

## MILLIONS DISPLACED BY CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

More than 12 million Ukrainians have fled their homes since Russian forces invaded on Feb. 24. Heavy bombings are destroying homes, hospitals and schools. Official reports measure more than 6,000 civilian casualties—including more than 3,200 deaths, though the actual figures are believed to be much higher. Humanitarian needs grow more acute each day.

Humanity & Inclusion's emergency response is underway. Within days of the invasion, experts deployed to Moldova and Romania to assess needs. By early March, teams had safely crossed into Ukraine to reestablish connections with local authorities, hospitals, and facilities assisting displaced people.

"Our goal is to be present wherever there are needs," explains Virginie Duclos, emergency rehabilitation specialist for Humanity & Inclusion. "The greatest priorities are in caring for those injured during the conflict, providing mental health support, and ensuring people have the cash they need."

In Lviv, Duclos is training hospital staff to properly treat patients with acute burns, amputations and other conflict-related injuries. The goal is to promote healing and prevent complications.

From Chernivtsi to Dnipro, and in Moldova, teams are supporting facilities housing displaced people, including unaccompanied children and people with disabilities. They are providing basic supplies, like hygiene kits, mobility aids, mental health services, and other assistance.

Caglar Tahiroglu, emergency mental health and psychosocial support manager for Humanity & Inclusion, explains that many people are in complete shock or experiencing dissociation—common stress-trauma responses. Others are mobilizing to help their neighbors.

"I am really impressed by the resilience and the community response that they have," Tahiroglu says. "But it is early. Several months from now, we are going to see the real psychological impact of the displacement, of the conflict and of all the violence they have experienced."



Galaina Mama Gala, 87, left behind her home in Cherkasy, Ukraine, and crossed the border to Poland. She reunited with her grandson, who lives in Germany.



## After escaping Kyiv, lending aid

By Denys Byzov  
Cultural Mediator & Translator,  
HI Ukraine

At least I know that my family is safe at the moment. I think this is the greatest need for people: to feel that they are safe and know that their loved ones are safe.

The night of Feb. 24, I woke up to loud noises outside our home in Kyiv: rocket attacks and bombings. After a few days, we started to realize that a war had begun and it was getting worse. We evacuated. My life changed.

So many people were headed west. A trip that normally takes us a few hours took us two days. There were

bombings behind us almost the whole way. Now, my wife and baby are in Germany; the borders are closed for men.

I do not consider myself a victim. There are so many people who have faced violence and whose family members died. There are people in much more difficult situations than I am.

It's very important for me to support people and be included in the response. It's the only way to stay united. After finding Humanity & Inclusion,

I asked if could help somehow.

As a cultural mediator, my job is to bridge differences and prevent misunderstandings in our response. In conditions like this, social support and psychological services are vital. We need to give people the possibility to express their feelings, to speak to someone, and be heard. We must also provide their basic needs to help them feel safe, because only once people are feeling safe can we provide further steps of support.

## Airstrike survivor improves neighbors' mental health

By Anfal Mahmoud Ali  
Mental Health & Psychosocial  
Support Officer, HI Iraq

I remember May 5, 2017, like it was yesterday.

My family had been hiding in our bathroom for days without food or water, clutching our IDs. Our neighborhood in Mosul had been liberated from ISIS, but fighting on our street persisted. Then the airstrike happened. Our family home crumbled around us. By a miracle, we survived and managed to escape first to a neighbor's house, then to a displacement camp.

Later that year, we returned to Mosul. We had nothing. A friend of mine told me

that Humanity & Inclusion was hiring, so I applied. Since working here, I've been able to support my family, repair my house, and rebuild our lives.


I've seen first-hand the effect that conflict has on civilians. They lose their loved ones, their jobs, and their homes. And they usually face poor conditions, even after the fighting is over. Violence and devastation can cause people to experience depression, sadness and sometimes suicidal thoughts. Some people suppress their feelings. Others develop physical or chronic illness as their mental health needs go untreated.

My colleagues and I conduct awareness sessions with people experiencing psychological trauma,



Anfal Mahmoud Ali leads a community mental health awareness session in Iraq.

encouraging them to seek help and teaching coping mechanisms. When I meet all of these wonderful people, I am motivated to wake up in the morning and do my work with love. My neighbors understand that we need to stand by each other to survive. Thank you for helping survivors of conflict, like me, access essential resources—shelter, rehabilitation, mental health support, and more.

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MADAGASCAR



PHILIPPINES

People with disabilities receive emergency kits between cyclones.

Nanay Brudelia, 75, receives a shelter kit.

## Note from the Executive Director



The world has changed a great deal during spring 2022. Even earlier this year, no one could have imagined a war in Europe, let alone the conflict in Ukraine waged by a nuclear state with one of the world's most powerful militaries. This war has already resulted in more than 5 million refugees, and another 7.7 million are internally displaced. Humanity & Inclusion has reopened a field mission in the heart of Europe for the first time in years. Yet that is where we are.

This conflict over Ukraine seems in some ways quite new: never before has a war seemed so immediate and part of a 24-hours-per-day news cycle. Yet in some ways, the war seems old. Reliable reports are that both Russia and Ukraine have used cluster munitions in Ukraine and the Russian Army has also used antipersonnel landmines. Both weapons have been banned by treaties because of the harm they cause to civilians. Both kill and maim with deadly force, and both are tragically out-of-date. The weapons deployed in Ukraine will unfortunately remain as silent killers for years to come.

Humanity & Inclusion, one of the founders of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, has been fighting against landmines and cluster munitions for more than 25 years. We are determined to continue that fight until the very last landmine and cluster munition on earth is destroyed.

Thank you for your support, and thank you for everything you have done to help us save lives in the present crisis in Ukraine.

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

## Madagascar, Philippines rebuild after storms

From a deadly typhoon in the Philippines to a series of four powerful storms in Madagascar, communities are grappling with the devastating effects of heavy rain, severe flooding and gusting winds.

In both countries, people were left without electricity, housing, drinking water, and access to health services. With donor support, and in collaboration with our partners and local authorities, Humanity & Inclusion's teams have been delivering emergency aid.

Causing more damage than initially expected, Typhoon Rai killed 405 people and destroyed 1.7 million homes when it struck the Philippines in late December. Within days of the storm, Humanity & Inclusion's teams visited impacted communities.

Prioritizing people with disabilities, aging individuals, women and children, teams have distributed hygiene kits or cash transfers to nearly 1,800 people. In partnership with Shelter Box, teams also distributed emergency shelter kits.

### 'Most intense cyclone season'

Over a period of just four weeks, storm after storm battered Madagascar: Tropical Storm Ana, Cyclone Batsirai, Tropical Storm Dumako, and Cyclone Emnati.

"This is the most intense cyclone season I have seen," says Vincent Dalonneau, Humanity & Inclusion's country director for Madagascar. "People are exhausted, both physically and emotionally. They are living through a nightmare that won't seem to end."

In anticipation of Cyclone Batsirai in early February, teams prepared emergency kits and helped people with disabilities get to shelters. As soon as the storm passed, staff used motorcycles to reach cut-off neighborhoods.

Teams were forced to expedite their response efforts, when just two weeks later, Cyclone Emnati swept over the island country, following roughly the same path.

In the days leading up to Emnati,

Humanity & Inclusion and Save the Children rushed to distribute hundreds of kits containing blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene items and cooking supplies. Once the storm passed, teams deployed again to evaluate the situation and deliver critical aid.

"The same people were victims again," explains Anja Andriamorasata, Humanity & Inclusion's communications and advocacy manager in Madagascar. "People have lost everything: their livelihoods, their clothes, their homes. Everything must be rebuilt."

**Thank you, monthly donors!**  
Your regular support helps our teams act fast when disaster strikes.  
[www.hi-us.org/monthly-donation](http://www.hi-us.org/monthly-donation)

## 9 MONTHS LATER: HAITI EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

Since a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti in August, Humanity & Inclusion has been working with the hardest-hit communities to recover and rebuild. With support from our donors and USAID, we have:

- Completed 5,300 rehabilitation sessions
- Deployed 60 mobile rehabilitation units with our partners at FONTEN
- Distributed 1,500 hygiene kits
- Delivered 650 tons of essential supplies
- Hired 350 local residents to clear debris and restore safe access to communities
- Provided 880 individual and group mental health sessions
- Trained 78 health professionals

A special thanks to Haitian photographer, G.H. Rouzier, for capturing these moments.

You can read more about our emergency work in Haiti at [www.hi-us.org/haiti\\_updates](http://www.hi-us.org/haiti_updates)



RALIEN

### CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES



VILLERESON

### REHABILITATION



LOUISIANE



GUFFLIE



CHARLES

# COLOMBIAN COMMUNITY GETS THE ALL-CLEAR FROM LANDMINES



A deminer works in Colombia, where teams are looking to free 11 municipalities of landmines with funding from the U.S. Department of State.

After three years of holistic mine action in Puracé, Colombia, the town has finally been deemed free of landmines.

"We celebrate that communities feel safer today," Nicola Momentè, Regional Director for Latin America at Humanity & Inclusion, said at a land release ceremony in October. "Thanks to demining, lives have been saved and communities have recovered their rights."

With funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, teams worked with input from more than 15,000 people living in Puracé to clear weapons from more than 280,000 square feet of land. Staff held dozens of mine risk education workshops to teach residents how to spot, avoid and report explosive devices. To boost economic development, Humanity & Inclusion provided start-up capital to 14 businesses owned by people with disabilities, and supported a market analysis to encourage tourism to Coconuco Natural Park, now that the mountainous area is safe again.

"The destruction caused by conflicts and contamination by explosive remnants of war often prevents the healing of the social divide and the resumption of local economic activity," explains Perrine Benoist, Humanity & Inclusion's director of armed violence reduction. "Contaminated fields cannot be farmed, markets cannot be held, and



A demining team flies a drone in Chad.

people are less able to move from village to village because the journey is increasingly dangerous. Action on mines and explosive remnants of war is essential to help rebuild communities."

### Restoring Lebanon's cedar forests

Lebanon's 15-year civil war ended in 1990, leaving a contaminated landscape. Humanity & Inclusion has been clearing landmines to protect the Lebanese population from explosive remnants, and to boost tourism and agriculture, mainly apple orchards. Since 2012, demining activities have stimulated the preservation and appreciation of local cedar forests and resources like mushrooms. The region's economy has grown as a result. Beautiful land, now prosperous again, is enjoyed by local residents and visitors.

## DID YOU KNOW...

More than 100 patients are being treated every week at our rehabilitation center in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Many are recovering from mine-related injuries.

### Drones for demining

After testing how drones can assist mine clearance actions in Chad, Humanity & Inclusion is conducting a similar study in Iraq. Drones can be flown directly over a hazardous area to inspect, capture evidence and map each site, so deminers can more safely and efficiently clear weapons. During the two-year test in Chad, teams flew drones on more than 100 missions and used thermal sensors to locate more than 2,500 landmines.

### Demining returns to Senegal

After several years without mine action activities in Senegal, a new project launched to restore a safe environment for Casamance residents. Teams are using a mix of risk education, mine clearance, and economic regeneration to help the communities heal.

**Douglas Kilama**  
Risk Education  
Coordinator, HI Yemen



We are doing everything we can to protect civilians.

As a risk education coordinator in Yemen, I am shocked by the diversity of the contamination: mines, improvised mines, abandoned explosive ordnance, unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices, cluster munitions, and more.

After seven years of war, it is impossible to have a precise idea or even an estimate of the weapons contamination, due to the current fighting and the impossibility of collecting data. Nevertheless, Yemen is believed to be one of the world's most heavily contaminated countries.

Civilians are always the first victims. The UN "Humanitarian Needs Overview" for Yemen reported that incidents related to landmines or explosive remnants affected 1,300 civilians in 2020. Most accidents occur during people's daily activities. They might be going to a well to fetch water, or farming crops or tending livestock. Others are simply using public roads, buildings, schools or health facilities.

Many people don't know how to deal with these explosive weapons, or even understand the dangers they pose. Risk education programs are urgently needed to avoid accidents and protect civilians.

In March 2021, we launched awareness campaigns across Yemen. Eight teams are leading education sessions at hospitals, schools, and internal displacement camps. They also make door-to-door visits.

First, we present images of explosive devices, so they can recognize threats. Then we explain that if they ever see an explosive weapon they should stop, put up a warning sign from a safe distance to alert others, and report the object to authorities.

## MICRO NEWS



### VIETNAM

OpenTeleRehab, a new software designed to provide quality rehabilitation care for isolated populations, launched in November. During the pilot, 550 patients and their families will have access to rehabilitation care from specialists via the mobile app.

### SIERRA LEONE

A fuel tanker explosion in Freetown killed more than 100 people in November, and injured countless others. Specialists are providing rehabilitation to survivors with burns to avoid complications and long-term functional limitations.

### DISABILITY RIGHTS

At the Global Disability Summit in February, 188 governments and organizations made 1,300 commitments to disability inclusion. Humanity & Inclusion hosted and participated in discussions on inclusive education and sexual and reproductive health services.

# Changemaker Spotlight: Ronen Chamber Ensemble

By Reisa Tomlinson  
Lead Development Officer

In March, members of the Ronen Chamber Ensemble shared outrage and a desire to act. Ensemble members, staff and other local musicians came together to organize a benefit concert in solidarity with people impacted by the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. In partnership with the Indiana Historical Society, the Ronen group activated their social networks to pool resources, promote the event and effectively raise more than \$15,000!

"As a very small and local not-for-profit arts organization, we of course knew that Ronen was not itself in a position to directly apply funds we raised for Ukrainian relief," Tibor Klopfer, president of The Ronen Chamber Ensemble, Inc., told us.

Within days, the Ronen Chamber Ensemble identified, researched, and vetted a dozen values-driven organizations



Humanity & Inclusion provides mobility aids to a center for displaced people in Dnipro, Ukraine.

to reinvest raised funds. According to Tibor, "We decided to narrow our search by excluding the largest organizations in hopes that contributions to smaller organizations actively working in the Ukraine area would have a greater impact."

The group researched several how-to-help lists, including one curated by CNN, as well as nonprofit watchdog platforms,

like GuideStar. Tibor shared that Humanity & Inclusion was chosen as one of three reputable humanitarian organizations to receive funding in part because of our "tightly targeted and articulated mission, and ongoing activity in Ukraine and surrounding countries." In fact, Tibor mentions, one of the major donors to the campaign is a wheelchair user whom, because of their disability connection, was impassioned to support our programs


Soon after the concert, a generous gift was mailed to our headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, for immediate support of our Ukraine Relief Fund. What a welcome surprise!

Thanks to donors like the Ronen Ensemble, Humanity & Inclusion can further its inclusive humanitarian response to ensure displaced or injured Ukrainians—among them, people with disabilities—have access to resources, rehabilitation, and tailored services to help navigate the crisis.

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## OUR FAVORITE PHOTOS



## Longini stands tall in Rwanda

Longini, 9, was born with a disability affecting his legs. When he was 3, doctors performed a double amputation so he could be fitted with artificial limbs. Unfortunately, his family was unable to afford the devices, which cost more than 4.5 times the annual household income in Rwanda.

A few years ago, Longini's mother enrolled him at an inclusive school that works in connection with a rehabilitation center supported by Humanity & Inclusion. Soon after, Longini was fitted with his first pair of artificial limbs. Look at that smile! You can see his beautiful expressions of pride and joy.

Longini outgrew his artificial limbs just as Covid-19 forced the orthopedic center to lockdown. Thankfully, by November 2021, he received new ones. As Longini grows, he will continue to require replacement devices and rehabilitation care. The Humanity & Inclusion community will be there to support his every move thanks to the consideration of donors like you.

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