

## HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ANGUISH AND PAIN

Those of us who have witnessed war first-hand will tell you that war is not what we watch on TV in the comfort of our homes. War is a frightening thing. As a result of war, millions of people are displaced and left homeless. Millions of families are wiped out. Tens of thousands of children become orphans and women widowed. Tortures, mass executions, rapes, forced expulsion, death and destruction become the norm. There are stories of children burning alive ... and screaming until they died. Children being found under the heap of dead bodies while people fleeing in frenzy for safety ignored them totally. Thousands of people loose their limbs, many are blinded, and thousands of innocent men, women and children are crippled.



Afghanistan is in ruins; it is a ravaged land. The whole of Afghanistan is reduced to rubble where people appear to be living in the stone age, thanks to years of war, internal strife, droughts, earthquakes and other catastrophes. During the allied raid on Afghanistan you must have heard about a place called Tora Bora. Tora Bora means white dust and surely this place has been turned into plume of dust.



Algeria was rocked by a killer earth-quake. Bosnia has been forgotten. Kosovars continue to plead for help which has dried up. The conflict in Chechnya has had an enormous impact on the civilian population who continue to flee the carnage and suffer consequent tragedies at all level.



*In Algeria the needs are still huge  
further emergency aids are still required to treat the results of the earth quake of May 2003*

In famine-ridden Africa, millions upon millions face starvation and death. There, people's center, the whole focus is their bellies. All there thoughts, their feelings, desires and hopes begin with food. All their energy is devoted to organizing their survival amid the every day life of famine-time; waiting for food, standing in long lines when rations are distributed, walking long distances to get water – day after day, bucket after bucket – wherever it is found.



In India, the violence that erupted in Gujarat was brutal and relentless. It claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent Muslims, left thousands of houses reduced to rubble and livelihoods destroyed.



Women's Vocational Training Center



Floods have devastated Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sudan. Millions of people had been ravaged due to the floods which submerged highways and homes and hundreds of victims remained marooned.



Looting, killing and turning people into refugees are the dreadful trinity at work in Iraq. 8 million landmines are strewn across the northern part of the country, a dysfunctional infrastructure and the large-scale destruction. The situation throughout Iraq is disastrous. People are destitute. They are crying out loud: The horror, the horror.



Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program

I was in Iraq during the first Gulf war and I am still haunted by the images of orphaned children, wailing women, and destitute men. I remember the sight of babies gasping for breath and freshly dug mass graves. Entire families with little children who took shelter in bunkers died and their unidentifiable, charred bodies were found crouching, cuddled together.



The 100 billion dollars that it cost just to wage the war that killed and maimed people is more than twice what would be needed to bring basic health care, nutrition, primary education, clean water and sanitation to the whole world. The cost to keep the forces in Iraq has escalated to one billion dollars every week yet the crisis in Iraq continues.



*The dangerous conditions in Iraq require our hats off for the volunteers who endangered their lives to deliver the assistance to their brothers and sisters in need. Medical supplies reached Iraq through AQABA port in Jordan, coming from Canada; it introduced the Canadian citizens sympathy with their brothers and sisters in humanity.*



*HCI has been close to the Iraqi orphans and elders during the month of Ramadan.*

The whole of Palestine is bleeding, day after day, funeral after funeral. The extent of destruction and devastation in Palestine is of such magnitude that decades will be required to rebuild, resettle and rehabilitate the civilian population.



*The Palestinian primary school children need your help so that they can have a brighter future. Helps us support the children. Let's together "Nurture a Child, and Nourish a Nation."*



*Primary School children enjoyed warm clothes on the occasion of feast*



*Fun and celebration day; enjoying a play on the occasion of feast*

Kashmir is also soaked in blood with no end to the plight of the innocent people in this once known paradise on earth.



Lebanon, so-called jewel of Middle East is grappled with its own

problems.



*The first national conference on mines victims in Lebanon; the survivors describing their tragedy and needs.*



*Ramadan 2003/  
HCI funds Dinners and food packages for orphans, poor families and needy all over Lebanon*

In some countries you see as young as seven years, flaunting their kalashnikovs. These children are the new lords of the street. They kill and loot and obey the rules of violence, not the rules of the Lord. Because of the killings, carnage, wreckage, destruction, devastation, poverty, hunger and disease, this world is the worst place for children to grow up in, and should they survive, they will inherit a vast plane of scorched earth, a world of misery and desperation.



This is the nightmare that the victims are facing. This is the ordeal for millions. The dead already number in hundreds of thousands, the mutilated more than thousands and the displaced well into the millions. The feelings of hopelessness and helplessness have shrouded the lives of the innocent, vulnerable victims.



There are victims who say they are spared nothing. They really believe that the war and the lethal bombs that rain on them, the internal strife, the crushing poverty, the floods, the earthquakes, drought and the misery that goes with it all is because they are cursed. And so, saddened and despairing, tensed up for whatever is going to come next, the people who suffer are trying to heal the psychic wounds from the tragedies that have befallen them. Those who lost their loved ones suffer in silence. Those who survived unscathed are angry – they are not sure at what or whom – and have no respect left for anything and anybody.



Computer Training Center, Baghdad



Food Distribution for the Needy, Ethiopia

Enough with the grim talk, cursing of the darkness. Let me now tell you how candles of hope have been and are being lit by caring, concerned and compassionate Muslims. When humanity suffers, it becomes incumbent upon us to reach out and help them, heal the wounds of their anguish and pain and comfort them and that is what, in terms of real actions, we have been doing for more than two decades, through the help of our donors.



*Agriculture & Water  
Field Crop Projects*

HCI is providing help in all of the countries that I have talked about. In the past 22 years, HCI has channeled over 35 million dollars for relief aid and sustainable development

projects. It helped reconstruct bombed villages, rebuilt destroyed wheat fields and fruit orchards, reconstructed homes, rehabilitated irrigation canals and built hospitals and educational institutions. Water roared through irrigation canals designed by HCI engineers and crop flourished through the unyielding land. On a one on one basis, Caring for Humanity, one Person at a time, we have assisted many. A little boy Saeed in Guyana who was born with a hole in his heard needed special surgery to patch it. We worked hard and were able to have him sent and treated at a hospital in Cuba for, Ahmed Mohammed Jan a young Afghan boy whom we rescued to France for medical help and who is living a healthy life, Ahmed Mohammed from Hergisa whom we airlifted to Boston where we made arrangements with the Shiners' Burns Victims Unit. He is currently being treated for his third degree burns. A young sister who had brain tumor and was successfully operated and now lives a happy life. These are but only few examples of bringing about positive changes in the lives of people. There are numerous others who have been helped in this country by us due to their personal situation.



*Micro-Credit Enterprises*

***How HCI Helps***

*Small Family Business Initiatives*



We are currently operating several relief and development projects in more than 20 countries including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Chechnya, Horn of Africa,

India, Iraq, Kashmir, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan and others.

We are currently operating several relief and development projects inside Afghanistan through funding from the World Food Program and UNHCR. Our Girls school in Jalalabad was reopened some time ago. It has 200 girl students.



Hope for Children through Child Sponsorship Program

We are also providing Trauma counseling to war traumatized children and families and have established a counseling center in Pakistan. We are operating schools and orphanages in Pakistan and have been providing assistance to the floods victims as well. We have on-going projects in Bangladesh, and Sudan receives substantial financial support from us for relief and development projects. Other parts of Horn of Africa, Middle East, South America and South East Asia are also covered.



Community Advancement : from manual to electric

In Chechnya we have been operating a Medical Welfare Program. Its primary objectives are to strengthen the existing facilities of health care by providing medications for the treatment of diseases to local medical clinics and to help follow current diagnosing procedures with proper medication



*A beneficiary at Bella camp*

In India, we are working in Gujrat, providing direly needed humanitarian assistance to the victims of violence. We also provided aid to the killer earthquake victims in Gujrat in the areas of health, rehabilitation and resettlement projects, as well as livelihood programs.



*HCI supports women initiatives*

We have been working in Iraq since 1991. During this recent war, ours was the first relief convoy, part of a 800,000 dollar package, to reach war-torn Baghdad on April 16 and was widely covered by the international media. Another massive aid package worth more than three quarter million dollars is currently on its way to Iraq.



*Food Packages for the needy*



*Eid Gifts bring joy to Iraqi families*

In Palestine we have undertaken several projects mainly in Gaza and the West Bank. Other than providing humanitarian assistance we have initiated livelihood projects, health care and other projects in this tormented land. The two of our most recent

projects including a unique project called Helping Kids Cope, that was implemented through the help of our donors, at a cost of \$60,000 to help the kids in difficult circumstances. Another project, Let There Be Light and Water too is helping supply water to households and electricity to homes and businesses alike. We are undertaking a massive Environmental Action Plan to improve the degrading environment in Palestine with other organizations at a cost of over 1 million dollars.



Helping Kids Cope – A Unique Project for Palestinian Children

Our own physical presence in Palestine has increased our Canadian donors' confidence and ensured good governance, excellent results and timely delivery.

In Lebanon, since 1986, our office has implemented a large number of projects in Lebanon in water, health, education, micro-enterprise and training. Our work on landmines issues in Lebanon has received international recognition.



*New hope for the physically challenged*



*Renovation of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Facility*

We have been active on the home front too, supporting a number of local projects. In Canada, we have been providing help to children's hospitals, Parkinson Disease Research Work, Half-way homes for abused women and families, food banks, Scholarship programs and support to many needy Muslim families. When crisis hit home, we have been up front in providing help such as during the Manitoba floods, Ice Storm in Eastern Ontario and now our people are helping the Okanaga Inferno victims.



*Continuing the Canadian Legacy of giving: Dawn of Hope Youth Society raised funds for Afghan girls' school*

While we strive our utmost to provide comfort to the victims, there are also those who despite of their own sufferings are motivated by virtue of their religion and purely humane feelings of compassion. In Algeria, a country that can no longer be called a country, during the recent quake, victims themselves showed a deep and surprising solidarity. In some neighborhoods, packages of supplies were left on the sidewalks, accompanied by written notes like this one: "For the



victims, May Allah be with them”.

We are overwhelmed with the generosity of the communities throughout Canada, who have always responded to our appeal with open hearts.

We cannot and must not sit idle and watch in silence while human tragedies continue to unfold in front of our eyes, while thousands upon thousands of people continue to suffer. When humanity suffers, it becomes incumbent upon us to help those in need, to help the victims reclaim their sense of worth and dignity thereby having some control over their shattered lives.



Let's work together and do our utmost to alleviate human suffering and replace the misery and desperation with hope and happiness. Let's work for humanity ... one person at a time. Let's replace their misery and desperation with hope and happiness.

