



**Partners**  
Relief & Development

## Love In Action Since 1994

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**Cover**  
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Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh  
October 2022

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## 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,



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.”**

Responding to the Turkey/Syria Earthquake, February 2023





**Love in  
Action**  
Since 1994

# 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 four-year-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**



Alia and Tatiana, Ukraine

**WATCH AND SEE  
THE IMPACT OF  
YOUR RESPONSE**

# Ukraine Update

## The Conclusion

### 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 effort, 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. 🇺🇦

# Five People

## From the Forgotten War in Myanmar

**These are the stories of 5 people caught in the crossfire of a conflict that the world seems to have ignored. But you haven't.**

At the 51st conference of the UN Human Rights Council in September last year, the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, Tom Andrews, posed the question: “When Ukraine was invaded, it took the United Nations just a matter of days to take extraordinary action. So the question is, why can't this happen with respect to the atrocities that are being placed upon the people of Myanmar? Why not Myanmar?”

It's a question our team has asked over and over again since our work on the Thai-Myanmar border began almost 30 years ago. And it's a question that you have been asking with us. But more importantly than asking why, you've gone further and asked “so what can I do right now?” These stories are the result of you doing more than just talking about the situation in Myanmar, but putting love into action.

### **1. In Kachin State**

73 year-old Zingtung Lu told us, “I used to think that I would not have to flee before I died, but now I am here in this IDP camp with my family.” Vicious fighting between the Myanmar Army and Kachin Independence Army has left over 94,000 people displaced from their homes.



Photo: Zingtung Lu with one of her grandchildren in an IDP camp in Kachin State.

So you've been delivering food to hundreds of families like hers. "I have joyful tears in my eyes. My grandchildren will eat well for a long time with your support."

## **2. In Chin State**

On the India-Myanmar border, 45 year-old Lone shared, "Everything changed since the military bombed and opened fire on our area. We had to flee to the jungle and struggled to find shelter and enough food for our family's daily needs." Just last year, 885 families displaced from their homes in Chin State received food and hygiene

...

Photos: Delivery of relief supplies to IDPs living under a monastery in Shan State.

supplies because you decided to respond. “The food items given to us will enable us to live without hunger for 4-5 weeks at least. This gives us a mental peace for almost a month.” To a parent, that peace means everything.

### 3. In Karen State

Naw Paw Dai Nya told us of the hardships of their journey fleeing a Myanmar Army attack. “Even though someone provided us with a tarp, we still couldn’t sleep well for 3 to 4 nights on the way. We had problems with cooking because it was raining a lot and we could not find dry wood for cooking.” Your love reached 148,251 people in situations like hers with rice, medicine, shelter, clothes and educational supplies. Like so many of the people our team meet, Naw Paw Dai Nya shared her sense of gratitude for each of you in this community. “I would like to thank God and



those who helped us with tarps, food and medicine.” We’re grateful too.

### 4. In Rakhine State

Mohammed, 40, tells us of the increasing hardship Rohingya in his village face. “We must inform the authorities near the port before we go out for fishing and pay to get permission. But after the coup, they charged more money.” With fuel costs



also increasing, some days it costs more to fish than they can earn. And with no clinic or hospital in their village, children often suffer from preventable illnesses. But the toilets and wells you've helped install, alongside hygiene trainings in the community, is helping address this. "I believe that this could reduce the rate of hygiene-related disease in the village."

### **5. In Shan State**

Our team met with Shan and Karenni IDPs who told us it was the first time that they have faced a battle in their life. First they heard an explosion from bombs and gunshots in the evening. Scared, they fled to 22 different places, taking nothing with them. Your love reached them in a monastery where they found refuge. There, because of you, they received food, hygiene items, mosquito nets, pots and pans, and nutrition packages. "Enough to support our basic needs for the month," they shared with us. But their main hope? "If it's possible, we want to be back home."

They are the why that keeps us asking, "what can we do to help right now?" World leaders may be debating what the appropriate response is to what's happening in Myanmar, but this community is right there, right now, meeting these families and doing all we can to make sure their children don't continue to suffer just because the adults are fighting. 🍌

# These are their stories.

**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](https://impact.partners.ngo)**



**FOR NUMBERS  
AND FACTS - SCAN  
THIS CODE**

Photo: A group of children congregating together, displaced due to the large earthquake that struck on February 6th, 2023.

# When is it time to start something new?

*Great question.*

It starts with felt needs direct from the community - and ends with free, full lives.

**Rohingya children need access to education:** Displacement and discrimination have brought significant education gaps for Rohingya children. Because we want to see a better future for them, we worked alongside Rohingya communities to find the gaps. It turned out that many teachers weren't equipped to teach, and mothers did not have the educational background to help their children learn at home.

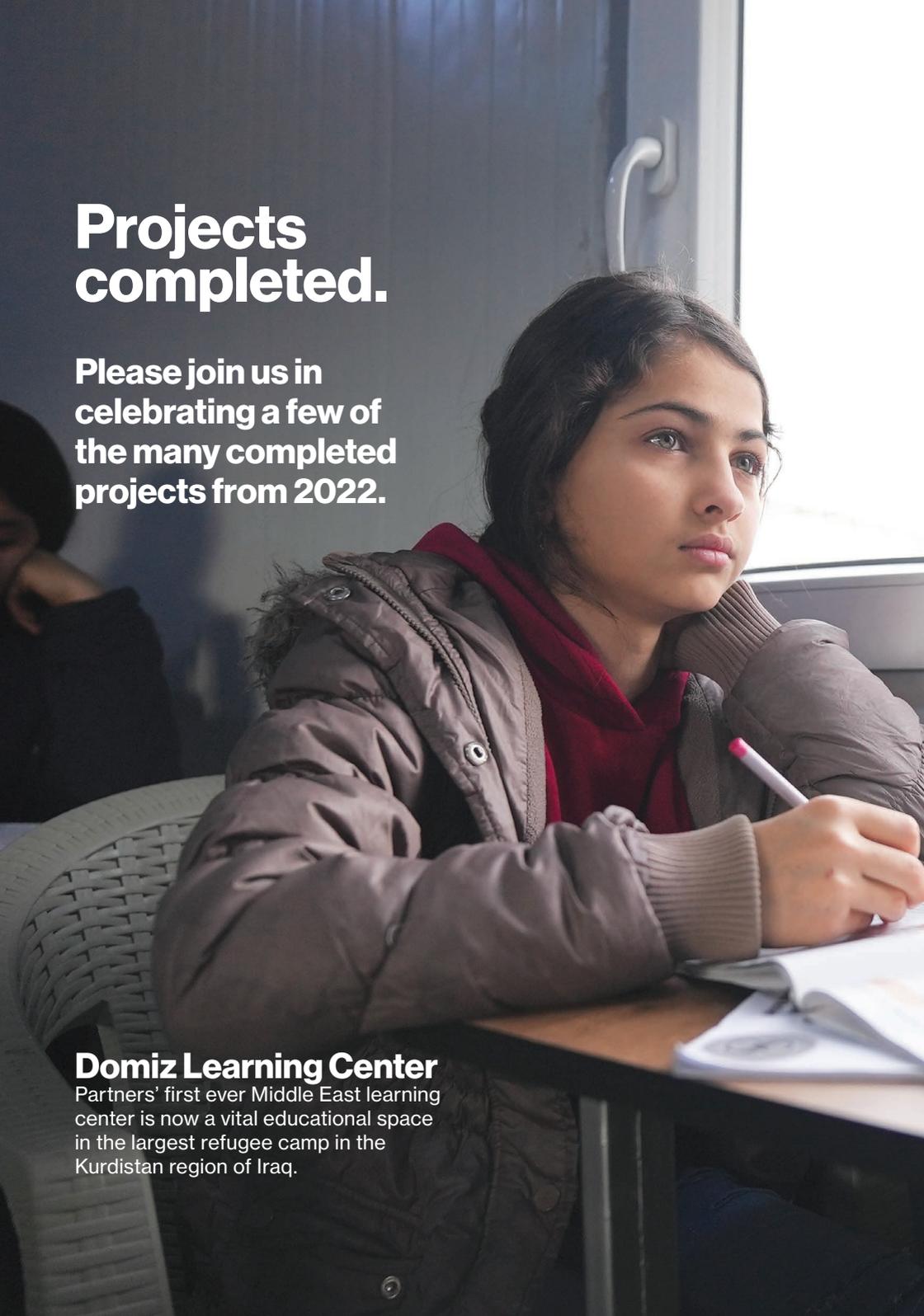
## **Introducing the new Women's Education Center.**

Through this program, young mothers with multiple children are given access to an exceptional and seasoned secondary teacher - where for two hours each day - six days a week - they are taught how to teach their children Burmese, English, and Mathematics.

**Now, mothers are enriched with new skills and knowledge that they can use to support their children's learning, care for their families, and strengthen their community.**

**“This program makes me happy - to see how mothers love to learn. They are proud of being able to read and write.”**

**Hlaing, Rohingya Program Manager**



# Projects completed.

Please join us in celebrating a few of the many completed projects from 2022.

## **Domiz Learning Center**

Partners' first ever Middle East learning center is now a vital educational space in the largest refugee camp in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

## Water Pipeline

Banding together through community development training run by Partners Kachin staff member, this community completed the installation of a water pipeline to provide 732 people access to clean water.



## Derabasiyah Clinic

For roughly 100,000 people, we supported an elevator to go with the emergency room addition we built in 2021. Now all kids from the surrounding area in Northeast Syria can access quality medical care.



## Deep Water Well

Rohingya families traveled an hour before the completion of this deep water well that now brings fresh water straight to their neighborhood.



Northwest Syria Jandaris Internally Displaced Peoples Camp, March 2023





# **In First Person**

**Our Friends and  
Team Members  
Tell Their Stories**

# Madina

## Surviving a Genocide

### ISIS Attacked

I woke up in a panic, to the sounds of gunshots and screaming, as ISIS attacked our village early in the morning on August 3rd, 2014. I remember it so clearly. It was 2 o'clock in the morning, still dark. Anyone that had a gun was fighting to protect their family and community from the Islamic State. The fighting lasted until 6 a.m. That's when everyone ran out of bullets. But not ISIS. They were getting closer to us, the sound of gunfire growing more and more intense by the second. You could feel the shockwaves hitting your chest like a punch.

### We Fled

The community leaders made the decision that everyone should flee. We couldn't hold them back and we lost so many members of our community during the battle. My husband



and I grabbed our children within a second and left the house. We didn't have time to take anything else, we had to run! The sun was already beating down on us at this point. We had no shoes, so the ground was burning the soles of our feet with every step. We had to make our way to Sinjar City. It was our only hope to find a vehicle.

We reached Sinjar City just south of the mountain. A man with a pickup truck offered to drive my family and others up the mountain to seek refuge. ISIS couldn't reach us from there, it was the safest option at the time. After an hour of driving up the torturous winding road,

**WARNING: THIS STORY IS A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF THE YAZIDI GENOCIDE AT SINJAR MOUNTAIN IN 2014. IT IS GRAPHIC IN NATURE.**

**“My husband and I grabbed our children within a second and left the house. We didn’t have time to take anything else, we had to run! The sun was already beating down on us at this point. We had no shoes, so the ground was burning the soles of our feet with every step.”**

we came across a shelter on the northern side of the mountain. It was quiet, we were the only ones there but we took time to rest and drink water so that we could think rationally. We had to protect our children at all costs. It didn’t take long until we heard fighting on the north side. It was ISIS. They had surrounded us and they were only getting closer. My husband and I realized that we were now stuck on the mountain waiting for our fate. We made the decision that we had to move on and find a way down the mountain before it was too late. While we were walking, we came across a vehicle carrying another family. We asked them if they were trying to get down the mountain. They said yes and told us to

jump in. We warned them that ISIS was on the north and south side of the mountain. There are few roads going down, so our choices were limited.

### **Surviving**

We spent nine sleepless nights up on Sinjar Mountain, waiting to be hunted down. We had no food up there. The men would take turns climbing down the mountain and sneaking into the villages and farms to find food for us to eat. Sometimes the men came back, but many were less fortunate.

It became too much for us on the 10th day. We were starving and suffering from sleep deprivation. There was no way we could spend another day up in the mountain, the sun

...

constantly beating down on us while we hid among the rocks. It was a decision everyone agreed on. We had to climb down; we were desperate. It took us the whole day to walk across the mountain under the blistering sun. We were very weak at this point, but fortunately we came across an old Yazidi temple known as Mzar Shybi Qasm. We took refuge there for the night.

Sunrise hit and that was our time to move. We started descending down the mountain, constantly hiding behind anything that would protect us from being spotted or shot. We knew ISIS was watching the mountain but we had no idea if they were watching us. To our own surprise we reached the bottom of Sinjar mountain safely.

### **Horrors of Survival**

It was 10 miles straight to the Syrian border from where we were. My whole family was still barefoot at the time, my husband and I taking turns carrying our children through

the hot dusty desert. I saw so much horror throughout those 10 miles; innocent people dead on the side of the road, people burned within their homes, the screaming of desperate women and children begging for water as they slowly died of thirst. I felt so helpless. There was nothing I could do apart from moving forward one step at a time until my children were safe. I can still to this day hear their screams when I sleep.

We crossed the border into Syria where we were given food and water. Spending the night there was the first time I managed to sleep since ISIS had attacked us. My body ached from head to toe but we were finally safe. In the morning we were told to jump onto a truck. The vehicle drove us to Duhok in the Kurdish territory of Iraq and we arrived at a disused school. We stayed there for a while until the construction of Sharya Camp was completed.

### **A Camp is Not Home**

There is a big difference

between living in Sinjar and here in the camp. In Sinjar, we were close to our families, parents and community. We would have fun all the time. It was eventful and we supported one another. It's not like that anymore. I have lost my home once again, not because of war but because of carelessness and selfishness. No one in the camp has supported me. If this were back in Sinjar, the community would come together to support me and my children. After seeing everything throughout the war and going through the trauma

of the fire [that recently tore through the camp], I wonder how we didn't go crazy, how did we not lose our minds...

### **What Now?**

My dad and uncle have been missing since the ISIS occupation, leaving me with no support. My husband left me and the kids when I was pregnant with my youngest child. I see him around the camp sometimes with his new family, but he doesn't care about us at all. I am a mother and a father to my kids; I love them deeply but I constantly stress about their safety. Life was a lot easier when my husband was still with us. ISIS invaded us, captured us, killed us and massacred us. Still the corpses of the innocent are buried under the dust waiting to be found. 📍❤️



# 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.



# Trauma Care in Iraq

## Inhalation of Hope

We are Yazidi, and we have been suffering and struggling to save our identity for many years. We have experienced all kinds of torture in life: loss, despair, kidnapping, genocide, broken desires; losing land, history, culture, language, and more.

The last genocide was in 2014 by ISIS. Militants attacked Sinjar Mountain and **killed over five thousand innocent people, kidnapped over six thousand women and children, used women for sex slaves, and brainwashed the children**, training them how to use weapons. There are no families among the Yazidi community who have not lost someone whom they loved.

There are **almost five hundred thousand Yazidis still living in camps** for the displaced in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. They have been struggling - living in tents for almost nine years, as there are no houses to keep their children safe from the cold or hot weather. It is really difficult to see how they are suffering.

**There are almost one hundred and fifty thousand people who have returned to Sinjar territory, and they are struggling without basic services** such as electricity, water, schools, hospitals, as well as the lack of job opportunities, because so much of the infrastructure is destroyed.



**Shihab**  
Iraq Project Staff  
Kurdistan Region of Iraq



...



**“It is heartbreaking to see my community deal with genocides throughout history - and still - they are calling out for someone to rescue them from extinction.”**





**The situation in Sinjar is not safe. It is unstable, as there are some political parties who have blocked humanitarian organizations who try to support this region.**

It is in this region where **Partners Relief & Development has partnered with Inhalation of Hope.** They are a local non-governmental organization established to support children who have been impacted by war near Sinjar Mountain. They help children heal from trauma and make their way toward a brighter future through a better education. They utilize different programs; academic lessons and awareness activities to educate the children and help them to heal. **This is one of the only organizations in the entire region to provide this kind of help.**

It is very significant to have a trauma care program in Sinjar. It shows the community and children that there are people who care about their lives. I hope in the future these programs will expand into different areas so more children can benefit. **When I visit, I feel delighted to see smiles on faces as they begin to return to their normal life.**

My people hope that one day the international community may bring even more hope and justice to our region so we can live in our land with dignity and respect. ❤️

**My parents' love was a blessing to me, and I feel blessed to do the same work that they have done - but in a different way.**

**Hanin**  
**Middle East Director**



## My Name is Hanin

I'm a humanitarian worker. For the past 11 years I've been working to help the vulnerable and those who don't have access to basic rights and are left abandoned.

I'm from a small community in the Syrian countryside, and my childhood was amazing. I had the blessing of having a great family where I was raised in an environment of love, and love was shared between my mom and dad. In my education, my mum was responsible for mathematics and physics, while dad was responsible for science and the English language.

Dad was a doctor and served all poor people for free. If anyone wanted a consultation and they couldn't afford it, my dad would immediately provide anything it took for them to survive.

I would like to tell you a story about an 8 year-old boy who was raised in Northeast Syria. His father was not a very loving father and the boy was sexually abused several times. In order for him to defend himself he learned how to cut people and how to kill people, because he wanted to survive. He came to one of the centers (where I was working at the time) and he didn't know how to smile. He

didn't know what anger meant, or what sadness meant. Starting the process of healing with him was very hard work, but now he



is able to smile. He knows when he's depressed and doesn't want to talk to you and will say, "I will talk to you later". This is one of the most challenging experiences that we face, because you see kids that are being taught how to kill just for survival.

**If we don't provide support, love, care, proper awareness and education for these kids, for sure they will have weapons and knives in their hands in a few years and the trauma will be repeated with other kids.** Having the child friendly space in Al-Hol camp expands our work, dedicating specific psychiatry and psychology support for those kids, and that will help make a brighter future and will enlighten their lives with love and care. ❤️



# School Rebuilds

## Hadeeqat Al-Tofoulah (Garden of Childhood)

The childcare center that was constructed in Raqqa, Northeast Syria, is the first of its kind in the city, as all other current schools start at age 3 or 4. Partners was informed by the education department that they have 3,600 women teachers, most of which have children under the age of 3. This daycare center will be a start for providing a safe and educational space for these children while their mothers are at work.

**Daycare for children under 3 years.**



## Al Fataat al-Arabiya (Childhood Planet)

This school in Raqqa was damaged in the fight against ISIS and was nearly destroyed. It has since been rebuilt with 23 classrooms over three floors. The largest school rebuild that Partners has undertaken so far. **23 Classrooms - each can seat approximately 45 students.**

## Dohoola School

This is a reconstructed school in Dohoola village in the Sinjar region of Iraq. The school runs two shifts, one for the Arabic curriculum and the other for the Kurdish, both recognized by the government educational system. **Partners built 3 additional classrooms, which allowed the school to accept more than 100 new 7th-12th grade students.**



# 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.



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 fast-flowing 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. 🇲🇲

**“As a mother, it was heartbreaking to see how innocent children are affected by the violent acts of war.”**



**Thaw Shee Wah and Chaung Klane  
with displaced children in Karen State, November 2022**



**CONTRIBUTE TO  
OUR EFFORTS IN  
MYANMAR**

# Naw Law Shell

## A Sewing Center in Karen State

Law Shell teaches sewing at our Eden Sewing Center. She and her husband lived at the agriculture building at Eden until they were able to build a small house. We first met her in 2015. She came from Karen State with 15 other students to spend six weeks learning how to sew. Law Shell was a quiet, serious student who said that she had always wanted to sew.

One of the blessings of working with these special ladies is watching them blossom over the years. They arrive quiet, wanting to learn, facing a new environment, and sometimes having stories that break our hearts. We watch them gain skills and confidence, become more outgoing, grow in or find their faith, and so much more. ❤️

**“I have seven siblings - only two have studied. It is a blessing for me to study and I try as hard as I can. Hopefully, I will go back and teach the people who want to learn.”**





## “Hello, my name is Sayboh.”

I was born in Myanmar and moved to Thailand as a refugee. In 2012, I started working with Partners Relief & Development.

When I was around 8 years old, we had to stay in the jungle. During the nighttime, my parents would build a fire and cook, because then the enemy could not see the smoke. My neighbors did the same. In the morning we would eat. Month-to-month, we would have to move.

What makes me sad is that we wanted to study, but we didn't have schools. When I see a lot of my friends from when I was young, even now, they cannot read and write.

Right now my village is located in the jungle. When the Myanmar Military came and attacked, they burned the villages and planted landmines. So no one goes back any more.

That makes me sad and I miss my small village. I especially miss my river. There, I used to go and find fish and frogs. I cannot go back, and nobody lives there, just the mosquitoes and snakes.

My family wants citizenship so we can travel and explore, but we are still refugees. Even when we are praying a lot to get the opportunity in Burma to get citizenship, and we think it's improving, sadly - BOOM - it's completely destroyed.

**For me, what makes me smile is when I wake up and have time talking with Jesus.**

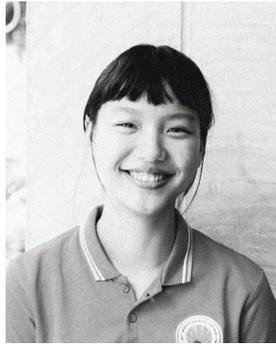
Running and speaking to Him - it is like I am full, and I smile like I'm innocent. After that, I like reading my Bible. Even if my face isn't smiling, my heart is smiling. At this age, I don't really smile, I stay very serious sometimes, but I don't forget the joyful things in this world. 🍷

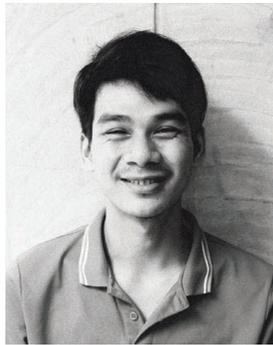
A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sayboh!' with a large flourish and an exclamation point.

**Sayboh**  
**Karen Education**  
**Staff Member**



# Karen GED Program





**Learn more:** For students from Myanmar whose education is not recognized by the Myanmar government, this education program in Thailand guides them through studying and taking the internationally recognized GED test, opening doors for them to pursue a university degree in Myanmar, Thailand, or abroad.

## **My Name Is Naw Paw Say**

### **I Am From Karen State**

My parents live in Myanmar and work on a farm. They do not own the land, so they work for others.

In my village, we have schooling up through grade 6. One of my cousins studied in Mae La Camp, and I followed her there. When I completed school, my brother told me about the Partners GED program. I took the entrance exam and received this opportunity.

Many Karen people are very clever, but don't have access to higher education. Our leaders, who have higher education, help us continue to further our studies so that we can join them.

After I finish this program, I want to continue my studies. If I can't, I will go back to my community and work with local organizations. If I have my own job, I will help my family.

The Partners GED program was a really great opportunity for us. 🍷

**Naw Paw Say in her traditional Karen dress.**





**“Many Karen people are very clever, but don’t have access to higher education.”**

**Naw Paw Say**

# Collaborations & Community

## Celebrating you.

Love in action doesn't always look like pulling out your wallet. Don't get us wrong - we couldn't do what we do without the generosity this community consistently shows. But every now and then we get some stories of truly creative, fun and inspiring ways this community responds. And we want to share and celebrate some of them with you.

When we asked for help after a major earthquake rocked Turkey and Syria, many of you donated. Our friend Scott from Michigan? He drummed live on Facebook for 6 hours. The result? The most successful peer-to-peer fundraising campaign we've seen to date.



**WATCH  
SCOTT'S  
STORY**



Our friends at the award-winning Sovengard decided to make the world a better place with another custom cocktail-for-a-cause to support Partners work. Cheers!  
**sovengard.com**



The students from Beech Grove Primary School in the UK completed a 35km hike so more families affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey could stay safe, warm and fed. We're inspired!



When Russia invaded Ukraine and our community sprung into action, Rise Bakery crafted a limited-edition donut to support Partners relief effort. Responding to hate with love has never tasted so good.  
**riseauthenticbaking.com**

**Got an idea for a fundraiser, collaboration or partnership?  
Drop us an email at [info@partners.ngo](mailto:info@partners.ngo).**



## Explore Other Ways to Act on Your Love

Checks can be mailed to:  
**Partners Relief & Development**  
PO Box 1992  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

For details of other forms of generosity  
where you can create a legacy of love  
through in-kind gifts, stocks and more:  
[info@partners.ngo](mailto:info@partners.ngo) or 909 748-5810

Learn more or give online: [partners.ngo](https://partners.ngo)



“We love the work Partners does - they provide consistent, hands-on, practical help where it’s needed most & they’re on the ground as soon as a disaster strikes. We’re proud to be supporters of them.”

**Ash Family, New Zealand**

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to love  
is to act

**partners.ngo**