



Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

HART STATEMENT ON PROJECT LONGHURST

10 JANUARY 2022

Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) is delighted to become part of the new charity initiative launched by Chris Broome and the team at Longhurst. Through this partnership, HART and Longhurst will have opportunities to provide life-saving support for local peacebuilders and humanitarian organisations in Nigeria, Syria, Burma, Sudan, South Sudan, Abyei, and the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh.

HART is an international relief charity, founded by Baroness Cox in 2004. Our mission is to transform and save lives. During times of crisis, we provide food, water, clothes, education, medical care and shelter. We stand alongside local people who are caught in the crossfire of conflict. **HART is not like other relief charities. We go where others won't.**

We reach isolated communities who are overlooked by major aid organisations, ignored by the international media and/or oppressed by their own government. We also combine aid with advocacy: in a noisy world, we amplify voices that would otherwise be unheard. One such example of our work is in Central Nigeria, where thousands of civilians have been killed or wounded in horrific terrorist attacks.

Across Central Nigeria, millions are displaced by insecurity and fear. Despite the scale and nature of the violence, it rarely hits our headlines. Neither the Nigerian Government, nor the US or UK Governments, nor any member of the European Union or African Union, nor UN relief agencies operating in Nigeria, have provided adequate humanitarian assistance to displaced people in the central belt region where HART is supporting local communities.

In 2023, with the support of *Project Longhurst*, HART will expand the *Roads to Hope: Emergency Healthcare in Nigeria* initiative to reduce the number of lives lost to militia violence. As stationary health care facilities remain under constant threat, we will provide mobile health care assistance to displaced persons through purchasing and equipping vans with life-saving medical equipment.

The medical units will travel to conflict-affected villages in Plateau state and Southern Kaduna to deliver basic emergency healthcare following an attack. Volunteer medical staff (displaced persons themselves) will clean wounds, extract metal, test for preventable illnesses such as diarrhoea and malaria, and transport severely wounded patients to hospital. Upon arrival in the villages, the medical staff will deliver a talk to the community about personal hygiene, first aid and advise mothers caring for their babies amid conflict.

Sadly, women and children are the main victims of militia attacks, with hundreds of children dying from gunshot and machete wounds each year. Community leaders repeatedly state that more people would survive attacks if there was a quick medical response, able to stop bleeding and prevent infections. HART partner, Reverend Canon Hassan John, told us: *"I have personally saved many lives with only a little first aid knowledge and the first aid pouch I keep in my car."*

The *Roads to Hope* project will enable immediate life-saving relief following an attack and provide essential healthcare training among the community. HART is profoundly grateful to *Project Longhurst* for helping our partners in Nigeria and other parts of the world to provide vital leadership and aid to communities in crisis. We are looking forward to developing our partnership in 2023 and beyond.

“As the Founding President of HART, I can hardly find adequate words to convey my gratitude to Longhurst Wealth Management for supporting our commitment to provide aid and advocacy for victims of conflict and oppression largely unreached by other aid organisations for political or security reasons. Major aid organisations can only reach people in need with the permission of a government – which they are unable to do, if a government refrains from giving permission. Or, in some cases where civilians are trapped in areas subjected to military offensives, aid organisations cannot reach them for security reasons. However, HART supports local partners who are on location and who work with their communities to meet their urgent needs. We look forward to informing you of the positive developments you will have helped to make possible and the profound gratitude of the people whose lives you will have helped to save.” – **Baroness Cox, Founder President.**