



£50,000 RAISED FOR FOOD AID

SUDAN

In January, we fulfilled HART's mandate to 'reach the unreached'. We visited Blue Nile State in Sudan, finding a devastating situation of 9,000 people facing imminent starvation. Upon our return, we were desperate to help and put out an urgent appeal.

The response has been tremendous – raising almost £50,000 so far! Thank you to all our wonderful and compassionate supporters.

We have sent the funds to our partner Benjamin from New Sudan Council of Churches. He is coordinating with other local NGOs to deliver food aid to the displaced families in Wadaka safely and securely.

HART was the first international NGO to reach the area as the Government of Sudan (GoS) prohibits humanitarian organisations working in many areas in Blue Nile State. This has left the people feeling forgotten and neglected by the world.

We have since heard that an additional 3,000 people have fled


to Wadaka following further internal conflicts between different factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). At the request of our partner, we are raising money for the 9,000 starving people in Wadaka. However there are thousands more in Blue Nile suffering from food insecurity.


Baroness Cox has raised these issues in Parliament, advocating for the people of Blue Nile, asking the UK government for their assessment of continuing human rights violations by the GoS and to facilitate access for humanitarian aid.


BARONESS COX IN PARLIAMENT

So far in 2018, Baroness Cox has been fulfilling her duty as HART's CEO and in the House of Lords by ensuring Her Majesty's Government is questioned over the atrocities occurring in our world today. For Example:




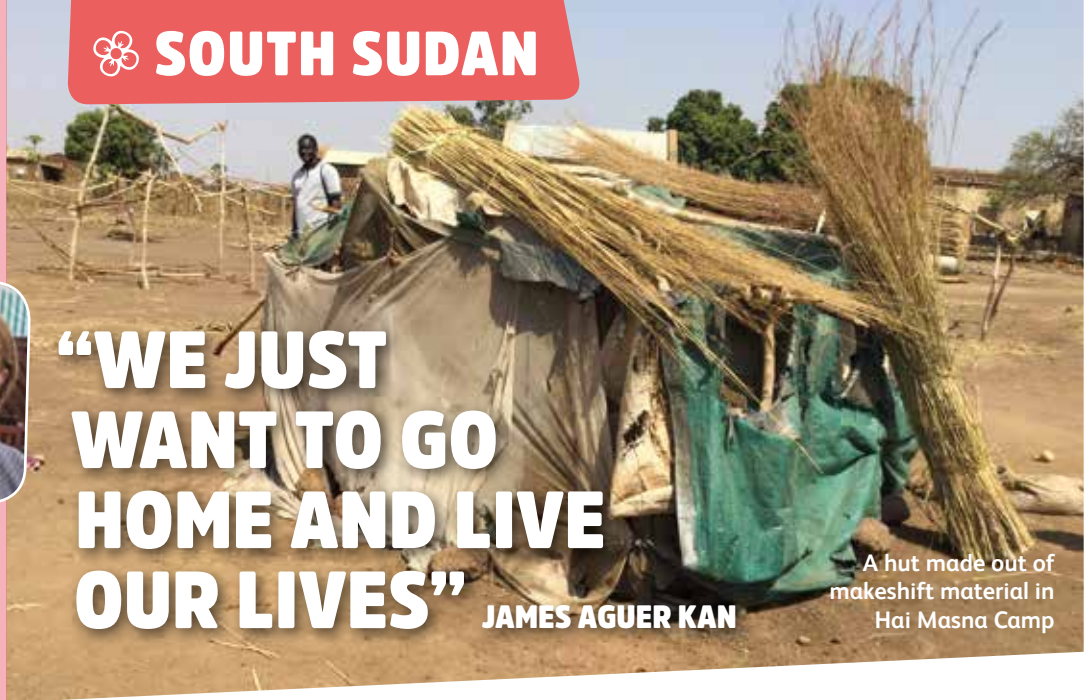
 Written questions regarding the treatment of women in custody in Khartoum, Sudan, arrested for peacefully protesting.

 An oral question regarding the humanitarian situation and human rights violations in Blue Nile following HART's visit.

 A number of written questions and an oral question urging the UK Government to make stronger representations to the Government of Nigeria to fulfil their obligations to ensure the protection of all their citizens.

 In a debate on Syria, Caroline continued to raise the issue of UK Government financial support for groups linked to jihadists and highlighted the suffering of civilians in Damascus inflicted by bombings from Eastern Ghouta. She also raised the issue of the devastating effects of sanctions exacerbating the humanitarian crises with especial reference to the drastic deterioration of health of the Syrian population.

 Caroline is among 102 Parliamentarians who co-signed a letter addressed to the Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, calling for the Myanmar Military to be held accountable for their actions against the Rohingya.



“WE JUST WANT TO GO HOME AND LIVE OUR LIVES” JAMES AGUER KAN

A hut made out of makeshift material in Hai Masna Camp

In January, HART visited our partner Archbishop Moses Deng in Wau, South Sudan. Through his Diocese, he continues to support internally displaced people who have fled from local conflicts – all exacerbated by the on-going political feud.

While in Wau, we visited two camps for internally displaced people who face similar problems; insufficient food rations, healthcare clinics with scarce supplies, limited access to water, dirty latrines spreading disease, gender based violence and difficulties providing for their children.

“6,000 are living in [Hai Masna] camp. So many are sick and there is no one to fix it. There are only some medicines available for children and none for adults. If someone becomes sick we have to collect firewood and sell it in town to pay for a doctor. Even for common illnesses like coughing, diarrhoea and vomiting” Camp Manager, James Aguer Kan.

The Archbishop took us to visit two schools which teach primary and secondary education. Both are located in the Eastern Bank settlement which is home to 50,000 people. The buildings did not have any windows or doors, making it easy for thieves to steal the wooden desks and benches, and children to get wet during the rainy season.

With funding from Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission, the Diocese plans to convert an old police station into a health clinic which will serve the community in Eastern Bank. At present the state funded clinic is rarely open or supplied.

Download our visit report at www.hart-uk.org/south-sudan



Caroline and David outside Piantok School in Eastern Bank, Wau with the teachers. HART donated money towards the roof when a storm destroyed it.

BARONESS COX RECEIVES LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM SPLM-N

The Letter of Appreciation notes HART's recent visit and thanks Baroness Cox for her continued support of the Blue Nile communities in Sudan. Her work in Parliament is also noted by the SPLM-N, who acknowledge her tireless efforts to raise her 'voice for the voiceless' and

bring to light the suffering of people in the Blue Nile at the hands of the Government of Sudan.

The letter reiterates concerns over the lack of access to humanitarian aid and the issue of distrusted supplies

from Khartoum. Also, the SPLM-N highlight their concerns over a possible breakdown of ceasefire, due to a recent build up in weaponry by the GoS resulting in growing fears of potentially renewed military strikes against them.

BURMA

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS – LONDON TO LOI TAI LENG

We are overjoyed with a new partnership between Palmers Green High School (PGHS) in London and Loi Tai Leng School situated in a displacement camp along the Thai-Burma Border.

712 Children attend Loi Tai Leng School. More than half of the students board at the school because they have been orphaned or abandoned in the on-going conflict between the Shan People and the Burmese Army. Additionally, some children live in remote areas far from the school and so they board in order to access education.

Education is extremely important to these children as success in exams is their ticket to study at university and legally work in Thailand.



These girls are excited to have pen pals in England



Young boy sitting on his bed

HART Trustee Jo Russell visited the school in November 2017, taking with her bundles of stationary from the students of PGHS to share with the students in Loi Tai Leng. PGHS are continuing to fundraise and have raised over £600 already. This will go towards food for students, currently a major issue as the camp lost funding in October from international donors.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

CHANGING LIVES IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

It seemed like an ordinary morning in 2009 when Arpine Harutyunyan woke up but upon trying to get out of bed she felt a sharp pain inside her back and realised that her feet were paralyzed. Devastatingly, Arpine never recovered the use of her legs and has been in a wheelchair ever since.

The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre has played a big part in her life, initially through the home-visit project and camp life, attending trips to Lake Sevan and other excursions.

Since 2012, Arpine has received regular treatment and support for her independent living after starting university in Stepanakert where the Centre is located.

Becoming a student gave her the chance to grow in self-confidence, actively taking part in the student social life and developing friendships. She also won 3rd place in “Miss Hayk” Armenian Beauty Contest which was held for disabled women, as well as the ‘Miss Congeniality’ title.

Since 2017 she has been working as a statistician at the Rehabilitation Centre, helping to gather important

information about patients. Despite all the blows of fate, Arpine continues to stay positive and resilient in the face of difficult challenges.

Find out more about The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre at www.hart-uk.org/nagorno-karabakh



Taking part in the “Miss Hayk” Contest



Receiving treatment at the centre

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

We are pleased to confirm that HART has taken Syria into our portfolio of partnerships.

The situation in Syria fulfils the criteria for which HART was established: to be a voice for those who have no voice or whose voices are not heard, and to provide aid as we can to those in need.

Baroness Cox has visited Syria twice, once in September 2016, while the war was still raging in Aleppo and elsewhere; and again in November 2017 - together with David Thomas, HART's projects logistics director. Her visits were at the invitation of faith leaders, including His Holiness the Syriac Patriarch and

the Grand Mufti. They met a wide range of people in diverse locations (copies of reports available on request).

Caroline has been undertaking advocacy in the House of Lords, with strong support from three former British Ambassadors to Syria and other Peers. HART is opening a partnership with the St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee to help local people in areas where they have suffered from barbaric attacks by ISIS and other Islamist groups.



Sacred shrine vandalised by Islamists in Maaloula, Syria

STAY IN TOUCH

As you may have heard, new data protection laws come into force at the end of May. We now need to record how you'd like to hear from us. We want to be able to continue sharing with you both the good and the challenging news we hear from our partners, for our fundraising and advocacy work. Please let us know how you prefer to be contacted so we don't lose you as a valued supporter.

Please complete a quick form here: www.hart-uk.org/stayintouch

I WANT TO BE A 'VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS'

I would like to make a regular gift

Banker's Order Form

Your Full Name _____

Your Address _____

Postcode _____

Name of Bank _____

Bank Address _____

Postcode _____

Account Name _____

Sort Code - -

Account No

Please pay: Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, HSBC Belgravia, The Peak, 333 Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London, SW1V 1EJ. Sort Code: 40-01-13, Account Number: 21428152

Amount (in words) _____

Starting on (date) ___/___/___

And thereafter on the same day (tick one)

each month each quarter

each year until further notice

Signature _____ Date ___/___/___

Please return to: HART, Unit 1 Jubilee Business Centre, 213 Kingsbury Road, London, NW9 8AQ or by using the prepaid envelope provided.

Please find enclosed my one-off gift of

£25 £50 other amount £ _____

(Cheques made payable to Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust)

I have made an online donation via www.hart-uk.org/donate/newsletter

Make your donation worth more with Gift Aid *giftaid it*

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust. I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donation in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

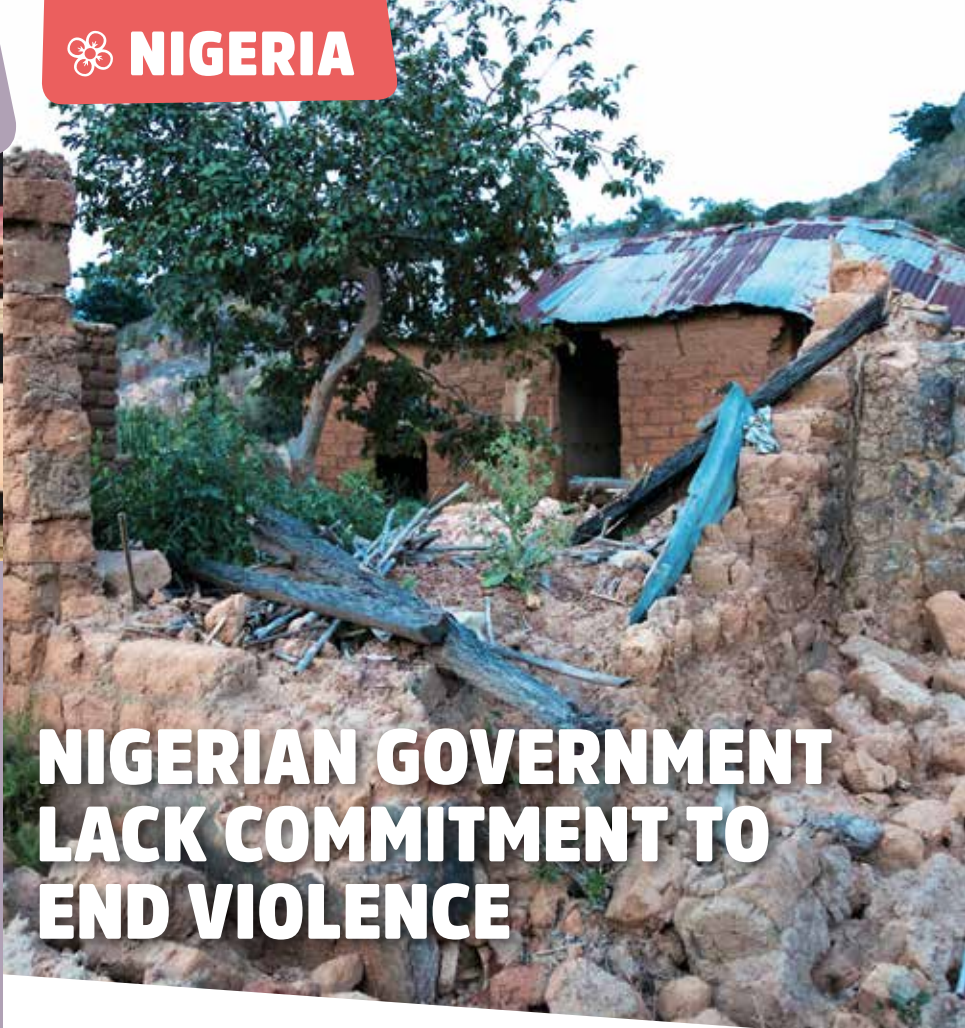
Signature _____ Date ___/___/___



Guest judge Agnieszka Kolek awarded 3rd place to Tife Kusoro in the Senior Creative category



Joint 1st place winner Jude Sheridan in the Senior Creative category with Baroness Cox



NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT LACK COMMITMENT TO END VIOLENCE

HART Prize for Human Rights

In March we announced the winners of our annual competition, the HART Prize for Human Rights. We had a record-breaking number of entries this year with a wide range of schools and universities taking part.

At the prize-giving ceremony, Baroness Cox awarded the prizes for the essay competition. Guest judge Agnieszka Kolek, from Human Rights charity Passion for Freedom, judged and awarded the creative prizes. We had two outstanding performances, Tife Kusoro read her poignant short story on female genital mutilation, and Jude Sheridan performed her very powerful spoken word piece on the Government of Sudan's bombing of civilians in the Nuba Mountains. You can view the winning and shortlisted entries on our blog.

Save the Date

 **Sudan Demonstration – 30th June**

Join us in London where we'll be marching with the Sudanese UK based communities from the Sudanese embassy to Downing Street demanding that the UK Government include the diaspora in their dialogue with Sudan. Details to follow.

 **Janusz Piotrowicz Chopin Recital – 10th November**

World-renowned composer and pianist Janusz Piotrowicz will be performing in Stockton-on-Tees at Princess Alexandra Auditorium. The venue was secured with the invaluable help of HART supporter Kim Pugh.

Profits will be shared between HART and his charity The World Trust. Details will follow on our website – we'd love to see you there!

In Northern Nigeria, we have been keeping a close eye on the escalating attacks on Christian communities by insurgent groups Boko Haram and the Fulani Herdsmen.

Our partners from the Christian Institute and the Mai Adiko Reconciliation Project who work in Jos, Plateau State, have given us updates. Plateau State has been badly hit by these attacks killing hundreds and displacing thousands looking for safety.

Rev. Hassan John recently told us:

“Though Boko Haram attacks have been curbed in the north eastern parts of the country, many people cannot go back to their communities and live their lives because most of the regions of the north east still remain largely unsafe.

The [top] priority is to pressure the Nigerian government to engage the Fulani terror group, which has been named as the fourth deadliest group in the world, and deploy the army to go after the perpetrators.

The Fulani's have forcefully taken over villages and displaced communities and yet the government has not made any move to eject the Fulani nor return the displaced people back to their homes and farmlands.

The situation becomes more precarious now that the rainy season begins in about a month. This means many families will not be able to get to their farms nor be able to feed their families.”

Deaconess Susan added:

“The general situation in Nigeria is not encouraging. Most of the news does not get into the international press. At least 40 villages in this area have been completely destroyed. Please join us in praying for a stop to the violence, destruction and killings here and throughout the world”.

SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCEL IN EXAMS

PAORINHER works with children living with HIV, raising awareness and breaking down stigma. In 2004, when HART began helping local people suffering from atrocities perpetrated by the Lord's Resistance Army, PAORINHER provided food, healthcare and education for 39 very vulnerable orphans.

The staff have since expanded this work to provide healthcare for 650 HIV +ve children and their families and education for over 500 students. With a portion of the students living

with HIV, PAORINHER has increased access to education whilst breaking down the stigma of the virus by encouraging children to learn and play together.

In this year's exams, the graduating class achieved a 100% pass rate, with 9 first grades and 36 high second grades placing them on top of the Agago District School Board.

The recent high exam results are an indicator of the organisation's inspirational work and impact on the local community. Congratulations to PAORINHER for all their ongoing hard work, and to their students on their successes.

TIMOR-LESTE

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN TIMOR-LESTE

HIAM Health, a partner of HART since 2004, is successfully educating women in nutrition to help decrease the high levels of malnutrition in remote regions of the country.

In 2016, with funding achieved by HART from the Isle of Man Overseas Development Commission (IOM), HIAM launched a project called 'Moringa Gardens for Nutrition Security', teaching women how to cultivate the Moringa tree, a highly nutritious plant.

The project aims to empower women to provide for their families by growing their own nutritional supplements all year round, taking the place of expensive imports through UN organisations like the

World Food Programme. Teaching the women how to be self-reliant enhances the sustainability of the project and reduces dependency on foreign assistance.

Over a period of 18 months, with continued funding from IOM, HIAM supported 130 female-managed gardens. HIAM has chosen 3 women from the initial project with outstanding gardens to be a part of their next pilot: Economic Empowerment for Women.

The objective of the new project is to provide equipment and training to enable personal gardens to become commercial gardens. Thus the women will be able to provide good nutrition for their families' daily consumption and also receive a cash income by selling crops to their community.

Each of the selected gardens are on main roads, making them the ideal location to be seen by potential customers. HIAM is planning to provide each garden with a sign to help them to advertise their new business.



Anita standing over her harvested garden bed with a HIAM worker

Anita is one of the ladies chosen to take part in the new pilot. Currently Anita and her husband use plastic containers to carry water by hand from a river bed approximately 500-600 metres from the garden.

A humid climate and steep incline down to the river make an already difficult journey for water, even more tiring. HIAM Health will now provide Anita with a pump, water storage tank and irrigation system as part of the new pilot to help increase her crop yield and eliminate the exhausting water collection process.