After escaping Kyiv, lending aid

At least I know that my family is safe at the moment. I think this is the greatest need for people: to feel that they are safe and know that their loved ones are safe.

Airstrike survivor improves neighbors' mental health

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 motivate me to bridge differences and be heard. We must also provide their basic needs to help them feel safe, because only once people are feeling safe can we provide further steps of support.
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 425 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. 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 Dalonnoeau, 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 Andramarasana, Humanity & Inclusion’s communications and advocacy manager in Madagascar. "People have lost everything: their livelihoods, their clothes, their homes. Everything must be rebuilt."

Thank you, monthly donors!

Your regular support helps our teams act fast when disaster strikes.

www.hi-us.org/monthly-donation

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 FONTEN
- 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

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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www.hi-us.org
A deminer works in Colombia, where teams are looking to free 21 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 Monejts, 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 tourism to Coconuco Natural Park, now that the mountainous area is safe again.

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.

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 more 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.

IN FOCUS: MINE ACTION

COLOMBIAN COMMUNITY GETS THE ALL-CLEAR FROM LANDMINES

INCLUSION’s director of armed violence division and the resumption of local economic contamination by explosive remnants of war is essential to help rebuild communities."

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.

DID YOU KNOW...

More than 100 patients are being treated every week at our rehabilitation center in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Many are recovering from mine-related injuries.

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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 vetted a dozen values-driven organizations 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 who, 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.

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Our favorite photos

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 people impacted 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