

A young girl with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a red t-shirt and a blue skirt, stands in a window frame. She has colorful face paint on her cheeks and is smiling. The background is a light blue wall with a wooden window frame.

Partners Relief & Development

2024 Annual Report

This past year, the number of children bearing the weight of war may have reached heartbreaking new heights—but so did your determination to stand beside them.

In places like Myanmar, where violence and displacement continue to uproot entire communities, the need can feel overwhelming. Record numbers of people are homeless and hiding in the jungle because of increased attacks by the military. The headlines alone are enough to make anyone feel powerless. But not you. In Syria, thousands of families fled increased violence brought on by regime change. And you were there. In the places where we work, **instead of turning away, you leaned in and rolled up your sleeves with us, determined not to let conflict have the final say in the lives of thousands of children.** You were part of delivering hope.

I saw this hope in action in December, as we responded to the mass displacement of families from Northwest Syria. Throughout the years I have personally witnessed

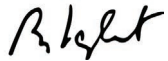
situations where desperate parents have no choice but to flee, carrying only what they can manage in a moment of crisis. This is what I encountered again last December in Syria. As I listened to their stories, it became clear that for so many, **the only thing they could carry was their children.** The rest – their homes, their belongings, their past – left behind. The cold winter temperatures made the situation even more critical as families resorted to burning plastic to stay warm. **The smell in the air told a story of desperation.** You were there as together we delivered heaters and blankets to those in need. One more example of **love in action, hope instead of desperation, blankets and heaters in the cold.**

Today in Myanmar and the Middle East, children are in school, well-fed, and in good health **because you chose to respond**. With kindness. With generosity. Helping kids live their lives to the fullest is who we are. It's what we work toward. Let's continue to celebrate together as we see it become a reality.

As you flip through the pages of this report— reviewing the numbers, reading the stories, and seeing the impact—we hope you get a picture of the scope of your kindness and feel the same deep joy we do. These aren't just numbers. They are lives. And futures. And every one of them is brighter because you chose to act.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for choosing love in the face of hardship. And thank you for believing with us that every child deserves a chance to flourish—no matter what.

With deep gratitude,



Brad Hazlett
CEO



A photograph of two women standing outdoors in front of a tree. The woman in the background is older, with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white lace top and a red necklace. The woman in the foreground is younger, wearing a red and black plaid shirt over an orange top. Both are smiling slightly. The background is a blurred green tree with some orange flowers.

8

countries.

32

projects.

546,943

people assisted.

MAE SOT, THAILAND

For over 30 years, Partners has walked alongside the people of Myanmar. Violence has forced many to flee to Thailand and Bangladesh, leaving them without citizenship, proper paperwork, or a recognized education. **That's the reason we are there, on the ground, working with you.**

*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.

Syria*
58,717 assisted.

Iraq
1,571 assisted.

Afghanistan
50 assisted.

Gaza Strip
104,068 assisted.

Yemen
301,329 assisted.

Bangladesh
15,319 assisted.

Myanmar
61,549 assisted.

Thailand
4,340 assisted.

Going To The Hard To Reach Places.

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 affected by war and conflict, reaching them in the middle of the worst moments of their lives.

Sometimes, political complexities and restricted access mean that help from larger organizations never arrives. Children become displaced by conflict and are 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



443,307

kilograms of food assistance was provided to communities struggling with food shortages due to conflict and oppression.



7,069

people were provided protection from the elements through rebuilt shelters, blankets, bedding and heaters.



353,500

people were provided with access to clean water through water deliveries and the installation of a solar-powered water well.



NORTHEAST SYRIA
As the Assad regime fell, a new wave of violence and oppression began, pushing families from their farms and communities. Our team responded by providing hundreds of families in Derik and Qamishli with heaters, mattresses, and blankets.



Northeast Syria Relief

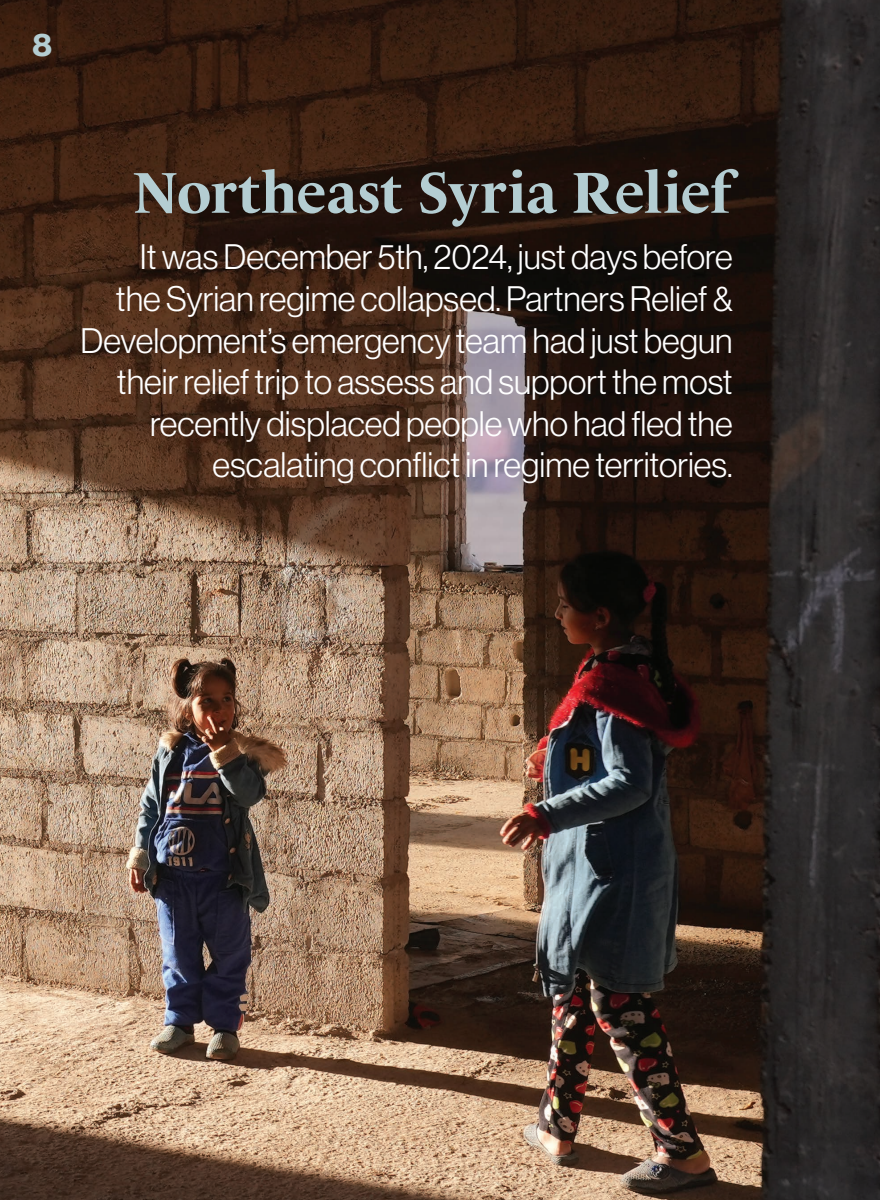
It was December 5th, 2024, just days before the Syrian regime collapsed. Partners Relief & Development's emergency team had just begun their relief trip to assess and support the most recently displaced people who had fled the escalating conflict in regime territories.

Our team has a deep connection with this region, having been on the ground in Syria and Iraq since coalition forces began fighting ISIS back in 2016, so we've come to anticipate the grim realities of emergency crises here.

And our generous community of supporters have always stood faithfully with us as we work to help and support vulnerable families caught in the crossfire, united by a strong desire to put love into action far from the comfort of home.

But this time, the situation was different. It was the end of the financial year, and international and local non-government organizations (NGOs) were facing severe funding shortages. As a result, **support within Syria had plummeted to an all-time low.** This coincided with the regime's collapse and the withdrawal of large-scale international NGOs due to heightened security risks. Suddenly, only a handful of organizations remained to help in what was an overwhelming ocean of need.

The newly displaced people faced an immediate battle against cold days and freezing nights.



Without adequate heating, blankets, or proper shelter, **families were forced to sleep in the open air.** The fortunate few found refuge in schools, quickly converted into makeshift shelters, though most lacked any heating. “Shelter” itself took on a desperate meaning. Demand far surpassed supply, with no space to accommodate everyone. Emergency camps filled first with polyester and nylon tents, then concrete-walled, marble-floored schools became overcrowded. People began sleeping in the streets, waiting for a place to go. Soon, abandoned, semi-constructed buildings with no windows, no doors, no toilets, no electricity and no running water, became the only option, offering little more than concrete floors and cinderblock walls to protect them from freezing winds and ice-cold rain.

Without the local communities and NGOs coming together, countless displaced people and families would have suffered immensely in the months that followed. We were there, ensuring people were heard, cared for, and safe. **Thanks to your unwavering support, we were able to provide mattresses, blankets, food, water, and shelter** to thousands of families forced to flee their homes during the coldest months of the year. Seemingly small drops in the vast ocean of needs, but deeply meaningful to each person who was met with loving support.

We never forget them, and we are here to stay. Over half a year has passed since the regime's collapse, and the needs remain immense. But our commitment to helping families in need has never wavered. **We are still there, making a difference, all thanks to you.**



14,800,000

displaced people globally are school-aged, with 51% estimated to be out of school.

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, but that hasn't stopped us from 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 2024, even amidst the critical relief work that conflicts continued to demand.

Sustainable Development



13,269

children were supported through a range of education initiatives designed to see them reach their full potential despite the effects of war.



89,294

people received some form of healthcare assistance in locations where access to health services is limited or non-existent.



9,242

people were empowered by community-strengthening initiatives that emphasize their ability to find solutions to long-term challenges from within.



COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

At this monthly pop-up clinic, 292 people received free health checks and medicine, offering them the hope of healing. You also provided infant nutrition packs for 100 babies, assuring them of full bellies.

Healers in Rural Shan State

What's better than sending well-trained, loving, caring medics to children who are hard to reach? We think it's training local community members to be those kinds of medics.

Training happens at a learning center in rural Shan State, and each year, brave young men and women are trained—**Community Health Worker, Medic 1 and Medic 2 training**—and are sent out into remote and difficult places to be love-with-action!

Medics like Sai Zin Leng.

Sai Zin Leng is 26 years old and the medic in charge of one of the Shan State clinics. During his early childhood, his family was forced to flee his village due to war. It was five years before the family was able to return to their village.

As he was needed to help on the farm, he was not able to attend school. At the age of 13, he was able to study with the monks at the temple, a common avenue for young boys to receive education.



But this education was limited and he received few other opportunities to study. Sai Zin Leng became discouraged as he realized he was so far behind in his education. He felt that he did not have the English and Shan language skills he needed, and reading and writing were also difficult for him. **Despite these challenges, he kept looking for ways to improve his education.**

His keen desire to learn finally led him to come to the medic training in 2015. With very little schooling, academic work was a struggle. But friends helped, Sai Zin Leng worked hard, and he graduated successfully. He has an insatiable love of learning, a strong determination, and deep empathy for his patients.

Working for a year in the clinic at the training center made him confident in his skills. He was then selected to attend Medic 2 training. **After doing well in the program, he went to Shan State and has been in charge of clinics ever since.**

When asked why he stays when so many others leave, Sai Zin Leng shared that he strongly feels that the country's people have no one to help them, and they struggle to understand how to be healthy. This commitment to the clinics has come with a huge cost, which is shared by many other medics. **Because his village is now under the control of the opposing**

armies he cannot go back, or his family will be persecuted.

Working is difficult. Although he no longer struggles academically, he sometimes has feelings of hopelessness because the fighting might suddenly take away all the health gains that his hard work has brought. There are few other educated medics and few resources such as medication, especially for the children. The departure of many doctors following the coup resulted in a drastic decline in support from the health system. **There are also ongoing daily concerns about security.** The Myanmar Military is less of a threat in this area, but the opposing armies are a new problem.

The clinic staff are prepared to flee at a moment's notice, with their personal belongings and emergency medical supplies packed in backpacks and at the ready. In the face of all of these difficulties and personal sacrifices, **Sai Zin Leng shows up with selfless love to make sure that kids in Shan State have a chance to be healthy—and receive treatment when they're not.**



MAE SOT, THAILAND

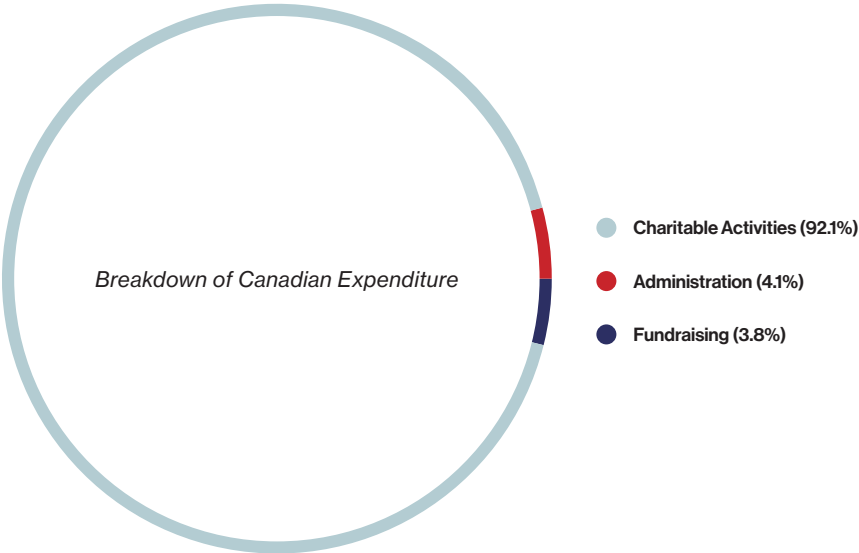
Livelihood training transforms lives, families, and communities. Many migrant women work in, or have been trained through, the Partners sewing centers. Learning a profitable life-skill can give choice to women and families; they can come out from under oppression, care for their children, and support their extended families who may still be in areas where there is fighting, lack of resources, and great suffering.



CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

SEED Learning Center offers students living as migrants in Thailand a chance to learn English, Math, and other subjects that open pathways to higher education. Students eagerly attend these evening classes, even though many have worked all day or traveled a significant distance.





\$650,000

Income

\$606,000

Expenditure

\$0.04

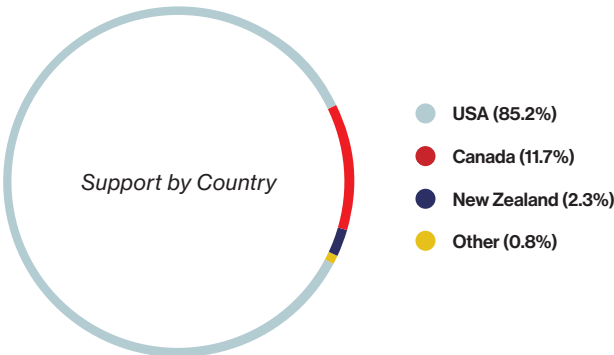
Cost to raise \$1

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

The power of partnership.

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 around the world.



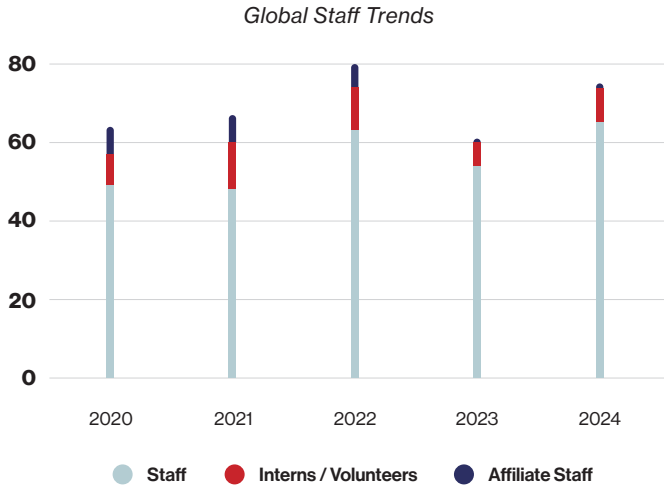
Board Members

Ernie Toews
Greg Toews
Hailey Carnegie

Roland Plett
Jacqueline Kassian



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



KRITSANA is our Mae Sot Office Manager in Thailand. She is a long-serving and much-loved member of our team, always overflowing with kindness and unwavering joy.



Bucket Brigade

Standing together, passing the bucket, and shared sacrifice—that's how a 30-year movement of love is built.

We were never meant to go it alone. Not one volunteer, not one recurring donor, but a community. Imagine an apartment building on fire, and one compassionate soul running from their kitchen sink to the blazing inferno, alone, one sloshing bucket at a time.

This community stands together, spread out, moving relief at a pace and efficiency none of us could achieve solo.

Community

Last November, a group of compassionate people in Calgary did exactly this! They gathered for Partners Canada's first ever gala and raised \$40,000 to support children in war zones. **Because collectively - love brings relief and education to children - no matter their situation.**

This is how it works. It is a collaborative, human-powered, love-in-action bucket brigade.





KAREN STATE, MYANMAR

A woman's peaceful act of thatching a roof stands in stark contrast to the constant threat of Myanmar Military airstrikes facing her village.

You can help families mend.

Families are forced to flee - and mend - over and over again. You can share the weight of their struggle with a monthly donation that will **keep good going** to children growing up in places of war and violence.

Welcome to the Neighborhood.



Scan the QR code or visit
www.partners.ngo/ca



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