More than 12 million Ukrainians have fled their homes since Russian forces invaded on Feb. 24. Heavy bombings are destroying homes, hospitals and schools. Official reports measure more than 6,000 civilian casualties—including more than 3,200 deaths, though the actual figures are believed to be much higher. Humanitarian needs grow more acute each day.

Humanity & Inclusion’s emergency response is underway. Within days of the invasion, experts deployed to Moldova and Romania to assess needs. By early March, teams had safely crossed into Ukraine to reestablish connections with local authorities, hospitals, and facilities assisting displaced people.

“Our goal is to be present wherever there are needs,” explains Virginie Duclos, emergency rehabilitation specialist for Humanity & Inclusion. “The greatest priorities are in caring for those injured during the conflict, providing mental health support, and ensuring people have the cash they need.”

In Lviv, Duclos is training hospital staff to properly treat patients with acute burns, amputations and other conflict-related injuries. The goal is to promote healing and prevent complications.

From Chernivtsi to Dnipropetrovsk and in Moldova, teams are supporting facilities housing displaced people, including unaccompanied children and people with disabilities. They are providing basic supplies, like hygiene kits, mobility aids, mental health services, and other assistance.

Caglar Tahiroglu, emergency mental health and psychosocial support manager for Humanity & Inclusion, explains that many people are in complete shock or experiencing dissociation—common stress-trauma responses. Others are mobilizing to help their neighbors.

“I am really impressed by the resilience and the community response that they have,” Tahiroglu says. “But it is early. Several months from now, we are going to see the real psychological impact of the displacement, of the conflict and of all the violence they have experienced.”

Airstrike survivor improves neighbors’ mental health

By Anfal Mahmoud Ali
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Officer, HI Iraq

I remember May 5, 2017, like it was yesterday.

My family had been hiding in our bathroom for days without food or water, clutching our IDs. Our neighborhood in Mosul had been liberated from ISIS, but fighting on our street persisted. Then the airstrike happened. Our family home crumbled around us. By a miracle, we survived and managed to escape first to a neighbor’s house, then to a displacement camp.

Later that year, we returned to Mosul. We had nothing. A friend of mine told me that Humanity & Inclusion was hiring, so I applied. Since working here, I’ve been able to support my family, repair my house, and rebuild our lives.

“I’ve seen first-hand the effect that conflict has on civilians. They lose their loved ones, their jobs, and their homes. And they usually face poor conditions, even after the fighting is over. Violence and devastation can cause people to experience depression, sadness and sometimes suicidal thoughts. Some people suppress their feelings. Others develop physical or chronic illnesses as their mental health needs go untreated.

My colleagues and I conduct awareness sessions with people experiencing psychological trauma, encouraging them to seek help and teaching coping mechanisms. When I meet all of these wonderful people, I am motivated to wake up in the morning and do my work with love. My neighbors understand that we need to stand by each other to survive. Thank you for helping survivors of conflict, like me, access essential resources—shelter, rehabilitation, mental health support, and more.”
Madagascar, Philippines rebuild after storms

From a deadly typhoon in the Philippines to a series of four powerful storms in Madagascar, communities are grappling with the devastating effects of heavy rain, severe flooding and gusting winds.

In both countries, people were left without electricity, housing, drinking water, and access to health services. With donor support, and in collaboration with our partners and local authorities, Humanity & Inclusion’s teams have been delivering emergency aid.

Causing more damage that initially expected, Typhoon Rai killed 405 people and destroyed 1.7 million homes when it struck the Philippines in late December. Within days of the storm, Humanity & Inclusion’s teams visited impacted communities.

Prioritizing people with disabilities, aging individuals, women and children, teams have distributed hygiene kits or cash transfers to nearly 1,800 people. Teams have distributed hygiene kits or cash transfers to nearly 1,800 people. In partnership with Shelter Box, teams also distributed emergency shelter kits.

"Most intense cyclone season" Over a period of just four weeks, storm after storm battered Madagascar. Tropical Storm Ana, Cyclone Batsirai, Tropical Storm Dumako, and Cyclone Ennati.

"This is the most intense cyclone season I have seen," says Vincent Dalonneau, Humanity & Inclusion’s country director for Madagascar.

"People are exhausted, both physically and emotionally. They are living through a nightmare that won’t seem to end." In anticipation of Cyclone Batsirai in early February, teams prepared emergency kits and helped people with disabilities get to shelters. As soon as the storm passed, staff used motorcycles to reach cut-off neighborhoods.

Teams were forced to expedite their response efforts, when just two weeks later, Cyclone Ennati swept over the island country, following roughly the same path.

In the days leading up to Ennati, Humanity & Inclusion and Save the Children rushed to distribute hundreds of kits containing blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene items and cooking supplies. Once the storm passed, teams deployed again to evaluate the situation and deliver critical aid.

"The same people were victims again," explains Anja Andriamorasata, Humanity & Inclusion’s communications and advocacy manager in Madagascar. "People have lost everything: their livelihoods, their clothes, their homes. Everything must be rebuilt."

**Note from the Executive Director**

The world has changed a great deal during spring 2022. Even earlier this year, no one could have imagined a war in Europe, let alone the conflict in Ukraine waged by a nuclear state with one of the world’s most powerful militaries. This war has already resulted in more than 5 million refugees, and another 7.7 million are internally displaced. Humanity & Inclusion has reopened a field mission in the heart of Europe for the first time in years. Yet that is where we are.

This conflict over Ukraine seems in some ways quite new: never before has a war seemed so immediate and part of a 24-hours-per-day news cycle. Yet in some ways, the war seems old. Reliable reports are that both Russia and Ukraine have used cluster munitions in Ukraine and the Russian Army has also used antipersonnel landmines. Both weapons have been banned by treaties because of the harm they cause to civilians. Both kill and maim with deadly force, and both are tragically out of date. The weapons deployed in Ukraine will unfortunately remain as silent killers for years to come.

Humanity & Inclusion, one of the founders of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, has been fighting against landmines and cluster munitions for more than 25 years. We are determined to continue that fight until the very last landmine and cluster munition on earth is destroyed.

Thank you for your support, and thank you for everything you have done to help us save lives in the present crisis in Ukraine.

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

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**9 MONTHS LATER: HAITI EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY**

Since a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti in August, Humanity & Inclusion has been working with the hardest-hit communities to recover and rebuild. With support from our donors and USAID, we have:

- Completed 5,300 rehabilitation sessions
- Deployed 60 mobile rehabilitation units with our partners at FONTEF
- Distributed 1,500 hygiene kits
- Delivered 650 tons of essential supplies
- Hired 350 local residents to clear debris and restore safe access to communities
- Provided 880 individual and group mental health sessions
- Trained 78 health professionals

A special thanks to Haitian photographer, G.H. Rouzier, for capturing these moments.

You can read more about our emergency work in Haiti at www.hi-us.org/haiti_updates

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**IMPACT**

**CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES**

LOUISIANE

GUUFFLIE

CHARLES

**REHABILITATION**

RAILEN

VILLERESON

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IN FOCUS: MINE ACTION

COLOMBIAN COMMUNITY GETS THE ALL-CLEAR FROM LANDMINES

A deminer works in Colombia, where teams are looking to free 11 municipalities of landmines with funding from the U.S. Department of State.

After three years of holistic mine action in Puracé, Colombia, the town has finally been deemed free of landmines. “We celebrate that communities feel safer today,” Nicola Monéntes, Regional Director for Latin America at Humanity & Inclusion, said at a land release ceremony in October. “Thanks to demining, lives have been saved and communities have recovered their rights.”

With funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, teams worked with input from more than 15,000 people living in Puracé to clear weapons from more than 280,000 square feet of land. Staff held dozens of mine risk education workshops to teach residents how to spot, avoid and report explosive devices. To boost economic development, Humanity & Inclusion provided start-up capital to 14 businesses owned by people with disabilities, and supported a market analysis to encourage local economic activities.

Inclusion’s director of armed violence reduction, “The destruction caused by conflicts and contamination by explosive remnants of war often prevents the healing of the social divide and the resumption of local economic activity,” explains Perrine Benoist, Humanity & Inclusion’s director of armed violence reduction. “Contaminated fields cannot be farmed, markets cannot be held, and reduction. “Contaminated fields cannot be farmed, markets cannot be held, and the resumption of local economic activities have stimulated the preservation of resources like mushrooms. The region’s economy has grown as a result. Beautiful land, now prosperous again, is enjoyed by local residents and visitors.

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“Restoring Lebanon’s cedar forests

Lebanon’s 15-year civil war ended in 1990, leaving a contaminated landscape. Humanity & Inclusion has been clearing landmines to protect the Lebanese population from explosive remnants, and to boost tourism and agriculture, mainly apple orchards. Since 2012, demining activities have stimulated the preservation and appreciation of local cedar forests and resources like mushrooms. The region’s economy has grown as a result. Beautiful land, now prosperous again, is enjoyed by local residents and visitors.

“Drones for demining

After testing how drones can assist mine clearance actions in Chad, Humanity & Inclusion is conducting a similar study in Iraq. Drones can be flown directly over a hazardous area to inspect, capture evidence and map each site, so deminers can move safely and efficiently clear weapons. During the two-year test in Chad, teams flew drones on more than 100 missions and used thermal sensors to locate more than 2,500 landmines.

“Demining returns to Senegal

After several years without mine action activities in Senegal, a new project launched to restore a safe environment for Casamance residents. Teams are using a mix of risk education, mine clearance, and economic regeneration to help the communities heal.

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“More than 100 patients being treated every week at our rehabilitation center in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Many are recovering from mine-related injuries.

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“MICRO NEWS

VIETNAM

OpenTeleRehab, a new software designed to provide quality rehabilitation care for isolated populations, launched in November. During the pilot, 550 patients and their families will have access to rehabilitation care from specialists via the mobile app.

SIERRA LEONE

A fuel tanker explosion in Freetown killed more than 100 people in November, and injured countless others. Specialists are providing rehabilitation to survivors with burns to avoid complications and long-term functional limitations.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

At the Global Disability Summit in February, 188 governments and organizations made 1,300 commitments to disability inclusion. Humanity & Inclusion hosted and participated in discussions on inclusive education and sexual and reproductive health services.
Changemaker Spotlight: Ronen Chamber Ensemble

By Reisa Tomlinson
Lead Development Officer

In March, members of the Ronen Chamber Ensemble shared outrage and a desire to act. Ensemble members, staff and other local musicians came together to organize a benefit concert in solidarity with people impacted by the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. In partnership with the Indiana Historical Society, the Ronen group activated their social networks to pool resources, promote the event and effectively raise more than $15,000! “As a very small and local not-for-profit arts organization, we of course knew that Ronen was not itself in a position to directly apply funds we raised for Ukrainian relief,” Tibor Klopfer, president of The Ronen Chamber Ensemble, Inc., told us.

Within days, the Ronen Chamber Ensemble identified, researched, and vetted a dozen values-driven organizations as well as nonprofit watchdog platforms, like GuideStar. Tibor shared that Humanity & Inclusion was chosen as one of three reputable humanitarian organizations to receive funding in part because of our “tightly targeted and articulated mission, and ongoing activity in Ukraine and surrounding countries.” In fact, Tibor mentions, one of the major donors to the campaign is a wheelchair user whom, because of their disability connection, was impassioned to support our programs. Soon after the concert, a generous gift was mailed to our headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, for immediate support of our Ukraine Relief Fund. What a welcome surprise! Thanks to donors like the Ronen Ensemble, Humanity & Inclusion can further its inclusive humanitarian response to ensure displaced or injured Ukrainians—among them, people with disabilities—have access to resources, rehabilitation, and tailored services to help navigate the crisis.

YOUR PHILANTHROPY CAN TRANSFORM A FUTURE WE ALL SHARE

Protect all that you love
If you have an IRA, 401(k), life-insurance policy, or any other assets not covered in your will, we encourage you to consider the right plan of action to ensure beneficiaries of your planned giving are protected.

Did you know you can designate Humanity & Inclusion as a beneficiary of these special assets to support thousands of our global neighbors on their paths toward an independent future? Make your plans today!

Visit FreeWill.com/Beneficiaries/HI

Need to report a planned gift to Humanity & Inclusion?
If you’ve already included Humanity & Inclusion in your estate plan, please let us know. We want to say thank you, welcome you to our Legacy Society, and keep our records up-to-date! You can complete a simple form at FreeWill.com/Record/HI or email Mica Bevington on m.bevington@hi.org.

Learn more: www.hi-us.org/legacy