

Handicap International *Acting Where It Counts*



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Learn more: www.handicap-international.us

**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release****The 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize
Presented to Handicap International**

WASHINGTON - The Hilton Foundation announced Tuesday in Geneva that the 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize has been awarded to the NGO Handicap International for its work in assisting people with disabilities in situations of poverty, exclusion, conflict and disaster. Awarded annually since 1996, the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Prize is presented to humanitarian associations for their exceptional contribution to alleviating human suffering. The official 2011 award ceremony will take place in Redwood City, Calif., on April 13, 2011.

The winner of the Conrad N. Hilton Prize was officially announced in Geneva Tuesday, March 15, by Judy M. Miller, vice president of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and director of the Hilton Humanitarian Prize, with Princess Salimah Aga Khan, member of the Hilton Prize jury; Bernard Kouchner, former French Foreign Minister and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; and Cornelio Sommaruga, former Swiss Secretary of State, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Honorary President of the Geneva Humanitarian International Centre for Demining (GHICD).

To mark the occasion, Ms. Miller, underlined the importance of Handicap International's work in improving the situation of people with disabilities around the world, particularly during humanitarian crises. Ms. Miller said, *"People with disabilities are the most vulnerable in societies and Handicap International has transformed the way the world deals with this underserved group. Through 30 years of innovative leadership and advocacy by Handicap International, more and more countries are assuring that persons with disabilities receive the same rights as everyone else. Handicap International expanded from helping landmine victims to assisting those disabled from disease, injury, war or natural disasters, and millions of lives have been restored due to the work of this organization."*

According to Ms. Miller, approximately 200 organizations were nominated for the prize this year. There is a rigorous review process, which includes field evaluations for finalist candidates. An evaluator from the Hilton Foundation visited Handicap International in Kenya, where the organization is working in Somali refugee camps. The final selection is made by a prestigious international seven-member jury.

The official 2011 award ceremony will take place on April 13, 2011 in Redwood City, Calif., as part of the Global Philanthropy Forum, which is attended by hundreds of international philanthropists, and corporate and private foundations every year. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and first Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the new U.N. Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, will give the keynote address at the Hilton Humanitarian Prize dinner ceremony.

For Handicap International, co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 as founding member of the International Campaign to Ban landmines (ICBL) and laureate of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees' Nansen Prize in 1996, the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize recognizes nearly 30 years of humanitarian action. According to Jean-Baptiste Richardier, co-founder and executive director of the organization: *"Handicap International was created in 1982 to stand up for and give voice to the most vulnerable amongst us, persons with disabilities in particular, living in situations of crisis, whether caused by poverty, conflict or natural disaster. I believe the Hilton jurors chose us in recognition of our work with one of the world's largest underserved minorities – people with disabilities – with the expectation that we will invest this precious wealth to further enhance our capacity to deliver qualitative and accountable assistance to 'the most vulnerable people living in destitute situations around the world.'"*

Present in 60 countries, the Handicap International Federation implements more than 300 development and emergency programs. *"In emergencies, the speed with which an organization is able to galvanize assistance on the ground can make a critical difference, not only between life and death, but it can also*

determine whether a temporary injury becomes a permanent disability,” explained Dr. Richardier. The prize will, therefore, be used to strengthen Handicap International’s disaster preparedness capabilities and to pre-position emergency response resources for rapid action in future crises.

Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, praised Handicap International with the following remarks: *“Those who make humanitarian aid their profession are driven by the most noble of missions, that of saving other human beings. Today the Hilton Foundation joins the Nobel Foundation in recognizing the work of Handicap International. But the greatest tribute remains all those people who, thanks to Handicap International’s humanitarian action have learnt to walk again - as I saw when I visited a project financed by the European Union on my visit to Haiti - and have regained their dignity and are once again standing tall.”*

Wendy Batson, executive director of Handicap International U.S, indicated that some of the funds would be set aside to ensure that *“Handicap International can continue to help the many thousands of Haitians who lost limbs or sustained other injuries in the aftermath of the devastating January 2010 earthquake. At Handicap International, we know from past disasters that continuing to accompany the injured through the process of recovery and reintegration into home and community is as essential as the initial emergency assistance itself.”*

In concluding, Dr. Richardier stressed: *“We will, from now on, be in a much stronger position to convince donors to include and to consider the most vulnerable from the onset of an emergency and to ensure that long-term inclusive development for all becomes the norm rather than the exception. Receiving the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize is a great honor and underscores our collective responsibility to serve the world’s most marginalized and vulnerable people.”*

About the Hilton Prize

The Hilton Prize jury includes: Princess Salimah Aga Khan, international ambassador for SOS Children’s Villages; Professor Catherine A. Bertini, professor of public administration, Syracuse University, and former executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme; Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH, former director-general of the World Health Organization and former prime minister of Norway; Eric M. Hilton, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and son of the late Conrad Hilton; James R. Galbraith, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Olara A. Otunnu, president of LBL Foundation for Children, former UN under-secretary-general and special representative for children and armed conflict; and Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Laureate in economics and Lamont University professor at Harvard University.

The Hilton Prize Laureates are recognized leaders in the humanitarian world and include: Aravind Eye Care System (India) 2010; PATH (Seattle, WA), 2009; BRAC (Bangladesh), 2008; Tostan (Senegal), 2007; Women for Women International (Washington, DC), 2006; Partners In Health (Massachusetts), 2005; Heifer International (Arkansas), 2004; International Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (Denmark), 2003; SOS Children’s Villages (Austria), 2002; St. Christopher’s Hospice (United Kingdom), 2001; Casa Alianza (Costa Rica), 2000; African Medical and Research Foundation (Kenya), 1999; Doctors Without Borders (France), 1998; International Rescue Committee (New York), 1997; and Operation Smile (Virginia), 1996.

About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation: The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world’s disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in five priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, caring for vulnerable children, and extending Conrad Hilton’s support for the work of Catholic Sisters. Following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$940 million in grants, distributing more than \$100 million in 2010. The Foundation’s current assets are approximately \$2 billion. For more information, please visit www.hiltonfoundation.org.

PRESS CONTACTS:

Handicap International: Lea Radick, Communications Officer, Handicap International U.S., Phone: +1 (301) 891-3002, Mobile: +1 (201) 686-7448, E-mail: lradick@handicap-international.us

Hilton: Barbara Casey for the Hilton Foundation, +1 (310) 990-0750, bcasey@cswpr.com

Footage and high-resolution photos of Handicap International’s work are available upon request.

Handicap International Facts and Figures

Our mission

Handicap International is an independent and impartial international aid organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.

Our actions:

- Providing emergency aid to the victims of disasters, including natural disasters and armed conflicts;
- Preventing disabilities and disabling diseases;
- Providing identification, treatment and referral for disabling diseases;
- Orthopedic-fitting and rehabilitation of people with disabilities;
- Promoting educational, social and economic inclusion;
- Campaigning against anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive devices;
- Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Our beneficiaries

Every day for nearly 30 years, Handicap International has taken action to respond to the needs of:

- People exposed to the risk of disease, violence and disabling accidents;
- Vulnerable people, particularly people with disabilities and people living with disabling chronic diseases;
- Refugees and persons affected or displaced by crises, conflicts or disasters, and particularly vulnerable persons, the injured and the disabled;
- People exposed to the danger of weapons, munitions and explosive devices, during or following armed conflicts.

International recognition

- In 1992, Handicap International was decorated by the United Nations Secretary General, in recognition of its contribution to the United Nations program in aid of persons with disabilities.
- In 1996, Handicap International was presented with the Nansen Prize and Medal from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, for its ongoing commitment to refugees and the universal nature of its work within the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).
- In 1997, the association was co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize with the NGO members of the ICBL and its coordinator, Jody Williams.

- In 1999, Handicap International was granted United Nations ECOSOC Consultative Status.
- In 2006, the association received the National Academy of Medicine Award (Paris).

Key figures

- Handicap International works in 60 countries implementing more than 300 projects
- 4,000 people work for Handicap International worldwide, including 270 expatriate staff and some 3,400 local staff in the field, and 286 staff in the eight countries where Handicap International has national associations.
- Our work employs a range of professionals, including ortho-prosthetists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, logisticians, project managers, psychologists, administrators and deminers.
- Eight national associations in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, are dedicated to representing the whole federal network, mobilizing resources, recruiting staff, and jointly extending the association's principles and actions worldwide.
- Annual budget: \$138 million/€100 million
- Nearly 600,000 private donors worldwide
- More than 70 bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors demonstrate their trust in Handicap International by funding its projects
- Handicap International's expertise is regularly called upon by international organizations, including the WHO, UN, UNICEF and UNHCR. The most recent example is in Haiti, where the United Nations and WHO entrusted Handicap International with the mission of coordinating the rehabilitation of injured persons, the provision of orthopedic services and ongoing support for people with disabilities, in partnership with the German association, Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM).
- In 2009, more than 200,000 people were helped through our economic support projects, 103,000 individuals benefited from our education programs, 145,000 were helped by our rehabilitation projects and 80,000 individuals benefited from psychosocial support.
- More than 2 million signatures were collected worldwide as part of Handicap International's campaigns to ban anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

500 Million People with Disabilities in Developing Countries¹: Handicap International Works with and on Behalf of the World's Largest Minority

People with disabilities represent an estimated 10 percent of the world population and eight out of 10 live in developing countries². There are 500 million people, often among the poorest members of society, who are excluded from national policies and efforts to alleviate international poverty, as well as development and humanitarian relief programs. Handicap International's teams work with and on behalf of and with this too often invisible minority by providing access to health and rehabilitation services, education, community life and transportation, and by performing prevention and awareness activities in communities.

80 percent of persons with disabilities live on less than \$1.50/€ a day³

This sobering statistic is a clear illustration of the vicious cycle of poverty and disability: Generally without an income, persons with disabilities are among the poorest members of society; poverty also deprives people of access to health care and adequate nutrition. The risk of disability is much higher in these situations. To break this cycle, Handicap International's teams work to improve the economic and social inclusion of persons with disabilities by helping to establish micro-enterprises, encouraging local organizations and businesses to employ people with disabilities, promoting the distribution of products produced by persons with disabilities, supporting professional training, and working with associations and communities to foster inclusive local development. We implement such projects in 47 countries.

90 percent of children with disabilities living in developing countries do not attend school.⁴

Significant obstacles inhibit the schooling of children with disabilities. To fight against this form of social exclusion and promote the access of children with disabilities to an education adapted to their needs, Handicap International promotes the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools and enhances specialist services, which are adapted to the context and to each individual's situation.

2 percent of persons with disabilities living in developing countries have access to basic health services⁵.

Persons with disabilities confront significant obstacles in accessing care for, including services unaffordable or absent, a lack of disability training for health professionals, and poorly adapted prevention campaigns. Handicap International's teams are active in several fields:

¹ Source: United Nations

² Source: United Nations

³ Source: Hisayo Katsui, Toward Equality. Creation of the disability movement in Central Asia, Université d'Helsinki

⁴ Source: UNICEF

⁵ Source: UNESCO

- The prevention and treatment of chronic diseases that can cause disability (poliomyelitis, leprosy, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, and neglected tropical diseases, such as Buruli Ulcer and elephantiasis);
- The prevention and early detection of disabilities through programs geared toward mother and child health interventions;
- Identification and referral of persons with disabilities or extremely vulnerable groups to existing services;
- Enhancing and improving existing health services, through training and cooperation with public services. We implement such projects in 30 countries.

30 million people currently need an orthopedic device in Africa, Asia and Latin America⁶

Rehabilitation activities have been at the heart of Handicap International's work since its inception in 1982. The organization operates either in difficult situations (conflicts and natural disasters), in support of existing structures (technical support and training) or in support of the development of professional networks. This figure reflects only part of the needs in the continuum of rehabilitation care. In addition to the fitting of orthopedic devices, there is also an acute need for rehabilitation and post-surgical care. There is also an acute requirement for rehabilitation and post-surgical care. In 2009, Handicap International implemented rehabilitation projects in 38 countries.

⁶ Source: WHO

Emergency Relief: Handicap International Meets the Specific Needs of the Most Vulnerable Members of Society, Including People with Disabilities

In emergency situations, Handicap International supplies aid to displaced persons, refugees and the victims of disasters, and pays particularly close attention to the most vulnerable members of the population. From post-traumatic care and the organization of aid to the coordination and management of camps and meeting people's basic needs, everything possible is done to ensure that injured and most vulnerable people are provided with adequate support and proper case management. Once the emergency phase is over, the organization supports local actors, associations and the public authorities, to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable populations are taken into account during the reconstruction stage. The activities implemented in Haiti since January 2010 and in Pakistan since August 2010 offer a clear illustration of this endeavor.

- **POST-TRAUMATIC CARE: In Haiti, 10,000 injured people have benefited from functional rehabilitation care and 900 people have been fitted with prostheses and orthoses.**

Physically weakened and socially vulnerable, people with injuries need immediate help. Handicap International gives priority to injured persons by providing immediate post-traumatic care, including case management to avoid the development of disabling after-effects, physiotherapy care and occupational therapy, and by setting up orthopedic services to supply technical aids and temporary orthopedic devices. To improve the prospects of their future case management, our emergency teams also ensure the sustainability of follow-up services over the mid-term to long-term, by cooperating with other organizations and national medical and surgical emergency structures and by working with affected communities to identify patients and provide follow-up care.

- **BASIC NEEDS: 5,000 tents, 36 tons of food, 30,000 items of equipment were distributed in Haiti in 2010. In Pakistan, the organization has set up seven water treatment units, producing drinking water for 150,000 people, equivalent to 198,129 gallons of drinking water a day and distributed 19,000 emergency packs and hygiene kits were distributed.**

Meeting the needs of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups is critical in emergency situations. Present within the first days of a disaster, Handicap International's teams ensure that the basic needs of those most at-risk are met.

- **PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSISTANCE: 25,000 people in Haiti benefited from psychosocial support sessions**

Beyond the life-saving aspect of their missions, Handicap International's emergency teams also provide psychosocial support to individuals and families in need. Handicap International has acquired more than 20 years experience in this field, and uses that experience to help people weakened by the trauma of a disaster or conflict avoid developing serious and disabling psychological after affects.

- **DISABILITY AND VULNERABILITY FOCAL POINTS**

A major feature of all HI's responses to emergencies, Disability and Vulnerability Focal Points (DVFPs) aims to ensure that all of the needs of vulnerable people are identified and taken into account in the short-term to long-term. Staff based in the DVFPs, which are set up amongst the beneficiary communities, identify and refer patients and provide an adapted response, either directly or by directing them toward appropriate existing facilities.

- **RECONSTRUCTION: 1,000 transitional shelters under construction in Haiti**

In crises, it is often necessary to provide temporary shelter for large numbers of families before helping them find safe and secure housing adapted to their surroundings. It is therefore essential to identify priority beneficiaries to make sure that the needs of the most vulnerable people are taken into account. As appropriate, new construction must also be accessible to people with disabilities. When necessary, Handicap International teams contribute as well to reopening access roads and building temporary bridges to ensure aid reaches populations in need of assistance.

Our Fight Against Landmines and Cluster Munitions

Some 98 percent of recorded victims of cluster munitions are civilians; a third of those injured or maimed by mines and other explosive remnants of war are children.⁷ Faced with this disturbing reality, Handicap International co-founded the campaign to ban these weapons, which continue to kill and maim their victims long after the conflict that spawned their use has ended. Since 1992, the organization has conducted demining and clearance operations and has also long provided assistance to those wounded by these weapons. Handicap International is one of six founding associations of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the subsequent Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC). The involvement of civil society and strong support from certain governments led to the signing of the Ottawa convention banning anti-personnel mine in 1997 and the Oslo convention banning cluster munitions in 2008. These two treaties are now key international standards.

Mines and cluster munitions: Figures of shame⁸

LANDMINES:

- 80 countries and territories are still polluted by landmines
- One third of landmine victims, whose ages are known, are children
- Although the total number of survivors is not known, it is estimated to be approximately 500,000 persons.

CLUSTER MUNITIONS:

- 39 countries and territories have been polluted by cluster munitions since 1965
- 98 percent of all confirmed cluster munitions casualties are civilians
- 60 percent of casualties occurred during daily living activities.
- At least 440 million cluster munitions have been dispersed since 1965:
 - 1965-1975/Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia: 383 million
 - 2001-2002/Afghanistan: 250,000
 - 1991-2006/Iraq: 50 million
 - 2006/South Lebanon: 4 million
 - 1999/Kosovo: 290,000

Ottawa Treaty and Oslo Treaty: The end of impunity

The wave of public support for the Ottawa and Oslo conventions was a key element in their development. A total of nearly 2 million signatures in favor of a ban on mines and cluster munitions were collected by Handicap International across the world, a level of public support that weighed heavily during treaty negotiations.

⁷ Source: Landmine Monitor Report, 2010

⁸ Source: Landmine Monitor Report, 2010 ; Circle of Impact : the Fatal Footprint of Cluster Munitions on People and Communities – Handicap International – May 2007

The Ottawa and Oslo conventions have now become the key international standards on indiscriminate weapons of war with 158 and 108 signatory countries, respectively. Any use of these weapons, even by non-state signatories, is now stigmatized and denounced by the international community.

A Nobel Peace Prize dedicated to victims and campaigners

In December 1997, after five years of campaigning, the members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, including Handicap International, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. Handicap International dedicated this prize to the 320,000 campaigners who supported its fight, and to the victims of these weapons.

Humanitarian demining: Ending a daily threat to survival

For inhabitants living in or near mined areas, routine activities, such as going to school or farming a field, can be lethal.

Handicap International began humanitarian demining operations in Cambodia in 1992. Since then, our teams have intervened in 23 other countries⁹ by conducting technical surveys, mapping, marking, destroying devices, providing precise documentation of devices, liaising with communities in the fight against mines, and restoring cleared or demined land to the local population. Every year, several dozen Handicap International teams use their expertise to remove these deadly weapons.

The organization also runs risk-education programs about mines and other unexploded ordnance so that people who must live and work in affected areas can learn to avoid harm, thus reducing the number of victims.

⁹ Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea –Bissau, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Laos, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Somaliland/ Puntland, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda

Additional Resources

Biographies

Dr. Jean Baptiste Richardier, Director: Dr. Richardier, co-founder of Handicap International, served as the director of communication and development and as the head of the Mines Policy Unit at the organization's headquarters in Lyon, France, before taking over as the director general of Handicap International in 2003. Dr. Richardier was responsible for Handicap International's involvement as a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines in 1992, which was collectively awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. Since 1994, he has guided the entry of Handicap International into the small group of nongovernmental organizations directly engaged in operational mine clearance. Dr. Richardier has also coordinated the international development of Handicap International, which created new national associations in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

After completing his medical studies in 1977, he worked as a journalist for the medical daily *Quotidien du Médecin* before departing for two years of alternative civil service in Ethiopia until 1979. Afterward, he worked as a volunteer doctor in Thailand, successively for *Médecins sans Frontières*, *SOS Enfants sans Frontière* and finally, for Handicap International, which he co-founded in 1982 with his colleague and friend, Dr. Claude Simonnot. Handicap International was created in response to the need for concrete and appropriate assistance for some 6,000 Cambodian refugees mutilated by anti-personnel mines. Before taking on his responsibilities at the headquarters of the French section of Handicap International in Lyon in 1983, Dr. Richardier undertook multiple missions to Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Pakistan to develop the organization's first programs.

Jean-Pierre Delomier, Director of the Emergency Response Department: After having worked in humanitarian aid for various organizations, Mr. Delomier co-founded ATLAS Logistique in 1992. ATLAS Logistique was a nongovernmental organization dedicated to the management of refugee camps, food distributions, supply transportation, logistics coordination, infrastructure rehabilitation and home construction in several countries in Africa, Central America, Asia and Europe. Mr. Delomier remained the director of ATLAS Logistique until it merged with Handicap International's French national association in 2006. At this stage, Mr. Delomier joined the executive board of Handicap International and he was in charge of the emergency department of the organization. Since that time, Handicap International has intervened in all major humanitarian crises; in particular Sudan, northern Iraq, the Gaza Strip, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Haiti and Pakistan. Handicap International's emergency division has contributed to the coordination and organization of relief (transport and warehousing of basic items, such as water, food, non-food items and shelter material, for other operators), participated in the U.N. cluster system and provided emergency responses to persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups (healthcare to injured people, coverage of their basic needs and the establishment of "Disability and Vulnerability Focal Points").

Dr. Susan Girois, Director of Technical Resources Department: Dr. Girois oversees a 30-person technical resource team that provides support for program implementation and knowledge management for Handicap International mine action, emergency and development programs in the areas of prevention, health and rehabilitation, access to social services, education and livelihoods and support to civil society. Board-certified in internal medicine from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Science in Public Health from the London

School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr. Girois has authored numerous papers on disability and HIV/AIDS, community-based rehabilitation and HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases and disease management. Dr. Girois joined Handicap International in 2002 after serving as an AIDS physician in Philadelphia and Botswana.

Nathalie Herlemont-Zoritchak, Director of the Strategic Policy Division: Ms. Herlemont-Zoritchak has a doctorate in political science with a specialization in the involvement of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) without borders in conflict development, analysis and resolution. She is also an expert in ideological changes in the international scene and their effect on the working environment of NGOs. Before joining Handicap International, Ms. Herlemont-Zoritchak was in charge of international relations for Coordination Sud (the umbrella organization for French NGOs) from 1998 to 2002. As the head of Handicap International's strategic policy unit, she advises and assists in decision-making on subjects involving Handicap International at an ethical, political and strategic level. She also works to develop specific advocacy strategies to promote Handicap International's values and to try to influence the global humanitarian framework to take the world's most vulnerable of people into account. Ms. Herlemont-Zoritchak is also a lecturer at the University of Lyon II on public policy and nongovernmental action.

Bill Howell, Director of the Mine Action Department: Mr. Howell began to do humanitarian work after a number of years in the construction trades and in military service. He has significant experience working with refugees and displaced populations in Asia and in Africa. In Cambodia, he worked with World Food Program from 1990 to 1994 developing food supply programs for hospitals and health centers and with the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture to provide internally displaced populations with access to land and other means to provide part of their own food supply. This experience gave Mr. Howell firsthand knowledge of the impact of the presence of landmines on vulnerable rural populations. In 1994, Mr. Howell, working with Handicap International's directors, participated in the initiation and development of the organization's landmine action policy and programs, successfully initiating demining and mine-risk education programs in Africa, southeast Europe and the Middle East. These programs have earned the organization its acknowledged role as a leading humanitarian mine action operator.

Claudio Rini, Director of the Program Development Department: Mr. Rini received a master's degree in International and diplomatic sciences from the University of Trieste (where he later spent two years as part of the faculty) and holds a specialized diploma from the Institute of Development Studies at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. He began his humanitarian aid experience with the Italian NGO Cooperazione Internazionale working as the head of mission of a number of large multi-disciplinary programs alternating between health and nutrition projects, rehabilitation and economic stimulus projects, community development in rural and urban environments, psychosocial support and inclusion of women, child protection, support to refugees and crisis response. Mr. Rini worked as the head of large teams in charge of significant budgets in Chad, Morocco, Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He joined Handicap International in 2006 as the desk officer for West Africa and became the director of the program development department in 2010.

Wendy Batson, Executive Director, Handicap International United States: Ms. Batson is a development specialist with extensive experience planning and managing rehabilitation and reconstruction programs in war-devastated countries for major voluntary organizations and the United Nations. She has designed and implemented programs for refugees and persons with disabilities in Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Angola, among other countries. She, her husband and four children lived in Laos from 1981 to 1984 overseeing war

reconstruction projects in Laos and Vietnam and in Pakistan from 1989 through 1994, where she worked for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supporting programs for Afghan refugees. From 1996 until 2003, she served as director for humanitarian affairs of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

Jean-Marc Boivin, Executive Director, Handicap International France: Mr. Boivin has considerable professional experience in the disability field beginning with his work as a special education teacher for 10 years. Jean-Marc worked with developmentally disabled children, teenagers and young adults in specialized centers and in mainstream education. He then became the head of a social emergency centre, working with individuals and families experiencing difficult situations (the socially excluded, asylum seekers, women in distress, homeless people and people with disabilities). From 1990 to 1995, Jean-Marc was chief adviser on employment to the Prefect of Lorraine, where he was in charge of a “fighting exclusion” project. This involved coordinating public social and vocational inclusion policies aimed at the socially excluded and persons with disabilities. From 1995 to 1999, he managed a vocational inclusion company that focused on disabled workers and people suffering from social exclusion. Jean-Marc joined Handicap International in 1999 and served as a program director and eventually, as the director of advocacy.

François De Keersmaecker, Executive Director, Handicap International Germany: Mr. De Keersmaecker worked for five years (1989-1994) as country manager for Handicap International in Mozambique, Pakistan/Afghanistan and Madagascar, in the field of disability. He also worked as a freelance advisor for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNICEF and German Agro-Action between 1995 and 1997, focusing on vulnerable groups and internally displaced persons. François co-founded Handicap International Germany in 1998 and he has served as the director of the German national association of Handicap International ever since. He has also served as a member of the board of the German Campaign to Ban Landmines (Actiongroup Landmine.de) since 2003 and he has contributed extensively in Germany and internationally to the campaign to ban cluster munitions.

Claire Fehrenbach, Executive Director, Handicap International Canada: With a specialization in political science and international relations, Claire Fehrenbach has been working with nongovernmental organizations in the field of emergency and post-crisis situations since 2000. Before taking over the Handicap International's Canadian national association, Ms. Fehrenbach served in both field and headquarters posts in France, Albania, Gabon and Angola. As the Handicap International country director in Angola, she managed one of the organization's largest programs and implemented mine action and disability projects. Claire's professional background has focused on refugee, disability and mine-action issues. She has also coordinated communications and public/private fundraising activities in many of her positions.

Martin Lagneau, Director, Handicap International Luxembourg: Mr. Lagneau is an experienced program and project manager in the fields of mine action and disability. Most of his experience has been in war-devastated countries where he gained extensive understanding of the issues facing populations affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war. He has an educational background in anthropology and sociology, as well as in environmental management. Martin began his career with Handicap International in 1998, when he designed and operated reconstruction and development programs in Iraq for four years. Since 2001, he has served in various senior management positions within the organization, both at the field level (through long-term and short-term missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, among other countries), and at the Brussels and Luxembourg offices.

Stephanie Stuart, Executive Director, Handicap International United Kingdom:

Stephanie's international development experience began in the early 1980s when she set up a Creole language recovery project in Dominica. She developed and managed the project successfully for more than a decade, ensuring the project's financial self-sufficiency (including overseas fundraising), overseeing the operational aspects of the data collection and successfully lobbying the government. Stephanie ultimately handed over the project to locally trained staff once the importance of the work had been officially recognized and incorporated into government policy. Her subsequent career led her into public health and health promotion: She initiated, managed and evaluated U.K. health-focused community projects, working mainly with refugees and vulnerable groups, and she offered consultancy in organizational development aimed at health promotion. She was appointed to Handicap International U.K. in 2008.

Paul Vermeulen, Executive Director, Handicap International Switzerland: Paul Vermeulen co-founded Handicap International Switzerland in 1996 and he is the current director of the Swiss national association. He contributed extensively in Switzerland and internationally to the campaign that achieved the ban on antipersonnel landmines. He then worked extensively on Handicap International's implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. In 2005, he launched a Swiss parliamentary process for the banning of cluster munitions. Before coming to Handicap International, Paul worked as the communication director for Médecins Sans Frontières in Switzerland and as the regional secretary for the Swiss Refugee Council.

Beth MacNairn, Deputy Director, Handicap International United States: Beth MacNairn provides a broad range of assistance to Handicap International program staff worldwide who are implementing development, emergency response and mine action projects supported by U.S. donors. Her background includes experience as a program coordinator, project director, communications professional and teacher with nongovernmental organizations and institutions based both in the United States and abroad. She has lived and worked in Egypt, Morocco, Zimbabwe and Haiti. Ms. MacNairn earned her B.A. from the University of Virginia and an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She currently serves as Deputy for the U.S. national association of the Handicap International Federation.

Quotes

“Since 1991, in my capacity as Manager of USAID’s Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund, I have had the privilege of awarding and overseeing numerous grants to Handicap International in support of their high quality and courageous work in conflict-affected countries. I have evaluated the results of their extraordinary commitment to provide services and build human and institutional capacities in such countries as Cambodia, the Congo (DROC), Laos, Nepal, Mozambique, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka. Handicap International consistently provides the kind of vision, leadership and competence that exemplifies the ideals and values of the Hilton Humanitarian Prize. The organization and its committed staff demonstrate their respect for their host-country partners and promote the need for full participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in all of the work they do.

I wish to add my congratulations to Handicap International and to the Prize Jury for selecting Handicap International as the winner of the 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Award.” -
Lloyd Feinberg, former manager of USAID’s Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund

“I got to know Handicap International’s work with landmine victims in Cambodia in 1992 and, that same year, as Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, I worked with Handicap International in forming the International Campaign to Landmines. Since then, I have had a number of opportunities to observe the organization’s work. At all times, I have been deeply impressed by the organization’s care and skill in dealing with those who have suffered traumatic injuries and its commitment to the development of local capacity to provide long term services. It is with great satisfaction that my colleagues and I at the Open Society Foundations have been able to provide support for Handicap International’s work with earthquake victims in Haiti and we have been immensely impressed by Handicap International’s performance there.” -
Aryeh Neier, President, Open Society Foundations

“I have personally had several occasions to witness Handicap International’s achievements and commitment to the most vulnerable in particularly demanding environments. My opinion is that Handicap International exemplifies in many respects the purpose of the Hilton Prize and the intentions of its founders.” - **Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, former president of International Disability Foundation, and former United Nations Secretary General, 1982-1991**

“Without Handicap International, hundreds of repatriated refugees with disabilities from Cambodia, Mozambique and Bosnia could not have started a new life. My organization is greatly indebted to Handicap International.” - **Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1991-2000**

“Handicap International is an active member of the VOICE network sharing our core concern for a principled and independent humanitarian action. They are actively involved in the European humanitarian community and have had a consistent engagement in the development of the VOICE network, which brings together 83 major European humanitarian NGO active worldwide. Handicap International is committed to bridging the gap between national and EU level in the humanitarian policy dialogue. The organization is widely recognized for its expertise related to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations, including persons with disability.” - **Kathrin Schick, Director, Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)^{10*}**

¹⁰ Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE) is a network representing 84 European NGOs active in humanitarian aid worldwide. VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor with the EU for humanitarian affairs, including emergency aid, relief, rehabilitation and disaster preparedness.

“Those who make humanitarian aid their profession are driven by the most noble of missions, that of saving other human beings. Today the Hilton Foundation joins the Nobel Foundation in recognizing the work of Handicap International. But the greatest tribute remains all those people who, thanks to Handicap International's humanitarian action have learnt to walk again - as I saw when I visited a project financed by the European Union on my visit to Haiti - and have regained their dignity and are once again standing tall.” - **Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response**

“I congratulate Handicap International for making such a major difference. It has a very impressive history of campaigning, mobilizing and taking concrete and effective action to prevent and counter disabilities, promoting human rights across the world.” - **Gro Harlem Brundtland, M.P.H., former Director General, World Health Organization, former Prime Minister of Norway**

Testimonial from Barbara Hendricks, professional singer and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Goodwill Ambassador

The first time that I came in contact with the work of Handicap International was in 1991 in Khao I Dang, the biggest ever refugee camp in Thailand. After visiting their facility - which came to serve over the years, more than 6,000 refugees maimed by landmines - I watched a basketball game played by young Cambodians that brought tears to my eyes. They were able to play because they were wearing prosthetic limbs fabricated by the members of the staff and refugees who had been trained in the camp.

From that day in Thailand I have worked closely with Jean-Baptiste Richardier and his dedicated staff fighting against the use of antipersonnel landmines, not only because they are an insult to all humane principles, but also in order that the states, and all users of this weapon, recognize their individual and collective responsibility for eradicating them and compensating the atrocities they have caused. I am of the firm belief that this fight is not in vain.

I was really pleased to learn that my friend Sergio Viera de Mello - later killed in Iraq in the terrible attack that plunged the humanitarian community into mourning - shared my great respect for Handicap International and had nominated it for the Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize. He had witnessed their work in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as in the Balkans and Timor, and had successfully nominated Handicap International for the High Commission of Refugees' Nansen medal in 1996. I therefore wish to associate his memory to this celebration.

Indeed, it is a difficult task to seek to build a world of greater solidarity and justice; a difficult task that has always commanded my admiration. To me, Handicap International's philosophy, its sensibility, its vocation, its commitment... are an exemplary demonstration of what is today a much needed refusal of injustice and acceptance of difference; a courageous attempt to preserve dignity through the respect of otherness; enabling new life projects to emerge from the most tragically damaged of existences. During the 24 years that I have worked as a goodwill ambassador for the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, I have met refugees from over the world who have been able to start a new life that would have been impossible without the work of Handicap International.

Dear friends, you have been one of the UNHCR's most valuable partners and I am sure that the refugees, whose dignity and courage continue to inspire us all to work for their cause, join me in congratulating you on being the recipients of the Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize for 2011.

Excerpts of speeches delivered on March 15, 2011, in Geneva, on the occasion of the announcement ceremony of the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to this year's recipient, Handicap International

Judy Miller, vice president of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and director of the Hilton Humanitarian Prize:

"And now, I'm extremely pleased to announce on behalf of the Hilton Foundation and of the Hilton Jury that the 2011 Conrad Hilton Prize is awarded to Handicap International."

Princesse Salimah Aga Khan, member of the Hilton Prize jury:

"With all the recent disasters like the earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Pakistan we can feel confident that someone is looking after those who cannot look after themselves. That someone is Handicap International. I'm truly honored on behalf of the Hilton Prize Jury to welcome Jean-Baptiste Richardier and Handicap International into this Hilton Prize family and I look forward to working together to make this world a better place for persons with disabilities today and tomorrow."

Cornelio Sommaruga, former Swiss Secretary of State, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Honorary President of the Geneva Humanitarian International Centre for Demining (GHICD):

"It's a great pleasure for me to be here today to congratulate my friends from Handicap International on winning the prestigious 2011 Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize. Well done to my friends Jean-Baptiste Richardier and Paul Vermeulen. Through them, I would like to pass on my congratulations to all of their colleagues across the world. I would like to congratulate you on your commitment and success, my dear friends in Lyon, Geneva, and everyone in the eight associations elsewhere in the world. Please accept my admiration and warmest wishes for the future, while always keeping in mind the victims and potential victims."

Jean-Baptiste Richardier, executive director and co-founder of Handicap International:

"I wanted to point out that the victims are represented here today by a young woman. This young woman is called Mom ... a terrible injury led to the loss of her leg. She was just 10 years old. She was the first child fitted with a device by Handicap International. It was my wife, Marie, who took care of her. Just a child, in some ways, it was Mom who adopted us. And then, through one of life's coincidences, it just so happens that she now lives a few kilometers from us in Lyon. Mom is now a confident young woman, married with two wonderful children, and she embodies, for all of us, all of the people helped by Handicap International during 30 years of... humanitarian commitment."

Bernard Kouchner, former French Foreign Minister and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo:

"Jean Baptiste and his friends have created something very special. Instead of providing an emergency response, as we all do, more or less successfully, in aid of victims; always victims; they wanted not only to stay in contact with the victims, to remain with them, but also to invent a way of ensuring that the victims were no longer alone. They were no longer alone not just because the people from Handicap International were there, but because they had, with the voluntary workers from Handicap International, helped created a "survival industry", which was not only technical, not just about wood and iron, and orthopedic-fittings, it was morally and socially extremely important. It was about helping people "live standing up." This is Handicap International's motto. That's why the idea behind this chair¹ is so wonderful. The chair is still standing. Thanks to everyone who has applied this motto once again. Thanks to everyone who believes in symbols, who believes in dreams and who makes them reality. That's the first

advantage, the first invention of Handicap International, who inside remain “French doctors.” Not contenting themselves with charity, precious and effective though it often is, although something less so; not taking action, showing solidarity and charity - for me, these two words are not incompatible - and then leaving, with a lighter conscience. Not them. When everyone else was leaving, they stayed behind. And that my dear friend, on their behalf, on behalf of all of them, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

Testimonials from the Field

Kenya: The fight against AIDS in Garissa district / “Encouraging positive behavior: Mohammed Hussein’s story”



© Handicap International

Handicap International is working to reduce the spread of HIV infection among youth in Kenya and to improve access to treatment, care and support for those infected by HIV/AIDS. Mohammed Hussein, who benefited from the awareness efforts led by the association, is grateful.

Mohammed Hussein is 16 years old. When his parents declared their HIV positive status in May 2009, he gradually turned to drug abuse. He had simply given up on life.

He started smoking and chewing miraa*, and then graduated to opium, becoming addicted. He then ran away from home for a while for fear of stigmatization by his peers as a drug addict.

One day, however, an encounter with Handicap International helped him decide to change his behavior. “One Monday morning as I was smoking outside my friend’s hut, a team of peer educators came to us and started talking to us about HIV/AIDS and [the] effects of drugs [on] young people like us. I was really interested and listened keenly. They talked on how harmful the drug abuse is to our health and how one can contract HIV through use of shared injections.”

Mohammed met people who made him realized how wrong he was to judge his parents and to abandon them. “How wrong I was to judge them so harshly and abandon them!” He exclaimed. Mohammed’s parents have joined a support group where they meet other people who are either infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. So far, peer training has been conducted and peer educator clubs have formed. Further, innovative means of communication about safe behavior and HIV/AIDS, like poems, contests, theatre, music and drama, is vital in exchanging information among youth.

* Miraa is a local mild stimulant herb.

Cambodia: Promoting inclusive education / “Not destined to a life of disability”

© C. Rebotton/Handicap International

It is break time and children are running around, laughing and shouting in the playground. Although she walks a little hesitantly, San Bopha, 11, is smiling from ear to ear. Back in October 2003, however, when Handicap International's social worker discovered her in the district of Memot To Ponhea, in Cambodia, this little girl, disabled by clubfoot, was unable to walk or move around.

San was already tall, and her growth had exacerbated the malformation of her feet. She was transferred to a hospital in Battambang province, where she had two operations at six-month intervals, one on each foot. As soon as her operation scars had healed, Handicap International made her two braces to correct the position of her feet, enabling her to start rehabilitation. At the same time, our team met with the director of a school located 2 km from her home. The teachers were very open and gave the girl, who had so recently "gotten back on her feet," a warm welcome, especially since San was not the only child with a disability at the school.

Hoping to walk without foot braces

San is a very serious and determined young woman. She is now at level two (the equivalent of second grade in elementary school), and she is starting to read and write. She has dozens of friends and loves going to school with the help of her bicycle (she cannot walk over long distances) and the school kit supplied by Handicap International, since San's family is very poor. The social worker provides regular follow-up care to adjust her braces as she grows. San's greatest wish is to walk without the braces by the time she reaches the end of her teenage years.

Haiti Earthquake: Health and rehabilitation / “Moïse recovers and makes new friends”

© William Daniels / Handicap International

When the earth started to shake, four-year-old Moïse Metellus and his 18-month-old brother, Sonel, were at home. Their house collapsed.

Sonel, initially trapped under the rubble, was recovered, unharmed. Moïse would have escaped, but a block fell from the house and split the top of his left foot. He was rushed to the hospital, where a nurse rapidly stitched his foot.

The wound soon became infected. His parents tried to treat their son, but the infection raged. Faced with the seriousness of the infection and Moïse's severe pain, doctors decided to amputate his foot. Before the amputation, the little boy said to his father, “Dad, you need to make another Moïse. This Moïse's foot isn't any good.”

Moïse was fitted with a temporary prosthesis at Handicap International's prosthetic and orthopedic fitting centre. Since then, his life has returned, more or less, to “normal.” He wears his prosthesis all the time. He tolerates and can walk well with it, thanks to regular visits to the fitting centre to have his prosthesis and walking checked.

At the centre, Moïse often holds onto his mother's skirt. He is very affectionate to her. He even helps her with the housework in the tent – provided by Handicap International – which they now call home. She says she expects her son to marry and work, despite his disability. She trusts that God will do what is necessary and thanks the Handicap International team for their help.

Moïse couldn't return to school immediately. Indeed, the one near his new home near Canapé Vert had yet to reopen by May. Without classes, his old neighborhood friends visited regularly. He was also quick to make a new crop of friends who treated him equally. However, some children still taunted him. They needed to be reminded to include people with disabilities.

Moïse's biggest fear is of being alone, in case another earthquake strikes. He has not repeated his request to his father to exchange him because of his disability. Though once, when his mother was telling him a bible story, he asked, “When Jesus returns to earth, do you think that he will give me a new real foot?” His mother told him, “Yes.”

Haiti Earthquake: Health and rehabilitation / “With support, Reynane climbs”

© William Daniels / Handicap International

Reynane Bernabe, 10, hopes to be a schoolteacher who “gives out homework” when she's older. In fact, she was studying at home when the earthquake struck in January 2010.

Her father was nearby, and quickly came to her rescue. Her leg had been crushed, and he carried her to two local hospitals before he found help. Doctors first set the broken bones, but an infection forced them to amputate her left tibia a few days later. Her father was shocked: “The burden of life was about to get heavier,” he recalled.

Reynane stayed in the hospital for three months. Her parents arranged a small living area for themselves next to her bed. After she was released from hospital, she visited the Handicap International rehabilitation centre and received a temporary prosthesis. A few weeks later, in June, this was replaced with a more permanent prosthesis. She quickly learned to walk again. In fact, taking her teaching ambitions to heart, she was playing the role of “physiotherapy assistant” by early July, teaching the younger patients to walk correctly.

The family had returned to their home in “Polira”, a small group of concrete houses built on a hillside in Pétiön-Ville, in May. To reach the main road from home, Reynane must climb 80 steps and walk 250 meters. This is no small feat when you're wearing a prosthesis, but she does it with confidence and speed.

Before the earthquake, Reynane's mom and dad supported their family, which includes Reynane's twin sister and two older siblings, by selling foodstuffs in the streets. In the terrible confusion following the earthquake, their goods were stolen. Lacking the money to buy new supplies, they now feed their family by doing odd jobs.

At a local private school, the family was fortunate to receive a free month's fees (books, supplies and uniforms) for the girls. Reynane's father paid a motorcyclist to take her to school each day. The children are unlikely to continue much longer at the school – they cannot attend if their parents don't have any money, a plight facing many children who benefit from Handicap International's work.

At home, Reynane is surrounded a dozen friends. “They're friends from before but also after the earthquake,” she said. Her prosthesis is not an obstacle to her life, either physically or socially.

About the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

About the Hilton Prize

The Hilton Prize jury includes: Princess Salimah Aga Khan, international ambassador for SOS Children's Villages; Professor Catherine A. Bertini, professor of public administration, Syracuse University, and former executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme; Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH, former director-general of the World Health Organization and former prime minister of Norway; Eric M. Hilton, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and son of the late Conrad Hilton; James R. Galbraith, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Olara A. Otunnu, president of LBL Foundation for Children, former UN under-secretary-general and special representative for children and armed conflict; and Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Laureate in economics and Lamont University professor at Harvard University.

The Hilton Prize Laureates are recognized leaders in the humanitarian world and include: Aravind Eye Care System (India) 2010; PATH (Seattle, WA), 2009, BRAC (Bangladesh), 2008; Tostan (Senegal), 2007; Women for Women International (Washington, DC), 2006; Partners In Health (Massachusetts), 2005; Heifer International (Arkansas), 2004; International Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (Denmark), 2003; SOS Children's Villages (Austria), 2002; St. Christopher's Hospice (United Kingdom), 2001; Casa Alianza (Costa Rica), 2000; African Medical and Research Foundation (Kenya), 1999; Doctors Without Borders (France), 1998; International Rescue Committee (New York), 1997; and Operation Smile (Virginia), 1996.

About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in five priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, caring for vulnerable children, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters. Following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$940 million in grants, distributing more than \$100 million in 2010. The Foundation's current assets are approximately \$2 billion. For more information, please visit www.hiltonfoundation.org.

Photos and Video

Video footage (and a shot list) and high-resolution photos of Handicap International's work are available upon request.

Please contact Lea Radick, Communications Officer, Handicap International U.S., if you are a member of the media and would like access to photos and video at: +1 (301) 891-3002 or lradick@handicap-international.us

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