

# Partners Relief & Development

# annual report

2023



**In 2023**, amidst challenges we would rather forget, such as the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Myanmar Army's brutal actions displacing many thousands of innocent civilians, and the ongoing struggles faced by the Rohingya in Rakhine State, **you provided remarkable generosity and impact.**

You made it possible for our team to assist a record number of **more than 700,000 people** swiftly and effectively. Within just 12 hours of the Turkey-Syria earthquake, life-saving aid and food reached those in need, because of your commitment to immediate action in times of crisis. Furthermore, your willingness to reach remote and difficult-to-access areas demonstrated solidarity with communities enduring profound hardships, offering them not just assistance but also a sense of recognition and value.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your invaluable contributions towards **feeding families, ensuring children's access to education, delivering healthcare to the vulnerable, empowering communities** to address their specific needs, and ultimately granting more children the chance to lead fulfilling, unrestricted lives.

Your support has made a significant difference in the lives of many, and we deeply appreciate your ongoing commitment and generosity.

As you read through this report, I hope you see it for what it really is, a heartfelt thank you for all you helped us accomplish in 2023.



Brad Hazlett  
CEO, Partners Relief & Development

Photos: Children in Mae La Refugee Camp, Thailand (cover), an infant sits playfully in a hide site in Karen State, Myanmar (right).

*Free, full lives for children  
affected by conflict and  
oppression.*

**This is the vision.**

Ensuring children and  
communities affected by  
conflict and oppression are  
*safe, healthy, and have  
access to education.*

**This is the mission.**





**7**  
countries.

**33**  
projects.

**711,649**  
people assisted.



**Bangladesh**  
14,724 assisted.

**Myanmar**  
186,463 assisted.

**Thailand**  
5,356 assisted.

**Southeast Asia**

\*Partners Relief & Development Canada is unable to join the Partners team in working in Syria due to Government of Canada sanctions on humanitarian assistance in Syria, an exemption permit is being sought.

**Turkey**  
13,847 assisted.


**Iraq**  
1,899 assisted.

**Syria\***  
187,933 assisted.

**Yemen**  
301,407 assisted.

**Middle East**





We act by providing **emergency relief** during acute crisis events and by working with communities of displaced families to design **sustainable development** initiatives that transform community wellbeing, improve health and education, and provide a nurturing environment for children.

**These are  
the methods.**



Because there is often a gap between the onset of a crisis and the arrival of relief from larger aid organizations, we've made it our mission to respond swiftly to meet families and children in the middle of the worst moments of their lives. We witnessed this during the early stages of the response to the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, where **we were able to be on the ground within 12 hours of the disaster.**

But sometimes, political complexities and restricted access mean that help from larger organizations never arrives. This we saw too in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar and in other areas where **children displaced by conflict were trapped far beyond the reach of major relief groups.** For these communities who are at the end of the line, we work hard to ensure they aren't forgotten.

Our ability to both fill the gap and go beyond the end of the road stems from our autonomy, agility, and clear understanding of the **lane in which we run.**

## Emergency Relief



**357,018**

kilograms of food assistance were provided.



**3,930**


people were provided with some form of shelter, such as tarpaulins.



**106,320**

people were given access to medication.



A man in a blue t-shirt and green pants is carrying a large, heavy sack of food wrapped in blue and white striped plastic. He is standing inside a rustic hut with a thatched roof made of dried palm leaves. The interior of the hut is cluttered with various items, including another sack and some wooden poles. The lighting is natural, coming from an opening in the hut, creating a warm and somewhat dim atmosphere.

*“We are very happy that you brought all this nutritious food for us. Nothing can compare to receiving the thing you need most at the right time.”*

*Kai Ling, Myanmar*





*“As the village leader, on behalf of the villagers, I am so thankful to your organization.”*

*Mohib, Myanmar*



# Reaching the Rohingya

*Access to the Rohingya communities we've been working alongside near Sittwe, Myanmar has always been challenging.*

The coup in February 2021 only made it harder. Then, on May 14th, one of the strongest storms to ever develop in the North Indian Ocean turned what was already a nightmare for our Rohingya friends into a catastrophe.

**“We didn’t get information that the flood would be that dangerous, we didn’t think that the storm was so powerful... When the storm began, and the wind howled, I realized that the cyclone was more powerful than I thought.”**

Rawfiq, who lives with his wife and two daughters in a village near Sittwe, decided to stay because he thought it would be difficult for other family members to house them. “Suddenly, the flood came into the village very quickly. Luckily, I swam and managed to get to the land, but **all of the clothes I was wearing and my belongings were washed away by the water.**”

His wife was washed away too. “I thought she had died.”

Thankfully, she was found alive a day and a half later. As the weather cleared and communications began to be restored, our team received photos showing scenes of total devastation. Almost every structure in the internment camps and surrounding villages Partners has been supporting was damaged or destroyed. **More than a hundred lost their lives. The needs were urgent and immense.**

So you moved quickly with us. While government officials worked to limit access to international aid organizations from responding, **our network of trusted local partners allowed us to be amongst the first on the ground to deliver food and shelter to desperate families.**

Mohib, a village leader who was also impacted by the cyclone, shared with us, “Before, we were supported by Partners with a water well, toilets and rice. We received a lot of support. Now, after the cyclone, Partners is the first organization to help us. As the village leader, on behalf of the villagers, I am so thankful to your organization.”

This rapid response, fuelled by you, enabled around **19,325 people** like Rawfiq and Mohib to **receive food, rice, and shelter** when much of the world was blocked by a government determined to continue to turn a blind eye to the suffering of the Rohingya.

**This is the lane we run in.  
This is who we are.**



If free, full lives for children affected by conflict and oppression is our end goal, **sustainable development** is the vehicle in which we will, with collective action, arrive there.

Of course, development work in the context of active war zones is no easy task, as we saw particularly in Myanmar. But that hasn't stopped us coming alongside communities impacted by conflict to support the longer term needs they identify, which most often are restoring access to healthcare, education and training to create an environment where their children can flourish.

Ingrained in our approach is a desire to ensure that **every project we undertake is guided by the community and centers their voices**. This collaborative approach includes consultation with community leaders, site visits and support for the local economy throughout the process.

We were inspired by the power of partnership between you, our staff and local partners, and the communities in which we work to see more children benefiting from our development initiatives in 2023 amidst the critical relief work that conflicts continued to demand.

## Sustainable Development



**14,640**

children attended school or educational programs.



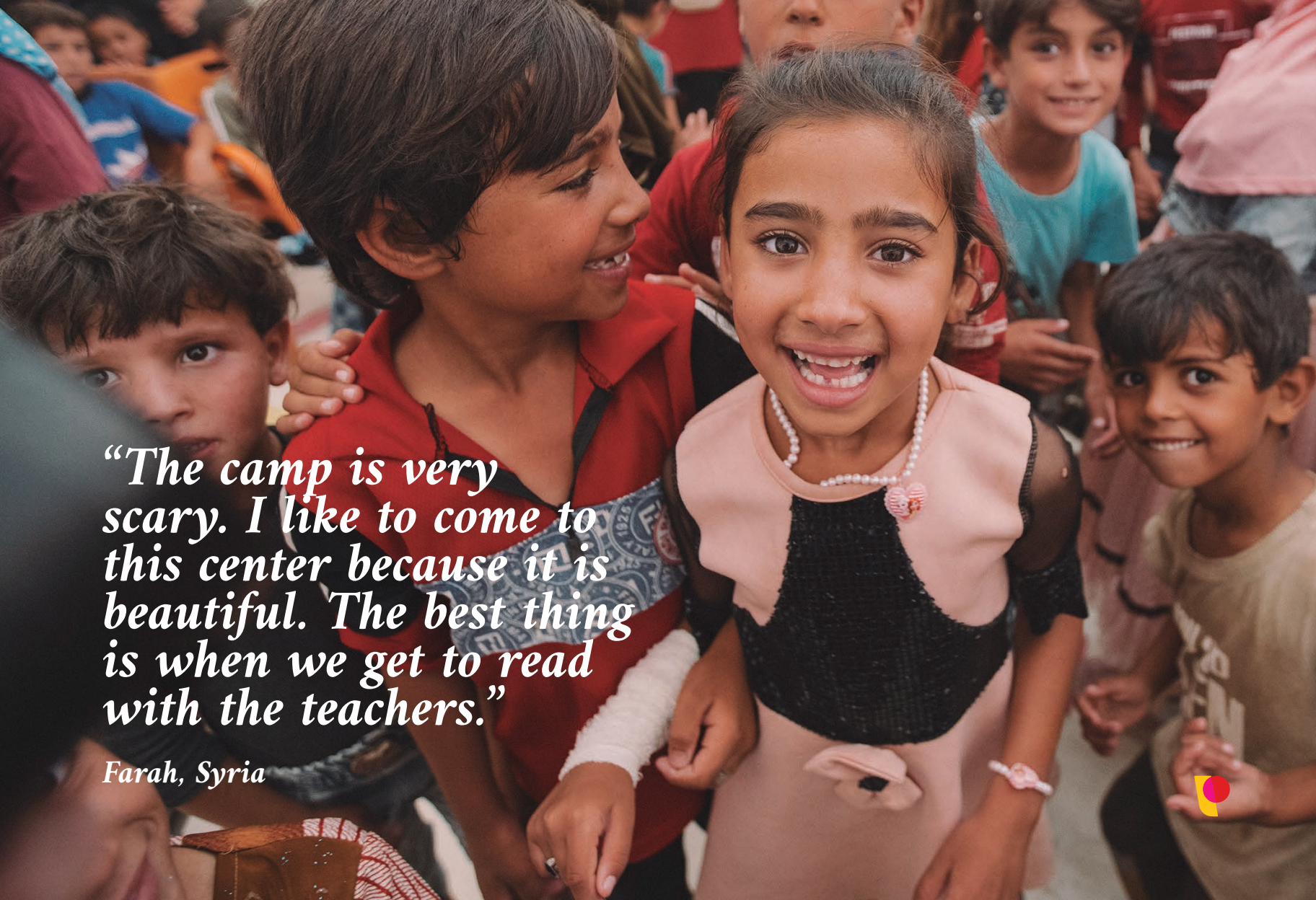
**113,141**

people were provided access to healthcare.



**3,518**


people received training to improve their well-being.

A group of children, likely in a camp, are gathered together. In the center, a young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink and black dress and a pearl necklace, is smiling broadly and looking towards the camera. To her left, a boy in a red shirt is looking at her. Other children are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting.

*“The camp is very scary. I like to come to this center because it is beautiful. The best thing is when we get to read with the teachers.”*

*Farah, Syria*



A photograph of a classroom filled with young women, likely students, sitting at wooden desks. They are wearing traditional Thai clothing, including white blouses with colorful patterns and pink or purple shawls. Many of them are looking down at their notebooks, writing with pens. The classroom has a simple, rustic appearance with wooden desks and chairs. The lighting is natural, coming from windows on the right side of the frame.

*“My hope is that after I finish school here, I can become a teacher. I want to help my people and teach my people. I am willing to help my community by becoming a good teacher or leader for my people.”*

*Naw Eh Dah Nay Htoo, Thailand*

## Safe Homes

*Kids affected by conflict shouldn't miss out on school because the grown-ups are fighting. The CARE project helped ensure that in 2023, 433 students like Naw Eh Dah Nay Htoo didn't have to.*

Every parent wants what is best for their children. To have a carefree and joy-filled childhood, to go to school and learn, and to grow up with every avenue available for them to pursue their dreams.

But if conflict arrives on their doorstep, **parents can be faced with a difficult decision. Keep their children close** by but at risk of attack and unable to go to school anymore, **or send them to safety** far away where they have a shot at continuing their studies uninterrupted by violence. It's a sacrifice many parents in Karen State, Myanmar have faced, including Naw Eh Dah Nay Htoo's.

"When I was in my village, we could hear the gun shots. I would always have to pack my things and run and hide. The enemy oppressed us and we weren't able to go to school. I love education, so I came here to continue my studies."

'Here' is Mae La, one of a number of refugee camps where for years, **Partners has supported the CARE project: community-based homes that provide a safe place for students** to lay their heads, nutritious food every day and the opportunity to pursue education in peace. A home-away-from-home while they study far from the fighting enveloping their village.

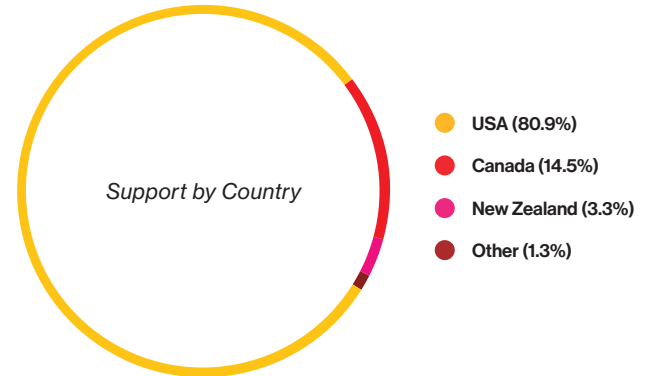
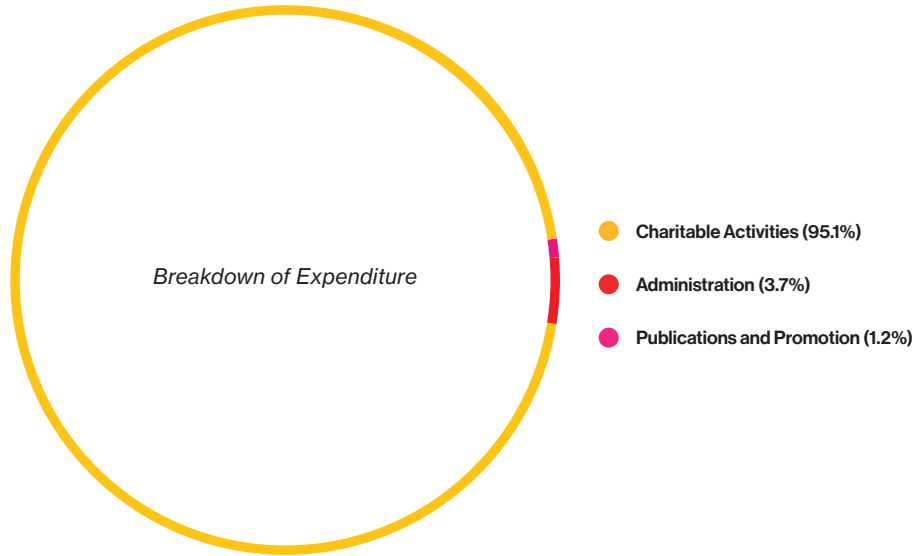
Because of the loving care provided by these homes, Naw Eh Dah Nay Htoo is able to attend the nearby school and learns about Karen history, language, and culture. It is an important part of how her community will hold on to its rich heritage and teach the next generation. Education equips youth and their families with knowledge and choices.

Photo: Students in Mae La Refugee Camp are able to continue their studies despite the conflict in their homeland.



## Stronger, together.

The stories and numbers of impact in this report are a result of the combined efforts of our fundraising offices in the USA, Canada and New Zealand, as well as supporters in other countries all around the world.



**\$665,000**

Income

**\$655,000**

Expenditure

**\$0.05**

Cost to raise \$1

**Your trust means everything to us**, so we want you to see how every dollar you entrusted to us was spent to help make our vision a reality for more children caught in the crossfire of conflict.

## Financials





## Board Members

Ernie Toews

Greg Toews

Hailey Carnegie

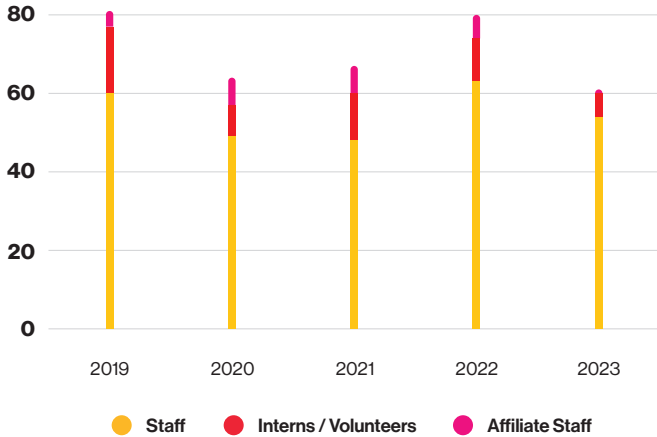
Roland Plett

Jacqueline Kassian



Partners Relief & Development Canada is a member of the Kentro Christian Network.

Staff Trends



# Teaching Generosity to the Next Generation.

**I have believed in Partners and its mission for the last 20 years.**

When Partners' founder, Steve, came to my church more than two decades ago and talked about the efforts they were putting into helping kids in Myanmar, I was so impressed. I walked away feeling like I had to partner with Partners! I didn't want to miss out on what God was doing.

I made the decision to do monthly donations to Partners and the miracle has been that **my heart followed my money** just like the scripture says.

Giving through Partners has really **helped me stay in touch with** what is happening in Myanmar and Syria and other **conflict zones around the world.** I love being a part of the team that is so willing to give and sacrifice.

Now my family has engaged with fundraising for Partners so **it has become a multigenerational blessing.**

Thank you,  
Dave

*A long-term supporter from Alaska.*



Photo: Dave's boys participated in a summer fishing fundraiser in Alaska, raising money for children living in conflict zones.

## Our Community

*“We love that Partners is an organization that seeks out those on the margins; where the needs are the greatest, the work is difficult, and where Christ is uniquely present.”*

*Incarnation Anglican Church Leadership, Virginia*



**YOU can be  
a Neighbor.**

Easily. Automatically.  
Monthly. In whatever  
amount that suits your  
budget. **Your love will  
keep good going to  
children in warzones.**

**Welcome to the  
Neighborhood!**



Scan the QR code or visit  
[neighbor.partners.ngo](https://neighbor.partners.ngo)



**Partners Relief & Development Canada**

Email: [info@ca.partners.ngo](mailto:info@ca.partners.ngo)

Phone: 403 538 2870

33130 Springbank Road

Calgary, AB T3Z 2L9

[www.partners.ngo/ca](http://www.partners.ngo/ca)



Featured in 2023

