



### Love In Action Since 1994

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**Cover** A family Partners visited in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh October 2022

# Dear friends,

As we look back at 2022, we are grateful for all that was accomplished with your support. Your generosity helped us reach more than half a million people during the year. This record number includes lives saved, families fed, children back in school, sick and injured healed, and so much more. You were instrumental in caring for them and we know they join us in being thankful for you.

This journal is an expression of thanks for your part in reaching this record number of people. As you look through it, I hope you can get a feel for the impact your contribution has made to many. Our goal is to see lives improved and it is because of you that we were able to impact more people in 2022 than ever before.

With this reflection of the past, we look forward confidently, knowing that the work of Partners will continue to help thousands suffering in some of the world's darkest and most difficult places. Thank you for going there with us.

Gratefully,

Rhat

Brad Hazlett President Partners Relief & Development

"...the work of Partners will continue to help thousands suffering in some of the world's darkest and most difficult places. Thank you for going there with us."

# The Earthquake 'A Crisis Within a Crisis'

## **A Wall of Fatalities**

"A wall in Syria has been covered with death," read a text from our team in Syria. The wall once used to post fatalities during the Covid pandemic is now used for lives lost in the earthquake and for families searching for loved ones.

Like much of the world, the tragic news from the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria captured our attention. Our staff in northern Iraq were abruptly woken in the early morning hours of February 6, as their buildings shook. When we heard of the widespread damage and loss of life, we immediately shifted resources to provide a rapid response.

# **A Long History**

Our work in war-torn Syria began back in 2016. During the past 7 years we have built strong partnerships and developed a thorough understanding of navigating the complexity of working in Syria. These strengths allowed us to respond within 12 hours of the earthquake. I heard a journalist describe the situation in Syria as a 'crisis within a crisis'. Their point was



that the civil war which has ravaged much of Syria has created an environment that isn't supportive of responding to this earthquake.

# This Is Our Lane

While others were prevented from initial access, we already had a team in the country to help those in need. Additionally, even though we had not previously worked in Turkey, our strong partnerships allowed us to have our own staff arrive on the ground and respond very quickly. As other organizations began to arrive in Turkey, we were able to easily shift our response to those in Syria, where there were greater needs. Responding quickly and concentrating on areas that are underserved are distinctives which continue to define Partners.



# A Child's Hope

Our team met one young Syrian girl who had lost her family during the Syrian war. She had been living with her grandparents as refugees in Hatay, Turkey where they thought she would be safe and have a normal childhood, away from the fighting in their home country. In an instant her secure world came crashing down when the earthquake struck their building, burying her grandparents beneath the rubble. Bravely, she managed to escape before the building collapsed. Now she is left with no other known relatives to care for her, thrust into a crisis alone. Yet through it all "she still has the purest smile on her face," our team member relayed, "a childish hope

for a better future, trying to find shelter in these dark days."

Another child, a little fouryear-old boy, was injured in the earthquake and needed our help. He was treated for his injuries in our mobile hospital and told how he was afraid during the earthquake. He told our team how rocks fell on him, and the "noise was very loud". It's for children like Makin that we continue our work bringing hope and love in some of the world's most difficult places.

## Thank You

The magnitude of this disaster is beyond comprehension. Too many broken lives. Too many children left parentless. Too many left homeless. Too many already displaced by war who are now separated by permanent loss. Together, with you, we can make it possible for children and their families to receive help and hope.





# **Little Girl In Red**

"I'm only 8 years old. My friends and I don't have jobs or food. That's why we go through the collapsed buildings to collect things that are light enough for us to carry. We find pieces to sell, but adults sometimes take them from us.

We are hungry... cold and frustrated."

March 2023 Northwest Syria



SCAN TO VIEW THE IMPACT YOUR GENEROSITY HAD ON OUR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS

# Go with us. Stay with us.

Two women from the Partners team regularly visit this migrant village on the Thai-Myanmar border. On this particular day, they performed a postnatal checkup for this mother and baby. Because love acts. Again and again.

> This is how we work. We'd love you to join us.

Go.

Make a **one-time gift** that enables our team to bring help and hope to the frontlines of conflict zones.



Stay



Join our **monthly giving community** who are committed to being the wellspring of our work until our vision is fulfilled.





Alia and Tatiana, Ukraine

WATCH AND SEE

THE IMPACT OF YOUR RESPONSE

# Ukraine Update

### **Within Six Days**

Within six days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, our team was travelling to the border of Ukraine where we crossed and headed north to the very edge of the conflict, This began a months-long emergency efforts, filling the needs of thousands that were fleeing their homes and hiding for their lives. Distributing food and medications, and facilitating evacuations; we were spurred on by networks of local volunteers who had chosen not to flee, and instead, remained to do what they could to help their people.



# **Five Months Later**

As the fighting wore on and battle lines stagnated, larger organizations arrived, bringing significant resources. That signaled to us that our work was nearing completion. We filled the gap between the start of the conflict and the arrival of large-scale assistance. Thank you for all you did, as a see-a-need, fill-a-need community. We worked together to help thousands of displaced and conflict-affected families who might have otherwise been unnoticed in the first few turbulent months of war.

# **Going To Myanmar**

**Dangerous Journey** 

By Chaung Klane and Thaw Shee Wah

## Reflections

Last year we got a chance to visit our teams in Karen State. Getting to our team was difficult, because the fighting was still going on in Karen State. On our way we saw young girls and

boys serving in the military. They are supposed to be in school, but when the country is not safe for them, that is the only thing they can do to protect themselves.





**CONTRIBUTE TO OUR EFFORTS IN MYANMAR** 

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The day that we arrived, we heard about people we knew who had lost their family members from the fighting. It broke my heart. We knew that it was not easy, or safe, for us to go there, but we went anyway to help our people and love them.

### **Getting There**

To reach our destination, we needed to travel by boat. During the long boat ride in the fastflowing river, I felt a bit scared of the waterway. At one point, after heavy rain, our boat had to avoid floating logs and piles of trash that had washed into the river. I also worried and kept an eye on the sky for Myanmar military airplanes. I was aware that if the weather was good enough for them to fly, they could drop bombs in our area. Then we traveled by truck for hours through mountainous terrain with steep inclines, declines, and winding unpaved roads.

### **Our Friends**

Villagers have lived in constant fear and insecurity. Due to the lack of access to medical care, some children have died, such as the daughter of Partners Village Health Worker (VHW), Saw Ker Der. He was unable to take his daughter to the clinic because the Myanmar military had encamped around their village, and they were hiding in the forest.

An 80-year-old man fell unconscious while fleeing, and an old woman starved for four days after being accidentally left behind when her family and other villagers fled.

Another VHW, Naw Marry Htoo, 41 years old, shared with me how Myanmar soldiers camped at her house. Fortunately, she and her family were able to hide in the jungle for a week. When she returned home with her family, she found her belongings scattered and messy. Her little boy asked her "Mommy, why are the Myanmar soldiers doing this to us, killing our animals, taking our new blankets away, destroying our things, and leaving our house so messy? We did not do anything to them, why did they do all these things to us"?

I did not ask her what she replied to her son, but I wanted to cry because I felt so sorry for her boy. As a mother, it was heartbreaking to see how innocent children are affected by the violent acts of war.



# Impactful Love.

There is power in what we do individually, like **Scott**, who drummed for six hours and raised over \$9,000; watch the video with the code below.

There is also so much power in this collective community, testified by our carefully documented **Impact Report**.

This year love took us to families hiding from war, and to others mourning the loss of loved ones outside their collapsed homes. Thank you for going with us for staying - and for believing; to love is to act.



WATCH SCOTT'S STORY

# 8 countries. 32 projects. 507,747 assisted.

Every year it's a joy showing you how much good we did. Together.

Find the full 2022 Impact Report at impact.partners.ngo



FOR NUMBERS AND FACTS -SCAN THIS CODE

Impactful Love



partners.ngo