A 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on August 14, killing more than 2,200 people and injuring 12,000 others. More than 650,000 Haitians are in need of humanitarian assistance. At least 137,000 homes, along with schools, churches, markets, bridges and other infrastructure are damaged or destroyed.

But the numbers fail to capture the full picture.

“I lost four members of my family,” says Rouild, a 32-year-old man from Les Cayes. “Their home collapsed onto them. It’s so hard already, and we’re planning their funerals. It’s unbearable.

The disaster reawakened trauma from the 2010 earthquake, which claimed more than 200,000 lives.

“With each aftershock, people are traumatized all over again,” Rouild continues. We ask ourselves if this time we will be the ones who don’t make it through. If anyone can help, people really need it.”

Rehabilitation needs

The 2010 earthquake exposed new opportunities to improve Haiti’s disaster preparedness plans and health care systems, most noticeably the need for rehabilitation specialists. Over the last decade, Humanity & Inclusion has been working with local communities to develop inclusive emergency plans and build rehabilitation capacity among Haitian professionals.

A nurse, Guetchly-Nise decided to shift careers after the 2010 earthquake. She became a rehabilitation technician through a two-year training with Humanity & Inclusion, funded by USAID.

“There were a lot of healthcare professionals, including nurses, in the country,” Guetchly-Nise recalls. “But the rehabilitation sector was only just starting to develop.”

After the August 14 earthquake, Guetchly-Nise and six other physical therapy specialists attended a special training for treating earthquake-related injuries. They are helping patients heal at the only rehabilitation center in Les Cayes, as well as local hospitals.

“A lot of children were hurt in the earthquake,” says Dr. Donald Amazan, who is working in a pediatric medical tent at one of the hospitals.

“People were traumatized, so they didn’t come to the hospital right away, and now when they arrive, the wounds are very infected and in serious condition.”

Delayed arrival continues to be one of the greatest problems in the hospitals where Humanity & Inclusion and its partners are working. In just a few days time in August, Dr. Amazan says there were four amputations among pediatric patients.

“We try to avoid it at all costs, but the situation is serious and we had to amputate to save their lives,” he explains.

With the withdrawal of U.S. troops and a regime change in Afghanistan, humanitarian needs are immense.

Devastated by decades of conflict and contaminated by explosive remnants of war, 80% of the adult population lives with a disability.

Following a few days of interruption in August, Humanity & Inclusion—working in Afghanistan since 1987—has steadily resumed its activities in the Herat, Kandahar, Kunduz and Nimroz provinces.

Safety of the 260-person Afghan staff, as well as inclusion of women both on staff and in the communities we serve, remains a top priority.

“The access of women and people with disabilities to the services provided by our team is an essential condition for the organization to continue operating,” says Gilles Nouziès, Head of Humanity & Inclusion’s Asia Programs.

Patient visits to Humanity & Inclusion’s rehabilitation center and prosthetics workshop in Kandahar continue to rise. Opened in 1996, the center is the only facility of its kind in southern Afghanistan, with some patients traveling hundreds of miles for care.

In the first few weeks following the Taliban’s government takeover, the rehabilitation center served 400 patients, distributed 200 walking aids and fitted 50 people with artificial limbs and braces.

“These numbers represent a 50% increase over previous months,” explains Julio C. Ortiz Arquéus, Humanity & Inclusion’s Country Director in Afghanistan.

In 2020, with donor support, Direct aid reached 160,000 Afghans through rehabilitation, training of physical therapists, psychosocial support, mine risk education, disability rights advocacy, and Covid-19 prevention.
After 2010 Haiti earthquake, nurse retrain in rehabilitation

Guetchly-Nise Alcime, 35, remembers Haiti’s 2010 earthquake well. She was on the fourth floor of a seven-story building in Port-au-Prince when the ground began to shake.

“The whole building was crushed, and I was one of the few people who survived without having a physical or mental disability,” she recalls.

A nurse at the time, it was surviving that disaster, which claimed more than 200,000 lives, and its aftermath that motivated her to become a rehabilitation technician.

“Before 2010, physical therapy was not very present in Haiti,” she explains.

“Still, there are very few specialists. I saw that there was a lot of need around me and I was immediately interested in the field.”

After training for two years with Humanity & Inclusion as part of a USAID-funded project, Guetchly-Nise went on to work with various hospitals as well as an amputation rehabilitation center, specializing in phantom pain.

When a 7.2 earthquake hit in August, she knew rehabilitation needs would be immense. She left her husband and their two children in Leogane and traveled south to join six physical therapy specialists from across the country.

Together, they trained with Humanity & Inclusion on emergency rehabilitation techniques for quake-related injuries and are providing care for patients at two hospitals and a rehabilitation center in Les Cayes.

“I’m seeing a lot of fractured arms and legs, and several amputations,” she says.

Despite the difficulty of the work, Guetchly-Nise remains dedicated to her patients. Their progression is easy to see and she enjoys their satisfaction as they heal and recover.

“For them, sometimes it is like magic,” she says.

Over the last decade, awareness of rehabilitation and its importance has increased in Haiti, but there is room for improvement.

“We need modern rehabilitation centers, more specialists, and a lot of education for the population about the benefits of rehabilitation,” Guetchly-Nise explains.

In the meantime, Guetchly-Nise is eager to assist those in need.

“I’m really happy to be here to respond to the situation,” she says. “I was lucky enough to not have been affected as much as some, but I know what it’s like to be in an earthquake. I look at my patients and know it could have easily been me instead.”

I want to help and I have the training, so I feel that it’s my duty.

Guetchly-Nise Alcime provides rehabilitation care to a patient at a hospital in Les Cayes, Haiti.
FAR FROM HOME FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SEEKING SAFETY

Madam Reina, from Venezuela, receives physical therapy at a refugee camp in Colombia. 

People with disabilities seeking safety and refuge from war or violence, exploitation and abuse, and face additional barriers as they relocate to new communities. According to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 80 million people around the world are displaced from their homes, including 44 million internally displaced people and 36 million refugees. 

In Colombia, Madam Reina, pictured above, escaped Venezuela’s conflict for her safety and received rehabilitation for a back injury when she arrived at a refugee camp. Her story is one of many challenges faced by displaced people with disabilities. 

DID YOU KNOW... 

MORE THAN 2/3 OF ALL REFUGEES COME FROM JUST FIVE COUNTRIES? 

Syria: 6.6 million
Venezuela: 3.7 million
Afghanistan: 2.7 million
South Sudan: 2.3 million
Myanmar: 1 million

INCLUSION. “The Covid-19 crisis has deeply impacted the financial security of displaced people with disabilities,” said Azeb Tefera, a senior grant officer for Humanity & Inclusion in Kenya. “With loss of income, these individuals lack access to health care and social protection, which limits their ability to meet their basic needs.”

With donor support, Humanity & Inclusion works alongside displaced people to help them gain access to rehabilitation care and assistive devices such as wheelchairs and crutches, and inclusive education materials are provided to children like Samina and Shohelur. 

“Throughout the world, women and girls with disabilities face challenges to health care; they had a hospital delivery. I felt a strong desire to provide people with information and essential aid to people with disabilities, aging people, women and children.” 

Margaret Nguhi
Country Manager, Kenya

NEPAL

A new Nepali sign language mobile app called “Mero Sanket” launched in September as part of the USAID-funded Reading For All project. 

BANGLADESH

A devastating monsoon hit Bangladesh in July, causing severe flooding and landslides in Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. Working in the camps since 2017, our teams provided rehabilitation care and essential aid to people with disabilities, aging people, women and children.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 

More than 400,000 people were displaced by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in May. In partnership with Action Against Hunger and with donor support, Humanity & Inclusion delivered more than 34,000 gallons of clean drinking water to communities in need.
Deeper your engagement through values-driven philanthropy

By Reisa Tomlinson
Lead Development Officer

Your philanthropy is humbling. Rooted in voluntary action, your commitment to supporting Humanity & Inclusion drives operations and sustains programs that improve the lives, livelihoods, health, and well-being of the people we serve. And for that, we are so grateful.

Today, we wish to challenge you to think deeply about what drives your support. Our intention? To engage beyond what might otherwise feel like a transactional relationship. To reimage your social impact through the lens of transformative acts.

Our aim is for you to grow in kinship not only with fellow changemakers, but also with the communities we serve. For you to feel proud about our shared action, by activating your engagement in ways that are comfortable to you. Curious as to how? Engage in values-driven philanthropy.

After the Beirut explosions on August 4, 2020, Sam immediately started researching organizations on the ground and wanted to donate to one that provides direct support to survivors. Without question, a monthly commitment was decided, because “I felt comfortable with the organization,” he recalls, and made an informed decision to engage with Humanity & Inclusion.

As a personal training coach at SHAPE Training in Pittsburgh with a rehab background, Sam is aware of the physical and psychological needs of people experiencing trauma. As such, his inspiration is driven by Humanity & Inclusion’s longer-term programs providing rehabilitation and psychosocial care to people in 59 countries. Like you, Sam gravitates to support organizations similar to Humanity & Inclusion because he understands how the money is going to be used and that his gift will have a direct impact. Sam believes the best organizations to support are those which are transparent and intentional in educating people about how donations can make a tangible difference.

When asked about the advice Sam wishes to share with fellow changemakers, Sam says we should remind ourselves that “even the smallest gift makes a difference. Be it a one-time or monthly gift, any amount can make a big difference.”

YOUR PHILANTHROPY CAN TRANSFORM A FUTURE WE ALL SHARE

HOW TO SUSTAIN MISSION-DRIVEN PROGRAMS THROUGH YOUR CONTRIBUTION

There are favorable tax rules for people like you who want to donate long-term stock, portions of their retirement funds, or other appreciating assets and securities to support our global neighbors. Make your dollars count by activating the many options you have to deliver aid, care, and resources to the people who need it most. Humanity & Inclusion is here to be a partner in your philanthropy.

1. Advocate for change: support our Ban Landmines campaign: www.hi-us.org/stand_against_landmines
2. Provide quality feedback about the content we send you, like this very newsletter. We want to know what motivates you to your core.
3. Elevate the stories we share beyond your email, mailbox, and social media accounts to amplify the voices of the very people we show up for day-in and out. Want extra copies of our newsletter to share with others? Let us know! We encourage you to reach out to our team at any time. Let’s discuss the collective impact we are making!

Meet Sam—
Small business owner and monthly donor, making him a year-round First Responder

Sam Arnold’s first donation was made from a place of intention one year ago. Following the Beirut explosions on August 4, 2020, Sam immediately started researching organizations on the ground and wanted to donate to one that provides direct support to survivors. Without question, a monthly commitment was decided, because “I felt comfortable with the organization,” he recalls, and made an informed decision to engage with Humanity & Inclusion.

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Give via your donor-advised fund

You can initiate a grant recommendation from your donor-advised fund (DAF) directly to Humanity & Inclusion. Here are three easy ways:

1. Make a one-time gift
2. Create a recurring monthly or quarterly gift
3. Name Humanity & Inclusion a beneficiary of your fund

Contact us or your DAF administrator today.

www.hi-us.org/ways_to_give

We love to feature our donors!

Tell us what motivates you to give.

DonorServices.USA@hi.org
(301) 891-2138

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