



## ✿ NAGORNO KARABAKH

### A FUTURE WORTH PROTECTING

**A major escalation in conflict has trapped families inside Nagorno Karabakh and obstructed their only route for humanitarian relief**

Azerbaijan's recent blockade of the Lachin Corridor left more than 120,000 people in Nagorno Karabakh without access to food supplies, electricity and health care. Homes have been deprived of heat and power for more than 100 days. Schools have been forced to close. Thousands of people have been separated from their families. Since the blockade began, more than 320 babies have been born into a 'frozen' conflict where violations of the 2020 ceasefire agreement continue with impunity.

In Stepanakert and the surrounding region, demands on the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre have reached their highest level to date. We need your help to support our partners' life-changing work and advocate for communities living under constant threat of war.



The Centre provides parents and children with essential medicines, which are in short supply

### “LOSING HOPE IS DEFEAT”

Of the 120,000 people who call Nagorno Karabakh home, 9,000 are estimated to have disabilities. Whether visible or hidden, inherited at birth or a result of war, Vardan Tadevosyan has made it his mission to treat all forms of disability.

As Founding Director of the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, he has transformed disability care for the region.

Full-scale conflict, an evacuation\* and siege warfare have been unable to stop Vardan and his team from delivering expert care to the patients. On 14 March, the region's President recognised Vardan's achievements and appointed him to the position of Minister for Health. We are proud to stand with Vardan as he spearheads the fight for disability equality in Nagorno Karabakh.

*\*HART supporters helped to provide safe passage for patients returning to Nagorno Karabakh following the 44-day war*



Vardan spearheads the fight for disability equality in Nagorno Karabakh

**45** children received treatment at the Autism Centre in 2022. **25** infants with additional needs were cared for at kindergarten. **127** babies received home visits. Your ongoing support helps us to raise awareness and provide essential supplies for families who rely on the Centre. Please donate today to support HART's partners in crises like the blockade of Nagorno Karabakh.

**Your support can help local partners like Vardan provide hope for a brighter future**

**DONATE TODAY**





## TWO YEARS UNDER MILITARY RULE

Burma is one of the most dangerous places to be a health worker. Targeted military violence has forced thousands of doctors into hiding, resulting in the collapse of the healthcare system. The Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN) has more than 30 members volunteering as health workers and researchers across Shan State and the Thai-Burma borderlands. Amid ongoing security challenges, these women are relied on to respond to the extensive health needs of their communities.

In attempts to eliminate resistance in the border states, the military has strategically restricted transport routes for humanitarian aid, blocking health workers from assisting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their respective host communities. With the generous help of HART supporters, SWAN has been able to assist thousands of people fleeing conflict and gender-based violence.

### BETWEEN JULY AND DECEMBER 2022...



**36** new medical subjects were studied by 14 health workers

**73** women received pre-natal and/or post-partum health checks

**706** children from 32 villages had their nutrition levels monitored



**2,000** contraceptive implant kits were distributed to women's health organisations



**487** people participated in SWAN's reproductive health awareness sessions



**1,093** students received nutritional, seasonal disease and basic hygiene education



## HEALTHCARE TRAINING GOES DIGITAL IN SHAN STATE

The collapse of health services in Burma has placed even greater pressure on cross-border networks like SWAN. With entire communities relying on the organisation for medical care and advice, SWAN health workers are set to receive training via an app. We are grateful to **Dr. Jodie Russell** for assisting SWAN by introducing them to the mobile app, which will provide essential guidance as security challenges impede in-person training.

# HART SUPPORTERS ARE PAVING 'ROADS TO HOPE'

More Christians are killed in Nigeria than anywhere in the world, according to Open Doors.

The atrocities of Boko Haram and Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP) continue in Nigeria's northern states. A much less documented conflict has displaced thousands in the Middle Belt. In recent months, attacks by the Fulani militia have continued to escalate against predominantly Christian communities, raising fears of a silent genocide. HART supporters are playing a key role in providing life-saving relief.

Since the project was launched in 2021, **Roads to Hope** has delivered safer education to more than 5,000 children at risk of violence or abduction. Four mobile education units – each equipped with books, pens, a whiteboard, an electronic monitor and a solar-powered generator – are taking school to children in displacement camps and villages where militia attacks persist. For these conflict-affected communities, education is widely regarded as the key tool to liberate children from cycles of violence.

Last year, during the **Big Give** Christmas Challenge, our generous supporters enabled HART to launch **Roads to Hope: Emergency Healthcare in Nigeria**. The first mobile medical unit will travel to remote villages targeted by armed militia, enabling immediate life-saving relief following an attack. Volunteer medical staff will clean wounds, extract metal, test for preventable illnesses, and transport severely wounded patients to hospital. Upon arrival, the medical staff will deliver a talk to the community about personal hygiene and advise mothers caring for their babies amid conflict.

700 children have enrolled in *Roads to Hope* reading clubs in Southern Kaduna and Plateau State

*"More children are killed in attacks because they cannot run far. This causes more mothers to die also because they stay behind to look for their children."*

HART has witnessed first-hand the devastation caused by militia violence in Central Nigeria. We have seen hospitals destroyed, homes turned into burial sites, and children bearing the visible scars of conflict. HART remains deeply grateful to each of our supporters who helped to expand the reach of the Roads to Hope project. **We couldn't do this life-saving work without you.**



## A HUNGER CRISIS IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS

The **Aall Foundation** is helping HART to respond to pronounced humanitarian needs in Sudan. The citizens of the Nuba Mountains are experiencing Crisis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 3) or worse food security outcomes due to the challenges of conflict and climate change. Thousands of people are grappling with acute hunger and malnutrition.

At present, there is no formal agreement between the transitional Sudanese Government, the UN, or other parties to address the crisis in the Nuba Mountains. Local expert Benjamin Barnaba and the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) are coordinating a three-month programme of emergency food assistance for 3,080 people, including IDPs, returnees, orphaned children, female-headed families, the elderly and people with disabilities. We are grateful to The Aall Foundation for helping Benjamin and the NSCC to improve food security for 440 vulnerable households.





## HISTORIC PROJECT MARKS A NEW CHAPTER FOR ABYEI

Our partners in Abyei are situated in one of the world's most complicated humanitarian contexts. During the civil war in the 1980s, territorial disputes between Sudanese and South Sudanese governments prevented the 2011 referendum from determining the status of Abyei. In subsequent years, outbreaks of inter-communal violence have been an obstacle to peace in the region.

With the support of **Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission**, HART and the Diocese of Abyei are constructing the region's first ever library. Once completed, the building will serve 7,855 students from seven regional schools, providing them with a safe learning space.



Construction of Abyei's first ever library and teacher-training centre

Doubling as a teacher-training centre, the library will benefit not only trainee teachers but also researchers and undergraduate students in search of a facility with electricity. By enhancing education for a community that has long been deprived of basic resources, this project will give generations of students greater access to opportunity. We are delighted to stand alongside our partners and community members as they celebrate this new chapter for Abyei.

## THAI-BURMA BORDER

### LOI TAI LENG SCHOOL

**It is a difficult time to be a child in Burma. Ongoing military offensives and the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic have threatened their already fragile security.**

At least 382 children have been harmed or killed since the 2021 coup. With schools caught in the crossfire, an estimated 7.8\* million are currently out of education. Your continued support enables HART to provide a lifeline to children who have fled conflict and insecurity.

Situated in a displacement camp along the Thai-Burma border, Loi Tai Leng School has been impacted by soaring food costs and inflation. As a result, meals for more than 800 children have been restricted to rice. HART has responded to teachers' request for assistance by supplementing the rice with salt,

seasoning powder, noodles, yellow beans and soya beans.

HART has also supported an agriculture and livestock breeding programme to enhance the long-term independence of the school community, helping it to grow mustard, cabbage, coriander, ginger, onion, and pea leaves. Two teachers from Loi Tai Leng School attended a month-long training programme and learned to make pig feed from plants they are now growing at the on-site farm.

Students have been provided sleeping mats and pillows, and dormitories



Loi Tai Leng School receives food assistance for students

have been supplied with new solar batteries to extend study hours and light the external toilet areas at night. These achievements have been made possible through the support of **Ben Richards, Jo Russell, Mary and Jeremy Thorp**, and many others who participated in a fundraising event for HART. To find out how you can fundraise for HART, please get in touch at [office@hart-uk.org](mailto:office@hart-uk.org)

*\*According to the UN Human Rights Office*





# NOTICEboard



Champions of the East Africa ChipKizi Cup

## PAST PROJECT: PAORINHER

HART strives to help our local partners become independent of overseas aid. We build capacity and connect individuals to local networks of support.

HART arrived in northern Uganda at the height of the Lords' Resistance Army insurgency, which saw approximately 30,000 children abducted into conflict and countless others orphaned. UNICEF declared at that time that northern Uganda was the worst place in the world to be a child.

From 2007-2020, we partnered with the **Patongo Orphans Infants' Health Rehabilitation Centre (PAORINHER)** to support their life-saving health clinic, on-site school and psychosocial support centre for children living with HIV. HART is proud to have played a key role in PAORINHER's development, helping it to harness solar power through the help of our friends at **Power for the People (PFP)** and investing in sustainable projects for the long-term.

Around 600 pupils receive education at the school, excelling in academia and extra-curricular activities. In 2021, HART's Founder President Baroness Cox sponsored PAORINHER to compete in the East African Trophy football competition. The competitors were crowned champions of the East Africa ChipKizi Cup and one student even secured a sponsorship to train abroad. We are proud to watch as PAORINHER continues to lift children from poverty and open doors for opportunity.

## A MESSAGE FROM HART-USA

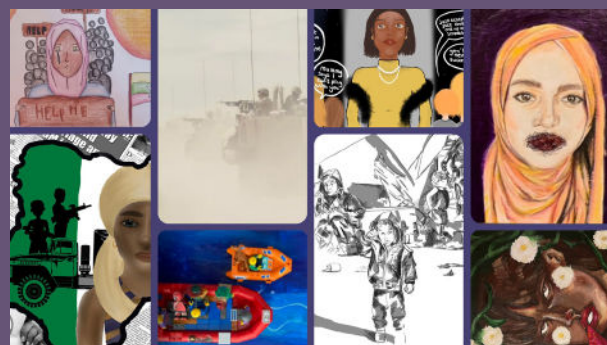
“As humanitarian disasters continue in Nagorno Karabakh, Syria, Nigeria, Burma, Sudan and South Sudan, HART-USA is proud to support local people who are caught in the crossfire of conflict. Like our parent organisation in the UK, we have been saddened to watch persecution, political unrest, war and climate change contribute to a complex set of challenges for our partner communities. But we have also witnessed the remarkable achievements of local experts and their communities in some of the most unreachable parts of the world. The team at HART-USA is looking forward to the year ahead as we continue to support our partners and advance their ground-breaking initiatives.”

## HART PRIZE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Though we operate across six locations globally, HART's work begins at home. We are delighted to see young people from schools across the UK engaging with global affairs through the annual *HART Prize for Human Rights competition*. This year, students approached human rights issues through mediums of cake baking, essay-writing, art and photography.

*“Defending human rights is a shared responsibility. Every year, I am encouraged to see young advocates engage with the same human rights concerns that I bring to the UK Government. It gives me hope that the future is in safe hands.”* – **Baroness Cox**, HART Founder President and Member of the UK House of Lords.



## LEAVE A LEGACY

By remembering HART in your will, you can help our local partners save lives and transform communities.

- **£150** could buy a bundle of sterile eye dressings, gauze dressings and medical splints in Nigeria
- **£300** could support two patients at the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre with walking aids
- **£500** could provide 30 displaced families with emergency relief in South Sudan
- **£1,000** could help 14 health workers to travel for intensive First Aid training in Burma

You can be sure that a legacy gift will help HART to stand alongside people suffering from armed conflict, natural disasters and persecution.

**To find out more, please get in touch at [office@hart-uk.org](mailto:office@hart-uk.org)**

# CATCHING UP WITH CAROLINE

## **BURMA**

The second anniversary of the military coup in Burma was observed on 1 February 2023. A peaceful protest calling for the restoration of democracy took place in London's Trafalgar Square, where Caroline stood in solidarity with demonstrators and delivered a message of encouragement from our former partner Dr Sasa, Spokesperson for the National Unity Government.

In a parliamentary debate on the importance of the BBC World Service, Caroline brought attention to ongoing military violence against civilians and the reliance of Burmese people on BBC broadcasts, a lifeline of information under military rule. In February, she met the UK's temporary Head of Mission to Burma, relaying the challenges faced by health workers in the country's border states.

## **SYRIA**

Caroline called on the UK Government to lift financial sanctions on Syria following the devastating earthquakes earlier this year. In a letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, she outlined the effect of UK-backed sanctions which have deprived civilians of fuel required to deliver food and generate electricity, and preventing parts of Syria from importing medical equipment and essential goods.

A lack of sustained access to healthcare, education, housing and food have exacerbated the effects of the conflict and pushed millions of Syrians into poverty. Caroline advised the Prime Minister that "it is possible to pursue the United Kingdom's legitimate interests in Syria – including holding those who commit atrocities to account – without waging economic warfare on the entire population."

## **NAGORNO KARABAKH**

Caroline continues to project voices from Nagorno Karabakh onto the international stage. She shed light on the blockade of Nagorno Karabakh by securing an Oral Question in the House of Lords, where she presented first-hand evidence from our partners on the ground, including testimonies from patients at the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre.

Amid fears that the blockade could be a prelude to war, Caroline has continued to lobby the UK Government to respond to Azerbaijan's latest act of aggression. She urged the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to launch an inquiry into the security situation, and present a report of these findings to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

**"In a world darkened by conflict and human rights abuses, Baroness Caroline Cox stands as a beacon of light."**

**Raheel Raza, Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow**



Caroline advocates for HART's local partners and conflict-affected people in Burma



**+44 (0)20 8205 4608**  
**office@hart-uk.org**  
**www.hart-uk.org**

**HART, Unit 7,  
Jubilee Business Centre,  
213 Kingsbury Road,  
London, NW9 8AQ**

**f HumanitarianAidReliefTrust**  
**@HARTnews**  
**@hart.uk**



**Humanitarian  
Aid Relief Trust**