YOUR IMPACT WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE

This fall, Humanity & Inclusion’s emergency teams have been busy responding to two natural disasters. Typhoon Mangkhut hit the northern Philippines on September 14, causing landslides and resulting in more than 70 deaths, 130 injuries, and affecting nearly one million people. Farms took the biggest hit, with winds and rain destroying 90% of rice and maize plantations, just a month before harvest. For people in rural areas who live mainly off the land, it was a huge disaster. HI distributed community clean-up kits, so that roads, public spaces, and infrastructure could be restored.

On September 28, an earthquake measuring a 7.5 magnitude violently shook Indonesia’s island of Sulawesi. The shaking also triggered a deadly tsunami measuring 20 feet in height. In the days to follow, officials put the death toll at more than 2,045, counting 10,000 injuries, and a health system at its knees with 68% of hospitals damaged. More than 80,000 Indonesians are living in temporary shelters or are displaced.

When typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunamis strike, Humanity & Inclusion teams respond with an eye to support survivors who have injuries, disabilities, mental trauma, and those made vulnerable because they have lost so much. In situations of poverty, survivors have little to no means to restock what was lost. And when disaster destroys their means to earn a living, the situation turns perilous.

No matter the crisis, ensuring that people with disabilities are able to access basic relief aid, like shelter and water; as well as more specific aid, such as mobility devices and rehabilitation is part of our DNA.

Be it the 2010 Haiti earthquake or September’s earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, our teams have the technical skills to seek out those who need the most support, to meet their specific needs, and to ensure they’re included. So far in 2018, our specialized teams have been put to the test. Every week at our headquarters in France, emergency specialists track storms all over the planet, monitoring those classified as super storms, or ones that are on a path to strike one of the 60 low-income countries where we work.

Our goal is to position HI teams immediately, supporting local and national authorities, health actors, and coordinating with other international NGOs to ensure no one is left behind.

It is paramount that people with injuries receive immediate care. When strong earthquakes topple buildings, we often see cases of multiple fractures, spinal cord injuries, and amputations. A well-tended wound or set bone makes it more likely that a person can prevent long-term physical challenges, or even amputations. That’s why our rehabilitation teams are prepared to jump right in and support local hospitals with triage care, just as we did after the Nepal earthquake. This way, beneficiaries maintain their flexibility and strength, with a goal to regaining some mobility.

Thanks to support from our donors, Humanity & Inclusion is there to help.

YEMEN: SUPPORTING THE INJURED

The war in Yemen is entering its fifth year, and has become one of the planet’s worst humanitarian crises. The conflict has snatched an estimated 13,600 lives, and injured 40,000 others. The World Health Organization reports that Cholera struck more than 1.1 million people (28.8% of whom are children) between April and July 2018, and more than 17 million people are at risk of famine.

François Olive-Keravec, HI’s director in Yemen, describes the horrors that his team members face. “Injured individuals arrive in waves,” he says. “It varies according to the intensity of the fighting. Included are victims of explosions, gunfire, and car and motorcycle crashes. We see a lot of amputations.” As hospitals become more overcrowded, the medical staff have been sending patients home immediately after surgery. This early discharge means patients lack proper follow-up and rehabilitation care. In response to the acute needs, HI has expanded its actions, adding dozens of additional staff, and spreading teams across seven hospitals in and around the capital Sana’a. HI’s physical therapists are playing a critical role. Since 2015, HI donors have helped provide rehabilitation care to 7,500 people—like the boy pictured on the right—psychological support to 8,500, and mobility aids, such as crutches, wheelchairs, and walkers to 9,800 people.

The country’s civilians face acute needs. A November 2017 blockade remains mostly in place. HI teams have difficulties obtaining crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs, a problem we’re working to resolve.

ImpACT

Standing tall in Bolivia, and our Rohingya friend Saiful

IN FOCUS

Physical therapy, child protection, and more from Ethiopia

COMMUNITY

Running for a purpose, and all the different ways to give
GIVING BABIES A SOLID FOUNDATION

Clubfoot affects one of every 800 children born worldwide. When detected and treated early, a baby born with clubfoot can expect to walk unaided.

Gretxel, a one-year-old from a remote rural community in Bolivia, is one of those babies. Her mother, Nayda, took her to the Clubfoot Clinic, where Humanity & Inclusion has several doctors who provide care to children in four regions of the country.

There, Gretxel received treatment for her clubfoot using the Ponseti method. Introduced in the United Kingdom in the late 1990s, the Ponseti method is a technique that uses a cast to correct congenital clubfoot without invasive surgery.

We are grateful to HI donors for supporting this work. Thanks to you, Gretxel can walk, making her parents extremely proud and giving her a lifetime of independence.

Through a partnership with the charity MiracleFeet, located in North Carolina, Humanity & Inclusion’s teams in Bolivia and Sri Lanka are enhancing clubfoot treatment programs in several clinics. The majority of clubfoot care providers are in the private sector and located in the biggest cities, so HI-trained healthcare workers in the public health system extend treatment to people living in more remote areas, like Gretxel.

In the Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh, HI has been following up with Saiful ever since the day we met him. Now nine-years-old, our rehabilitation team continues to provide Saiful with physical therapy sessions so he can stand tall and play with his friends.

"WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GOING TO FLY!"

A new relationship

Seven-year-old Saiful is a Rohingya refugee who was born with a malformation of his right foot. At age two, doctors amputated due to infection. Humanity & Inclusion’s team provided him with rehabilitation care and crutches so he could be move throughout the camp.

Dreaming big

Today, all thanks to supporters like you, Saiful attends school. When asked about his dreams, he says, “When I grow up I’m going to fly!”

Note from the Executive Director

In August, a precision-guided weapon struck a school bus in a city in northern Yemen, killing 40 boys aged six to 11 on a school trip, as well as 11 adults. The blast radius injured 70 others. A company in the United States built that bomb, but it was dropped by the air force of another nation.

Over Humanity & Inclusion’s 36-year history, HI has worked to reduce civilian casualties in war. In 2007, we were among several recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize for our work to help ban anti-personnel landmines. Later, HI helped form a campaign to stop the production and use of cluster munitions. These efforts saved lives and limbs. (However, the U.S. has yet to join either treaty.)

Our current campaign? To stop the use of explosive weapons. Statistics show that when explosive weapons are deployed in cities, more than 92% of those killed or injured are innocent civilians. The incident in Yemen is not isolated—in fact, it’s becoming the norm. We’re collecting 1 million signatures on a petition demanding governments to stop this practice.

I was recently discussing our new campaign with members of the U.S. Senate. I found an encouraging level of support, but more work needs to be done. Won’t you join the campaign, too? bit.ly/POWER2STOP
STIMULATIVE THERAPY

PREVENTING DISABILITIES IN MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

When the most recent conflict began in Ethiopia, 26-year-old Nyabang and her infant daughter Nyagoa learned they would soon transfer from the sprawling Juba camp in South Sudan to an unknown refugee camp. Fleeing a life of constant violence and uncertainty, Nyagoa, who was later diagnosed with severe malnutrition, fell critically ill during the journey.

In June 2018, Humanity & Inclusion launched a rehabilitation project to prevent physical and intellectual disabilities caused by undernourishment in children ages five and under. At the Ngueyiyiel Refugee Camp located in Gambela, Ethiopia, you will find HI’s Stimulative Physical Therapy (SPT) Center, the one and only in existence in the country.

In partnership with Action Against Hunger, HI’s SPT center provides life-changing rehabilitation services. Since the kickoff, 300 children have already benefitted from the project. Based on individually-assessed needs, HI conducts 30-minute stimulation therapy sessions two to three times per week with each child. To meet the needs of the hard-working mothers who stand in hours-long lines waiting for water and food, HI’s mobile team provides at-home therapy visits. Staff also teach critical skills to mothers, so they can support their children between sessions.

Stimulative therapy is a form of preventative and restorative rehabilitation. It is critical to the development of at-risk children like Nyagoa. Through a series of interactive play sessions, children learn to use their limbs, to use rational thinking, and to verbally communicate their actions with others. Nyagoa faces an uphill battle to better health, but thanks to HI donors and staff, she is not alone.

PROTECTING CHILDREN LIKE IKRAAM

Reisa Tomlinson, U.S. Development Officer, visited an inclusive school in Ethiopia in May. She met some amazing students. Here’s one story.

12-year-old Ikraam smiled as she wrote her name in English letters in my notebook. Ikraam benefits from HI’s child protection program in Ethiopia and attends an inclusive school. In isolated communities across the country, Humanity & Inclusion works with young girls and boys to advocate for their needs in and outside of the classroom.

Our child protection project gives voices to the unheard by providing them with resources and safe spaces for expression. More often than not, young girls like Ikraam do not have an opportunity to attend school. Faced with the dangers of childhood marriage, female genital mutilation, and threats of violence against women and children, Ikraam told me about the everyday risks she faces. She also shared that she and other girls confront. In awe, I listened as she recited a poem created during an HI-led activity.

Fortunately for Ikraam, she has a father who passionately supports her. Ikraam attends an inclusive school where HI constructed accessible features like ramps and bathrooms, and uses an integrated curriculum. So it comes as no surprise that Ikraam’s father built a home within proximity of this rare school.

Thankful for Ikraam and the opportunity to help other young girls by advocating for their basic human rights, she is surely changing lives for the better. Thanks to Ikraam and the child protection program, the local community created laws protecting children against early childhood marriage.

Future scientist and leader, Ikraam asked me to share this message with you. “Thank you for your support.”

The people I met in Ethiopia changed me. Traveling to any poverty-stricken country can be challenging, but when I was greeted with warm smiles from the most beautiful souls, I realized my assumptions were wrong. I was immersed in the culture and forever welcomed in their homes. Humbled by every interaction, I had an opportunity to witness firsthand the impact donors like you and I make. Over a week, I visited our inclusion, protection, and health projects in four densely populated regions. I met displaced families living atop a hard-to-reach mountain; South Sudanese refugees foraging for water and goods in one of the largest makeshift camps; and isolated people with disabilities without access to clean water, food, and sanitation.

As I watched HI’s mobile teams navigating inaccessible roads (or lack thereof) to reach communities, to providing necessary hygiene products for young girls and women, my respect and admiration for them increased with every life they touched. Thanks to our donors, thousands of individuals are recovering from trauma, rebuilding lives after tragic loss, and combating diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS.

After seeing our projects in Ethiopia with my own eyes, I am more affirmed in my love for Humanity & Inclusion, but most of all, I am humbled by the resilience of our beneficiaries. Their stories are a testament of survival and I’m proud that HI plays a role.

Photo caption: Reisa (left) with HI staff members at our office in Gambela.
American Ben Scully and Canadian Todd Latta layered up on April 15, 2018, for a 26.2-mile trek over ice and snow to compete in the world’s coolest race: The North Pole Marathon. This grueling, full-length marathon features snow, ice, wind, and cold with the threat of… errr…polar bears!

This running experience of a lifetime was fully sponsored by FWD, an insurance company headquartered in Hong Kong. So, Ben and Todd decided to set up a peer-to-peer fundraising page on CrowdRise in support of a disability charity.

Ben volunteers in China at a local school that’s inclusive for children with disabilities. Over the years, Todd has seen many people with disabilities who have been affected by war in Asia. So when they came across Humanity & Inclusion on FWD’s list of recommended charities and learned a bit more about our work, it seemed like the perfect fit for their fundraising.

The runners, who finished side-by-side at #19 after 7 hours, 25 minutes, and 4 seconds, first met in Taichung, Taiwan in 2006. Ben, originally from New Jersey, and Todd, who grew up near Vancouver, Canada, met at a running club called the Hash House Harriers. Todd says the Hash is a “nutty, international running group, consisting of locals and expats who enjoy exploring and running through the semi tropical jungles of Taiwan.”

So it’s quite obvious that Ben and Todd would be easily bored by a mere road race. They seek adventure! In years past, they have completed the Hong Kong TrailWalker 100k race and have already started looking for the next big event.

The duo sticks together during tough races like this one. “Ben runs faster than me,” Todd explains. “I simply do my best to provide frequent comedic interludes on particularly tough events and training sessions.”

To date, Ben, Todd and their supporters, including Canadian actor Anthony Lemke, have raised more than $10,000 for Humanity & Inclusion.

“We are so grateful to Ben and Todd for choosing to support HI,” says Sara Goldberg, U.S. Director of Development. “It’s because of supporters like them that people with disabilities and vulnerable individuals can stand tall and live in dignity.”

Next up: Todd and Ben have a few upcoming races on the docket. In October, Todd will run a 29k race around the beautiful Sun Moon Lake in Taiwan. As for Ben, he’s heading to Singapore in December for their annual marathon. In the meantime, they’re keeping an eye out for their next joint run—maybe somewhere a bit warmer than the North Pole!

© Ben Scully & Todd Latta

Ben Scully and Todd Latta at the North Pole Marathon in April.

Congratulations, Ramesh!!

Sending a shout out to Ramesh Khatri for competing in the Indonesia 2018 Asian Para Games! In 2015, Ramesh lost both of his legs following the Nepal quake. Today, thanks to support from Humanity & Inclusion, he’s going for gold.

We’re so proud of you, Ramesh!

Purchase a holiday card!

Support HI when you shop via Amazon Smile!

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