



 **PARTNERS**  
RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

Partners Relief & Development

# Annual Report **2019**





**I**n 1994 if you would have told me that a quarter-century in the future I'd be writing this letter from my home office during a pandemic, to report to major stakeholders that last year we raised \$4.1 million to help children affected by conflict and oppression, I would have laughed in disbelief. I am stunned and humbled to still be doing this work with a team that has never been stronger, and that has never mobilized so quickly, with stakeholders in six countries. Wow.

None of you who know me will be surprised that I've been listening to Bob Dylan on repeat as I work from home. The lines from his song, "The Times They Are A-Changin'" keep coming at me, maybe because **for the past 26 years our team has worked tirelessly to change the circumstances for children and families denied basic human rights because of where they live or the color of their skin.** How we have responded during crisis events, how we have been present with communities over the long haul, how we have worked to love to put others first: those things have made us who we are today. And along the way, for 26 years, you have powered our efforts with your prayer, your empathy, and your money.

*The line it is drawn, the curse it is cast  
The slow one now will later be fast  
As the present now will later be past  
The order is rapidly fading  
And the first one now will later be last  
For the times they are a-changin'*

I don't ever want this movement of love that began by helping a child in Sho-Klo refugee camp in 1994 to end because it began with love and has been powered by action, and that is what makes the world go 'round. The Golden Rule is structured this way, that love for God requires love for others. One without the other is a mockery of faith and humanity. The way ahead together is more of that, to love those who suffer the consequences of war, and act to make love real. Let's keep doing that together to prove that the order is rapidly changing.

Your brother,

Steve  
Founder and President

## A Year of Impact

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**\$4.1**  
Million raised

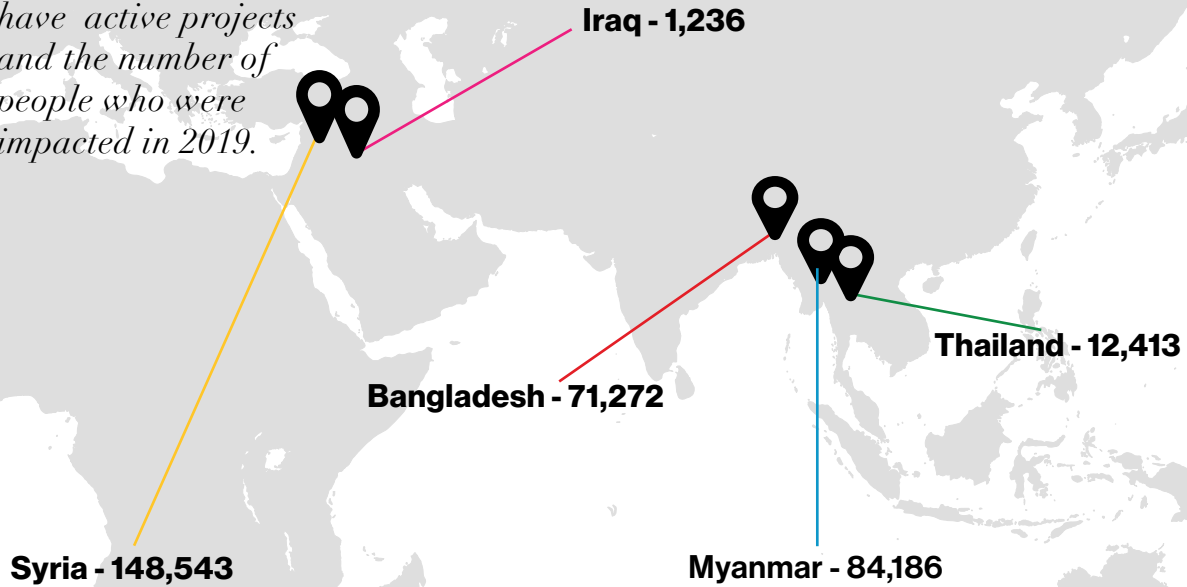
**317,650**  
People helped

**34**  
Projects  
running and  
funded in five  
countries

**5+ Million**  
*Instances of Help*

## Where We Work

*Countries where we have active projects and the number of people who were impacted in 2019.*



\*Note: Some projects operate across multiple countries and are therefore counted twice.

### *Active Projects*

<b>Iraq</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Syria</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>3</b>



Children entering the Hospitainer in Syria



Young students attending Loi Yeng School, Karen State



## *Our Vision*

Free, full lives for children  
affected by conflict and oppression.



This little one got an abscess on his nose, close to his eye, and was treated at a Partners supported clinic in Tah Mae Kee



## Our Mission + Methods

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Through holistic action, we demonstrate God's love to children and communities made vulnerable by conflict and oppression.

*We do this through:*

**Emergency Relief** including food, shelter materials, and basic survival necessities during a crisis.

**Sustainable Development** for community well-being and a nurturing environment for children to grow.

**Strengthening Families** and restoring communities to stop the trafficking, oppression, and exploitation of children.



Rohingya children attending school in Bangladesh



Sustainable school in Karen State



Hospitainer, Syria



Amar Project school in Syria





Attends a school  
supported by  
Partners in  
Bangladesh



## Relief

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If there is one aspect of our work that we seem to be known for, it is our ability to rapidly respond to a crisis event and to meet families and children in the worst week of their lives with emergency relief.

*We do this in two ways:*

Firstly, we fill the gap between when an acute crisis begins and relief from larger aid organizations arrives.

Secondly, there are always displaced people who - for various reasons - do not receive aid even when it eventually comes. They are at the end of the line. We are there for them also.

We are able to do both of these because **we have autonomy, we are nimble, and we know our lane.**

**And last year, when we responded to the crisis in Syria, we learned that we can scale up exponentially - given enough people on the ground and funding.**

### *Highlights*

**27,410 patients** treated by our mobile hospital in Syria.

**4.9 million meals** provided to families fleeing violence in Syria.

**320,700kg of rice** delivered to displaced Rohingya in Myanmar.

**42 sanitation solutions** (wells, toilets, showers) installed in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

**1,000 Karen people** who lost crops in a rat plague in Myanmar were **given relief funds.**

## *Baby Loreen*

Baby Loreen's parents saved 20 years to build a family home. Shortly after it was finished, the shelling started. They ran. Slept on the desert ground for three days with their five children. Caught a ride to a Partners' supported shelter. Loreen's mum went into labor and gave birth.

Baby Loreen's grandfather did not make it. He insisted that he would rather die than be forced to flee his home and run for his life. He was shot and killed.

**This is what it is like to be born in the middle of a war zone.**





## Development

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We have never been satisfied with providing food, shelter, and clothing to displaced families in an acute crisis; **just delivering emergency relief is like building half a bridge:** it might be enough to keep you from drowning, but it doesn't get you over to the other side where there is solid ground.

Because of this, we work with displaced families and their communities to design initiatives that give them **sustainable income.** For us, this is justice work. And if any joy can be found in the aftermath of a crisis, it is when we finally see kids back in school, gardens flourishing, tillapia ponds dug, and sewing machines whirring.

### *Highlights*

Trained **33 community health workers** in Bangladesh and **52** in Myanmar.

**481 people** trained in sustainable agricultural practices.

Distributed **1,453 feminine hygiene kits** and trained **12 women** to make them.

**100 communities** in Myanmar with successful sustainable schools projects operating.

Rebuilt a clinic in Syria giving access to healthcare to **25,600 people.**



## *Saw Alexer*

A husband and father of four who has helped his local school become self-sufficient by starting a small income-generating project funded by Partners.





## Strengthening Families

The trauma of conflict and the deep stress of being displaced from your home are both threats to the well-being of families. Children deserve to grow up in loving homes, so part of our work is always to strengthen families, because **when parents can afford to feed all their children, they won't have to sell one of them to feed the others.** This is also justice.

### *Highlights*

**431 refugee students** given care to be able to attend school.

**738 students** training through SEED migrant learning center.

**150 children** provided with trauma care in Iraq.

**18,440 people** in Kachin camps helped by **400 volunteers.**

**35 migrants** trained in sewing as a source of income.



A Rohingya family in Bangladesh



## *Naw Tamular*

**In 2008, Naw Tamular arrived at Mae La Refugee camp with her sister to study in a safer environment, eventually moving into a community-based home supported by Partners.**

She would go on to complete her high school education while living in the home. “I will never forget my time living in the Karen refugee camp”, she shares.

After high school, Tamular went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in education and worked as a teacher. However, she saw gaps in the education system that she longed to fill and decided to

pursue further studies. “When I look at myself, I realize that I’m not qualified to share my knowledge with my community. Because I worked in education, I want to help my Karen people to have a better quality of education.”

Because **Tamular’s bachelor’s degree is unrecognized by Myanmar’s government, she needs to pass the GED exam to pursue higher education in a recognized university.**

**Partners’ GED program is helping make this dream a reality.** Tamular began the program in June 2019 and aims to pass the GED test in the Spring, after which she hopes to attend Asia Pacific International University.

## 2019 Financials

**\$4,182,447**

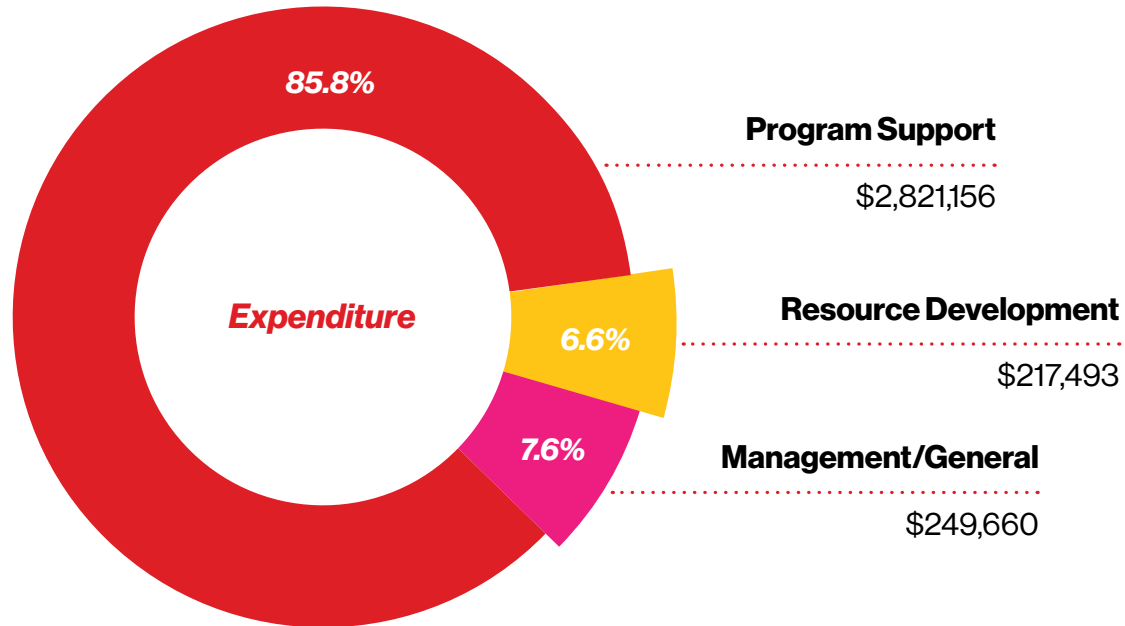
Total income.

**\$3,288,309**

Total expenditure.

**\$0.05**

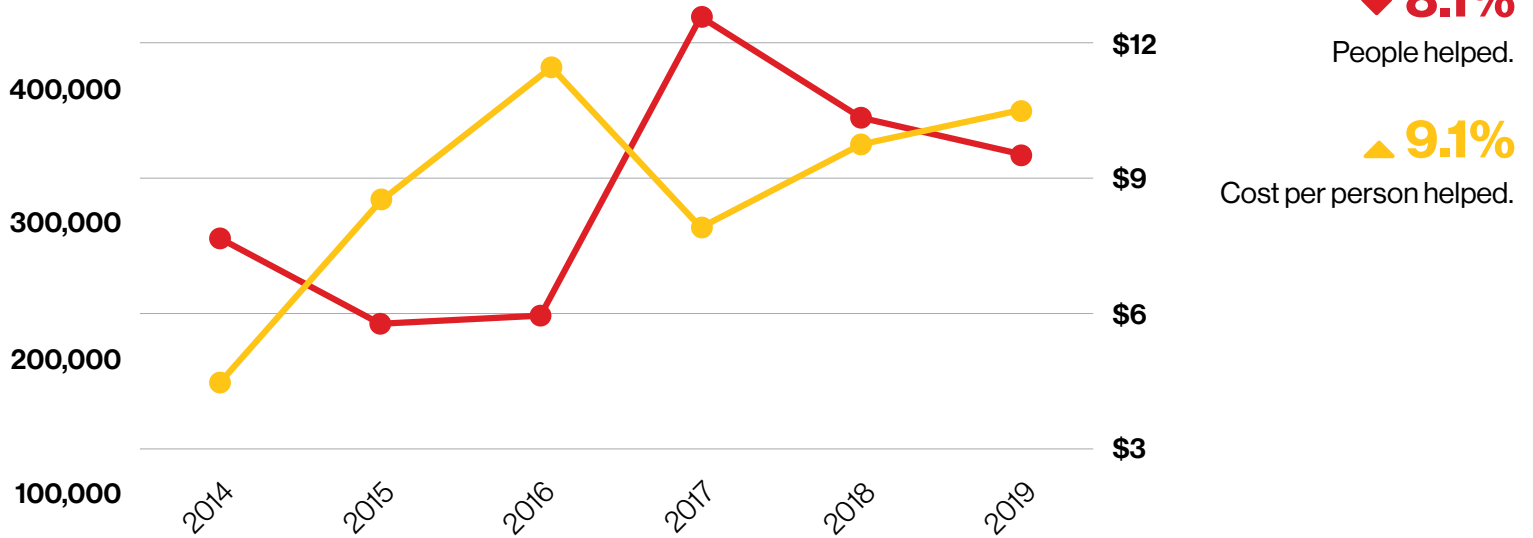
Cost to raise one dollar.





# Trends

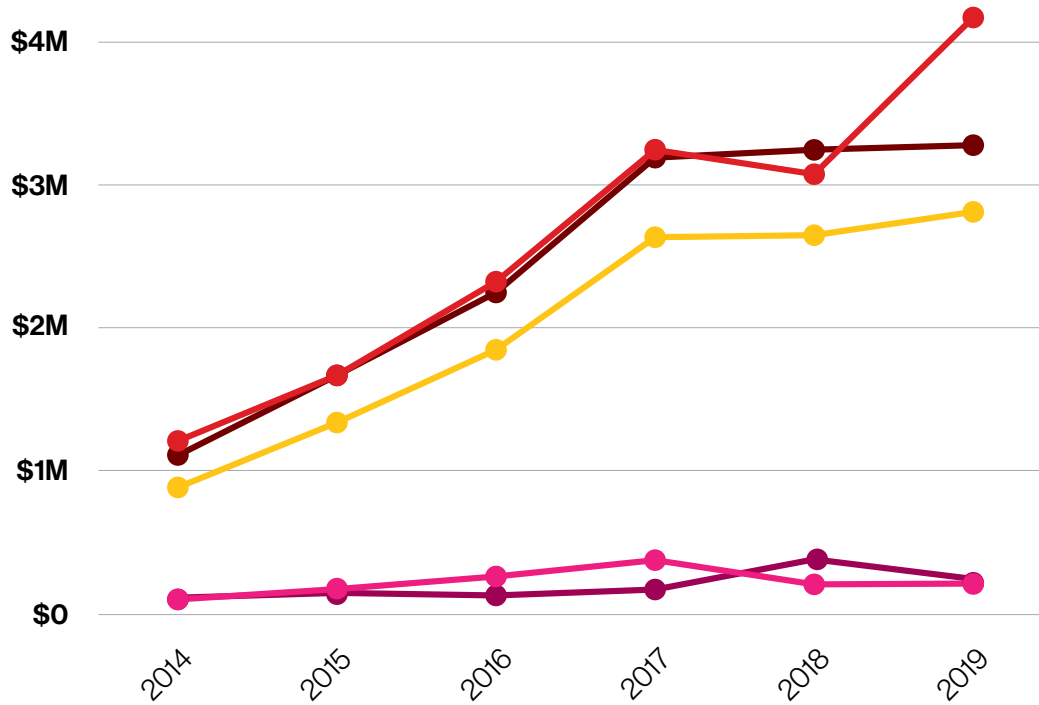
*People Assisted vs Cost Per Person Helped*



We gave more - less people were helped - but those we supported were helped in a more lasting way. We are building up both our relief and development activities. We're not shooting for the highest numbers - we want our help to be quality too.



## Income and Expenditure



### Past 12 Months

▲ **35.5%**

Total income.

▲ **1%**

Total expenditure.

▲ **6.1%**

Program support.

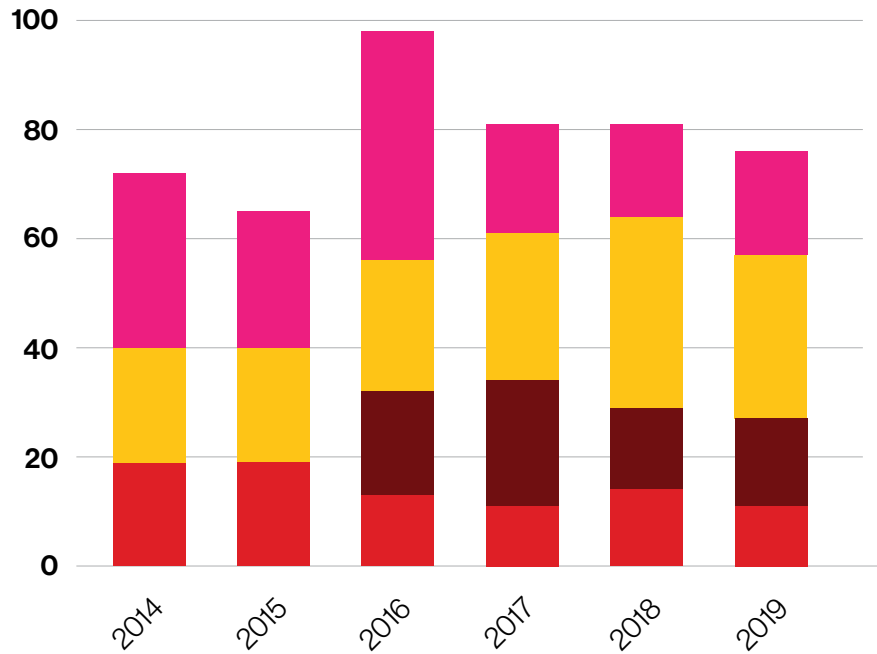
▲ **2.6%**

Resource development.

▼ **35.5%**

Management / General.

## Staff Trends



### Past 12 Months

▼ **17.6%**

International staff.

▲ **10.5%**

International field staff

▼ **9.3%**

Local field staff.

▲ **19.0%**

Volunteers.



## Our Team

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Our global team gathers annually to remember who we are, what we accomplished together in the past year, and why we do what we do.

Many of our staff arrive from their various far-flung fields nearly empty, having poured themselves out generously for others, but by the time they leave they are filled right back up.

**We are a virtual United Nations, represented by over a dozen languages and hailing from tribes all over the world.** These are not barriers to us; they are what makes us stronger together.

Field Staff - 30

Short-term Volunteers - 19

International Staff - 12

International Field Staff - 16



## 2019 Supporter Highlights

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In a brand Partnership with Purl Soho, knitters purchased our **#ToLevelstoKnit** kit and knit woollen hats that our team distributed to kids in war zones.

Our community raised 158% of our goal and funded healthcare for 30,000 people on **#GivingTuesday**.

We installed a pop-up store in several churches and sold \$20,072 worth of items that directly help refugees. **#ToLevelsToActStore**

411 life-changing gifts were purchased through our annual catalog. **#Christmas2019**

**58 supporters** created online fundraisers where they: baked, kayaked, gave up birthdays, and even held a Lego competition, which raised \$24,567.



Taking blood pressure for patients in Karen State



Food distribution in Bangladesh



Panaga Childrens' Trauma Center, Kurdistan, Northern Iraq

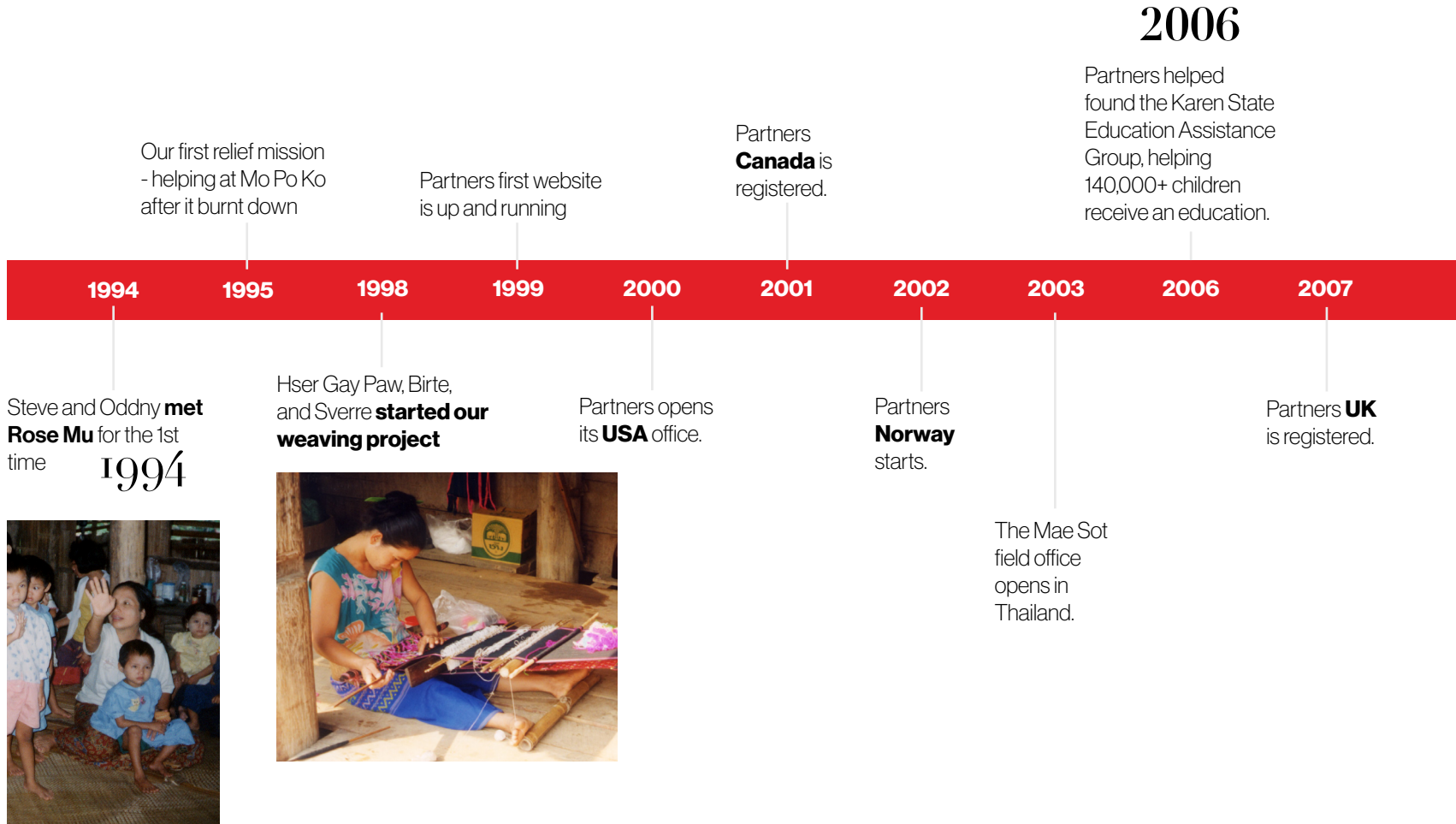


Freedom. Period. Kits for the Middle East and Southeast Asia



## Our History

Timeline of key moments in the Partners story.



# 2012

Cyclone Nargis devastated the Irrawaddy Delta and 138,366 people die. We helped with food, shelter and medicine.

AND  
The Mae Jo Development Training Center opened  
AND  
Partners **New Zealand** is first registered.

Our first rice distribution to the Rohingya in Rakhine State



The Village Health Worker program starts, bringing vital care to remote Karen villages.

Helped more than a quarter of a million people.

2008

2009

2010

2011

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

**Shan State Medical training begins.**



Ceasefire in Kachin State ends, displacing over 100,000 people. AND Shan Sustainable Schools pilot program begins, which has grown to over 90 projects.

Provide medicine to over 20,000 people during a cholera outbreak in Karen State, Myanmar.



Provided relief to families as Mosul is delivered from ISIS occupation. AND We begin relief distributions for the first time in Yemen AND **Myanmar Army launches offensive against the Rohingya.** Over 700,000 fled to Bangladesh. Partners is one of the first on the ground with food and shelter. AND Provided assistance to 419,119 people.

# 2019

4.9 million meals provided to families fleeing attacks in NE Syria.

Our first school and clinic rebuilds are completed in Syria.

We launch our work in the Middle East and deliver **6,000 tarps to people displaced from Aleppo, Syria.**





## What We Did Right

It seems fitting that as we closed out a quarter century of work, we turned a corner as an organization that we didn't see coming. **In October, when the Turkish military began bombing Kurds in Syria, we were one of the few organizations on the ground.** Because so many other NGO's had left when the violence began, national and international news organizations featured our work. We received our largest grant to date, upscaled our efforts, and suddenly we found ourselves on the radar of an entirely new group of people interested in our work. **Our mailing list tripled and we were able to fully fund all 34 of our projects by year's end.**

After researching a variety of donor-management platforms, **we successfully moved our entire database from one platform to another.** There were several significant speed bumps in the process, but it is functioning the way we hoped it would and we couldn't be happier that **donors now have autonomy to manage their own giving on their own donor pages.**

We learned so much about our capacity to scale up efforts as funding increased in the fall of 2019. Unprecedented funding made it possible for us to deliver an unprecedented amount of relief. **Our team has the bandwidth and expertise to increase our project delivery exponentially in relation to funding we receive.**

### **Partners earned the highest ratings possible in 2019 from charity watchdogs:**

Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency; Charity Navigator 4-Star Charity; Excellence in Giving Certified Transparent. This means everything to us, as the trust we have worked hard to establish with our stakeholders is the reason we have such sustained engagement with them.





## What We Got Wrong

When our team was **going into Syria** and our finances were low, we purchased expensive **one-off insurance** because the annual policy was so expensive. We didn't anticipate multiple trips by a rotating team and having to buy insurance each time. It was a costly mistake and **we now have an annual policy.**

One of our new sustainable schools projects in Shan State trialed growing mushrooms but the mushrooms just didn't grow well in that environment. Not any one person's fault and it was a trial in the first place. **We're still supporting that community in a variety of ways - just not with mushrooms.**

**The delivery of sleeping bags we ordered for displaced families in Syria got delayed** for months and not only didn't arrive until mid-winter, but were of lower quality than previous orders.

In fall 2019 **we held a small fundraiser** in Michigan with the objective of fully-funding four projects. We printed gorgeous and compelling materials. We planned to livestream from Iraq and a full orchestra in Mae La Refugee Camp was going to serenade our guests. **And...**the internet didn't work; key stakeholders canceled last minute. We raised a fraction of what we had planned to raise. And we know what we will do differently next time.





Food distribution in Bangladesh

*As Seen On*



Newsweek

The Guardian

The Atlantic

The Philadelphia Inquirer

METRO



INDEPENDENT

The Telegraph



WORLD  
MAGAZINE



THE  
CHRISTIAN  
POST



BOSTON  
25  
NEWS

wtop





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