



## BURMA

**“THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS LARGELY SHIFTED THEIR FUNDING INTERESTS AWAY FROM THE BORDER TO INSIDE BURMA.”**



**Burma has been in the news recently with reports of the Burmese Army’s ethnic cleansing campaign against the Muslim Rohingya people. There have been reports of killing, perpetration of atrocities and destruction of villages, causing the displacement of over 600,000 civilians.**

However, other disturbing events in Burma have gone largely unreported with thousands fleeing for safety after escalating violence in Shan State, eastern Burma. Our partner, Shan Women’s Action Network (SWAN),

is facing increasing difficulties after a series of funding cuts to refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border, exacerbating already-existing problems of food shortages and health care.

Six camps have provided security and protection for 18 years for over 6,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), 70 % of whom are women and children.

SWAN explains how lack of funding is creating a crisis. *“Both current and previous governments have focused on advancing the peace process. As such, the international community has largely shifted their funding interests away from the border to inside*

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# FROM HART TO HEART

Greetings to all the HART Family this Christmas time!

Christmas is a time of celebration for all Christians, when we rejoice in our belief in our God who loves His people so much that He became incarnate – to live and die amongst us and for us.

This wonderful message of Love is reflected in the lives and work of all our HART partners – whatever their faiths.

I would like to share three examples where our partners dedicate themselves with inspirational commitment in very challenging situations:

Dr. Sasa, whose precious Training Centre for Community Health Workers in remote jungle in Chin State was destroyed by a cyclone, has been working hard to raise funds to rebuild the Centre and continue his life-saving training programme.

Vardan continues to extend transformational care for people with disabilities in his Centre and for families living in more remote locations. Vardan is characteristically humble: when I congratulated him on his phenomenal achievements, he simply said 'You gave me the wings, so I could fly'.

Archbishop Moses Deng, in war-torn South Sudan, risked going to prison for borrowing money from local traders to buy food for hundreds of people who had fled to his compound, dying of starvation. He works tirelessly to rebuild schools, clinics and to develop agriculture to enable people to grow their own food and not to have to rely on 'hand outs'.

Thank you for helping these and all our partners to fulfil their visions of living the 'Christmas message' of 'Love in Action' which is also the mission and mandate of HART.

With warmest wishes,  
Baroness Cox

## BURMA

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*Burma," says Maggi Quadrini, SWAN Communications Officer. "All of the food aid for six camps along the Shan-Thai border ended in October 2017."*

This leaves Shan, Kachin and Karen refugees, many of whom have been displaced for decades, with an impossible choice: starvation, untreated illness or a return to lands occupied by the Burmese Army where they face dangers and hardships.

*"Communities in Shan State are at risk of human rights violations committed by the Burma Army. Women especially have been subject to sexual violence inflicted by soldiers who often escape accountability. The Burma Army is notorious for its 4 cuts strategy designed to isolate communities by cutting off food, funds, intelligence and outside support which has had direct impacts on Shan communities including forced migration, leading to increased displacement."* says Maggi.

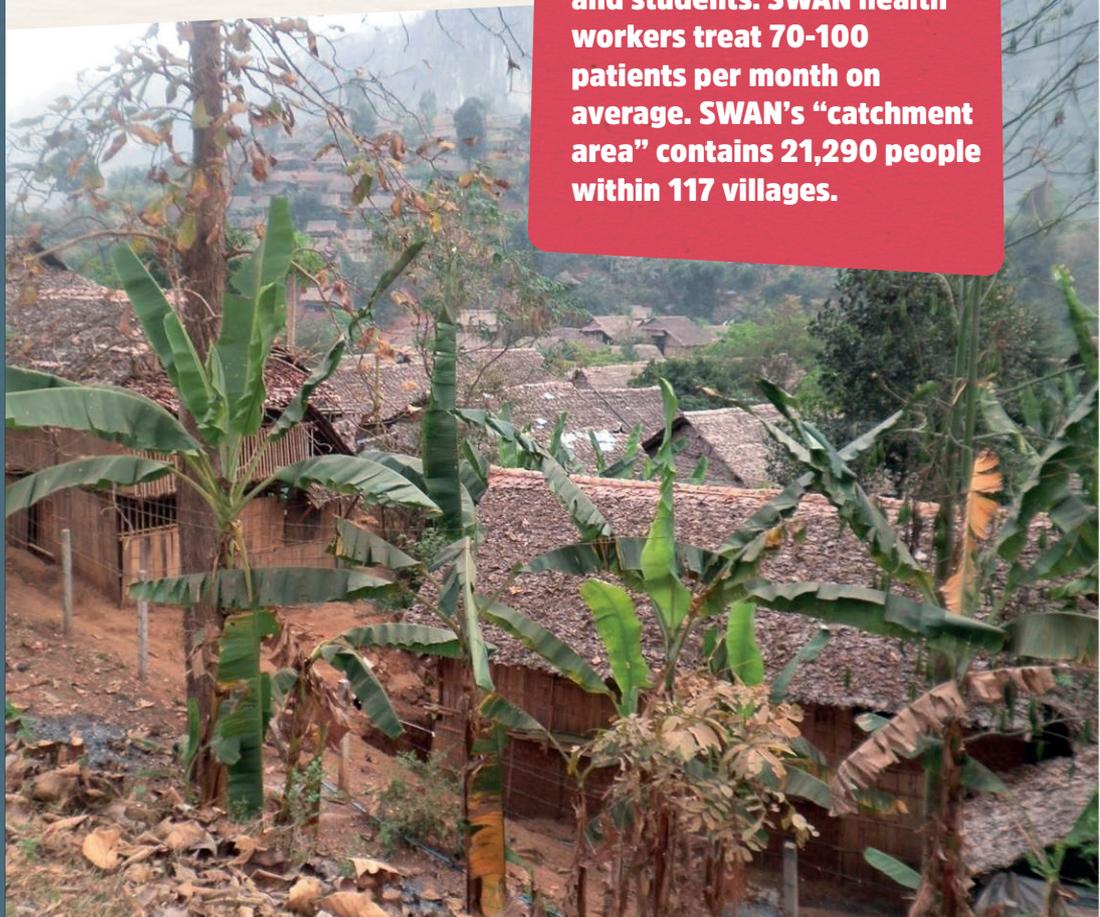
The drastic reductions in support by the international community have left the refugees and IDPs with almost nothing. The UN refugee agency UNHCR have not registered the 6 camps and refugees are not

recognised in Thailand. The National League for Democracy government, headed by Aung San Suu Kyi, has promised to help provide the camps with their food, education and health needs. Yet the camp leaders doubt the government's willingness to provide aid, and the 6,000 refugees face great hardship and an uncertain future.

Meanwhile, a decrease last year in HART's contribution to SWAN caused closure of some programmes. We in HART now passionately wish to make support for SWAN a priority given the 'Double Whammy' of the escalation of problems for many civilians in Shan State and the simultaneous reduction of funding by international donors.



**SWAN presently has 31 community health workers who closely interact with more than 10,000 direct beneficiaries in Shan State, which includes mothers, children, women's groups, and students. SWAN health workers treat 70-100 patients per month on average. SWAN's "catchment area" contains 21,290 people within 117 villages.**



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN...

 **HART works where many others do not, shedding light on situations which are often left out of mainstream news. Read on to learn about the dangers that face our partners.**



## ...NORTHERN NIGERIA: THREAT OF THE FULANI

In recent times there has been increasing religious tension between the Muslim Fulani Herdsmen and the Christian farming communities. The Fulani herdsmen cause problems as they drive cattle through other people's land. In some places, they do not move on, attacking Christian villages, killing villagers and forcing others to flee. The new policy of "land grabbing" is a form of religious cleansing of Christians from their homelands. There are many concerns regarding who is providing the Fulani with weapons, whether the Government will intervene and why there has been so little international attention to these very disturbing developments.

## ...SOUTH SUDAN: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Famine was declared in some parts of South Sudan in February 2017 with 6 million people suffering severe food shortages. By September 2017, the famine status had been revoked due to a large humanitarian effort. However, more people are facing severe food shortages today than before. According to the UN, this humanitarian disaster, caused by civil war, will not end unless measures are taken to address underlying problems.

## ...SUDAN: LIFTING OF SANCTIONS

The most significant development in Sudan over the last few months is the decision to lift US sanctions, citing improved human rights protection, humanitarian access and the cessation of hostilities in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile. These claims do not reflect reality. Churches across the country continue to be torn down,

humanitarian access is minimal and heavily politicised, and the build-up of Sudanese forces for a disarmament campaign in Blue Nile state has the potential to re-spark to reignite the conflict. Geopolitics and 'national interests', especially in trade, is once again being prioritised over human rights in Sudan.

Keep up to date with the issues facing our partners on our website [www.hart-uk.org/news](http://www.hart-uk.org/news)

## ...PARLIAMENT

HART's CEO and founder, Baroness Cox, exercises her unique position in the House of Lords to advocate for our local partners and raise awareness of human rights issues in their countries. Some recent examples include:



- Various Questions for Written Answer regarding the state of religious freedom, the maintaining of the ceasefire agreements, and the persecution of minorities in Sudan.
- An oral question and debate on Fulani tensions in the Northern and Central Belt states in Nigeria.
- Chairing a meeting between peers and delegates of the Government of Sudan as part of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Sudan.
- Various Questions for Written Answer on religious freedom in Burma, including the forced conversion to Buddhism of children in Burma Army schools.
- Oral questions to the government about Syria, asking how much taxpayer money has been spent on Syrian oppositions groups, and in what way.

# COMBATTING CHILDHOOD MALNUTRITION



Women learning how to cultivate the moringa tree

## HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE MORINGA TREE?

HART's partner, HIAM Health, has been working hard to introduce the Moringa tree – now internationally recognised as a valuable source of nutrition.

This is important as Timor-Leste faces many challenges, including cultural beliefs that inhibit the use of nutritious foods and serious fluctuations in water supply throughout the year. With 70% of the population living at subsistence level, the type and productivity of local crops have a very significant impact on the nutritional status of villagers, especially children.

Every part of the Moringa tree, sometimes referred to as the "Miracle Tree", is edible and highly nutritious, rich in vitamins, amino acids, anti-oxidants, protein and calcium. In addition to its nutritional value, the Moringa tree has other advantages: it is drought tolerant and can be harvested every 40 days, making it the ideal plant for communities confronting food insecurity.

HIAM Health have been training households in the cultivation and use of the Moringa tree in villages where malnutrition rates are highest, including practices which allow green leaves to be easily harvested, processed and stored without requiring refrigeration. Dried or powdered leaves can then be added as a supplement to basic foods to ensure that the nutritional needs of communities are met.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**LEVELS OF STUNTING AND WASTING IN TIMOR-LESTE'S CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD IS RANKED THIRD HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AFTER YEMEN AND AFGHANISTAN.**

## NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Taking part in annual Boccia Competition



In August, HART visited The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre. To read our visit report please go to [www.hart-uk.org/nagorno-karabakh](http://www.hart-uk.org/nagorno-karabakh)



Vardan using the new special tricycles with a patient

## A letter from Vardan Tadevosyan, Director of The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre:

*2017 was a successful year for The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre. Finally we were able to construct and open our new day-care centre for autistic children after a long wait. Now we will be able to work and treat around 50 more children each year and these children are the most vulnerable with their disabilities.*

*In total the rehabilitation centre treats around 1,000 disabled persons of all ages. We not only treat our patients but also do our best to integrate them with their family and community.*

*We are also trying to develop sports activities for disabled. We are not ready to take part in the Paralympics games yet but we are on our way to reach that!*

*Very proud to inform you that we have now a new safe playground and facilities for outside sport activities. I hope one day we will be able to develop more facilities, but for that we need a new building.*

*Every year, on all our achievements we were supported and encouraged by HART. A few weeks ago I had the chance to visit HART's new office and to see all old and new friends. To tell them about our achievements and future challenges. Together we can do more.*

*Many thanks to all HART's supporters and friends.*

*God bless*

*Vardan Tadevosyan*

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH PAORINHER

In October, HART and the PAORINHER community celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Centre. Events included a march through the town of Patongo, a ceremony of prayer and blessings by the local Catholic priest and a magnificent variety of traditional dancing and music.

Northern Uganda suffered a reign of terror for 20 years inflicted by the so-called "Lord's Resistance Army" (LRA) in which countless civilians were massacred, 2 million displaced and at least 25,000 young people abducted and forced to become child soldiers.

In 2005, when HART first visited Patongo, around 1,000 people were dying each week, chiefly from malaria and AIDS. When HART asked the local people their priority for aid, their response was to care for orphans dying from hunger and illness, with no one available to help them.

In 2007, HART was delighted to assist with the establishment of PAORINHER: Patongo Orphans Infants Health Rehabilitation. After the LRA signed a peace deal in 2008 making it possible for the displaced family to return home, it was also possible to find families who would care for the orphans. Subsequently, the focus of the centre changed to providing holistic care to HIV+ children and their carers.

While there was much reason to celebrate during the visit, the people sadly still suffer from the scars of trauma inflicted by the LRA.

***'The people always smile - but if you sit and talk with them, you will find they still suffer from deep wounds.'***

***- Monsignor Matthew Odong***

## ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS:

- The number of HIV+ children receiving health care has expanded from 33 to over 600
- The number of children receiving high-quality education in the school associated with PAORINHER has increased from 33 to over 700
- 320 families have received agricultural training and/or nutritional support
- 600 chickens have recently been distributed to 6 sub-counties to boost income generation through egg-laying

To read the recent visit report on Uganda, please visit [www.hart-uk.org/uganda](http://www.hart-uk.org/uganda)



## RAYMOND'S CHALLENGE

Raymond, PAORINHER's chairman, accompanied HART on their visit where he undertook a mighty challenge – to run 86 miles from Gulu to Patongo in 24 hours. He managed a remarkable 7 hours and completed an additional press-up challenge which we thought was an accomplishment enough under the gruelling Ugandan sun and were very proud of his efforts.

Please watch his video at [www.hart-uk.org/news/raymonds-challenge](http://www.hart-uk.org/news/raymonds-challenge) and consider donating to his fundraising page to help HART raise funds for PAORINHER.



The HART team celebrate with the PAORINHER team in Uganda

**PAORINHER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**  
**FROM 2007 - 2017 OCT.**  
**THEME "PAORINHER THE CHAMPION AGAINST ILLITERACY, HIV/AIDS & CHILD ABUSE"**  
**LET'S ALL EMBRACE THIS ACHIEVEMENT**

# NOTICE *board*

## BECOME A HART HERO!

We are looking for creative, motivated and passionate people to become ambassadors of HART and to champion the work of our partners.

### FUNDRAISE: CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Taking part in a sponsored challenge is a great way to raise funds for HART. Work off the Christmas kilos by signing up to a 10km challenge.

Hyde Park 28th January

Regents Park 1st April

Or use [www.findarace.com](http://www.findarace.com) to find a local race. Get in touch so we can contribute to your sign-up fee.

### VOLUNTEER: DONATE YOUR TIME

Whatever your talents, let us know and we would be thrilled to find a way for you to get involved. We're especially looking for blog writers, grant-writers and technology whizzes. Get in touch if you'd like to help HART.

### CAMPAIGN: USE YOUR VOICE

We need you to help get the word out about our partners and their situations. You could organise a speaking event inviting experts on the subjects, or organise a letter writing campaign to make change happen.

For more information go to

[www.hart-uk.org/hart-ambassadors-programme](http://www.hart-uk.org/hart-ambassadors-programme)  
or email [stephanie.heyden@hart-uk.org](mailto:stephanie.heyden@hart-uk.org)

## HART DAY 2018: 4TH FEBRUARY

Celebrated on the nearest weekend to Candlemas, we ask you to do something for HART – anything from publicity to prayers. Helpful material will be available on our website in January.

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 HumanitarianAidReliefTrust  
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Humanitarian  
Aid Relief Trust

## HART PRIZE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The HART Prize for Human Rights is a competition for young people (13 – 25 years old) who are interested in global issues.

There are two competitions running:

- Creative Competition: The challenge is to produce a creative piece of work about the human rights or humanitarian situation in any of the countries in which HART works.
- Essay Competition: Our essay competition encourages young people to research and write essays on a topic of their choice as long as it is related to one of the eight countries where HART works.

The deadline for the competition is 11:59pm on Monday 26th February. All entrants will be invited to a celebratory event in London in March to announce the winners.

For more information, an entry form, terms and conditions and fact sheets on the countries where we work, please visit [www.hart-uk.org/humanrightsprize](http://www.hart-uk.org/humanrightsprize)

Do you work at a school or university? Contact [hart.competition@hart-uk.org](mailto:hart.competition@hart-uk.org) if you are interested in organising a talk about HART, Human Rights and the prize to encourage young people to take part.

## HOST A WORLD TRUST CONCERT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

World-renowned pianist and conductor Janusz Piotrowicz is offering HART a series of Chopin Recitals at no fee, to raise funds.

The event can take place in private locations or public venues and, after costs of staging, HART will receive 70% of the revenue with 30% being contributed to The World Trust, the charity run by Janusz.

If you would like to help us organise or host a concert in your locality, please get in touch with Stephanie at [stephanie.heyden@hart-uk.org](mailto:stephanie.heyden@hart-uk.org) to discuss further.