala received a brace for her foot and physical therapy to help her walk. She expressed an interest in being a tailor, so she participated in sewing classes and received support finding her first job.

Today, she works in a dress shop and teaches classes to other women, including some with disabilities. She is also a leader with the disabled persons' organization in her community. Her monthly wage



is enough to support herself and her family. She is even able to put some money away in a savings cooperative.

"The support I received has made all the difference," she said. "Now that I can walk and work, I don't feel like I have a disability."

The Humanity & Inclusion

team in Nepal provides support to people with disabilities so they can find meaningful, waged jobs. In addition, we work with employers so they can better understand disability and how to recruit and retain employees with disabilities by providing the tools they need to succeed.

# NEPAL AFTER THE QUAKE

**Willy Bergogne**  
Humanity & Inclusion  
Nepal Country Director



Three years after the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015, you can still feel the quake's impact. The consequences of the disaster are seen everywhere in the Kathmandu Valley. Buildings are being fixed, and quake survivors are still recovering—physically, professionally, and mentally. For the Humanity & Inclusion team here, the earthquake has become part of our collective memory, but today its legacy is only part of the work we do.

With support from HI donors, my 75-plus colleagues and I are improving the living conditions of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups through nine projects. In 28 districts across the country, we are strengthening health and physical rehabilitation services, expanding access to education and livelihoods for people with disabilities, increasing community earthquake and disaster preparedness, and responding to new crises.

Nepal's diverse terrain makes travel between rural areas and cities difficult. To ensure those living in remote and mountainous areas aren't left behind, our mobile teams set up special camps for several days or weeks at a time to assess and meet the needs of the communities. This is an especially grueling task in the rainy season (there's a lot of mud to navigate).

Working together, our team is able to support the ongoing recovery of Nepal, while paving a more inclusive path.

Photo: Willy with Nirmala and Khendo.

# SIGNING HER WAY TO INDEPENDENCE



Nine-year-old Susillah was born deaf and is not able to speak. She and her family live in the remote mountains of Mugu District in western Nepal. Susillah lives in a region regularly cut off from the rest of the country for several months due to a harsh climate and inaccessible roads, but that hasn't kept her from attending school.

Since she was five, Susillah has been attending Shree Mahakali Model School, an inclusive school supported by Humanity & Inclusion. Thanks to donors like you, our team trains teachers and encourages them to adopt teaching methods and educational tools adapted to the needs of children with disabilities like Susillah.

Susillah and her friends who are also deaf receive additional sign language classes in order to improve their skills. But they're not the only ones signing! Other children in the school are also learning the language so they can all communicate with one

another.

Thanks to Humanity & Inclusion, Susillah and her friends feel included in school activities among their peers. But not all children with disabilities in Nepal have the same opportunity as Susillah.

Globally, an estimated 264 million children are not enrolled in school. One third of those children have disabilities and are often the first to be marginalized. "Often, parents of children with disabilities are stigmatized and feel very shameful," explains Julia McGeown, Humanity & Inclusion's inclusive education expert. "They tend to keep their children at home, sometimes hidden. HI fights against these prejudices and stigmas and wants every child to have access to education."

In Nepal, we're providing inclusion training to teachers in 40 pilot schools with a specific focus on children with disabilities so that more children with disabilities can have the same opportunities as Susillah.



Humanity & Inclusion fights against prejudices and stigmas and wants every child to have access to education.

## MICRO NEWS



HI's logistics team transports aid by air in Central African Republic.

### ⚠️ EMERGENCIES

- We expect millions of refugees to flood Ethiopia's Somali region.
- Our teams continue to monitor the situation of Congolese refugees, 50% of whom are children, streaming into Burundi.

### ✓ COMPLETED

- We transported 8,590 tons of goods to isolated corners of Central African Republic.
- HI's demining team in DRC cleared 34,520 meters of land, freeing 5,600 people from the threat of mines and explosives.

Visit [www.hi-us.org/where](http://www.hi-us.org/where) to learn more about the work we do in nearly 60 countries with your support.

# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

"I feel passionately about the work Humanity & Inclusion does."

These are the words U.S. Director of Institutional Fundraising, Hannah Deutsch, wrote on her personal fundraising page last December, when she asked friends and family to donate to HI in lieu of holiday gifts. It's a sentiment that is shared by the entire team. Giving is one of the ways they demonstrate that commitment.

Fundraising and donating in support of the organization is not a new thing at Humanity & Inclusion. It's an essential part of our team's culture, as well as that of our Board of Directors. Staff and board members are among our roster of monthly donors, they give year-end donations, host fundraisers through our website or on Facebook, and have even participated in our vehicle donation program.

For two years in a row, board member Tony Searing raised funds for HI while training for an Ironman in upstate New York. "I still keep the picture of Khendo (Nepal earthquake survivor) that I mounted on my Ironman bike during the 2015 race," he says. "It gave me motivation both then and today."

Kelley Skelton, the U.S. Head of Finance and

Administration tells us that she gives because working at HI is more than just her job. "It's an extension of my belief that we all have the power to help improve the lives of others, if we just try," she explains. When Kelley reads our beneficiaries' stories, she says she is humbled by all they overcome, and she's encouraged that when many people come together, they can create change. "The work my co-workers are doing each day inspires me to do more or to put in the extra hour from my desk in Maryland."

Within her first week on staff at HI, U.S. Digital Marketing and Communications Officer Michele Lunsford joined the *First Responders* monthly giving program online. "After just a few days of reading about what we are doing, I wanted to be part of it and not just through my work." Two years later, she still feels immense pride in the work that's possible with her donations.

U.S. Director of Development, Sara Goldberg, who recently created a Facebook fundraiser to mark her birthday, says that staff and board giving is an indication of a strong and trustworthy organization. "Humanity & Inclusion donors should be proud to know that the people running HI are donors themselves. Every person

that makes a gift wants to know their money is being used efficiently and effectively. The fact that our board and staff donates is a clear sign that we believe in what we are doing, and are good stewards of those gifts."

CFC #51472



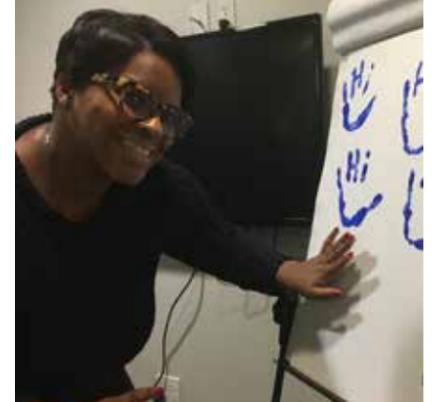
Follow your impact:



Check out our revamped website and sign up for regular e-newsletters: [www.hi-us.org](http://www.hi-us.org)

We have a new email: [donorservices.usa@hi.org](mailto:donorservices.usa@hi.org)

We're real people – reach out any time!



From top left: U.S. Board President Nancy Kelly and U.S. Executive Director Jeff Meer pose at our internal brand launch in January; various staff stamp their hands to make a logo board. © HI

**HI WORD SEARCH**

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E	J	I	D	O	L	L	R	J	U	S	X	Q	T	Z	I
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HAITI  
MYANMAR  
CHAD  
LIBYA  
YEMEN  
VIETNAM  
ETHIOPIA  
COLOMBIA  
SENEGAL




**THANK YOU**



Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation

We recently received a generous grant of \$50,000 from the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation. This grant will help to fund a pilot project in Jordan to strengthen early detection of disability and early intervention services for Jordanian and refugee children.

This is the second grant HI has received from the Foundation; the first was in 2015, and helped teach displaced children in Syria and Iraq how to stay safe amid the unexploded weapons littering their neighborhoods.

We're so grateful to the Ross Foundation for their continued support!

 Happy Birthday to those who created Facebook fundraisers in support of Humanity & Inclusion in recent months! Many thanks to Mary, Sara, Casey, Linea, and Mahesh!