In late 2017, HART secured funding from the Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission for our partner, the Diocese of Wau to fund the construction of a new health clinic on the East Bank in Wau State.

Home to approximately 50,000 long-term internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees from the Nuba Mountains in neighbouring Sudan, the East Bank was in desperate need of a new healthcare facility, specialising in maternal healthcare and child immunisation.

During the team’s recent visit to South Sudan in February, we saw the finished building that will treat the common illnesses of malaria, typhoid, malnutrition and diarrhoea for over 500 people a day, a third of whom will be pregnant women.

The Paramount Chief of the East Bank area, Dhel Akol Ngor, expressed his gratitude for the clinic: “On behalf of the Eastern Bank community, I would like to thank the Diocese of Wau (HART’s partner) for putting the renovation of the health facility as a first priority… the community is so excited to see the clinic renovated successfully. As a community we will no longer worry where to take patients for treatment as we used to do.”

Hart Masna displacement camp is currently home to 8,280 IDPs who have fled violent tribal conflict in their areas. The HART team spoke to several women living within the camp and were told of the overwhelming need for food and light. A lack of light at night brings a severe threat of animals entering tents and halts any possibility of night time trading for those budding entrepreneurs living in the camp.

Asunta Abuk Madut, living in Hart Masna camp with her six children told us that: “Light is our biggest concern. Last week my son was attacked during the night by a snake inside of our tent and we had to flee until morning, as we could not see anything. My children get night terrors because they are traumatised. They cry in their sleep from what they have seen.

We are suffering and dying miserably. Everyone fears returning home because the rebels are hiding in the bush. We still have fear. We do not have the energy to rebuild our homes that were burnt down.”

HART is now working with Power for the People (PFP) to provide solar power and light for the camp.

Please visit our website to download the full visit report.
REBUILDING LIVES IN MAALOULA

At the end of 2018, HART and its partner St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC) completed a 4-month project that strived to empower the women of Maaloula Town and combat food shortages during the winter months.

Through establishing and equipping a kitchen for the production of homemade goods, the project enabled 20 women to gain temporary employment and create a supply of nutritious foods to sell to local families.

Selling over 1,000 food items over the course of 4 months, the project built upon traditional practices of food preservation, producing items such as yoghurt, cheese, olive oils and vinegar.

The project has been crucial in stimulating the re-establishment of marketplace activity that was lost following the devastation caused by ISIS in the civil war.

Hana Bargheel: “The project participated in getting back self confidence in my capabilities and to support myself, especially because I live alone in Maaloula with no parents.”

VARDAN TRAVELS TO BURMA

HART partner, Vardan (Director of the internationally recognised Rehabilitation Centre in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh)) has recently returned from visiting partners in Burma and Thailand with the HART team.

The main objective of his visit was to explore the possibility of launching a rehabilitation project for people with disabilities in Burma through connecting with HART’s established partners in Shan, Chin, Karen and Kachin states.

Vardan shared his initial thoughts during the visit: “Burma has no concept of rehabilitation and many people are dying from disabilities because of a lack of basic services. The people who are surviving must also be in a very bad condition, isolated from their community.”

Discussing the basic rehabilitation skills he would introduce, Vardan stressed the importance of, “improving disabled mobility including walking strength and skills, using a wheelchair, and practicing self-care such as bathing and dressing, as well as preventing pressure sores.”

Repeatedly, Vardan stressed the importance of training CHW’s in how to train the families of disabled people – “CHW’s won’t be with the patients all of the time, so it is crucial that families are properly trained on the simple methods to improve their disabled family members lives.”

Vardan’s next steps are to draft a 6-day curriculum for an initial training week for 5 CHW’s from four regions in Burma and identify which of his staff from Artsakh to bring to assist training. HART is now seeking funding to support the training week, the first step in this exciting project.
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SWAN

In April, the HART team visited Taunggyi to attend the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the Shan Women’s Action Network (SWAN). We were delighted to share the good news of a donation of £33,000 from the Aall Foundation for SWAN’s Women’s Wellbeing Programme.

SWAN was established to provide education, healthcare and wellbeing support to displaced Shan women and children arriving at the Thai border following on-going persecution by the Burmese Army:

“Along the border, women were teaching and providing healthcare themselves but we wanted to establish a quality service. In 1999, more than 40 Shan women joined together and we established SWAN.” – SWAN trustee, Nong Lao Liang Won.

SWAN Co-founder, Nang Harn Noan added: “Even though we have made advancements in our community, we are saddened that our country is still fragile for women and children.” Expressing her concern for the newly displaced women and children caught up in the current conflict in Northern Shan State, Nang Harn Noan stated that, “SWAN would like to renew our commitment to bring social justice and gender equality to our community” and that, “We are grateful for the international support and overseas funding from people who share the same values as us.”

“You showed us light in a time of darkness, hope in a time of despair and most importantly, you gave us the unbreakable bond of sisterhood” – SWAN advisory member, Ying Lao

In January 2019, HART funded the construction of a dam in the valley below Loi Tai Leng School.

The dam now provides irrigation for agricultural development projects to improve school food supply (crucial since cross-border aid was cut in 2017), whilst also facilitating a fish farm. In the near future, water will be pumped directly from the dam to improve school water accessibility. School management hopes to secure funding to purchase a turbine to create hydroelectric power from the dam in order to provide electricity for the school during the rainy season when existing solar power is ineffective.

“Every time I come here it makes me happy because we have been waiting for a dam for 10 years. Thank you to HART for making it happen” – Larn Tai, Director of Education in Shan State.
STATE OF EMERGENCY

In February, the HART team visited Sudan and was updated on the growing need for cross-border aid to reach the Two Areas (the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile region) in order to enable the survival of citizens.

The team was told by HART partner, the Nuba Relief & Rehabilitation Development Organisation (NRRDO) of severe food insecurity in the Nuba Mountains. Food prices are soaring. A sharp rise in bread prices sparked the on-going anti-Government protests in Khartoum in December 2018. Continuing attacks by the Government of Sudan Army cause civilian displacement, preventing people from cultivating crops and maintaining resilience to natural disasters.

Commissioner David Isiah of the Nuba Mountains said: “Our people have suffered so long. Hunger, sickness, war. Since 1994 there has been no vaccination for children. The Nuba people are in need of humanitarian assistance but the Government is prohibiting all efforts.”

HART’S SPRING 2019 FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

In addition to our urgent and overriding need for funds to meet HART’s running costs, in 2019 we will be highlighting quarterly fundraising priorities on behalf of our partners.

SOUTH SUDAN

Vulnerable pregnant women, child-headed households, the disabled and the elderly are in urgent need of food aid in Hai Masna displacement camp.

As an example of where your money will go: £100 will buy 50kg of beans to feed 100 people for 2 weeks.

SUDAN

In addition to the urgent need for food aid, NRRDO is seeking £5,000 to provide sanitary products for young girls at school.

Many girls drop out of school once they begin menstruating due to a lack of appropriate facilities and sanitary products. Those who remain in school miss approximately 20% of the school year due to their period.

BURMA

Students and teachers at Loi Tai Leng School along the Thai/Burma border are in great need of a volunteer English teacher. Knowledge of English enables students to pursue higher education and helps teachers to communicate with the outside world.

Please get in touch at office@hart-uk.org for more information.

To donate by post, please complete the enclosed donation form and put a reference to how you wish your money to be allocated: HART running costs or a specific country. To donate online, please visit our website.
HART PRIZE

This year we were overwhelmed with 222 entries to the HART Prize for Human Rights Competition. The variety of pieces received was extraordinary, from essays and poems to canvas paintings and an original song. Huge congratulations to all of our winners who showcased their innovative pieces at the Awards Evening in March. Some of the winning pieces can be found on our website.

CALL FOR STUDENT AMBASSDORS

We are always looking for passionate, creative and motivated students to become HART Student Ambassadors and help to champion the work of our partners.

Open to all students in Sixth Form or University, our Ambassador scheme is an exciting opportunity to gain experience with a small NGO and help neglected communities around the world with whom HART works. We encourage our Student Ambassadors to raise much needed funds for our partners, as well as to organise awareness raising events to highlight the plight faced by our partners and their communities.

For more information and details on how to apply, visit our website: www.hart-uk.org/student-ambassador/

CELEBRATING HART’S PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, HART will be celebrating the work of each of our partners, highlighting a different in-country partner each month to keep you updated on the issues, progress and on-going humanitarian and advocacy situations.

In May, you will see HART’s work in Burma. Remember to check out HART’s social media to see first-hand stories of the local people whom HART and our overseas partners continue to support. Don’t forget to keep updated on HART’s quarterly funding priorities, available to download via the website.

COUNTRY BRIEFINGS

Every 3 months we publish briefings on the countries where our partners work. Our aim is to keep you updated on the political and humanitarian situations which significantly affect our partners and the communities which they serve. We hope the briefings make it easier to stay informed on the issues which are underreported in the mainstream media and absent from headline news, despite their severity.

The downloadable briefings are available on our website.

HART’S E-PRAYER LETTER

In 2019, HART will launch an E-Prayer Letter containing news of our partners and suggestions for prayer. If you would like to receive this, please email elred.willey@hart-uk.org to express your interest and request more information.

GREAT NEWS: NEW COO JOINS HART TEAM

The HART team welcomed Eldred Willey as our new Chief Operating Officer (COO) in February 2019. Eldred gained 18 years’ experience in International Relief and Development before joining HART and will use his experiences in Iraq, Nepal, Bangladesh and the DRC to help support HART’s overseas partners.
IN PARLIAMENT

Caroline has continued to use her voice in the House of Lords, particularly on behalf of the citizens of Syria, Sudan and Nigeria. Caroline has posed written questions regarding the provision of reconstruction assistance to Syria, the mistreatment of peaceful protesters in Sudan who were calling for the fall of the regime and the continued persecution of Christians in northern Nigeria.

AT UNIVERSITY

In March, Caroline co-chaired a panel event for the Cambridge University International Development Society, organised by HART Student Ambassadors, Jing Min Tan and Yvan Bollet-Quivogne. Alongside staff from Save the Children and Action Aid, Caroline explored the relationship between humanitarian work and international development.

“Talking to students after the event, they were completely inspired by Caroline and everything HART has achieved and were in utter disbelief at just how big an impact individuals can make” – Yvan, HART Student Ambassador.

VISITING HART USA

In February, Caroline set off on a tour around the USA to raise awareness of HART’s global mission. The visit provided an opportunity for Caroline to engage with passionate young people overseas through partnering with academic institutions.

Caroline gave a spirited talk at Kings College New York where she met with the College President as well as students who pledged to get more involved in humanitarian work. Following this, the first HART USA board meeting took place, with Robert Gerhert (CEO), Pippa Gerhert, Juliet Donoghue, Andrew Haigh and Caroline Cox. Before leaving New York, Caroline made an appearance on the Eric Mataxus Show (pictured above) to discuss the history of HART and her decision to launch HART USA.

“It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we now forge ahead with HART’s first steps in the USA, seeking to mobilise resources for HART’s partners worldwide and inspire a generation of young people to follow in Lady Cox’s footsteps of societal transformation and Christian impact in the neediest areas of the world. The response so far has been tremendous.”

Robert Gerhert, CEO of HART USA

Following this, Caroline spoke at the Nexus Conference in New Jersey, a Christian Union conference with university students from all over the US before she flew across the country to California to meet with keen HART supporter, Kate Bradley, and give a speech at her school.

“Baroness Cox provided the student body and faculty with a memorable sense of what it means to provide aid, and they left our school auditorium inspired by HART and hopeful to see what HART USA can accomplish.”

Kate Bradley, HART supporter