

## U.S. SENDS UKRAINE CLUSTER MUNITIONS

In July, the Biden administration announced it would send Ukraine cluster munitions, a weapon that is banned by 123 countries under the Oslo Convention.

Cluster munitions consist of a container filled with bomblets. When fired, the cluster munition opens mid-air, dispersing the submunitions over a wide area. While combatants may be the primary target, the way bomblets scatter means civilians are instantly in harm's way. In fact, research from Humanity & Inclusion and other groups proves time and again that civilians account for the vast majority of casualties—especially when these barbaric weapons are used in populated areas.

"Make no mistake: civilians will bear the brunt of this decision over the coming decades," says Jeff Meer, U.S. Executive Director of Humanity & Inclusion.

The U.S. military claims it is only sending weapons with low dud rates, though officials refuse to provide details of the testing environments. Research shows that up to 40% of bomblets do not explode on impact, leaving behind contamination that poses a long-term threat to local populations.

"When cluster munitions don't kill the civilians in their paths, they deliver life-altering injuries, often resulting in amputations," Meer explains.

For four decades, HI has been working alongside communities impacted by cluster munitions. HI's specialists have witnessed the physical and psychological tolls that explosive weapons have on civilians and helped these individuals to heal. During active conflict, like in Ukraine, cluster munitions also hinder access for humanitarian actors to deliver aid. For these reasons, the use, storage, transfer, production and sale of cluster munitions are banned by most countries. Russia, Ukraine and the U.S. have not joined the Oslo Convention.

"The suffering will hit future generations," Meer adds. "They will live in fear of encountering these weapons and will bear the burden of clearing their land when American cluster munitions fail to explode on impact."



Ukrainian students attend an explosive ordnance risk education session with Humanity & Inclusion.



Cluster munition bomblets in Laos.

**1,172 people**  
killed or injured by  
cluster munitions in 2022

**750%**  
rise in civilian casualties  
since 2021

**Ukraine**  
reported at least 890 people killed  
or injured in cluster munition attacks



### Cluster munitions' unprecedented civilian toll

The 2023 Cluster Munition Monitor reports the worst carnage from cluster munition injuries and deaths since the annual report launched in 2010. The report, released in September, assesses the implementation of the Oslo Convention, which bans the use, production, transfer, and stockpile of cluster munitions. Humanity & Inclusion is calling on states to systematically condemn the use of these barbaric weapons and to hold those using or transferring cluster munitions accountable.

Source: 2023 Cluster Munition Monitor



**7 in 10**  
civilian casualties from cluster  
munition remnants were children



**95%**  
of people killed or  
injured were civilians

### New cluster munition attacks:

**Myanmar**  
**Syria**  
**Ukraine**

### Casualties caused by cluster munition remnants:

**Yemen**  
**Iraq**  
**Ukraine**  
**Laos**  
**Syria**  
**Lebanon**  
**Azerbaijan**

## Snapshots of your impact in Ukraine

After his home was bombed, Vadim found shelter in the cellar of a nearby theater. It was the middle of winter in Bakhmut, with no heat or electricity. As the days passed, Vadim developed severe frostbite. When he was finally evacuated by Ukrainian volunteers to a hospital in Lviv, doctors had to amputate both of Vadim's legs. To strengthen his muscles, Vadim began working with a Humanity & Inclusion physical therapist who specializes in treating patients post-amputation.

Svitlana and her family were no strangers to war, having been displaced by conflict in 2014. So when the conflict began in 2022, they chose to stay home. As fighting escalated, they made the difficult decision to board a train to Dnipro. After leaving an overcrowded shelter, Svitlana and her family are staying in a small village in Poltava with other displaced people. There, they've participated in HI's explosive ordnance risk education sessions, learning how to spot, avoid and report

weapons they are likely to find when they return home someday.

"I learned that mines or grenades could be hidden anywhere, even in pillows," Svitlana shares.

Vadim and Svitlana are among the thousands of Ukrainians supported by Humanity & Inclusion since the war began nearly two years ago. With donor support, HI's 237 experts in Ukraine are providing physical rehabilitation care and mobility devices, mental health services, storage and shipment of humanitarian goods and basic supplies. At the center of HI's actions are people with disabilities, older Ukrainians and their families.

Irina Yashchuk works as

HI's Health Project Manager in eastern Ukraine. Every day, she and her team of physical therapists, psychologists and psychosocial support workers care for displaced populations.

"Since the beginning of the conflict, I don't see victims," Irina says. "I see survivors, We are helping them to adapt, and to find a way forward."



Svitlana fled her home in eastern Ukraine in April 2022.

### IMPACT

Responding to quakes in Syria, Morocco and Afghanistan



PAGE 2

### IN FOCUS

Inclusive education welcomes all children in the classroom



PAGE 3

### COMMUNITY

And the survey says... Highlights from our donor questionnaire



PAGE 4

# After earthquakes, communities need immediate and long-term support

## Syria

Rema still grieves her losses: Her father. Her niece. Her leg.

Trapped under the rubble of her home for 30 hours after earthquakes struck Syria and Türkiye in early February, rescuers had no choice but to perform an emergency amputation. Rema spent six weeks in Aqrabat Hospital, being treated by Humanity & Inclusion's specialists and our partners. She required several surgeries before she could start rehabilitation. Today, her follow-up care continues with doctors, physical therapists and psychologists.

Rema works closely with her physical therapist, Fatima, who was determined to help the girl walk again. This summer, Rema tried on her artificial leg for the very first time.

Now, Rema is walking on her own. She returned to school, too—something that would have made her father extremely proud.

Rema is one of 10,500 survivors to participate in physical rehabilitation sessions and 8,300 patients to receive mental health care following the disaster.



Ayham lost his entire family in the Syrian earthquake. Here, he works with a rehabilitation specialist to heal from a broken leg.

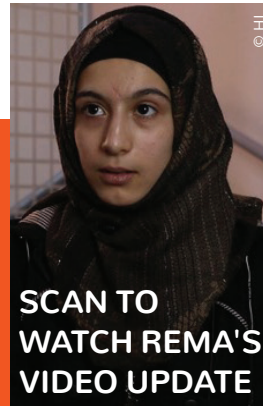
This work continues at 13 hospitals and 13 shelters in northwest Syria.

## Morocco

In September, Morocco experienced its strongest earthquake ever. Experts knew the immediate needs would be shelter, hygiene supplies and medical care. Deeply rooted in the community after 30 years of operating in the country, Humanity & Inclusion's local team and partners began distributing necessities:

tents, tarps, blankets, wheelchairs and crutches. Like in Syria, teams are also offering rehabilitation services and psychological care.

"Today, people are gradually emerging from their shock, returning to reality and thinking about how to deal with the aftermath," explains Mohamed Itouhar, a community leader in the Al-Haouz province, near the earthquake's epicenter.



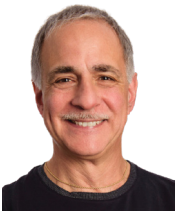
SCAN TO WATCH REMA'S VIDEO UPDATE



## Afghanistan

A pair of earthquakes rocked Afghanistan just a month later, killing at least 1,200 people and affecting 12,000. Our local team's priorities are shelter, food and other basic needs. HI's specialists are working with local hospitals to provide mental health care and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and new injuries.

## Note from the Executive Director



Humanity & Inclusion is preparing to create its next long-term strategic plan. Why do we do this? After all, the world is an unpredictable place. Wars, earthquakes and hurricanes upend lives and derail plans. But despite these transcendent events, long-term planning provides coherence to our work, and a frame from which we can draw reference.

Our present strategic plan, adopted in 2015, expires in 2025, so we still have a while to complete some of the projects we have undertaken and a chance to finish some important and transformative changes in our organization. In the meantime, we are beginning to think about what comes next.

As one of our supporters, you have the opportunity to help us in this process. At this very early stage, we are interested in your views about the larger themes we can expect to affect Humanity & Inclusion's work in the world's least developed nations. We anticipate continuing to stand with people with disabilities and individuals experiencing vulnerability, so they can live their best lives possible.

What do you think will be the opportunities we can take advantage of in the years to come? What obstacles do you think we will face, both for long-term development projects and in emergency responses? How shall we meet at least some of the world's greatest needs, given the resources we have? We welcome any and all ideas at this point and encourage you to send them to [DonorServices.USA@hi.org](mailto:DonorServices.USA@hi.org) with the subject line STRATEGY 2025. The staff and I thank you in advance.

**Jeff Meer**  
U.S. Executive Director  
X / Twitter: @Jeff\_HIUS



2021



# THEN & NOW KENNEDY FROM UGANDA

Living in a refugee camp with cerebral palsy hasn't deterred Kennedy's spirit. Arriving in Uganda from South Sudan in 2016, he struggled with basic movements and tasks. He couldn't stand or even crawl.

In February 2020, Humanity & Inclusion enrolled Kennedy in a revolutionary project at that uses 3D-printing technology to produce custom-made braces and artificial limbs. Kennedy was given two braces to support his ankles and feet.

Thanks to his braces and rehabilitation sessions with Paul Lokiru, a physical therapist with HI, Kennedy was able to stand. He learned to move around with a walker and could play with other children.

To ensure that the boy's treatment continued, Paul taught Kennedy's mother, Esther, some physical therapy exercises that she could do at home with her son.

When Paul stopped by Kennedy's home in June, he couldn't believe what he found: "Kennedy could walk on his own without his walker! His unwavering determination produced a real miracle."



2023

# How inclusive education changes lives

Around the world, more than 32 million children living with a disability don't go to school

Citing children's disabilities, the adults in their often communities deny these children their fundamental right to learn — and their future opportunities are diminished. At Humanity & Inclusion, we're on a mission to change this.

Your support has helped train teachers to support different needs in their classrooms, provide artificial limbs, crutches and wheelchairs so that children with disabilities can attend school, and promote government policies that support inclusive schools. Keep reading to meet three young minds you've helped empower through education...

**Sham, 5, from Jordan**

Sham lives with low vision due to a genetic absence of the iris. Thanks to you, we were able to provide Sham with glasses, cover her transportation fees to school, and give her extra support in the classroom. Today, Sham attends the same school where her mother works. She sits up front, and her teacher verbalizes the visuals in books and writes on the board in colors Sham can see. When the class learned about shapes, Sham was given a 3D cube to feel the shape of a square. She loves going to school!

**Egide, 7, from Rwanda**

Egide was born with a visual disability, causing vision loss in his right eye and complete blindness in his left eye. In the sunlight, his eyes hurt; at night, he



Sham raises her hand during a lesson at her school in Jordan.

couldn't see objects near and far. He also suffered from intense headaches, causing him to miss class frequently—and he was in danger of dropping out. Because of your support, Egide received a diagnosis, surgery, and glasses. Today, his headaches are gone, and he hasn't missed a day since returning to school.

**Milan, 12, from Nepal**

Living with autism and growing up in a marginalized family, Milan didn't have the support he needed. His greatest wish was

to go to school. When our teams first met him, they helped his family get documents recognizing his disability, which entitled the family to a monthly allowance. A Humanity & Inclusion staff member now spends a few hours a week with Milan to teach him daily tasks, including how to wash and dress himself and the basics of reading and math. He's on his way to fulfilling his dream, and we're confident that he'll achieve it with supporters like you by his side.



**Nancy Christelle Umugwaneza**  
Inclusive Education Specialist, HI Rwanda

I work for one of Humanity & Inclusion's 43 projects dedicated entirely to inclusive education.

In Rwanda, we strive to ensure every child has access to quality education. Inclusive education experts identify children who are excluded from school, assess their needs and help them enroll and thrive at school.

Through a child-centered approach, we focus on what children can do, rather than what they can't. We're establishing assessment centers in communities, training teachers, adapting teaching materials and implementing assistive technologies to ensure that children with specific needs are no longer excluded from learning opportunities.

We've already made so much progress. Parents now know that their children with special needs have the right to go to school. Teachers now understand that, when supported, children with disabilities can learn and achieve great results.

It's the success stories of individual children that keep me motivated. I remember one child who was about to drop out of school. He was an orphan with a severe visual disability. His teachers knew he was intelligent, but there were still obstacles to him learning alongside his peers. Our assessment team referred him to an ophthalmologist. He received follow-up care and was fitted with glasses. A simple pair of glasses changed the boy's life. He felt more confident and was able to follow the lessons more easily. He stayed in school and graduated with very good grades, which allowed him to get a scholarship to go to university. His bravery and perseverance are inspirational!



Egide completes an assignment at his school in Rwanda.



Milan high-fives HI team member, Renuka, during an at-home visit in Nepal.

## HI partners with Sesame Street Workshop

Humanity & Inclusion has partnered with Sesame Street Workshop to develop an Inclusive Education Guidance Note. This vital resource provides an overview of disability and disability-inclusive practices to help promote diversity and equity in Sesame Workshop's early childhood initiatives worldwide.

We also hosted three brown bag luncheons for Sesame Workshop, bringing together experts, educators and advocates to exchange knowledge about disability-inclusive education.

Your generous contributions played a pivotal role in advancing these initiatives. Thank you for creating a more inclusive world for children with disabilities everywhere!



## MICRO NEWS



### LEBANON

For more than 10 years, Humanity & Inclusion has been tirelessly working in Lebanon to clear explosive remnants of war. Our teams have launched a new operation in the Chouf District. Communities are looking forward to transforming the danger zones into agricultural land for growing olive and fruit trees.

### CHAD

The escalating conflict in Sudan has forced more than 400,000 refugees to Chad. Since June, Humanity & Inclusion's physical therapists are partnering with Doctors Without Borders—France to provide surgical, medical and rehabilitation support to survivors recovering from gunshots and other injuries.

### PHILIPPINES

Typhoon Doksuri made landfall in July, bringing heavy rain, landslides, flooding and power outages to the Philippines. Ahead of the storm, Humanity & Inclusion provided cash assistance to 252 households to help them buy food, medication and water. After the storm, teams distributed hygiene kits and mobility aids.

# Global demining expert briefs donors



On September 12, we hosted a donor briefing featuring Gary Toombs (pictured left), Humanity & Inclusion's Global Land Release Technical Operations Manager. Gary's work takes him regularly to the front lines of our efforts to clear weapons in places like Syria, Colombia, Iraq, and Ukraine.

Humanity & Inclusion deminers remove explosive remnants of war from the paths of civilians all over the world. Gary explained some of the technology that's revolutionizing demining efforts. This includes an open-source technology HI developed with Mobility Robotics to map explosive devices using drones.

Meanwhile, teams in Syria are working under the surface of the Euphrates River to clear hundreds of bombs near the city of Raqqa, while others are rappelling from the tops of buildings into shelled structures that are littered with unexploded bombs, or worse, booby-trapped to terrorize returning civilians.

One fact our nature-loving donors will appreciate: Colombia is home to at least 51,330 species! This diversity is yet another reason for the care we must take to protect the environment as we demine. We came away even more in awe of the lengths Humanity & Inclusion goes to rid the world of landmines.



Leonela Valencia, 24, is part of a weapons clearance team working in a national park in Chaparral, Colombia.

Are you interested in attending future donor events?

Email us at [DonorServices.USA@hi.org](mailto:DonorServices.USA@hi.org) and we'll send you an invitation!

## From avid readers to nature-lovers

### Survey says: HI donors share vision of a more inclusive world

Through the first few months of 2023, we surveyed donors to learn more about the topics that draw people like you to Humanity & Inclusion's work. Thank you to each and every one of our respondents for taking the time to complete this survey.

We promised to tell you what we learned, so here are some of the highlights:

First, respondents told us that Humanity & Inclusion's rehabilitation work was, by far, the program area they found most compelling. Work to make classrooms and workplaces inclusive and welcoming to people with disabilities was their second-most favorite area of our work, followed by both explosive weapons removal, such as landmine clearance, and emergency response efforts.

That said, when asked what the top reason was for giving to the organization, we learned that donors were most compelled to donate after an emergency, with hopes to support people with disabilities, people with injuries, and older people in the aftermath of a storm,

earthquake or conflict. This was followed by a drive to support landmine clearance efforts and the ongoing fight against explosive weapons. Pakistan—which experienced extreme flooding last year—was the most cited country, followed by Haiti, Lebanon, Mozambique, Syria, and Ukraine.

We did learn that some donors were concerned that Humanity & Inclusion's attention to people with disabilities is no longer prevalent during emergency response efforts. This was helpful feedback—clearly, our content has fallen short! In fact, Humanity & Inclusion remains the only international NGO expressly dedicated to ensuring that people with disabilities have the access, services, and rights they deserve whether times are peaceful, or conflict rampant. We are committed to working alongside people with disabilities, and we will elevate even more stories illustrating how your support makes that work possible.

We also learned that our supporters are a literary, nature-loving group! In fact,



50%

of HI donors enjoy reading and writing—two of Sosan's favorite hobbies. From Afghanistan, she wants to be an English teacher.

almost 50% of respondents said they enjoy reading and writing, while 30% cited nature and outdoor activities, and 28% flagged music and dancing! Not surprisingly, 24% of donors said they love travel. (We do, too!)

We loved getting to know you better, and plan to use this insight to do a better job communicating about the people who benefit from your regular gifts, as well as the projects that can expand thanks to your generosity.



30%

of HI donors love nature and outdoor activities. Mahamoudou contributes to a community garden in his village in Burkina Faso.



28%

of HI donors enjoy music and dancing. Born with a limb difference, Reema wears an artificial leg and is a competitive dancer in Nepal.

## MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE with a qualified charitable distribution

A qualified charitable distribution offers donors ages 70 ½ and up a way to make a tax-free donation (up to \$100,000) from a traditional or Roth IRA to support **Humanity & Inclusion's work alongside people with disabilities**. If you wish to make a qualified charitable distribution before December 31, here's how to get started:

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to initiate a donation. Our Tax/EIN number is 55-0914744.
- Make the check payable to **"Humanity & Inclusion."** Our mailing address is: 8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 420, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

