



A reproductive healthcare session in Shan State, Burma introduces facemasks and social distancing

Annual Impact Report 2020

Our Vision

Local partners enabled to realise their vision of health, education, peace, justice and freedom for their communities.

Our Mission

HART is a charitable organisation committed to serving people in need, especially those who are or who have been suffering from oppression and persecution. Our twofold remit combines aid and advocacy; providing resources for humanitarian aid and serving as advocates for those with whom we work, who often are neglected by international media and unable to communicate with the wider world.

Our Approach

HART works with communities to establish aid programmes in active conflict zones, post-conflict areas still devastated by war and areas where people are marginalised, oppressed and exploited. We maintain a distinctive objective to partner with people who are often trapped behind closed borders. HART relies on first-hand evidence of human rights violations. HART therefore visits such areas, both to monitor projects and the use of donors' funds, and to gather evidence.

Abbreviations

AEW Agricultural Extension Worker

CHW Community Health Worker

IDP Internally Displaced Person

NGO Non-governmental Organisation

OADC Overseas Aid and Development
Commission (Guernsey)

PPE Personal Protective Equipment

UN United Nations



NIGERIA

Where we work

SYRIA

BURMA

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN

UGANDA

TIMOR-LESTE

Contents

- 4** A Message from our CEO
- 5** 2020 summary
- 6** Sudan
- 8** South Sudan
- 12** Nigeria
- 14** Burma
- 18** Nagorno-Karabakh
- 20** Syria
- 22** Uganda
- 23** Timor-Leste
- 24** A message from our Trustees
- 26** At home
- 27** 2021 update
- 30** Acknowledgements

A Message from our CEO

2020 saw the COVID-19 pandemic bring suffering to much of our world.

Despite this, HART's partners and supporters did everything they could to help people who grew increasingly marginalised as a result of the pandemic. I wish to highlight three such achievements from the year.

First, we were overjoyed to receive a very generous grant from **The Aall Foundation** of £34,537 to support education in the historically oppressed Blue Nile region of Sudan. Funding was awarded for classroom repairment, teacher training and teacher salaries. Despite the obvious need and value of teacher support, it is not easy to secure funding for a project like this, so the entire HART team are deeply grateful for **The Aall Foundation's** support.

During our visit to Blue Nile in January, we heard directly from local people and community leaders about impending famine due to the impact of flooding

and locust infestations. With the onset of COVID-19, the HART team was committed to securing emergency assistance for the region. We are grateful to have received life-saving emergency funding from the **Guernsey OADC** for communities in Blue Nile. As our partner, Benjamin Barnaba, said: "With a total absence of the international community, the vulnerable civilians in Blue Nile were left to carry their burden alone. No one had ever come from abroad to visit and directly experience the suffering of the people before the HART team first visited in January 2013. The visit brought so much hope to the people who feel forgotten and isolated from the rest of the world."

Finally, we were profoundly grateful to have raised more than £71,000 from our loyal and generous supporters to support the staff, patients and patients' families at the Lady Cox Rehabilitation



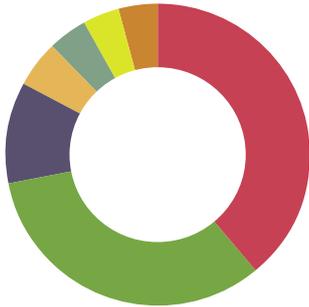
Caroline (Baroness) Cox, HART Founder, reuniting with Arop Dombek Deng, a former slave who she helped to free during the 1990s, during a visit to South Sudan in January 2020

Centre in the historically Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. After war and military aggression afflicted the Armenian peoples of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, our heroic partner, Vardan, immediately returned to the Rehabilitation Centre in Karabakh and, with an enhanced team of nurses, continues to provide care for former patients and many soldiers injured during the war.

Our inspirational and courageous HART partners have brought light into some of the darkest parts of our world today, and we thank you for helping HART to help them realise their own visions of development for their communities.

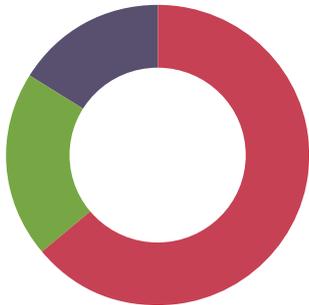
In 2020, thanks to your support

HART distributed £244,007 to 6 local partners



- 39%** Emergency Relief
- 33%** Education
- 11%** Reproductive Healthcare
- 5%** Water and Sanitation
- 4%** Agricultural Assistance
- 4%** Disability Rehabilitation
- 4%** Women's Income Generation

For every £1 given to HART



- 64p** was sent as aid directly to our partners
- 20p** was used for HART's core costs and advocacy purposes to highlight the plights faced by our partners
- 16p** was spent on ensuring good governance and fundraising initiatives

“I would like to take this opportunity to highly appreciate your efforts in saving lives. Many lives have been saved through HART's assistance in Blue Nile and people are highly appreciative of your help. They ask you to keep them in mind always as they are literally left alone without any other international support. It is on HART and her concerned supporters to support them.”

Benjamin Barnaba, Executive Director of the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC)

Sudan

Overview

Decades of military offensives by former President Omar al-Bashir and his regime (often targeting schools, Churches and marketplaces) have resulted in mass displacement in the “Two Areas” (Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states), leaving people unable to cultivate crops and falling into severe hunger. Before the fall of President al-Bashir in 2019, international aid organisations were unable to operate in the states due to suspicion of external forces supporting the resistance movement. As a result, the people of Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains (Southern Kordofan) were abandoned for decades and their access to food, healthcare and education disappeared. In Blue Nile, HART was the only organisation to bring life-saving relief.

In January 2020, we visited Blue Nile to hear the needs of local people who were in dire need of food aid since their harvest had been destroyed by the devastating floods that swept the region in 2019. We were told that communities were awaiting famine during the summer months of 2020. And then COVID-19 arrived.



(Left) Benjamin Barnaba (Executive Director of NSCC) delivers food assistance to communities in Blue Nile

PARTNER

NEW SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

In February 2020, HART secured a £34,537 grant from **The Aall Foundation** to improve the quality of primary education available for the Wadaka community in Blue Nile state, Sudan. The project sought to repair the classrooms of Gasis primary school and provide educational resources to ten local primary schools. Significantly, the project also planned to facilitate a two-week training programme for 47 teachers (one from each primary school in Blue Nile state) in a variety of topics such as classroom management, in addition to providing them with a small salary for six months, crucial as they were routinely working as unpaid volunteers. Teachers (and health workers) are especially hit during times of famine as they have less time in their day to find food and water. By providing a stipend, the project would temporarily



A household in Koma Ganza, Blue Nile after receiving a three-month supply of food assistance

relieve teachers of this urgent need and allow them to focus on teaching. Sadly, the pandemic meant that schools were closed until November, delaying the commencement of the project. However, we are pleased to report that classroom repairment at Gasis primary school began in November, the distribution of scholastic materials commenced in January 2021, and teacher training launched in March. We will provide details on the project in HART's 2021 annual impact report.

Furthermore, the arrival of COVID-19 in Sudan saw inflation soar as border closures cut off access to goods from Ethiopia and South Sudan, resulting in staple food prices increasing by more than 50%. As a result, emergency assistance was required to combat the dire impact of COVID-19, as well as severe flooding and the locust infestation that swept the region in 2019. In July 2020, HART secured £24,000 from the **Guernsey OADC** to provide emergency food assistance to 4,500 IDPs in Blue Nile.

Impact

500 kgs of salt distributed

5,000 kgs of beans distributed

2,700 kgs of sorghum (common grain) distributed



“Thank you so much to HART for the wonderful hearts that you have for humanity and for your efforts to save even one life. At the time, even the UN could not reach these vulnerable people because of the flooding and poor roads, but we were able to reach 500 households and they were so happy and grateful to the HART family for your support.”

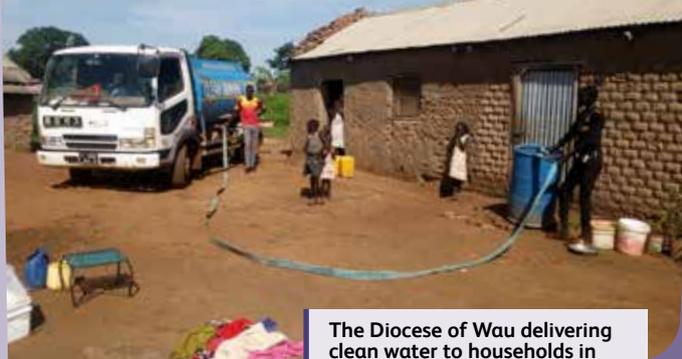
***Executive Director of NSCC,
Benjamin Barnaba***

South Sudan

Overview

In February 2020, after President Salva Kiir announced the formation of a transitional government of national unity including his armed opposition partners, there was hope in the country for sustained peace. However, after the ceasefire broke down in April and rumours of a new global pandemic began to swirl, hope quickly began to fade for South Sudan's citizens.

The arrival of COVID-19 saw the Government of South Sudan and the UN send thousands of displaced persons, who had been residing in Churches and UN camps, back to their villages without any preparation. As a result, community tensions grew over a lack of available water sources and overcrowding around the few that were available. The delivery of food aid was slowed due to border closures and local lockdowns and curfews prevented people from earning a living.



The Diocese of Wau delivering clean water to households in Wau town during the pandemic

PARTNER

DIocese of Wau

HART funded staff salaries at St. John's College in Wau throughout 2020. Typically, the Diocese of Wau provides funding for this purpose but the impact of COVID-19 meant that the Diocese was under severe pressure to support crucial water and sanitation projects throughout the region. The maintenance of St. John's College consistently remains a top priority for the Diocese of Wau given South Sudan's critical lack of quality education. The legacy of civil war has left South Sudan with one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, with approximately only 27% of the adult population able to read and write. St. John's College plays a crucial role in training primary school teachers, as well as offering a variety of courses including business administration, finance, theology and English language.

Impact



200

households provided with a three-month supply of safe drinking water

In May 2020, HART received £10,000 from **The Street Foundation** to support the Diocese of Wau to purchase a water tank that could sell households water at a rate of less than 50% of what was already available. As COVID-19 spread across the country, this initiative enabled poor households, who would otherwise travel long distances to overcrowded water pumps, to maintain social distancing and good hygiene practices.

PARTNER

CHRISTIAN ACTION RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT (CARD)

In July, HART donated £10,000 towards an income-generating/food security project in Hai Masna displacement camp. Involving 70 women, the project sought to retrain women (who have been displaced for several years) in farming skills that would enable them to become self-sufficient, food secure and able to earn a living. Two months later, we were informed by our partners that people living in Hai Masna camp were going hungry as the World Food Programme had been unable to distribute food due to COVID-related border closures affecting supply chains. At this point, HART sent emergency funding to support vulnerable women with food assistance.

Women receiving tools and seeds from CARD to start their new agricultural programme



Impact



70 households received agricultural tools (rakes, watering cans, hoes)



70 households received vegetable seeds (onion, aubergine, cabbage, cucumber and pumpkin)

“We are so thankful to The Street Foundation for their generous gift, not only now but several times in the past. Their donation always comes at a time of need, but I would say that this particular donation has come at the most crucial time.”

Archbishop of Wau, Moses Deng Bol

Orphans in Abyei receive new clothes donated by HART during our visit to the region in January 2020



PARTNER

DIOCESE OF ABYEI

During our visit to Abyei in January 2020, HART donated funds to our partner, Bishop Michael Deng Bol, to purchase clothes for some of the many orphans that we met in his Diocese. Following our return and reeling from our experience arriving shortly after a massacre had occurred in Kolom (in which 32 people were killed and 15 children abducted into slavery), we donated funds to provide the survivors with emergency relief items including food, mosquito nets and sleeping mats.

In May, HART was pleased to secure a grant of £4,933 from **Global Care** to reconstruct the girls' latrines at Agok School after they were destroyed during the heavy flooding in 2019.



Girls at Agok School (Abyei) pose by their new toilet block

Impact

3.7 t



of food aid distributed (sorghum, wheat, lentils, rice & sugar)

100

resettlement items distributed (sleeping mats, tarpaulins, mosquito nets)



“We are very grateful and thankful to the HART team and their supporters for their tireless support of the entire Abyei community with its various needs.”

Bishop Michael Deng Bol

Nigeria

Overview

North and middle-belt Nigeria have a long history of ethno-religious struggles for territory, economic opportunities and agricultural resources. Poverty, declining education, a lack of development and a lack of opportunity for the youth population have contributed to the rise in deathly intercommunal violence over the past five years between semi-nomadic militant Islamist Fulani herdsmen and local Christian farmers. Outbreaks of violence have reached an unprecedented scale, with attacks occurring daily. Whole communities have been displaced and many lives and livelihoods have been lost.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing challenges faced in getting humanitarian assistance to the northern regions. With more than 90 million Nigerians living under the poverty line prior to the pandemic, the World Bank projected in June that the economic shock from the pandemic will push five million more into poverty.

A household receives rice, beans, corn and maize



“The funds that HART sent were a life saver for many families who couldn’t get food due to lockdown and for militia victims who could not access proper medical care. I had the challenge of getting food to villages despite the possibility of running into an ambush of Fulani militias. And of course, trying to protect myself from catching Coronavirus amid the growth of hungry people who are not concerned with wearing face masks when their hunger and fear of attacks is uttermost in their minds. I had to travel to more than 17 villages to reach communities who had been attacked in order to take food assistance from HART to those who desperately needed it. It is always a blessing to see the hope, smile and gratitude in the faces of women and children who see the food we bring as a miracle from God at a time when they have lost almost everything, including hope of finding something to eat.”

Reverend Canon Hassan John



HART partner, Hassan John (left) distributing food items to a community

PARTNER

DIocese OF JOS

In early 2020, HART secured £25,000 in emergency funding from the **Guernsey OADC** to support 5,000 conflict-affected internally displaced persons in Plateau State, central Nigeria. The funds were needed to facilitate the procurement and distribution of emergency food, education and medical assistance to citizens who had fled radical Islamist Fulani herdsmen attacks on their villages.

HART is now seeking further funds to provide healthcare and education for displaced communities who have fled conflict in Nigeria's north and central regions. As stationary educational and healthcare facilities remain under constant threat from both Islamist Fulani herdsmen and Boko Haram, the Diocese of Jos hopes to provide mobile assistance to displaced persons through purchasing and equipping vans either with scholastic materials and monitors or medical and first-aid equipment.

Impact

Food:

20 t of corn distributed
15 t of beans distributed
12.5 t of rice distributed

2 t of sugar distributed
1.25 t of dried okra distributed
0.5 t of salt distributed



Elsie Healthcare Facility (Jos) supported with:



A new security gate

6 new hospital beds

420+ people supported with anti-malarials, antibiotics, wound dressings

Miango Secondary School (Jos South) and Maza Community Secondary School (Jos North) supported with:



The repairment of one classroom following a targeted attack



Scholastic materials distributed

Burma



A school health education session in Shan State

Overview

In 2020, more than 300,000 people were displaced due to fighting between the Burmese Army and armed ethnic groups across Burma. Civilians in Rakhine and Chin States suffered the most as the Burmese Army launched airstrikes and burnt down homes, killing civilians including children and displacing thousands. Furthermore, the government-imposed internet shutdowns in Rakhine and Chin states (in place since June 2019) exacerbated the humanitarian needs for citizens in eight townships. The internet blackout combined with restricted aid agency access to the two states meant that thousands of people were completely unaware of the COVID-19 pandemic, causing a significant delay to their action to isolate and maintain social distancing and personal hygiene practices.

PARTNER

SHAN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK (SWAN)

The arrival of COVID-19 in March saw SWAN's annual Women's Wellbeing Programme temporarily pause until June. During this time, Community Health Workers (CHWs) joined with village leaders and local nurses and midwives to hold general health awareness and COVID-19 prevention sessions in their communities. At this time, HART donated funds to support SWAN's staff with basic medical kits (including face masks, antibacterial gel and soap) and emergency healthcare so that they could safely travel between communities to spread awareness about the virus.

HART continues to support SWAN's commitment to assist displaced Shan people living along the Thai-Burma border. Throughout 2020, HART supported the daily food provisions for 20 orphans living in Kuong Jur Camp, a temporary and unrecognised camp in Thailand that was set up in 2002 for Shan people who had fled persecution by the Burmese Army.

In Northern Shan State in October, more than 5,000 people were displaced in Kyaukme township having fled violent fighting between the Shan State Army and the Burmese Army. Many arrived without any belongings and needed emergency assistance. SWAN reached out to HART for support, and we immediately responded with funding for blankets, food and personal hygiene items for 1,378 people.



A SWAN CHW teaches personal hygiene practices to children who had fled from fighting between the Shan State Army and Burmese Army

Despite the various disruptions that COVID-19 brought to the Women's Wellbeing Programme (SWAN's annual infant, child and maternal healthcare programme), the programme was able to operate a reduced service throughout the year. We are pleased to report that an increasing number of husbands are joining their wives in attending reproductive health awareness sessions and this is having a positive impact on family planning. School headteachers are warmly welcoming SWAN's school health education sessions and families are very happy that their children are receiving personal hygiene education.

Impact

Women's Wellbeing Programme:

1,561



villagers attended reproductive health awareness and disease prevention sessions

4



women assisted with their childbirth



93

women received antenatal care

738

students attended school health education sessions + received a toothbrush and toothpaste



16

women received postnatal care

469



children had their nutrition level measured

2,744



villagers attended COVID-19 prevention sessions + received soap

41



women received contraception services



October: SWAN distributing food parcels to displaced children arriving at the border having fled conflict in their township



SWAN CHW's distribute soap and face masks to women as part of their COVID-19 prevention programme

PARTNER

LOI TAI LENG SCHOOL

Prior to the pandemic, HART had pledged to support several exciting initiatives throughout the year at Loi Tai Leng School for displaced Shan children along the Thai-Burma border. Firstly, a solar power project was set to transform the daily lives of students and teachers by facilitating 24/7 electricity and lighting, crucial to enable students to study at night. Unfortunately, as the border with Thailand closed in April due to COVID-19, the solar equipment was unable to reach Loi Tai Leng. The border has remained closed, but the team hope to start the project in Summer 2021.

Another project delayed by the closure of Thailand's border is the Sustainable Agriculture Training programme at Mae Joe University in Thailand. Once possible, the Sustainable

Agriculture Training programme will send a total of 20 students and staff to university in Chiang Mai for ten days to learn about fish farming, pig farms, organic vegetable farms, fertilizer production and other farming skills. Ever since international aid was cut and redirected to support the Rohingya in 2017, Loi Tai Leng School has actively sought to achieve self-sustainability in order to reduce dependency on foreign assistance. Therefore, in the next three years, Loi Tai Leng School hopes to produce 50% of the food needed by its students.

Border closures and lockdown measures also prevented the launch of a significant Teacher Training programme which planned to bring together 150 staff from schools along the Thai-Burma border and rural areas in Shan State. However, the Education Commission adapted and instead provided a training session for 25 new members of staff from across Loi Tai Leng's middle and high schools. Teachers learnt about classroom management, lesson planning, teacher ethics, and teaching methodologies amongst other skills. They also drafted an official Code of Conduct for Child Protection.



Teachers at Loi Tai Leng School engage in group discussion during teacher training

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Overview

In September 2020, Azerbaijan and Turkey launched a joint-military offensive against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh). In contravention of international law, civilian areas were targeted with tanks, helicopters, drones, heavy artillery and cluster bombs. Lasting 44 days, the war saw Artsakh lose a significant amount of territory, some of which contained sacred cultural and religious sites such as Shushi Cathedral. Approximately 5,000 soldiers and civilians died in total in the conflict. The majority of Armenian soldiers killed in the conflict were young men under the age of 21.

PARTNER

THE LADY COX REHABILITATION CENTRE

2020 was the most difficult year for The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre since its doors opened in 1998. The COVID-19 pandemic and war with Azerbaijan meant that the Centre was forced to close for three months of the year, resulting in a significant decrease in the total number of patients that were able to receive treatment.



Chief Therapist, Karine, engages in neurodevelopmental treatment with a young patient

Following the eruption of war in September, the Rehab Centre's patients and staff were all evacuated to Armenia. Centre Founder and CEO, Vardan Tadevosyan, initially joined his staff in Yerevan to help coordinate the continuing treatment of some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Unfortunately, as is the nature of rehabilitation, even the smallest delay in treatment can have hugely detrimental consequences for patients. Therefore, the Centre's staff worked around the clock to do what they could to keep their patient's therapies on track. Vardan, alongside three of his staff, quickly returned to Stepanakert during the height of the conflict to help treat and care for civilians injured by the indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas, as well as to assist other medical professionals working in the city.



Vardan Tadevosyan, Founder and Director of the Rehabilitation Centre, conducts a home visit to a patient during the war

Since the war, the number of people needing treatment has doubled, yet the Centre is struggling to retain its staff following the aftermath of war. The British Government remains heavily supportive of Azerbaijan and Turkey, refusing to ensure any meaningful response to their aggression and human rights abuses, whilst continuing economic support for their governments. As international aid organisations and the Armenian diaspora are largely assisting with rebuilding and programme support for Nagorno-Karabakh and the Centre specifically, international governments have been slow to act. HART funds remain crucial for the Centre's running costs.

Impact



Syria

Overview

The situation in Syria continued to deteriorate throughout 2020 as the impact of economic sanctions caused an unbearable level of suffering for people living inside the country. With an estimated 13.4 million people in need of emergency assistance within Syria, 70 % of the country's citizens (those living in Government controlled areas) have been abandoned by the West and are unable to re-build their lives. There is a desperate shortage of fuel, electricity, medicines and construction materials. Costs have rocketed due to inflation, and it is estimated that over 80 % of the population now live below the poverty line. Furthermore, sanctions disproportionately affected Syria's healthcare system and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with many doctors dying due to the inability to import adequate PPE.



Heads of households register to receive food assistance

PARTNER

ST. EPHREM PATRIARCHAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EPDC)

In the winter of 2019, HART launched an emergency appeal to support families returning to Maaloula, Syria with blankets and food hampers. Unfortunately, the dire impact of UK-backed economic sanctions on Syria meant that HART funds did not reach our partner organisation until September 2020. Having raised more than £35,000 from our generous supporters, EPDC took it upon themselves to kickstart the project and pay the costs themselves in order to help the local people whilst they awaited HART's funds.

We are now pleased to report on the impact of our appeal. Over the course of three months, 550 families were provided with two blankets and one food hamper per household. Having carefully considered the needs of the community, EPDC procured food hampers which included olive oil sugar, bulgur wheat, jam, olives, tomato paste, corn and pomegranate molasses amongst other items. As expected, the spread of COVID-19 caused a delay in the distribution process due to the need to socially distance, reduce beneficiary crowding and repeatedly wash hands. Moreover, economic sanctions on Syria meant that the price of raw materials fluctuated, and fuel was in short supply, affecting the efficiency of producing and transporting the quilts. However, by hand-making the quilts and several of the food items on site at EPDC's workshop, the project was able to support 50 staff salaries to help people through the difficult winter months.



A Maaloula resident collects her food hamper

Impact



550

food hampers distributed



1,100

quilts distributed



50

salaries supported

Uganda

Overview

Uganda is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, with over 1.4 million refugees living within its borders. Ongoing conflicts in neighbouring countries such as South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo have forced hundreds of thousands of people to seek safety in Uganda, a country which although poor itself, offers a variety of assistance to refugees including rights to education, work and healthcare. As COVID-19 swept across the globe, Uganda was quick to impose a national lockdown, saving countless lives but causing severe hardship to millions of informal workers (80% of the labour force) who were unable to trade.



Students help to fill the new fish tank

“The farming skills taught at PAORINHER will help our students to be self-sufficient in their adult life.”

Raymond Okot, Chair of PAORINHER Centre

PARTNER

PAORINHER

HART completed its funding of PAORINHER in 2019 following 12 years of collaboration since helping to establish the Centre in 2007. **Power for the People (PFP)**, an NGO which strives to use renewable energy to boost access to healthcare, education and economic opportunity, is now the main partner of PAORINHER and we are pleased to report on the exciting projects that took place in 2020.

Following several delays to project commencement due to the arrival of COVID-19, it was not until August that PFP were able to launch phase one of their three-phase plan to transition PAORINHER into operational, financial and environmental sustainability. Seeking to enhance student food security, a pilot one-acre closed loop farm was established on site to produce food for the school and medical centre, train students in sustainable food production and generate an income through selling surplus produce in the local market. Subsequent phases (scheduled for 2021) include establishing a 50-acre crop and livestock farm, fish farm, poultry house and biogas toilets which will turn waste into fertilizer for the crops.

Timor-Leste

Overview

Timor-Leste has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. More than one in three children under the age of five are underweight and one in 24 children will not live to see their fifth birthday. 70 % of Timor-Leste's population depend on subsistence farming yet only 11 % of the country's landmass is used for agriculture due to its mountainous terrain and associated shortage of water. As a result, many households experience annual food shortages. Throughout 2020, the Government of Timor-Leste managed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic by initiating an early lockdown lasting from March to the end of June.

HIAM Health staff measure the height of a child to assess her growth



HIAM Health staff distribute COVID-19 prevention kits including face masks, hand sanitizer and soap



“HIAM Health has been enabled by the six years of Isle of Man funding to seek long-term goals and experiment with different approaches in order to produce an all-encompassing strategy to reach our goal. So many projects in aid are hampered by the need to produce immediate statistical beneficiaries, to the detriment of producing an explored strategy of proven viability to tackle the core problem.”

Jill Hillary, Financial Advisor for HIAM Health

PARTNER

HIAM HEALTH

From January to May, HIAM Health used the last of HART's six-year grant funds (secured from the **Isle of Man International Development Committee** in 2013) to support the staff and centre in their ongoing work to rebuild the gardens and moringa cultivation after the terrible drought of 2019, which saw desperately thirsty livestock break down fences and water management infrastructure. We are pleased to report that after a pause in their programmes for three months during the national lockdown, HIAM's AEWs (trained in the Centre also funded by the Isle of Man) were back in their community gardens in July to support local farmers and community water management.

A message from our Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to report a very productive year for HART during the midst of a pandemic.

Firstly, we wish to celebrate the appointment of two new trustees in 2020, Mr. Prakash Patel and Mr. Steven Turner. Following on from his role as HART's Finance Manager from 2017-2018, Prakash went on to become Chief Operating Officer at One Trust. We are delighted to have Prakash back in the team, where we share his commitment to promoting the mission, vision and values of HART. With an established career in Finance, Steven brings a wealth of experience to his trusteeship at HART. Over the past decade, Steven has taken on several voluntary oversight roles at a variety of charitable organisations, and we are delighted to have him on board.



Humanitarian
Aid Relief Trust

We are keen to celebrate HART's Winterisation appeal which launched in December 2019 to assist families returning to Maaloula in Syria with food and warmth. After project commencement suffered several delays throughout 2020 (due to the impact of UK-backed economic sanctions on the transfer of funds to our partner organisation), we received the wonderful news in September 2020 that HART funds had successfully reached our partner and the project was able to proceed as planned.

In December, following the escalation of war in Nagorno-Karabakh in September, we were overjoyed to see the extraordinary response to our emergency appeal to raise funds for the patients, patients' families and staff at the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre. Given an initial target of £20,000, we were thrilled to raise more than £71,000 for this important initiative.

Thank you to everyone who supported HART in 2020.

Report from HART Australasia

As with so many organisations in this country, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered and impeded our operations in 2020. Our Board met in late February 2020 to map out a plan for the coming year, including a major fundraising campaign in April to support our existing partners, especially Maluk Timor, and to provide funding for a new project in Papua New Guinea called Restore. With the restrictions on travel into and out of Australia, we were unable to launch Restore but, in the meantime, restoration work was completed on the ten-bedroom guesthouse in Alotau. In Timor-Leste, we continue to support the health and welfare work of Maluk Timor but we have been unable to transport medical supplies to Dili since the pandemic broke in March.

Towards the end of the year, I held discussions with the Armenian Bishop and senior leaders of the Armenian Community in Sydney to see whether we could assist the suffering peoples in Nagorno-Karabakh in terms of fundraising that HART Australasia could co-ordinate. Whilst we did not proceed with this venture, the Armenian community in Australia found ways to provide financial support through the churches in Nagorno-Karabakh.



Roger Chilton
July 2021



Pippa Gerhard, Executive Director of HART USA (right) with members of the HART team, and two HART partners, Vardan Tadevosyan (left) and SWAN (centre) in Burma, 2019

Report on HART USA

HART USA seeks to assist as a fundraising vehicle to support the work of Baroness Cox and HART's partners around the world. Following their visit to Burma in 2019, HART USA continued their support for our partners in Burma, raising funds for relief for internally displaced persons. This support has increased since the military coup in February 2021. Unfortunately, two crucial visits in 2020 were postponed due to COVID-19: HART USA's visit to partners in Burma and later in the year, Baroness Cox's visit to the USA.

At home

2020 Advocacy Summary

Despite the pandemic hindering our ability to visit overseas partners and gather first-hand testimony on the situations that their communities are facing, the HART team was able to remain in close contact with partners via video calling. Lockdowns and social distancing could not keep Baroness Cox from speaking up for persecuted communities around the world. Throughout the year, she lent her voice to the people of South Sudan, Sudan, Nigeria, Burma, Syria and Nagorno-Karabakh by (remotely) sharing stories from our valiant partners and their communities with her colleagues in the House of Lords and with various news outlets. Baroness Cox continued to campaign on behalf of the Syrian people in her mission to see the end of UK-backed economic sanctions on Syria, which were severely impacting the country's ability to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. In June, as Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief, Baroness Cox co-authored a report entitled 'Nigeria: Unfolding Genocide?', citing HART's Nigerian partners, to highlight the ideological element of the conflict given the escalating violence between predominantly Islamist Fulani herders and Christian farmers. In November, Baroness Cox and Rev. David Thomas (HART Project Logistics Manager) travelled to Nagorno-Karabakh during the 44-day war to show solidarity and support for our partner, Vardan Tadevosyan and gather first-hand testimony from the Armenian people.

HART INITIATIVES

HART Prize for Human Rights

The HART Prize for Human Rights is our annual competition which seeks to inspire young people to engage in issues surrounding global conflict, human rights and poverty. Anyone between the ages of 11-25 is encouraged to enter an essay or creative piece which critically examines a human rights abuse occurring in any of the countries where HART operates.

In 2020, we received the highest number of entries to date, with 237 entries from more than 50 schools. Due to COVID-19, we held the Awards Ceremony online, incorporating performances from competition winners and entrants whose submissions were highly commended. A big thank you to all those who entered and graciously waited six months to find out the winners at the delayed Virtual Awards Ceremony.

2021 update

We wish to give a brief update on some significant developments from the start of 2021.

HART is overjoyed to have received two significant grants in the first half of 2021. Firstly, the **Aall Foundation** chose to support IDP resettlement and reconstruction in central Nigeria, through HART's partner, the Diocese of Jos. Secondly, the **Guernsey OADC** awarded HART funding to construct four new classrooms at Agok school in Abyei, South Sudan. After classrooms were destroyed and teachers displaced during the 2008 Abyei War, more than half of the 4,000 students were forced to find education elsewhere in the region. Following relative peace and the return of teachers in recent years, the project will improve the quality of local education and make secondary education available for the first time in over a decade.

In the UK, the HART team is working tirelessly to support our partners and particularly those in Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh and Nigeria. As some of you may know, following the military takeover in Burma on 1 February, former HART partner Dr. Sasa (Founder of Health & Hope, Burma) has been appointed as Union Minister of International Cooperation and Spokesperson for the National Unity Government. We watch and pray for Sasa's success and safety in his new role. Moreover, we continue to fundraise for the relief of those displaced by the ongoing violence in Nigeria's north and central regions. In

addition to supporting emergency relief, we are focused on providing mobile health and education units which will assist displaced communities in host villages or displacement camps. Finally, following the eruption of war in Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2020, we are working hard to support the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre with essential medical supplies, staff support and emergency relief.

A note on working in fragile contexts

Given HART's mission to establish community aid programmes in active conflict zones and post-conflict areas, we wish to share a significant quote from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2011.

“There is increasing recognition that achieving long-term, transformational results in fragile and conflict affected states requires appropriate risk taking, and that the avoidance of risk will be harmful to development results...Importantly, the risks of failing to engage in these contexts outweigh most of the risks of engagement.”

Reference: OECD (2011), Aid Risks in Fragile and Transitional Contexts: Improving Donor Behaviour

HUMANITARIAN AID RELIEF TRUST

Statement of financial activities

(including Income and Expenditure statement) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

INCOME	2020	2019
Donations and legacies	535,228	556,892
Other trading activities	10,784	258
Investments	203	440
Total income	546,215	557,590
EXPENDITURE	2020	2019
Raising funds	82,150	100,349
Charitable activities:		
Aid	334,481	466,470
Advocacy	104,035	124,972
Total expenditure	520,666	691,791
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	25,549	134,201

Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

FIXED ASSETS	2020	2019
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,562	1,593
CURRENT ASSETS	2020	2019
Stock	3,643	4,293
Debtors	49,518	51,068
Cash at bank and in hand	210,157	191,590
	263,318	246,951
Creditors: amounts falling due to within one year	(22,786)	(31,999)
Net current assets	240,532	214,952
Total assets less total liabilities	242,094	216,545
FUNDS	2020	2019
Unrestricted funds	96,270	128,971
Restricted funds	135,824	87,574
Total funds carried forward	242,094	216,545

The summary accounts set out on these pages may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust. For further information, the full accounts, the unqualified report of the independent auditors and the Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2019 should be consulted.

Copies of these, which will be delivered to the Charities Commission and Registrar of Companies, can be requested by emailing office@hart-uk.org

Acknowledgements

HART would like to thank each and every one of our donors who gave generously in 2020, including:

- The Aall Foundation
- The Aldred Charitable Trust
- Ashworth Trust
- Beatrice Hankey Foundation
- Black Combe Trust
- Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
- Foundation New Start in the East
- Global Care
- Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission
- Hope Church Oswestry
- Hiscox Foundation
- Ingleby Charitable Trust
- John Barber Fund
- The London Road Fund
- The Marigold Bridgeman Trust
- Oxford Chinese Christian Church
- P&M Burgess Trust
- R&H Sneller Fund
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Stockesley Christian Fellowship
- The Street Foundation
- The Vardy Foundation

Our work would not be possible without the help of our donors. From the HART team and our overseas partner communities we say a huge thank you to all who support us.



December 2020: Staff at the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre welcome back their young patients after the Centre was forced to close for two months during the war

January 2020: Members of the HART team meet with local administrators in Blue Nile, Sudan to hear about community priorities for support



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Company Number: 5227785



**Humanitarian
Aid Relief Trust**