



### “Our Father...”

It’s great to see these Karenni children praying before lessons start at a village school supported by Global Care in a remote corner of Myanmar. Who knows what they so earnestly seek? Peace? Daily bread? Giving thanks for the chance to learn? Any of those prayers would be entirely appropriate.

*[Continued inside]*

# NEWSBRIEF

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Summer 2016



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## “Our Father...”

For years this Christian minority ethnic tribe has been persecuted and marginalised in this Buddhist-majority country.

Just four short years ago, the area in which these children live was a ‘free-fire’ zone for government soldiers, which gave impunity to shoot on sight. Anyone – man, woman or child – was at risk, as part of a long-standing programme of ethnic cleansing in the smallest and poorest of Myanmar’s minority ethnic states.

Four years later the ceasefire is still fragile, and poverty is still widespread.

Even before the ceasefire, Global Care was working in the area, supporting teachers in village schools, and resourcing the area’s only high school. Back then the pupils knew they had to pack up and run at only a moment’s notice, so everything had to be basic and easily portable.

Nowadays facilities are still simple, but they are more established. For instance, we have introduced a simple computer project at the high school, giving students an invaluable window into the wider world.

After a recent visit to the area our partner DS wrote: *“I witnessed a lot of changing on this trip. But one thing that is not changed is that the ordinary people are always in great need. The ordinary and voiceless people are still suffering. That’s why every time I go, leaders ask me to find more help for the needy people.”*

On each trip, DS will typically visit up to 14 village primary schools, as well as the high school serving the region. He distributes ‘helps’ to the teachers, consisting of cash or rice, to supplement their very meagre income, and support, including clothing and toiletries, for around 40 students in boarding houses hosting children who live too far away to travel to and from high school on a daily basis. We are also providing ‘helps’ for 33 children from families who are too poor to support them adequately, enabling them to continue their education.

CEO John White says: *“Helping children get to school is in our DNA! We are proud to be helping these desperately poor communities, who have been through such a battering, physically and emotionally, over so many years, but are still determined to build something better for their children. We don’t know of any other NGOs working within these communities, and are proud of Global Care’s ability to make a difference in some of the least accessible places in the world, through the ingenuity and commitment of our grassroots partners.”*

- This project is experiencing a shortfall in income. It costs just £60 to support a teacher for year, and £45 to support a student. If you are interested in supporting it please visit [www.globalcare.org.uk/projects/11](http://www.globalcare.org.uk/projects/11)



## Su Su put the kettle on

Phyo Su Su\* is putting the kettle on for her grandmother. She’s been up since 4.30am, as she is every morning, pounding rice and fetching water. 11-year-old Phyo Su Su has many household chores in the bamboo hut she shares with her siblings, parents and elderly grandmother.

But later on she will go to school. Her older brother dropped out of school to help their father but Phyo Su Su hopes to continue her studies, at another of the village schools supported by Global Care.

*\*Child’s name changed to protect their identity*



## Children@Risk

A child falls sick, a harvest fails, extreme weather damages homes and schools... When a crisis hits we need to step in.

At Global Care we do so much to help vulnerable children over the long term – through sponsorship, through schooling, through self-help and sustainability initiatives.

But sometimes there isn't time to set up a long-term project. Sometimes we just need to intervene NOW.

Children@Risk is our key intervention fund, helping us act immediately. We use it to react in a crisis, to make up a shortfall and to establish new initiatives.

Children@Risk also incorporates our Medical Response Fund, an enormously effective initiative giving all our international partners direct access to funds to intervene in medical emergencies, helping children access medical treatment they couldn't otherwise afford.

In the last four years, this fund has supported medical care for more than 120 children in 13 countries. In the last year alone, this has included issues as diverse as an emergency appendectomy, orthopaedic corrective treatment, dental emergencies, head injuries and broken bones following road accidents, hospital treatment for fevers and infections, and psychotherapy for children with mental health conditions.

Without the availability of Children@Risk funds, our ability to respond in a crisis is compromised – at precisely the time we are needed most desperately.

Without the availability of Children@Risk funds to give us the flexibility to act immediately – anywhere in the world where children are in need – our impact as an organisation would be severely reduced.

We ask our Children@Risk partners to give a minimum of £3 per month. Working together, we can make a bigger difference. Will you join our team?

- Watch out for the new Children@Risk information on our website, which will be available in the next few weeks.



## Children@Risk in action 2015

### Flooding crisis

Flooding devastated a community of 100 Roma families living in tumbledown shacks on the riverside in Bathore, a slum suburb of Tirana, in **Albania**.

Some shacks were swept away altogether, leaving families living in the open, and others lost furnishings including mattresses and blankets.

Using C@R funds, we sent just over £4,600 to support the 50 worst-affected families for three months over the winter, including the evacuation of ten families where our partners considered lives to be at risk.

Relief aid included clothing, mattresses and blankets for the 50 families, as well as feeding at our New Day Centre for the worst-affected children, and medication for children with asthma struggling with extremely damp conditions. Our Albanian team have taken up the fight for better housing for this community, and will continue to bring the matter before the local authorities.

### Medical emergency

Little Jot\*, the daughter of a fisherman in Horintana, **Bangladesh**, fell ill with severe stomach pains. The local doctor was unable to help, and after several days in which the pain did not cease, our partners took Jot and her mum to hospital.

Doctors diagnosed appendicitis and recommended immediate surgery. The cost of £65 was way beyond the resources of Jot's family, but thanks to our Medical Response Fund, administered through C@R, the operation was able to go ahead without delay.

After eight days in hospital, where there was no bed available, Jot was able to return home. Her family believe Jot would have died if we had not been able to act so quickly.

*\*Child's name changed to protect their identity*



### Fire hazard

A fire safety system was purchased as a safety precaution at Grace Children's Home in **Myanmar**. The home had to relocate to a much poorer area of Yangon after pressure from authorities over its Christian ethos, and the streets of the new location are not wide enough for fire engines to get through. The fire safety system, which pipes water from a nearby lake, cost £700.

## 8km for every drop

A village of 3,500 people in rural **Zambia** has access to clean water for the first time in their history, thanks to the fundraising efforts of Global Care supporters and a grant from C@R.

The women and children of Makayi village faced an 8km round trip to the nearest water source – the Kabompo River – for every drop of water they used, whether cooking, cleaning, bathing or drinking.

And it was not just a long and tiring journey, but a life-threatening one – every moment at the river's edge was spiked with danger, as they were at risk of crocodile attack.



Now life has changed drastically with the drilling of a new borehole, giving all the villagers access to clean water right in the heart of the village.

CEO John White said: *“This isn’t just a gift of water, it’s the gift of better health, safety, time and energy for everyone, and schooling for children who now don’t have to spend hours each day walking miles to fetch water. We know this is going to have a massive impact on so many lives over the coming months and years, and are delighted to have been in a position to help.”*

## Street life is no life

### New Sponsorship Opportunity

Street children looking for ways to escape street life are now being supported through an extension of our sponsorship programme to Guatemala.

In recent years we have supported several one-off initiatives helping street children in Guatemala City, but this is the first time we have been able to offer sponsorship in this context.

Our partners Mi Arca support street children through a mentoring programme.

A team of trained volunteers go out each week, building relationships with individual children and young people. Mentors help children understand their situation, think about how they can solve their own problems, and help them acquire skills to make positive choices.

Each sponsored child is part of the Mi Arca mentoring scheme. Sponsorship funds support the programme as a whole, ensuring the sponsored child is able to take part. Most sponsorships last two to five years, the length of the mentoring programme for each child, depending on the child’s willingness to participate.

Each sponsored child receives weekly mentoring support, and also benefits, where possible, from being placed in a local school, and receiving required study materials and uniform.

CEO John White said: *“We are really pleased to be developing our work with street children in Guatemala through sponsorship. Mi Arca have developed a great programme which is attempting to bring about long-term change in these very vulnerable lives without very expensive residential interventions, and we are delighted to be part of this initiative.”*

- If you are interested in sponsoring a street child in Guatemala please visit [www.globalcare.org.uk/projects/21](http://www.globalcare.org.uk/projects/21)



# Shelter from the storm

Up to 500 people in a remote area of Bangladesh now have access to a place of safety when extreme weather hits the region, thanks to a new cyclone-proof shelter.

The cyclone and monsoon-proof shelter in Dacope Union is the third such shelter we have built in the Sundarbans region, thanks to funding from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission.

Just in the last few weeks Cyclone Roanu threatened the region, and communities were on high alert, ready to evacuate to the shelters – illustrating the need for this provision. However, at the last moment, the cyclone veered away from the Sundarbans and hit the south east of Bangladesh instead, where, sadly, more than 20 people died.

Our latest shelter is in such a remote island location that the construction process needed a lot of ingenuity from our partners, Love Your Neighbour Bangladesh, and was a real community effort.

Situated around 15km from our partners' base in Horintana, Dacope Union has no access to electricity and all materials had to be transported via boat. Construction had to be undertaken by hand, mostly by people living in the vicinity of the shelter. This enabled local people, including women, to earn a small wage.

The community of Dacope consists mostly of disadvantaged, illiterate families surviving on very low incomes. Most children are expected to work, to supplement the family income.

The new building will be used all year round as a pre-school for up to 100 children who don't attend formal schools, enabling them to enter the formal education system with skills to succeed. The building will also be available for community use, empowering local people through peer-to-peer education and support.

And in time of crisis – storms, cyclones, and monsoon flooding – families will have a safe refuge for the first time in generations.



Head of Operations Paul Rowell said: *“Extreme weather and climate change are creating ever-greater risks for vulnerable communities in low-lying areas of Bangladesh like that of Dacope Union. We are delighted to have been able to provide this facility, providing protection at a time of crisis, and a focus for activities which build the capacity and skills of disadvantaged children and families all year round.”*



# Harvest hope

The new rice mill at the New Hope Children's Home in Cambodia has been put to work for the first time, following the recent rice harvest.

Despite another poor harvest, the mill is enabling the home to access significantly improved benefits from their crop.

By processing the rice themselves, NHCH is able to keep the by-products of the milling process, including broken rice and bran, which can be sold as animal feed, as well as their whole crop of processed rice. Previously they had to give a proportion of the final product to the miller in payment.

We are hopeful that as our partners become more proficient at promoting the use of the mill to neighbouring rice farms, the mill will provide a realistic source of income for the home, as well as an efficient means of maximising the harvest.

Head of Operations, Paul Rowell, visited the project in May and reports all the children were thriving. He added: *“It has been so discouraging for our partners over the last three years to see relatively meagre returns from all their hard work in planting, growing and harvesting rice. Please join us in praying that this year's harvest would be a bumper crop!”*

# Shack school solutions

*Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Lent Appeal, which raised over £25,650 to develop our work with Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. Thanks to your generosity, we hope to open a second Shack school in September. Rob Halligan, a long-time friend of Global Care, was amongst a small team of media volunteers visiting the project in May. Here he describes a visit to a family whose children attend our school:*

"The mother was in, feeding her baby who had been born in the camp nearly a year ago. I asked whether he would be classed as Syrian or Lebanese as he'd been born in Lebanon.

*"It's tribal," explained John. "These are Syrian people so the children will all be Syrian".*

That in itself presents a problem. As we talked to the mother she said that the longer they stay, the less hope they have of returning to Syria. What that means for the children, I don't know. But as she talked about the children she had some hope. The school, she said, meant that the children still receive an education and that gives them hope for the future.

*"Shukraan" she said – 'Thank you so much for what you do'.*

It was interesting hearing what the children dreamed of for the future. One said he wanted to be a pilot, to fight to get his home back. Another said a dentist – *"to fix the world's teeth"*. There were extremes of kindness and revenge but one young girl, Sidra, summed it up. *"I want to go home,"* she said.



The school gives these children and their families some hope for the future. It costs little more than £14,000 a year to employ three teachers. The difference they make is priceless."

- Find out more about the visit via blogs shared on our Facebook page ([GlobalCareUK](#))



## U factor 2016

A volunteer team including children and teenagers from Coventry will be visiting our project in Soroti, Uganda, in July. The team will be supporting children with disabilities at The Ark day centre, encouraging partner schools, running sports activities with children and visiting a nearby hospital.

Among the team will be former Childcare Manager, Gillian Law, returning with her husband and two young sons.

Gillian explains: *"Global Care's work in Uganda was always special to me and has been the project Andy and I have followed since I left my post. One of the reasons for taking the children is to help them understand why this is so important to their parents, to meet the people, experience a bit of another culture and see how their efforts at school can make a difference to children in need.*

*"We are looking forward to two aspects of the trip. We hope to help support the staff in establishing visiting physiotherapy provision for the children with disabilities, as well as spending time with the children and staff.*

*"I was working with Global Care when we started Project Partnership. We will also be visiting one of the first headmasters to inspire this concept at Global Care and taking some sports equipment for partner schools.*

*"On one of my first trips to Soroti, Pastor Job asked me if I would return with my husband. I remember wondering when I would have the opportunity. I'm looking forward to keeping my promise to take my husband, and also my children!"*

- Follow the adventures of the Uganda team on Facebook in early July!

# Volunteering works!

*Volunteering works! That's the experience of teenager Abigail Bailey, who is now winning commissions as an animator, and has an unconditional offer of a university place, after learning new skills during a gap year volunteering at our Coventry HQ. We hope her story will encourage others to consider volunteering with us!*

19-year-old Abi admits she didn't know what to do after her A levels didn't go as well as she hoped. "When I started this year, I hadn't a clue what I was doing, or wanted to do with my life," she recalls. "I didn't plan on taking a gap year, but stumbled upon it after not reaching the grades I needed for university. I decided to volunteer with Global Care for experience, after seeing the good work they'd done with my family's sponsored child in Uganda."

Abi agreed to volunteer for two days a week at our head office. She describes herself as "arty" so worked within the area of media and communications, including being asked to develop some animations, to help publicise the charity's international work.



She recalls: "The first thing I discovered about animation is that it's REALLY difficult, and I spent a lot of time watching YouTube videos on how to use the software." However, Abi's first animation, supporting Global Care's Lent Appeal, was very well received.

"The next thing that happened was quite surreal," says Abi. "I was contacted by a man who had heard about my work through a mutual friend. He commissioned me to create an animation to advertise a series of talks he was doing. I soon found out that he was very well connected."

*"Since then I have started a second commission, and have two more from different people in the pipeline. I have learnt about invoices, and tax returns, and am in the middle of creating a logo and a brand of my own – Humming Bee Animation."*

*"In July, I will be flying to Uganda with Global Care, where I will have the chance to meet the child who inspired this year."*

*"As if that wasn't enough, I have also received an unconditional offer from Goldsmiths University, who said they were really impressed when I showed them my animation portfolio in the interview. None of this would have happened if it wasn't for Global Care, and I'm chuffed to bits that it did."*

*"We are thrilled for Abi," says John White. "She has shown a lot of initiative and has worked really hard, and we are delighted to see that the skills she has learned whilst volunteering for us are already paying off – literally – with a place at university and a means of earning money while she's there."*

*"We'd like to think that her story shows that volunteering isn't a one-way street – both parties benefit – and hope it will encourage other people to consider volunteering with us."*

- Do you know someone willing to work hard and see what doors open up? Get in touch!

## New number

Please make a note of our new telephone number:  
030 030 21 030

## Gift Aid news

Due to staffing constraints, we will not be issuing every person who has donated this year a personalised Gift Aid statement. However, if you would still like to receive this information, we can easily provide it for you, so do not hesitate to contact the office.

## Goodbye & God bless

We said goodbye to our UK communications assistant, Hannah Harrison, in June, who moved on after two years in post. Hannah joined us after spending six months living in Soroti, Uganda, and supporting The Ark and our Soroti team. She has also left her role as manager of our Kenilworth charity shop. We'd like to thank her for all her efforts on our behalf, and wish her all the best.