



Jacob's Well Appeal

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Syrian Earthquake Appeal

On 6th February a massive earthquake struck Turkey and Syria. Whilst over 60,000 people were killed, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that over 18 million people had lost their homes. On a visit shortly after the earthquake, the WFP Director described "incomprehensible devastation in an apocalyptic landscape". Entire neighbourhoods were flattened, homes destroyed, schools and shops closed, lives torn apart. And this disaster came on top of 12 years of war. Before the earthquake, more than 15 million people needed humanitarian assistance. It is a disaster upon a disaster.

When the earthquake struck, Jacob's Well Appeal launched an emergency appeal for money to help supply aid to those immediately affected. **Within a couple of weeks we had received over £85,000**, the most that we had ever raised in one appeal. We have a long history of working in Syria, through our partner Samara's Aid. Samara Levy, the founder, told us before the earthquake, thousands of people were still living through the winter in bombed out buildings with no doors and window, buildings destroyed through the years of fighting. In addition, the Syrian government had no money for fuel. Ambulances no-longer operated because they had no diesel. The cities could no longer purify water because there was no electricity. People only got water out of their taps for a couple of hours a week. Many people had gone for 5 months without a hot meal before the earthquake. **Then came the severe earthquake in the middle of a torrential thunder storm in winter.**



It is hard to describe the collective trauma of these war-weary people. Ordinary people like you and me who are trying to bring up their children and eke out some sort of life in a country whose economy and infrastructure has been totally ruined. Before the war, Syria was self-sufficient in food. People were quite affluent, with nice houses, cars and comfortable lives. Now Syria has now become one of the most desperate places on earth.

For most people in Syria, good quality health-care is out of reach. 60% of hospitals were damaged through the war, leaving 12 million people without any healthcare provision. In this context, we are launching an appeal to raise £40,000 to purchase an X-ray machine for Samara's Aid's new medical centre just outside of Aleppo. They are providing life-saving healthcare for those who would otherwise be unable to access the help that they need. This machine will make a huge difference, enabling doctors to make accurate diagnoses instead of guessing what the patients' problems might be. If you would like to give towards the cost of this, please use the reference "Syria X-ray" on any donations.



Warehouse Sales; Sat 19th Aug & 18th Nov, 9am - 1pm @ Jacob's Well Yard, Beverley, HU17 0JX

Charity Sales: Sat 22nd July, 16th Sept, 15th Oct, 9am - 3pm @ Toll Gavel Church Drive, Beverley.

News from our Projects

Clean Water. Whenever we travel to Northern Ghana we are shocked by the lack of available water. Those who have to queue every day to fill their bowls with clean water from a communal pump feel themselves incredibly privileged. In our Christmas newsletter we mentioned a borehole that needed fixing. Due to a generous donation we have not only been able to fix that borehole but also dig another one in a community that has not had a clean source of water for at least 50 years!



Re-usable Sanitary Pads. We have been running projects that teach teenage girls how to make re-usable sanitary pads and give them some sexual health education since 2021. In April this year we did our largest project to date, training over 433 girls in Wa, a major town in the Upper West region of Ghana which is very poor. It is hard to overstate the importance of this project which enables the girls to stay in school instead of staying at home whenever they have periods. Missing school means that their numeracy and literacy skills will be poor. In that case, the only employment available to them is subsistence farming. With just a few more years of education they can learn enough to be able to get a job as a waitress or make a small business for themselves, saving them from a life of abject poverty.

Remote Medical Clinic. Drs Alistair and Margaret Robertson recently visited a medical facility in N. Ghana that is 2 hours away from any other medical services. The clinic offered maternity care, some surgery and medical in-patient care as well as outpatients. It was run by a young doctor who had worked with no break for the last 18 months. They were struggling because they did not have a ward for children, meaning that any ill children had to be admitted to the adult ward, where there were often patients sleeping on the floor. Thanks to a generous donation, we have been able to build a simple paediatric ward so that no patients have to sleep on the floor when they are ill.



Employment Projects. Due to a generous donation from the Doncaster and St Leger Inner Wheel we have been able to run another literacy project, this time involving bead making. The history of Ghanaian bead making dates back to ancient times, when they were used as currency. They are popular now as a part of Ghanaian cultural heritage and good sellers on local markets. The bead making workshop lasted 10 days and the women were very grateful to have learnt this valuable skill.

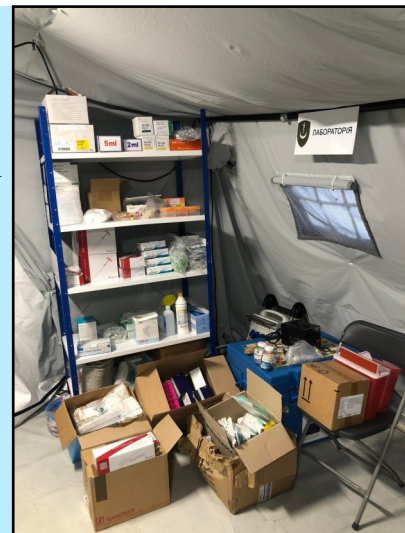
Autistic Society, Sierra Leone. We have supported the **Sierra Leone Autistic Society** over the last few years, including sending them a minibus and also provided solar power for their day care centre in Kabala. Their work has rapidly expanded and they are near to completing a new school

which will hold up to 150 children (they currently have 60 at their school in Freetown). They need at least one more minibus to bring the children here from around the city. We also supplied the school with catering equipment to enable them to set up a café, called "The Inclusive Café". This has been so successful that they are now setting up a complete skills training centre to try and develop the skills of the autistic pupils to such an extent that they are enabled to find a place within society.

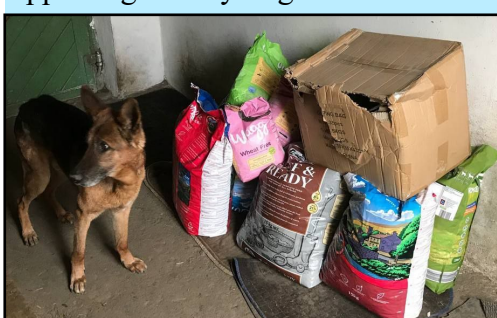


Ukraine update. We continue to send trucks of aid to Ukraine. So far since the conflict began we have sent 31 trucks along with many smaller vans, containing aid valued at over £8.7 million pounds. Our shipping costs just for Ukraine have been £162,087! In addition we have now sent money to purchase 6 ambulances. And we continue to pay around £150 each month to help with the cost of hiring a distribution warehouse in central Ukraine where our trucks unload the aid. Hospitals from around Ukraine and the army come there with their vans and lorries to collect the items that they require. This aid is still greatly needed in Ukraine. People are still losing their homes along with everything that they have on a daily basis, so the need for food, clothing and warm bedding is still as great as ever.

It is hard to overstate how much the medical aid is needed, especially items like crutches and wheelchairs. Sadly, young soldiers are being injured every day. Many will never walk properly again and will need wheelchairs and crutches permanently. The need for all forms of bandages and dressings, blood clotting agents, tourniquets etc is immense. When the Ukrainian army launched its spring counter-offensive along a 600 mile front, we had a phone call from the 30th brigade medics appealing for any large tents that could be used to set up field hospitals where



Large tents are used as field hospitals



Ukrainian animal charities constantly request pet food as many animals have been abandoned by people having to flee their homes.

injured soldiers could be taken to be operated on. Small tables, instrument trolleys, small sterilizers are also needed for these. By Feb. 2023 Russia had damaged 1,218 medical facilities including 540 hospitals. Latest figures are hard to come by, however this targeted destruction of medical facilities and warehouses means that there is an ongoing shortage of every type of medical equipment.

Then there was the bombing of the Kharkovka dam, unleashing the waters of one of Europe's largest reservoirs over hundreds of towns and villages. Until recently, the only way to visit these streets was to steer a boat between the tops of the roofs of the submerged houses. Now the waters have receded revealing, the terrifying scale of the damage and the impossible task of attempting to rebuild.

Sewage, mud, rubbish, dead animals, bits of masonry and potentially land mines swirl together in the backyards of the partially collapsed houses. All basic services have been destroyed. Over 700,000 people have lost their drinking water. The area is still being pounded by Russian forces, stationed on the other side of the swollen banks of the Dnipro River.

Downstream of the dam, hundreds of towns and villages have been turned into polluted swamps. Along the coast where the water flowed into the sea, beaches are deep in dead animals, fish, wood and rubble. No one can swim in the sea any more as the water is so toxic. Upstream, the reservoir, which once sustained some of the richest farmlands in Europe, has been transformed into a salty desert. Residents in those areas now have to queue under shelling to get their water from fire trucks. Farms which exported grain, fruit and vegetables all over



Helmets and other paramedic supplies are gratefully received

the world will produce no food this year, further raising food prices and putting greater pressure on the global food supply.

As long as this terrible situation continues, Jacob's Well will continue to do all that it can to help the people of Ukraine. There are still many ways that you can help. Donations of clothing, blankets, food or medical equipment or other items (not medication) are greatly needed. Most of all, money to continue being able to send the aid is the greatest priority. We have recently found a company that subsidises the cost of trucks going to Ukraine, meaning that each truck we send now costs around £3450 (formerly we were paying £4750 per truck). As long as we can afford it, we will keep sending a truck load of aid to Ukraine every few weeks. We are also seeking to raise £10,000 to purchase a 3.5 ton van to help with aid distribution inside Ukraine. Thank you in advance for your help.



An incubator and supplies of nappies are delivered to a maternity hospital

New Disability Centre in Madagascar.

Some of you may remember that before COVID, we highlighted the project of starting the first disability centre on the island of Nosy Be off the coast of Madagascar. Pioneered by Nathan Stapley, a former Beverley school boy and long-time friend of Jacob's Well, this project seemed like one that we needed to support. In spite of delays due to Covid and other issues, the Sunrise Centre, operated by the charity "Learn, Achieve, Become", finally opened in March 2023 offering life-changing support for those with disabilities in a place where they would otherwise receive no help. Because of the lack of support, most people with disabilities would spend all day,



every day at home. This meant that parents had to spend their time caring for them, and therefore would be unable to find work themselves, causing them to fall further into a cycle of poverty.

The Sunrise Centre, focusses on providing basic education, sports, therapeutic play, communication and life skills. They are currently working with around 30 individuals who have a range of physical and intellectual disabilities. Already, the progress that has been made by the students has been remarkable. They feel welcomed, accepted, and are thriving in life. The centre is able to employ some of the mothers to help, giving them a wage which is a great help in supporting their families.

Now, the challenge is to keep the Sunrise Centre running. The annual costs amount to around £15,000, to be funded

by donations. They are also appealing for volunteers to come and help. Anyone is welcome, especially physiotherapists, occupational therapists, doctors, speech language therapists and other skilled professionals in the field of disability support. Madagascar is one of the most beautiful places on earth, its rain forests are home to some of the world's rarest birds, animals and insects. Though the people live in poverty it is a relatively stable country, compared to most of continental Africa. If you are interested in supporting or visiting this project, please contact us for more details.

DONATIONS: - Via Internet Banking

Account Name: Jacobs Well Appeal
Account Number: 67235135
Sort Code: 08-92-99

Do you have email? If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, save costs and the environment, please send your email address to office@jacobswellappeal.org with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank you!

MEDICATION

Sadly we are no longer able to send patients' medication abroad. If you send us your medication, even if it has never been opened, we will have to pay to have it destroyed. Please return it to your local pharmacy.



A HUGE thank you to all our amazing volunteers and to all those who support us by donating money, medical supplies, items to sell, knitting blankets and making shoe boxes. **If the monies raised exceed the amount needed for the projects mentioned in this newsletter, we will use the extra money to fund similar projects.**