

## AMERICA'S NEW, PRO-LANDMINE POLICY ENDANGERS CIVILIANS

On January 31, the Trump Administration announced a dangerous landmine policy shift, effectively committing the U.S. to resume the use of antipersonnel landmines. Landmines are devastating, victim-activated devices that cannot discriminate between the footstep of a child or that of a soldier.

"This move is a death sentence for civilians," says Jeff Meer, U.S. Executive Director of Humanity & Inclusion. "There are acts in war that are simply out of bounds. Nations, even superpowers, must never use certain weapons because of the superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering they cause. Landmines fall directly into this category. There is no use for landmines that cannot be accomplished by other means that do not so significantly and indiscriminately kill and maim civilians."

The move is a direct reversal of President Obama's 2014 commitment that inched the U.S. closer to compliance with the 1997 Ottawa Convention, known as the Mine Ban Treaty. President Obama's move left the Korean peninsula as the only exception for ongoing mine use.

The Department of Defense later clarified that the policy will authorize Combatant Commanders, in exceptional circumstances, to employ advanced, non-persistent landmines specifically designed to reduce unintended harm to civilians and partner forces.

Non-persistent mines would be fired to the ground, and able to destroy themselves within a relatively short period of time—from a few hours to days.

"Don't be fooled," warns Alma Taslidžan Al-Osta, Humanity & Inclusion's Disarmament and Protection of Civilians Advocacy Manager. "Everything that man creates has a failure rate. The idea that so-called 'advanced' landmines will be safer than older types of devices, is absurd. What happens if they don't neutralize



Mayda, 38, who lost her leg to a landmine in 1998, is being fit with a new prosthesis from Humanity & Inclusion's rehabilitation team in South Sudan.

as intended? Our teams see, first hand, how weapons often marketed as "self destructing" continue to injure, maim, and terrorize civilians. We also see how quickly and regularly civilians move from one area to another to avoid conflict. What if they enter a mined area and such self-destruction hasn't happened to the mines around them?"

The U.S. is one of the few countries that has yet to join the Mine Ban Treaty, along with the likes of China, Egypt, India, Israel, Pakistan, and Russia. There are 164 States parties to the treaty, making the ban on landmines a universal norm of international humanitarian law. However, the great

paradox of this policy shift is that for nearly 30 years, the U.S. has refrained from using or trading antipersonnel landmines.

Humanity & Inclusion's decades of experience with clearing landmines, as well as taking care of survivors of landmine explosions, leads to the conclusion that no use is safe. "We oppose in the strongest terms the idea that military commanders will feel empowered to use mines," Meer notes. "The safest landmine is the one that is never produced."

On Thursday, February 13, Humanity & Inclusion's team staged a demonstration in front of our iconic "Broken Chair" monument in Geneva to show our outrage

at the pro-landmine policy.

Originally erected in 1997 to remind countries of the plight of landmine victims, it was meant to stand only a few weeks but stands tall to this day.

**TAKE ACTION**

Add your name to our petition, urging President Trump to reverse the U.S. pro-landmine policy and join the Mine Ban Treaty today!

Add your name at [www.hi-us.org/landminepetition](http://www.hi-us.org/landminepetition)

## A generation of children born into conflict



Sanaullah, 5, stands alongside his father after physical therapy with Humanity & Inclusion in Afghanistan.

More than three decades of conflict have made Afghanistan an incredibly dangerous place to grow up. For children like Sanaullah, extreme poverty and the daily threat of violence is all they have ever known.

Globally, conflicts have left behind a lethal legacy of unexploded bombs and shells that are killing and maiming innocent people at a rate of more than one a day, according to the United Nations. The majority are children.

Increasingly, children are being targeted in violent new attacks.

Sanaullah was only three years old when he was injured

while walking with his father in their village. When fighting broke out in a nearby village, a mortar exploded near them. This remarkable little boy somehow survived the explosion, but was in critical condition. He was rushed to the nearby hospital where doctors fought for two days to stabilize his condition.

Finally, they were forced to make a heartbreaking decision: they would need to amputate his leg to save his life.

Since the operation, Humanity & Inclusion's rehabilitation team has been working with Sanaullah to build up his physical strength so he


can be fitted with a prosthesis. He's a tough kid and because of his determination, he'll be ready soon.

At our clinic in Kandahar, we run physical therapy sessions and produce mobility aids for injured children. Sanaullah is just one of the hundreds of girls and boys we're supporting, thanks to our donors.

Please help us continue this work. Whatever you can give will make an immediate and lasting difference.


Donate at [www.hi-us.org/children](http://www.hi-us.org/children)

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Humanity & Inclusion's Flying Team in South Sudan travels by boat to New Fangak to provide rehabilitation care to isolated communities.

## Note from the Executive Director



When militaries use explosive weapons in populated areas, civilians are physically injured and psychologically traumatized. Many die. This is why a number of nations, led by Ireland, are creating a political declaration with the goal of stopping such harm. The declaration is expected to be finalized in Dublin this May. A number of nations are collaborating to make the declaration text as strong as possible. Humanity & Inclusion is strongly supporting this process, alongside other leading humanitarian organizations. Unfortunately the United States is not among them. Instead, the U.S. delegation would prefer the declaration to focus on the complexity of protecting civilians in urban warfare, especially when terrorists use civilians as human shields and booby-trap cities and towns.

Coming up with a way to fight terrorist without killing civilians is indeed a compelling problem. But, this insistence fails to acknowledge that advanced nations wielding powerful weapons with terrifying explosive range are using them today in places where civilian casualties are a given.

Our position is clear: the U.S should support a political declaration against the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas. Surely we can support stopping this practice, while still forcefully defeating terrorism. There are some weapons—like landmines—and tactics that should simply be beyond the limit for law-abiding nations like the United States of America.

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

## Reaching South Sudan's most isolated people

Did you know that Humanity & Inclusion has "flying teams?" In South Sudan, these teams include rehabilitation specialists who travel to some of the most remote areas, such as New Fangak, an area surrounded by rivers and wetlands. Their goal? To better understand community needs and how our experts can provide relevant services.

The Flying Team conducts focus groups to capture the community's concerns, including issues linked to health, disability, and rehabilitation. In New Fangak, many people mentioned that polio-like

symptoms were prevalent within the population as, historically, the area was cut off from access to vaccinations. In fact, the first polio vaccination campaign began just three years ago.

In Tonga, which is in the north, along the White Nile River, people with disabilities said that they lacked access to services due to stigma and a lack of mobility aids such as crutches and wheelchairs.

The Flying Team logged a couple of "firsts" along the way. In New Fangak, they delivered the first training on the subject of disability and rehabilitation to 19 health

workers from six different organizations and health centers. They discussed how front-line community health workers provide support to beneficiaries, and how to include basic rehabilitation exercises in their sessions.

Training is an important step in building awareness and capacity, but in South Sudan's most remote areas, it's also a crucial step to ensure that people with disabilities have the best chance at living with dignity. Humanity & Inclusion's Flying Team will continue to visit these locations and offer specialized support and services through awareness

raising campaigns, capacity building workshops, and training sessions.

No one should be left behind, no matter where they may live.



Steven, a member of our Flying Team, arrived in south of Juba with rehabilitation supplies. This beneficiary received a new cane.

## NEPAL QUAKE: FIVE YEARS LATER

On April 25, 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake rocked Nepal, killing about 9,000 people and injuring another 22,000. Humanity & Inclusion had worked in Nepal since 2000, and launched an immediate response in aid of those affected. By the end of the emergency, staff had assisted more than 19,000 people.

We are so grateful to our donors' generosity. Thanks to you, our teams provided vital care, hope and community to survivors, including two young Nepali girls, **Nirmala** and **Khendo**.

Hundreds of miles apart, Nirmala and Khendo were both rescued from under the rubble. Rushed to the hospital, Nirmala and Khendo each had a leg amputated. The girls met while attending physical therapy sessions with our rehabilitation team. The two have been inseparable ever since, attending school together to this day.



**Nirmala**

← Age 7

Age 12 →

**Khendo**

← Age 6

Age 11 →





# 10 YEARS AFTER THE QUAKE

## EMPOWERING HAITI'S MOST VULNERABLE

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, killing 230,000 people and leaving more than 300,000 injured and vulnerable. Haiti's health system was devastated, and humanitarian workers arrived in massive numbers to assist the injured and distraught, and to shelter and feed the homeless. Humanity & Inclusion deployed one of its largest-ever emergency relief operations, with hundreds of our specialists responding.

Aid came in many shapes

and sizes. From assisting the gravely injured through rehabilitation, to fitting Haitians for wheelchairs or crutches. From providing shelter to lining up decent work, and restoring livelihoods.

As Haiti graduated out of the earthquake emergency, Humanity & Inclusion assisted the most vulnerable Haitians, among them many people with disabilities, to prepare for future disasters. Such preparations proved vital when Hurricane Matthew struck the country in 2016.



A physical therapist with Humanity & Inclusion fits Maryse with a prosthetic.

### First responder recalls the despair

**Aleema Shivji**

Member of HI's 2010 emergency response team, and currently executive director of our UK office



I've been lucky enough to work in Haiti over several years and loved my time spent alongside some incredible Haitians. In 2010, I was a member of our emergency response team, based in the head office in France. My role was to deploy whenever there was a large disaster, and to reinforce local teams.

Two days after the quake, I arrived in Haiti. It was a country that did not remind me of the place I had visited less than a year before. It was totally decimated by this disaster.

The actions of my team were a question of life or death for thousands of Haitians. The absolutely essential need was to support all the people who had been injured—provide them with urgent medical care to help people survive. We also made sure that people had access to food, water, and shelter.

I used my training as a physical therapist. I visited hospitals. I visited communities where people were living in open fields. I realized that there were so many injuries, and the medical infrastructure just was not capable of completely responding to it. There was a desperate need for support.

I know from experience that in a disaster people with disabilities and injuries struggle to access the care they need, and can easily find themselves excluded and forgotten. This is the reason why we do everything we can to ensure that after a disaster, people with disabilities or injuries are included, supported, and heard.



90,000 received rehabilitation care



25,000 received psychosocial support



1,400 given braces or artificial legs



1,050 shelters for vulnerable families

## A monumental step forward in rehabilitation



Left: Christella with an HI physical therapist; Right: Moïse plays soccer



A Humanity & Inclusion beneficiary receives rehabilitation support from one of our many physical therapists in Haiti.

Before 2010, Haiti's rehabilitation network was acutely underdeveloped, with a mere 13 physical therapists in a country of 10 million people. Most of these professionals were working abroad. The earthquake—and the thousands of people who required physical therapy, braces, and artificial limbs as a result—exposed the country's need for access to quality rehabilitation specialists.

Humanity & Inclusion started looking for a more sustainable solution. In 2012, with help from USAID, we collaborated with Don Bosco University in El Salvador and local partner, Healing Hands for Haiti, to develop two training courses. One, two-year course set rehabilitation technicians up for success. Another, 2.5-year course trained orthopedic technicians to fashion and fit support braces. Building Haiti's rehabilitation sector has

helped to change the lives of many who were injured—including Moïse, Maryse, and Christella.

"Rehabilitation in Haiti has taken a huge step forward," says Mario Pasquet, President of the Haitian Association of Physical Therapy Technicians. "People have a better understanding of what physical therapy is and know that there are centers they can go to. Port-au-Prince now has two universities where students can study physical therapy. There are also organizations, which defend the sector's interests to obtain greater recognition."

The progress made in Haiti's rehabilitation network over the past decade is deeply rewarding to us. With the support of local and international partners, and especially donors like you, we can continue to empower Haiti's most vulnerable populations for years to come.

### MICRO NEWS



#### MOZAMBIQUE

After Cyclone Idai hit in March 2019, 88-year-old Zacarias (left), had to fetch water from an insecure well, one mile from his home. Our teams are making it easier for people with disabilities, like Zacarias, who has difficulty seeing, to access clean water.

#### TAAL VOLCANO

On January 12, a volcanic eruption took place in the Batangas Province of the Philippines, affecting more than 71,000 families with evacuations or ashfall. Humanity & Inclusion's team is responding to the needs of the most vulnerable individuals.

#### WEAPONS

Civilians continue to bear the burden of harm by explosive weapons, accounting for 66% (19,400) of total casualties in 2018, according to Action On Armed Violence. We continue to work on a political declaration pushing countries to stop bombing civilians.



# UPHOLDING A PROMISE

Every year, Humanity & Inclusion’s office in the U.S. opens its doors to aspiring professionals who want to further their experience working in the international disability community through a variety of fellowships. In the summer of 2017, we welcomed Anna Custis, a bright, eager U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD) fellow. She also happens to be a woman who is hard of hearing.

During her fellowship, Anna (then age 21) was particularly interested in our health and rehabilitation work. It makes perfect sense, as today, she works as a vocational rehabilitation technician with the Florida Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in Melbourne, Florida.

“I’ve seen firsthand the amount of work and resources that go into rehabilitation, and I’ve also seen the impact it can have on peoples’ lives,” Anna says. “From the freedom to move around, to being able to pursue school or finally earn your own money, rehabilitation can really be the catalyst to helping people achieve their goals.”

Since 1982, in aid of Cambodians,



I told myself that once I get a job, I’ll be able to sign up to become a monthly donor.

rehabilitation projects have formed a key part of Humanity & Inclusion’s work. During the early years, our core activity was providing rehabilitation care and artificial limbs to landmine victims and refugees, enabling them to regain mobility and dignity. Today, our rehabilitation work covers a wider range of activities from short-term solutions like providing equipment and physical therapy, to more sustainable solutions such as training rehabilitation professionals, building rehabilitation centers and establishing or supporting rehabilitation professional networks.

Anna was so inspired by this work during her fellowship that she wanted to do more. But like many of us during our college years, she wasn’t able to make

a donation—just yet. So, she selected Humanity & Inclusion as the charity to receive donations through AmazonSmile, a website run by Amazon that donates to a charity of your choosing every time you make an Amazon purchase. Each time she purchased school supplies, Humanity & Inclusion received a portion of the funds.

“I told myself that once I get a job, I’ll be able to sign up to become a monthly donor for Humanity & Inclusion,” Anna continues. “I got my job last June, was able to save some money, and now I finally have the opportunity to uphold the promise I made to myself!”

“The way Humanity & Inclusion cultivates its relationship with donors is different from what I see from other big organizations. There are no super emotionally-driven ads or shock-pieces. That, to be honest, sometimes feel like the purpose is to guilt people into donating. To me, Humanity & Inclusion feels more genuine and relationship-driven compared to their counterparts.”

Anna joins our dedicated group of First Responders—regular donors whose



© Anna Custis

support helps ensure that people with disabilities can live dignified, independent lives. Anna, and other monthly donors like her, make it possible for Humanity & Inclusion’s teams to respond in places where vulnerable individuals need it most. Thanks to regular, dependable donations, Humanity & Inclusion teams in nearly 60 countries provided support to more than 2.1 million beneficiaries in 2018. We can’t wait to see what we do together in 2020 and beyond!

**We love to feature our donors. Tell us what motivates you to give.**

## OUR FAVORITE PHOTOS



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## Balloons give Hala a lift

Hala was playing in front of her home when she was hit by the debris and shockwaves from an explosion. With her serious injuries, doctors had no choice but to remove one of her legs. Hala is among the most recent victims of bombings that have devastated Yemen.

Humanity & Inclusion staff ensure all children with disabilities can stand tall, but not all children find physical therapy fun—especially when they’re recovering. Using balloons in Hala’s physical therapy sessions encouraged the nervous four-year-old to take her very first steps on a new prosthetic leg.

When you support Humanity & Inclusion, you support children like Hala. **Thank you for your support.**

# AS A LEGACY DONOR, YOU CAN TRANSFORM A FUTURE WE ALL SHARE



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## YOUR SIMPLE GIFT CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Planned giving ensures that your generosity reaches generations to come, while you and your family enjoy the benefits of smart financial planning today. It could be your most powerful and lasting legacy, ensuring that your generosity can support marginalized groups the moment help is needed.

## JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY

If you choose to make a planned gift to Humanity & Inclusion, we would be honored to recognize your extraordinary commitment as a member of our Legacy Society.

For more information on how you can become a member of our Legacy Society, email Jeff Meer on [j.meer@hi.org](mailto:j.meer@hi.org) or call (301) 891-2138

[hi-us.org/legacy](https://hi-us.org/legacy)