At HART, we love to celebrate the courage, commitment and achievements of our partners who dedicate themselves to serving their communities in very challenging situations. They truly represent the spirit of Christmas – ‘love in action’.

This December, three HART staff visited Boko Haram-affected areas of Nigeria where we witnessed the ‘love in action’ of our partners there, including the Mai Adiko Peace Project in Jos. There, Christian and Muslim women share hope, healing, joy and financial empowerment in communities torn asunder by conflict, killings and destruction.

In eastern Burma, we support SWAN (Shan Women’s Action Network). They are Buddhists who always inspire us with their professionalism and commitment, risking their lives to bring maternal and child health to internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in Shan State.

In Sudan, HART partners, Benjamin and Nagwa, risk their lives to take life-saving food, medicines and education to the people of Blue Nile State and the Nuba Mountains who are suffering constant aerial bombardment by the Government of Sudan. Benjamin and Nagwa are Christians, manifesting ‘love in action’ for victims of oppression: Muslims, Christians and traditional believers. Their unconditional love is manifest in their courageous, high risk work.

This year is the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide. In Nagorno-Karabakh, our partner Vardan brings healing for people with disabilities, demonstrating the spirit of the Armenian people, who not only survive but create beauty from the ashes of destruction.

We thank all our supporters who help our HART partners to enact the Christmas message of ‘love in action’.

Caroline Cox
Reflections on HART’s Visit to Northern Nigeria

By Samantha Hudson, Advocacy and Communications Coordinator

A delegation from HART has just returned from visiting the Diocese of Jos, the Bishop of Bari and the Bishop of Kano, our partners in Northern Nigeria. These partners are based in areas where the Boko Haram insurgent group continues its reign of terror. The purpose of the visit was to further our understanding of the situation on the ground in Nigeria and better identify the needs of the people affected.

Boko Haram

For the first time since HART began working in Northern Nigeria, we were unable to visit partners in Bauchi and Kano states due to the escalating security risk and fears of reprisal attacks on them. Instead these partners discreetly came to Jos, bringing with them accounts of the devastation in their home-states. These stories, combined with those of internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in Jos, revealed that the scale of the killings and destruction is much larger than has been reported.

At the height of their power in 2014 and early 2015, Boko Haram controlled an area equal to the size of Belgium. This was not accessible to Government officials, NGOs or reporters and consequently there was no accurate reporting from these northern regions. The scale of atrocities committed is slowly becoming apparent as the army and Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF – civilian vigilante groups) make progress in reclaiming territory. In many of these reclaimed areas, every last remnant of previous community existence has been destroyed, including churches and mosques, homes, markets and schools.

Boko Haram has generated a prevailing climate of fear and disunity between communities. The use of extremist tactics such as beheadings, rape, abductions, forced conversion and looting have become commonplace in the last five years. A child described to us an attack by the extremists; “In a village near my hometown Boko Haram gathered the youths together and started slaughtering them all... They were killed with guns or knives, sometimes they take away their heads.” Boko Haram has violently attacked every aspect of daily life so that no safety can be felt at any time, whether at school, the market or places of worship.

Recently, Boko Haram’s tactics have advanced in sophistication. The Bishop of Bari told us, “Now they can use anything to cause an explosion. They can use a phone, they can use a bottle, you may think that they are supplying water while it is another chemical. In Maiduguri they have been polluting the water sources with poison. We don’t know how they manufacture it.” A significant development in their strategy is the increased and widespread use of young Muslim girls as suicide bombers. These girls are able to infiltrate large crowds and cause maximum devastation. It is feared that Boko Haram may be using abducted and forcibly converted girls as suicide bombers, although as the perpetrators of bombings are not identified in Nigeria, this claim is so far unverified.

Boko Haram’s application of jihadist ideology has made Christians and Muslims alike a target. Their loosely defined mission of ‘convert and kill’ lost any degree of focus in 2013 when the insurgency began to attack indiscriminately both faiths who did not comply with their interpretation of Islam. To date, more Muslims have been killed than Christians, in part due to the demography of northern states. More churches have been destroyed, but mosques have also been targeted. Despite Boko Haram having long been largely without support from the Islamic community, their activity has deepened the mistrust between Christian and Muslim communities. To many Christians, Boko Haram is synonymous with Islam. Inter-faith relations have been further degraded by flaring tensions between rural Christian farming communities and Muslim Fulani militants. Deaths as a result of clashes with Fulani militants increased significantly over the past year, to the point that they have now been named the fourth most deadly terrorist group in the world according to number of recorded deaths by The Global Terrorism Index 2015 (Boko Haram claimed the spot of most deadly).

Returning to nothing

The Government of Nigeria is now perpetuating a narrative that the war against Boko Haram has been won thanks to the actions of the newly elected President, Muhammadu Buhari*. Consequently, the Government is closing IDP camps across Borno and Adamawa States at the end of 2015 and into early 2016. IDPs will be forced to return to the land where their homes previously stood. Here they will not have access to food, shelter, schools, places of worship, means of earning a living and other necessities. Due

*Many people we spoke felt that Christians had been disfranchised the 2015 elections in Nigeria because so many did not receive polling cards, with insecurity cited as the reason.
Refl ections on HART’s Visit to Northern Nigeria
(30th November – 7th December 2015)

By Samantha Hudson, Advocacy and Communications Coordinator

In the context of the conflict, the planting season this year was missed and so food shortages throughout 2016 are inevitable. Furthermore, Boko Haram has randomly planted landmines at undefined locations around previous settlements exacerbating fear of return.

We were encouraged to hear that the Diocese of Jos has plans to begin offering assistance to returning communities in Michika, a predominantly Christian area in Adamawa State. Initiatives such as this are urgently required to support communities while they attempt to rebuild their lives. In many of these north-eastern States, State-level politics are rife with accusations of corruption and the diversion of funds. It is therefore of imperative importance to ensure that support is directed straight to the people via trusted channels such as the Diocese.

Hope, Peace and Reconciliation

Out of this bleak picture, we were witness to some bright glimmers of hope for the future including revisiting the interfaith reconciliation project that HART supports in Jos, schools that have stayed open against all odds and other education initiatives including the Christian Institute who offer courses in Theology and Health (please see their update on the next page).

The Mai Adiko Peace Project

This inter-faith reconciliation project, established and run by the Diocese of Jos, was founded to promote cross-communal dialogue and learning. As well as bringing women from different faith traditions together, the project empowers women with practical skills that they can use to generate an income. With both Muslim and Christian teachers, the women learn skills in tailoring, knitting, computer skills, literacy and bead making. Women can also access loans to start up their own small business initiatives.

Zambiri School

Zambiri School is run by Gloria Kwashi, wife of Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi. It provides education and safety to 470 children aged between six and 17 years. Most of the children who attend the school are orphans of parents who had HIV, but many have been displaced by the conflict or rejected by their communities. The school provides a daily meal to pupils; for most of them this is their only meal of the day.

You can read the full visit report online here: www.hart-uk.org/locations/nigeria
THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, JOS, NIGERIA

“The new academic year is a record-breaking one, as we have more full time students than ever before. The 110 students are fairly equally divided between the theology and health departments, with most of the theology students doing the Bachelor of Theology degree, and the health students doing the Community Health Diploma or Certificate, or the Environmental Health programmes.

It is also exciting to report that we have just begun a Master’s programme. Trinity School for ministry in Pittsburgh, USA have chosen the Christian Institute to be their base in Nigeria for their online Master of Arts (Religion) programme. The pioneer students for this programme come to CI for three two-week sessions each year – and have a lot of work to do in-between!

We sincerely thank God that the city of Jos has been free from bombs for about nine months, but the surrounding villages have still experienced various crises and there are also many internally displaced persons from the far north-east. The Christian Institute is trying to assist by giving a total of nine free places this year to those from the most troubled areas.

We are extremely grateful to all individuals, churches and groups who have helped us in one way or another during the year – whether financially or by prayer support. May the Lord continue to bless and guide you wherever you are. Without you life would be much more difficult! Thank you!!!!”

Deaconess Susan Essam

NEW SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (NSCC), SUDAN

The situation on the ground has not changed, there is sustained bombardment on civilian targets in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, the vulnerable people continue to suffer from these humanitarian catastrophe created by war which is conducted against any means and definition of rules of engagement/war according to international law. The civilians continue to pay the heaviest price of the civil war with no indication of peace and resolution of the conflict of Sudan.

This year there has been shortage of the rains in Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains which has affected the harvest and production of consumption crops. Consequently, it is projected that there will be hunger in the forthcoming year starting from March 2015.

Education services remained very poor in shape as lack of scholastic and educational materials in addition to lack of teacher support remained a big challenge; hence children are not receiving education services as they should.

There are no humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) coming to provide the much needed humanitarian assistance due to the refusal of the Government of Sudan to allow the humanitarian work to take place in those war torn areas. As a result the humanitarian crisis is getting worse and worse with no hope for a change.

Advocacy with international policy-makers has been maintained by NSCC this year, where numerous important meetings locally and internationally were conducted including: the advocacy trip to Germany early June, meetings with diplomats in Juba, advocacy with regional and international human rights networks on Sudan Conflict, participation in the Arab Committee of human rights charter of The Arab League in Egypt Cairo, meeting with the refugees in Cairo, meeting the international advocacy partner network for Sudan in Kenya – Nairobi, etc.

NSCC continued to support six out of 10 community schools in Yida refugee camp where UNHCR is not providing any support for education of the Nuba children.

We have reached more than 9600 pupils in Yida refugee camp to finish successfully the academic year 2014 – 2015. We are continuing supporting basic education for the children in Blue Nile for more than 4000 pupils in four schools.
Challenges faced this year:

• Psychological effects of NSCC staff as they encounter hardships during field visits as they become helpless in a hopeless situation.
• Shortage of support for planned activities.
• Fighting, insecurity and continuous bombardment of civilian targets.
• Lack of transportation means to enable regular and effective implementation of projects on the ground.

Plans for next year:

• We are planning to continue with advocacy work for peaceful resolution of the conflict of Sudan.
• Support for basic and tertiary education for the children and young people in Blue Nile.
• Conduct peace and justice programs at the grassroots level in Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile regions.

We are so grateful for the support extended to us that enabled us reach the most vulnerable and forgotten people in Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains. We are glad that there are still a very few people out there who care for the suffering people in Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains and this will remain in our mind, hearts and soul forever.

May God bless you all abundantly and continue to support us so as to keep the seed of hope with the people in Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains.

Benjamin Barnaba

NUBA RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (NRRDO), SUDAN

Highlights of 2015 include:

1. Providing support to over 200 primary schools with text books and other scholastic materials that include the audio radio education materials.
2. Disseminating social protection messages (awareness raising on physical safety, creative food security methods, psychosocial support etc.) to over 400,000 people, including school children, to strengthen people’s resilience.

We were able to support 1657 students (1007 male and 650 female) to sit for the Primary School Leaving Certificate in 2015.

All of this has been achieved in the face of insecurity from aerial bombardment, inadequate funding for the activities against a very dire situation, shortage of means of communication and transportation.

Next year NRRDO hopes to continue to:

• Distribute non-food items to IDPs.
• Contribute to the improvement of food security in the area through cash for food, vegetable seeds distribution, livestock health etc.
• Deliver capacity building training to staff and partners.

The people in Nuba Mountains have suffered a lot and they are seeking genuine mechanisms to bring everlasting peace in Sudan.

The community has chosen education to be priority number one and they wish for support to provide quality education for young generations to prepare them to be leaders of tomorrow.

They also hope for humanitarian support to save the lives of many who die every day silently.

Above: Sudanese refugees on their way to Yida in South Sudan

“The community has chosen education to be priority number one and they wish for support to provide quality education for young generations to prepare them to be leaders of tomorrow.”
MAROL ACADEMY, SOUTH SUDAN

“2015 has seen South Sudanese confronted again with conflict, currency fluctuations and uncertainty about their future. With thousands being killed in war and the current peace agreement fragile, no one is certain what 2016 will bring. Yet, the 900 pupils and 20 teachers at Marol Academy have continued to strive for a more hopeful, peaceful future. They are studying hard, hoping that more will exchange their guns for pens and education. 2015 was a significant year for Marol Academy as it was finally registered as an exam centre and, for the first time, it had classes in every year from the beginning of primary to the last years of secondary. It is now a fully functioning school, and the only one amongst the 90,000 Apuk Dinka. 2016 will involve another big step as the first Marol pupils sit for their final secondary exams. HART has made this all possible through their support of the seven Kenyan, volunteer teachers who run this secondary school. This year, the school was also able to build two boarding tukals (thatched huts) so that disabled pupils could continue attending Marol without a long walk. This is a massive gift that Marol can offer.

Teachers and pupils have struggled with sickness through the year. There have also been difficulties with technical equipment and, early in 2015, the school had to close for a week due to local clan clashes. Yet, the year ended and with hope that 2016 can be a bright year for the school, irrespective of the national politics and war.”

Naomi Pendle

DIOCESE OF WAU, SOUTH SUDAN

Our major success of our development wing, Christian Action for Relief and Development (CARD), this year is the distribution of food and non-food items to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Manangui and Agany IDP camps in Twich and Gogrial West counties, Warrap State.

Much of the funds that we used to buy both food and non-food items came from HART but we also received some funds from Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF), of which Baroness Cox is the Honorary Board Chair. The distribution of food and non-foods items benefited 10,000 IDPs in the two camps.

We have also trained and distributed 90 Ox ploughs to farmers: 50 in Jur River County, Western Bhar El Ghazal State and 40 in Gogrial West County, Warrap State. By extension these two projects benefitted 450 families and 5500 community members who received training on modern farming methods, hygiene promotion and peace building.

We also drilled five boreholes with funding from ARDF, which benefited 5000 community members.

Plans for next year:

We are hoping that the peace agreement which was recently signed between the Government and the Rebels will be implemented so that the IDPs can return to their homes. We are therefore hoping to support the IDPs to enable them to resettle back in their homes. We are also hoping that we will be able to raise funds to provide them with boreholes for clean water and modern farming tools and skills to enable them restart their lives in their villages.

We would like to introduce a teacher training programme at St John’s College from January 2016. This programme will offer courses in both Primary and Secondary Education and it will award both Certificates and Diplomas after one and two years respectively.

We hope to continue with our effort on building peace among the communities within the same ethnic and among different ethnic groups.

Bishop Moses Deng
PAORINHER (Patongo Orphan Infants Health Rehabilitation), UGANDA

“To all our brothers and sisters at HART and all our beloved supporters worldwide, we say thank you for being there for us. We are always mindful and grateful of the good works and support you started and continued to do especially charity for the vulnerable children of Uganda. From your support we got the strength to offer service to the vulnerable children and we pledge to continue to give them a better world.

Your support has led to these great achievements for 2015:

- 721 children have received formal education at PAORINHER Centre this year, from nursery class to primary seven.
- 20 children under our support have sat national examinations for promotion to secondary education.
- We managed to take 45 children and 10 staff members for tour of western and central Uganda, visiting game parks, mining centres and parliament of Uganda.
- 10 families of vulnerable children each received an acre of crop of their choice to supplement their food.
- 375 HIV positive children have received care and support in CD4 testing, access to antiretroviral treatment, access to Seprine, TB screening, nutrition, treatment for opportunistic diseases, health education and clinical monitoring.
- One of the biggest achievements at our Centre is the completion of two classroom blocks, with an office and the 100 seats to be given for children use.
- Indirectly, over 400 families have also benefited from PAORINHER’s community sensitisation outreach work. 30 staff members directly receive salaries to support their families.

Though we have these many achievements, there are a few challenges:

- Access to some of the vulnerable children is difficult because of scattered homes and long distances between them, coupled with poor roads.
- Drought and inflation lead to high prices of commodities, especially foodstuffs.
- Many of the caretakers are elderly and weak which makes monitoring of drug use by the HIV positive children inconsistent, hence there is a need for more visits by field workers to improve on the situation.
- A new discouraging trend is arising where HIV positive children in the villages are dying from lack of proper food/diet despite the availability of drugs and follow up on adherence. This is because, the carers/families are locked up in a vicious circle of poverty where children do not have enough to eat and are usually fed on poor diet. PAORINHER is putting forward concerted efforts to alleviate the situation from next year through laying down of strategies to deliver practical training to carers and volunteers, formation of community cooperative groups with adequate tools to engage in sustainable agriculture and poultry.
- There is need for more funding to construct a new training hall, dining hall, at least two dormitory blocks, refurbish the old buildings that have begun to fall apart, fencing the perimeter of the centre for children’s safety, replace other equipments and cover the inflationary gaps.

Once again to our supporters who sacrificed in the name of saving the vulnerable children of Uganda, we say peace be unto you and in all let God replace and fill your baskets, that they should never be dry. Your support has saved hundreds of lives of children from death and misery. So we beseech you our dear partners, brothers and sisters that we continue tirelessly in one accord to support these needy ones.

Thank you”

Vincent Nyero
JEEDIMETLA CLINIC, INDIA

The Jeedimetla Clinic illustrate their work this year through a patient case study:

Balamma is 36 years old and has 3 children. She lives in another slum a few kilometres from the Jeedimetla Clinic with her husband and children. Her husband is HIV positive and also has TB. He is getting towards the end of his illness now and has become very thin and weak. He is also a patient of the Jeedimetla clinic, and we are doing what we can for him. Since he is unable to work or contribute to the household chores, Balamma has to try to support the family (she takes in washing for other families when she can get work) as well as cooking, cleaning, and caring for the children and her ailing husband.

Over the last 6 months Balamma has been feeling even more exhausted than usual and is really struggling to do all that she needs to do. She never thought to ask for help herself as her family were her priority. However, a couple of months ago at one of her husband’s check-ups a doctor from the Jeedimetla Clinic asked her about her own health. She seemed to be losing weight and was very tired. Balamma tearfully explained the situation and requested an HIV test. The doctor was surprised as she had been tested negative on two occasions a few years ago and had been fully taught about how to prevent herself from becoming infected. However, the test was duly done, which to both Balamma and our staff’s sorrow was positive. It seems that Balamma’s husband didn’t like condoms, and she complied out of both fear and love for him.

One of the Jeedimetla nurses, held Balamma as she cried and took her to the local HIV centre to get her started on the right medicines. At the next visit Balamma looked even worse- her neighbours and extended family she said, were ostracising her, refusing to let her eat with them or off the same utensils or even touch her. Over the next month many hours were spent with both Balamma and her family, both by clinic nurses and our community health team, patiently explaining HIV, how it is and is not spread and the care she will require. Slowly the community are becoming more accepting.

Below: A family receives a check-up at the Jeedimetla clinic, where patients pay only what they can afford

HIAM HEALTH, TIMOR-LESTE

In Timor-Leste, where 70% of households rely on subsistence agriculture, what people grow has a direct impact on what they eat. HIAM-Health saw assisting the food and agriculture sector in addressing the problems of malnutrition as essential. Linking agriculture to nutrition security is an investment in Timor-Leste’s future. By investing in better nutrition, a nation invests in the most important ingredient for sustainable and equitable development: the intellectual capital of its people.

Therefore, a highlight of this year has been signing an MOU with the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (MAF) to deliver the concept of ‘Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture’ (NSA), training to all of their Agriculture Extension Workers (AEW’s) in all 13 Districts of Timor-Leste. The AEW’s are local, well known people in their communities. Their role is to assist and advise the local farmers and gardeners with technical advice and assistance in farming. There are approximately 500 AEWs across the 13 districts of Timor-Leste: 6 of 13 districts have now received this training.

Through this programme, our residential training and community gardens, HIAM has trained 472 individuals in the area of Health, Nutrition and Agriculture to teach others. From these 472, the expectation is that because of their employment or designated roles within their communities they will instruct and share this information with a further estimated 15,000 – 18,000. Furthermore, HIAM has been involved in 3...
HEALTH AND HOPE – CHIN STATE, BURMA

‘Two key achievements really stick in my mind for 2015:

At the beginning of this year we finished the training of 157 community health workers (CHWs) from 82 villagers. These 157 men and women will reach out to a community of over 24,000 people over this year bringing a message of health, peace, hope and love. We have now trained 834 CHWs working in 551 partner villages. We give thanks to God for all of these achievements as back in 2009, we never imagined we could have helped so many people.

The other big achievement that I look back on is the way that thousands of people have been mobilised to join our small team in responding to the victims of the flooding after Cyclone Komen struck Burma causing such devastation at the end of July. Since August, we were able through our team and this incredible network of volunteers, to deliver over 74,000kg of food aid which will benefit over 8,900 villagers. We have also run 47 free medical clinics and distributed 400 clean deliver kits to pregnant women.

After the cyclone, we saw over 10,000 people who lost their homes in Chin State and are now living in refugee camps. Many have lost everything in the aftermath of the cyclone. Key roads have been swept away by the heavy rains which triggered landslides and crops were lost just weeks before they were due to be harvested, having been destroyed by strong winds or covered in thick muddy water. Seeing this impact our people after they were only just recovering from the Matwa famine has really broken my heart. Our team have crossed fast flowing rivers carrying 50kg sacks of rice on their backs and we have struggled to deliver relief aid into many villagers, using 4x4 vehicles, motorbikes, boats, horses and carrying aid on foot. We continue to face many challenges to our day to day work because of this situation, particularly the destruction of key roads – one of which my father spent 7 years building.

Next year we are looking at consolidating our training to these 834 CHWs, through offering a refresher course and support at the village level to enable them to serve effectively in their communities. We have a number of projects that we have put on hold as we respond to the flooding, however we hope to be able to complete these over time. For example, the building of a number of Community Health and Education centres. We are also hoping to start a community health financing initiative to enable the community to take ownership of the health services that they receive through our network of CHWs. We will also continue to support a number of our young people with higher education opportunities – this is so important as these young, determined youths will become our next generation of leaders.

We just couldn’t do this without your support! On behalf of the many people whom we have had the privilege to support over the year, we would like to express our great appreciation for your generosity, for your prayers and for your ongoing support to our work. There are so many challenges that we face, but your support gives us the strength to keep going.’

Dr Sasa

Left: HIAM Health Agriculture Team with their nutrition stand at the Pateo Farmers Market

“By investing in better nutrition, a nation invests in the most important ingredient for sustainable and equitable development: the intellectual capital of its people.”

Above: The whole community is involved in organising food aid following Cyclone Komen

Rosaria Martins da Cruz and Jill Hillary

“Since August, we were able through our team and this incredible network of volunteers, to deliver over 74,000kg of food aid which will benefit over 8,900 villagers.”

major expos this year where hundreds of people took pamphlets and information on nutrition.

Another highlight for us was purchasing four hectares of land in November 2015 to develop a Moringa plantation. Moringa trees have unusually high nutritional value, making an excellent source of vitamins and minerals. HIAM has been promoting the consumption of the leaves of the ‘Moringa’ tree for the past 4 years. People who come to HIAM for training go home with a potted plant of this tree to grow beside their house. HIAM will now plant these trees and conduct intensive production of the leaf; drying the leaves; milling it to a powdered form; packaging and distributing as a food supplement to malnourished women and children.

HIAM’s challenges are the same as most ‘grass roots’, local, national NGO’s. This being constantly seeking funding to carry out their tasks. The worry of never knowing whether you will still be able carry on your mission and achieve your goals.

We would like to deliver our deep gratitude for all your kindness in supporting our mission and vision in our beloved country Timor-Leste. With support from you all, we can fulfil our mission and vision to serve people who suffer misery because poor of education and effected to under nutrition.

Rosaria Martins da Cruz and Jill Hillary

Left: HIAM Health Agriculture Team with their nutrition stand at the Pateo Farmers Market

“By investing in better nutrition, a nation invests in the most important ingredient for sustainable and equitable development: the intellectual capital of its people.”

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Dr Sasa

Above: The whole community is involved in organising food aid following Cyclone Komen
‘2015 has been a big year for Burma, and a big year for SWAN. A series of highly publicised ceasefire negotiations culminated in the signing of the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) by 8 ethnic groups and the government in October. Many resistance groups did not sign, concerned that the agreement conditions were not fair and would not lead to lasting peace.

Despite the NCA, there has been an escalation of violence in Eastern Burma in the latter half of 2015. More than 6,000 people have been displaced by the violence in Shan State, many in areas where SWAN works. The displacement will lead to food insecurity, as villagers are unable to harvest crops. Tens of thousands were denied the opportunity to vote in the national election due to the violence.

One of our biggest highlights of 2015 was the Curative Care Review Workshop SWAN ran mid-year, attended by nine community health workers. These women serve rural and remote villages in Eastern Burma, and in many cases, are the only local health practitioners working in these areas. The health workers received training in the most up to date pregnancy and childbirth related medical practice, as well as information on the treatment of common ailments affecting their communities: hypertension, diabetes, gout and vitamin deficiencies. The two-week workshop was participatory in nature, with health workers discussing their experiences at the village level with trained specialists and SWAN’s health team.

Throughout the year, hundreds of women in rural communities in Shan State, Burma received free basic healthcare, family planning services and pre and postnatal care through SWAN’s program. In refugee communities in northern Thailand, women and their families were able to access free maternal and child healthcare, supplementary food and medicine, counselling and crisis support.

To ensure the sustainability of our program, SWAN trained health workers in the latest preventative and curative healthcare methods. Health workers also completed village household surveys, giving SWAN a clearer picture of the needs of the communities in which we work.

In the new year, SWAN plans to visit the communities in eastern Burma where our health workers live and work. We will speak with local people and health workers to find out the most pressing needs of the communities and the service providers. Should our health workers require additional training in rural and reproductive health, we will organise refresher training courses for 2016. SWAN will continue to run reproductive health training courses for women in rural and remote areas of eastern Burma, and in 2016, hopes to extend these courses to new areas, reaching more women.

All of the women at Shan Women’s Action Network, and the people in the communities where we work, are deeply grateful for the support of HART. Although Burma is changing, the reality on the ground is that many, many people still lack access to basic healthcare, particularly women and children. We are heartened to know that people believe in the importance of our work. Thanks to your generous support, we have helped hundreds of women give birth safely, thousands of children receive regular health check-ups, and many women and children access support in times of crisis.”
From January 2016 there will be a new face at HART

Throughout this year the Trustees have been working with Caroline to plan for HART’s future development, whilst seeking to reduce her immense workload.

We are pleased to announce that Corinna Loges will be joining the HART home team as Chief Executive Officer from 11th January. Corinna has extensive experience of working with NGOs and very much shares the HART vision. In her own words ‘I am passionate about bringing change into difficult human circumstances, speaking up for those who have no voice and inspiring people to action.’

Although Caroline is stepping back from the CEO role she will still very much be at the frontline of HART’s advocacy work in her new role as President. She will continue to undertake a vast range of speaking engagements as well as introducing Corinna to HART’s partners, supporters and donors, whilst continuing with her parliamentary work in the House of Lords.

The trustees would like to acknowledge publicly Caroline’s deep passion and the tireless commitment she demonstrates as she continues to speak out for those whose voices are not readily heard in the public and political arenas. She has inspired each one of us and we believe that together with Caroline and our staff we have a strong team to take the work and mandate of HART forwards.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2016 as we work together to support our partners in some of the most challenging situations across the world.

Helen Gilbert, Chair of Trustees

I add my own warm welcome to Helen Gilbert’s announcement of the appointment of Corinna as the new CEO of HART. The Trustees undertook a very thorough process of selection and I am sure that they have made an excellent decision! Corinna will bring a wide range of highly relevant experience, knowledge and skills to the role of CEO – as well as a personal faith which will underpin her manifest commitment to the development of HART’s mandate to enable our inspirational partners to make transformational changes for their own people in very challenging circumstances.

I and my colleagues in the HART Home Team greatly look forward to working with Corinna and to helping her to realise HART’s great potential, taking HART forward in her own distinctive way.

Caroline Cox

HART for Change

We wish to say a big thank you to all of our supporters who have completed sponsored challenges this year for HART.

For example, earlier this year Inessa Amber ran the River Thames Half Marathon in the brilliant time of 1 hour 58 minutes! She has now signed up to run the full London Marathon for HART next year!

Thank you Inessa!

If you are interested in completing a sponsored challenge to raise much-needed funds for HART then please be in touch with Samantha at sam.hudson@hart-uk.org.

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Thank you Inessa!

If you are interested in completing a sponsored challenge to raise much-needed funds for HART then please be in touch with Samantha at sam.hudson@hart-uk.org.
HART works to provide lasting change through aid and advocacy for those suffering oppression and persecution, who are often neglected by other organisations, or are largely out of sight of the world’s media. Founded in 2003 by Baroness Cox, a human rights activist, HART makes every endeavour to be a ‘Voice for the Voiceless’ for those who may be unreached, unhelped and unheard.

HART relies on first-hand evidence of human rights violations as a basis for powerful twin-track programmes of international advocacy and aid. We believe that advocacy, combined with aid, is vital if we are to achieve sustainable community development, local ownership and empowerment for oppressed peoples.

I want to make a difference and be a ‘Voice for the Voiceless’!

At HART we see all the time how a little goes a long way – both in the way our partners abroad use the funds we provide and the difference our volunteers can make. There are many ways to support the work we do.

If you would like to donate to our work, you can do so in a number of ways:

- I would like to make a one off payment towards the work of HART. A cheque is enclosed for £
- I pledge to help HART’s partners and their grassroot organisations on a regular basis with a
  - monthly
  - quarterly
  - annual gift of £
  (please tick one)

Please send me a standing order mandate.

Title
First Name
Surname
Address
City
County
Postcode
E-mail Address
Phone

I am a UK taxpayer. Please treat as Gift Aid all qualifying donations made:

- Today
- In the past 4 years
- In the future
(please tick all boxes you wish to apply)

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equivalent to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I gave on or after 6 April 2008 (28p) of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008).

Please return to:
HART-UK, 3 Arnellan House, 146 Slough Lane, London, NW9 8XJ.
Tel: 020 8204 7336

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

For more information about HART or to make an online donation, go to

www.hart-uk.org