



Crossroads'
Global
Village ^{UK}

Annual Review 2019

CROSSROADS' **GLOBAL** **VILLAGE UK**



Follow Crossroads Global Village (UK)
on Facebook and LinkedIn!



Summary Statement

This report comprises the activities of Crossroads' Global Village UK (CGV UK) for the year ending December 2019.

This was an unusual year. There seemed to be just one word, on everybody's lips: Brexit.

The associated uncertainty saw patterns change for us. Some organisations were less confident in giving. Some NGOs were not sure about the impact on the logistics needed to move their goods to people in other countries. There was concern about regular funding, new policies and whether partnerships would be able to function in a future that was unknown.

Although we therefore 'felt' the impact in different parts of our lives, our UK office continued its services, regardless, seeking, as always to be what our name implies: a crossroads between people in need and those who can help. In the UK.

Highlights from those services are featured in this review.

Global X-perience. These educational programmes simulate challenges facing our world. Participants come from educational institutions, the business sector and community groups. Our goal is to help people 'step into the shoes' of those who are suffering by 'experiencing' something of their struggle and then looking for ways to make a difference.

Global Hand. UK donors and UK NGOs are often in need of partners. We help 'match' them so that donors with valuable goods may find NGOs who place them strategically in their work: either at home or in their wider programmes.

Global Handicrafts. In the UK, we sell fair trade items made by people working their way out of poverty.

CGV UK has global reach, but its strongest links are with businesses, charities and NGOs based in the UK.

We are exceedingly grateful to our donors, supporters and partners, without whom this work would not be possible.

Contents

Summary Statement.....	3
Needs Served:	
Conflict	6-9
Poverty.....	12-13
Education	14-15
Health & Disability.....	18-19
Decent Work.....	20-21
Corporate Engagement.....	24-27
Get Connected	31



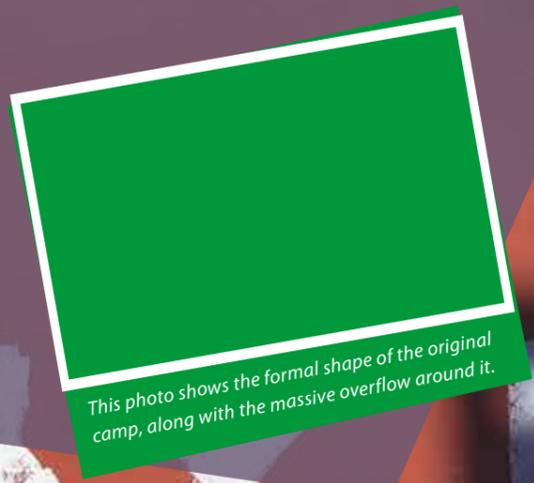
"Poverty is not an accident. It is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings."

Nelson Mandela

A 'LIVING HELL': Moria camp on Lesbos

A 'living hell' is one of the phrases used to describe the large refugee camp located on Lesbos Island, Greece. 'A moral failure' is another. Some say the pain there is simply indescribable. Moria Camp was designed for just over 2000 people, but, last year, 'housed' 10,000 and, this year, over 20,000. The stress on those in the camp is almost three-fold. Their past has often been brutal and, in many cases, left people with PTSD. Their future is unknown, with an opaque qualification process for acceptance by other countries. Their present, under these massively overcrowded conditions, is far from the dream they had hoped for. They frequently say they made a mistake in leaving everything to come here. The result? Widespread depression and suicidal behaviour, not only among adults, but also children as young as ten. No wonder the BBC, in a documentary, calls it 'the worst refugee camp on earth'.

On the ground, the system is failing. There is not enough food or water. There is no regular electricity. The medical clinics do not have sufficient personnel or medicine. Education is virtually non-existent. The weak legal infrastructure leaves places like this rife for human trafficking and corruption. Worst of all, the tension is spilling over into the lives of the residents where, after dark, in particular, ethnic fighting breaks out and abuse is commonplace.



This photo shows the formal shape of the original camp, along with the massive overflow around it.



How do we help Moria?

We see consistent depth of concern in the UK for Lesbos. Several of our partner NGOs regularly drive supplies, in convoy, from the UK to Moria and other refugee camps there.

Extreme weather

Greece is known for its sunny shores and summer wonders with temperatures, when our team last visited, over 40 degrees C. Winter, however, is a different story. Temperatures can plummet to zero or below. What protection do refugees have? Since the camp's infrastructure is overwhelmed, people may get a simple sheet of plastic, or tarpaulin, which they tie to a tree, or a fence, and try to live under. Theirs is an impossible battle against the elements.

Our website, www.globalhand.org, is set up as a 'virtual warehouse' which invites people to offer donations that we seek to match with appropriate NGOs. So, when donors offered winter clothing, non-profits, here in the UK, were quick to respond. If the tents or other makeshift shelters for refugees could not be improved, we could, at least, help them sleep in warm outfits to get them through the nights. Moreover, since most refugees step out more than what they are kinds is in regular demand.

We were delighted, to see not only offers of appropriate clothing but also quality shoes which could ensure refugees could be protected from the muddy ground in this under-sanitised camp.



Most vulnerable

As always, it is the elderly and the young who are most vulnerable in a context like this. Even something as simple as a set of beanies, to protect the heads of the little ones, were eagerly matched between donors and recipient NGOs.



Likewise, they were glad to receive clothes specifically for babies, whose body temperature is most at risk as they give way to hypothermia very quickly.

Additionally, for babies, milk powder was immediately matched once offered on our Global Hand site. Global Hand site.

The future?

Of course, the best we can do is never going to be enough for this tragic, and ever growing, need. With Brexit, moreover, seeing the UK very focused on its own future, we it particularly important to pass on any tions, through our very dedicated UK NGO partners, to those in desperate need.

By and large, aid workers tell us, the world has turned its back on Lesbos Island, Moria camp in particular. Our longing is to support all those who want to see refugees supported. If you are interested in helping refugees here or elsewhere, take a look at our box on the following page and see what you might be a 'fit' for you or your company. We'd dearly love to hear from you.

A Day in the Life of a Refugee: World Economic Forum 2019

In the pitch black of a refugee camp, as people huddle in tents, a woman's voice breaks through the noise of the night. What starts as a quiet mumbling builds to fever pitch: a cry of utter and sustained desperation. Soldiers rush to quieten her, to drag her away, if possible. She shouts that she wants to suicide because she has been denied refuge in a safe country and must go back to her war torn home. 'Let me die here!', she says. 'It will be kinder.' One soldier says, cynically, 'If she wants to die let her die. It gives us one less to think about!' His words, though part of a simulation, are a direct quote from soldiers handling these cases in the camps. The woman's words are too. Trauma specialist, Alexandra Chen, who is on our team, serves as our adviser as we seek to portray the mental agony facing many refugees.

Although we can only simulate these conditions, Alexandra's depth of experience in refugee camps, across many war zones and many years, means she is ideally placed to guide us. She also plays the role of the distressed woman, re-creating the reality she works with on a daily basis. Although this is only a simulation, it is, nonetheless, gut-wrenching to hear that cry for help, representative of many displaced people, all over the world, whose voices we will never hear.

Mental health was one of several themes to which we gave special focus this year at the World Economic Forum where we once more brought our simulation, 'A Day in the Life of a Refugee': our 11th year at Davos. Our UK Manager, Natalya Hanley, attended again, re-creating the dearth of medical care in such locations, mental health in particular. She, representing under-resourced medical clinics across the refugee landscape, can offer those with broken limbs or broken hearts, little more than a sticking plaster or an aspirin.

Photo: During 'night' in the simulation, a woman has a panic attack, representing the devastating toll that trauma takes on the mental health of refugees.

As well as health concerns, the simulation we take demonstrates other challenges: lack of food and water, lack of shelter, lack of education, weak legal infrastructure, poor Internet connection, dearth of electricity or other power, risk of human trafficking and, as above, the fear regarding the future which may await these displaced people.

"Hearing so much news around refugees in the world today, it begins to become background noise," reflected one participant afterwards. "This simulation brought the issues about refugees back into focus for me." Another, an executive with Hewlett Packard Enterprise said, "This is the best and the worst thing I have ever done." We consistently see those extreme emotions translate into a sense of urgency in participants to do something, anything, to help. We love being able to offer our team of advisors from all aspects of the refugee space, to help people find ways they can use their strengths to make change.

We also find it an immense privilege to bring our team to Davos and to help put refugee issues in front of those who truly have the political or policy power to make a difference. Our entire cast, like Allie, includes either people who have experience in this themselves or work in the humanitarian sector. After the 30-minute simulation, our debrief offers a chance to hear from refugees and those engaged with refugees about how the delegates, given their power and / or resources, can help change the futures for refugees.

We could not possibly create the experience without the partnership of sponsors (listed below), who likewise believe it is a cause that is worth their support.



From the CGVUK office, Natalya Hanley has annually joined the team running the simulation at WEF. She plays a double role, firstly as the health worker in a tragically under-resourced camp clinic, and secondly, helping delegates, particularly those from UK companies, discuss how they can be part of solving refugee issues.

How can Crossroads help you help refugees?

Donate goods from anywhere: We can help place appropriate goods, wherever you may have them in the world, with refugee projects. Simply offer them on www.globalhand.org or email for our team to help.

Donate goods in the UK: If you have goods to give away in the UK, whether large or small, we can likewise connect you with refugee projects. Email cgvuk@crossroads.org, offer them on www.globalhand.org or just call our UK number to chat it through with our manager.

Donate money: Got funding but don't know who would most benefit? We have trusted partners working on the ground in refugee camps across the world. We can help direct your funding in strategic ways.

Sell fair trade goods: We have fair trade goods made by refugees and displaced people, helping them earn a fair wage for their work. We can bring a stall to your event, or you can sell them on consignment.

Book a simulation: Our UK office has adapted an experiential programme to simulate the pressure for survival under which refugees seek to survive. Simulating poverty issues can help your staff, students and community group better understand and empathise. Email us for more!

Other ideas? We'd love to talk! Email cgvuk@crossroads.org



Peshraw Baker Hussein came alongside Crossroads team at Davos for the first time in 2019. He grew up in a time of war in Northern Iraq, and after each simulation, spoke to participants about the deadliest urban chemical attack in history, which took place near his own hometown, Halabja. Holding up an apple, he explains how the army attacked the town with a poisonous gas that smelled like sweet apples, a fruit widely loved there. It killed 5,000 people on the spot, and seriously injured 10,000 more. Today, Peshraw says Isis has created a new generation of refugees, and he himself works with them.

Premium Sponsors



Sponsors



Pamela Phua



V. K. Hsu & Sons Foundation Ltd.

2019 Sponsors

We again brought our refugee simulation to world leaders at WEF in Davos, Switzerland, this January. This would have been impossible without the generous financial support of our partners, who sponsored the simulation in 2019.



"The world we have created is a product of our thinking; it cannot be changed without changing our thinking."

Albert Einstein

Meeting the face of poverty

"If poor Nigerians were a country," wrote a World Economic Forum report, "it would be more populous than Germany." Roughly 102 million people*, half the nation's population, live in extreme poverty

That poverty has a face, one seen routinely by the small Nigerian team serving at Guildance Foundation. It is the face of each hungry child they meet in poor, rural villages. They write: "It's a heart-breaking sight. Children line up for hundreds of metres to receive a small stipend of food. There's not enough. There's never enough."

Guidance knows that a day's food can only sustain a child briefly. Their longing is for longer term solutions, if only they could put each one in school, or equip each with the skills needed to find a job: reaching for the keys which will ultimately be needed to see someone released from poverty. They therefore run projects in health, small business development, microfinance and more, for the poorest of the poor in rural Nigeria. Those goals see them reach out regularly to Global Hand for the needed provision.

In 2019, a UK branch of a Canadian company offered laptops on our Global Hand website and Guildance Foundation gratefully raised their hand to accept them. They fed back that these had empowered their team. "Before the donation, our staff relied on desktops to perform their tasks. With these laptops, they now have the tools to work unhindered in office, in the field and at home."

Additionally, this year they received clothing for the children through Global Hand (see photo). Over the years, in fact, Global Hand has consistently helped match them with supplies for their wide range of programmes.

Poverty in these communities can feel entrenched. Yet, thankfully, groups like Guildance are determined to change lives, one meal, one child, one educational programme and one medical clinic at a time. We are glad to be a channel of provision for their multi-pronged approach.

*World Data Lab



Laptops donated through Global Hand are giving Nigerian NGO staff the flexibility to use computers on field visits as well as home/ office.

Remembering 'forgotten' nations

It constantly grieves us that some countries are never, or almost never, in the news. They just seem forgotten by much of the world. They're not considered 'newsworthy, yet their people may be suffering greatly and there can be much we can do about it. Bulgaria is one. Among Europe's poorest nations, it sees around 22% of the population living under the poverty line. Life is usually hardest of all for its rural people and those from ethnic minorities, such as Roma communities.

So, we found immediate interest when our Global Hand online 'matching' service received an offer of freeze-dried food. It included milk powder, sugar, soups, fruit and vegetables and had been stored by a college in case of emergency. When they no longer needed it, they didn't want to see their stockpile go to waste.

Our UK office helped match this offer with an NGO which has not forgotten Bulgaria, one aptly named Mission Without Borders. "Very often those we work with lack the basics of life, including food," they said. "This gift will have an incredible impact helping some of the neediest people." They took the donation, more than 3 tons of food.

We love seeing goods flow through our Global and network, from places of plenty, to forgotten communities in need.



New partners multiply impact

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." The immortal words of Helen Keller epitomise the reason that our online matching service, Global Hand, exists. Global Hand sees donors providing much needed goods to charities, whether large or small, and each interaction helps NGOs take another step closer to their goal of seeing the end of poverty. As each of us in the world plays our part, working together, we're a force to be reckoned with.

2019 saw a new partner join the Global Hand family: Goods for Good, a UK-based charity

that takes donated, quality goods and sends them to those in need not only in the UK, but also in nations such as the Philippines, Ukraine and Kurdistan.

It was Goods for Good who gratefully took a Global Hand donation of 7 large boxes of new clothes, including hoodies, socks, long sleeved shirts and t-shirts which, they said, "will be absolutely perfect for refugee camps, where people have lost everything they possess." We couldn't be more deeply thankful for each of the partners in our network who, together, work steadily on for change.



How can Crossroads help you help those in poverty?

Donate goods from anywhere: We can help place your goods, anywhere in the world, with projects in poverty relief. Simply offer them on www.globahand.org or email us and our team will support you as we help you find a 'match' among NGOs.

Donate goods in the UK: If you have goods to give away in the UK, whether large or small, we can connect you with projects that help people in poverty. Again, you can email us, offer them on www.globahand.org or just call our UK number to chat it through with our manager.

Run a collection drive: Gather support from your school or community group to collect needed goods, which we can direct to NGOs working with people in poverty. If you could, please, contact us first, we can guide you as to the most strategic goods to target.

Donate money: Got funding but don't know who would most benefit? We have trusted partners with poverty relief projects across the world. We can suggest ways you could direct your funding that would make a crucial difference.

Sell fair trade goods: Love fair trade? We have fair trade goods made by people from communities in need, helping them earn a fair wage for their work. We can bring a stall to your event, or you can sell them on consignment.

Book a simulation: Want a deeper understanding of world need? We run experiential programmes simulating poverty and other global issues to help your staff, students or community group better understand and empathise. Email us for more!

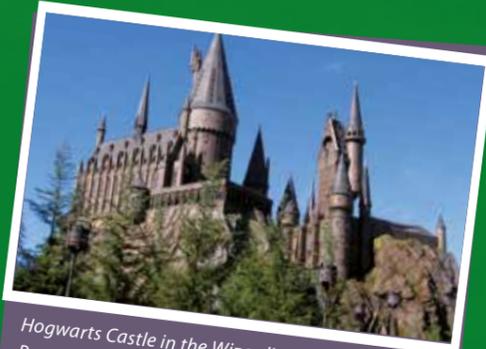
Other ideas? We'd love to talk!
Email cgvuk@crossroads.org

“With languages, you are at home anywhere.”

No greater challenge faces refugees than finding a new ‘home’ in their lives. If that is provided in a country where they don’t speak the language, then mastery of that new language is essential.

It was Edmund de Waal who said, ‘With languages, you are at home anywhere.’ For refugees in Italy, then, we were delighted when our Global Hand website was offered books in Italian which NGOs could use to help refugees learn more of the language.

We were doubly delighted that these books were packed with fun for kids: full sets of the beloved Harry Potter series.



Hogwarts Castle in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, an island of Island's Of Adventure in the Universal Orlando Resort. Photo: Carlos Cruz

Our UK manager helped ‘match’ this with a UK NGO who had seen the offer on Global Hand and had likewise seen its potential.

They were as enthusiastic as we. The end goal, of course, was to help young refugees master the language of the country where their future lay, to help it indeed become ‘home’ to them. What a fun way to help this happen!



CGVUK manager, Natalya Hanley, preparing participants for simulation programme.

The power of experiential learning

Refugee concerns frequently came up again this year as Natalya Hanley, manager of Crossroads Global Village UK, was approached by educational institutions about experiential learning programmes. In response, she adapted the widely appreciated ‘Struggle for Survival’ so that its focus, rather than being placed on a broad representation of poverty, targeted, specifically, refugee concerns.

The value of experiential learning is one close to Natalya’s heart. She is convinced that, from a pedagogical perspective, experiential programmes bring deepened empathy and understanding among students, something harder to ‘teach’ through normal classroom activity.

On this page, we feature a selection of the voices from participants this year.

“I felt vulnerable and powerless’, one university student told us, adding, “I felt touched by the fact that I would do anything for money to help the ones I love”.

An “impressive and unforgettable experience... Thanks to the simulation, I’ll do my best to make the world a better place”.

“Now I know how stressful it is living in a refugee camp.”

“The experience was really powerful... shocking. I am glad to have had my eyes opened.”

“Today’s programme totally changed the way I see... I had not thought that there were so many refugees in the world... Now I know, it makes me start thinking how to help those refugees”.

“The desperation of refugees was clearer. You can really feel the stress they were put under.”

“I do not think that I had ever really thought about how refugees live day-to-day or how much of a massively emotionally challenging task simply surviving in the camps must be.”

“It has left us with a lot to think about.”



Helping students care about a fairer world

It is always gut-wrenching to cast one’s gaze across the globe and see the disparity that marks our world. Children of the same age encounter a huge contrast in opportunity: their lives far more different than they should or could be. Born into another environment, the UK students we visit, may well have been forced to work

themselves, if they needed to be breadwinners for their families. School might not even be possible for them had they been born into a less developed country, battling a weaker economy or holding a different passport.

That’s one reason we love to bring fair trade to schools. It is not just the products that we want the kids to enjoy (though hopefully they do). It’s the very reason fair trade exists: the fact that many people live trapped in economies which fair trade can help them break through.

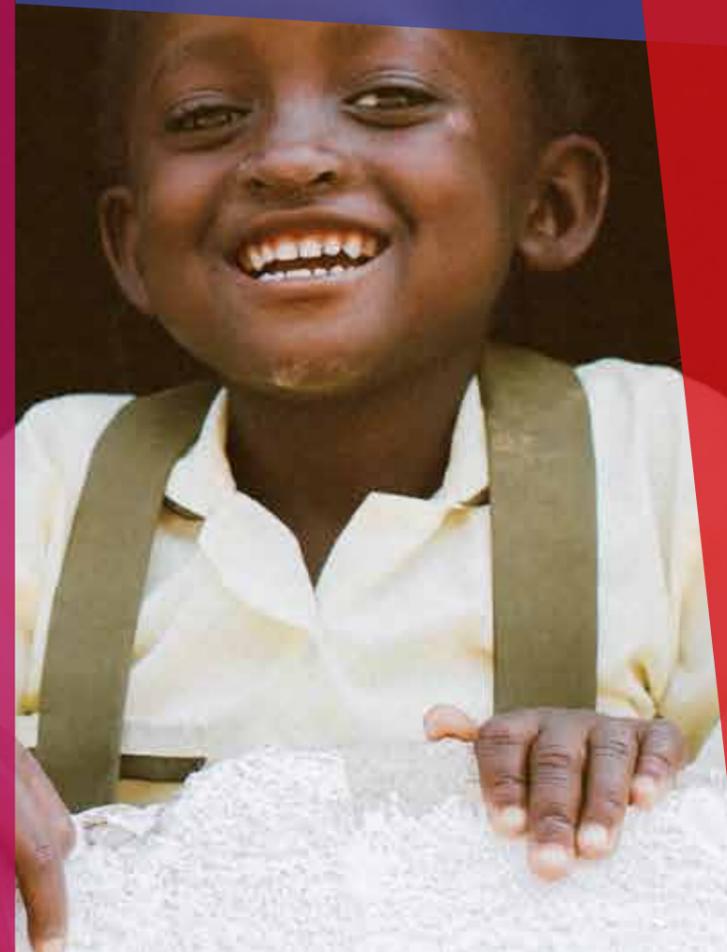
We love to see Fair Trade instil different values in students living in affluent countries: those who, tomorrow, may be in business themselves and able to support a world where everyone has a fairer chance.



The International Labour Organisation reports that 218 million children between 5 and 17 years are in employment, 152 million of whom are victims of child labour. Photo: © ILO/M.CROZET



We bring Fair Trade to schools.



How can Crossroads help your school?

Bring fair trade to school: We can bring beautiful fair trade gifts, ornaments and homewares to sell at your school event.

Book a simulation: We run simulations for UK schools on themes such as fair trade, poverty and the refugee crisis.

Donate school goods: We can help UK schools find non-profit projects who would love to use their superseded uniforms, collection drives for school supplies, text books and other educational items.

Support your educational charity: If your school has a charity partner, or if you’re connected with a school in a poor community, we can help find resources they need through Global Hand.

Other ideas? We’d love to talk!
Email cgvuk@crossroads.org



"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to **solve** most of the world's problems."

Mahatma Gandhi



Helping 'UK Care' for medical need

It was the image that broke the world's heart: three-year-old Alan Kurdi, lying dead on a beach in Turkey after his Syrian refugee family attempted a treacherous sea crossing to safety. His death brought the refugee crisis into sharper relief for many. People in the UK, as in nations across the world, asked, "What can I do?"

One of those asking, in the UK, was Nora Carlin. At the sight of so much death, she knew she had to act. She started a collection drive of goods for refugees, which snowballed into what is today Care UK Charity.

While we all grieve over the deaths of those who fail the journey to freedom, like tiny Alan, we also ache over the sheer volume of people who 'make it', but become stuck in conflict zones. Their needs are urgent and the very resources they need are often found among UK donors, whether large or small.

That's where Care UK helps us help. When we were offered several donations of medical goods in 2019, they weren't sufficient to fill a container, but they were valuable:

wheelchairs, oxygen monitors, thermometers, dressings, sterile gloves, needles and bandages. We matched these donations with Care UK who incorporated them into the medical aid shipments they were sending to places of deep need, including Syria.

When people want to act on that desperate question, "What can I do?", it is a privilege to be able to help answer it through our network of NGOs. Whether donations are offered in huge quantities or small, we can look for a right 'match'. In doing so, we greatly appreciate the partnership of Care UK which can consolidate a series of donations and see them safely to zones of the world where life is anything but safe.



Good Companions Bolton

"Know me for my abilities, not my disability," said advocate Robert M. Hensel. Good Companions Bolton is a UK group living out these words, where friendship, support, learning and camaraderie matter more than people's disabilities. Some participants have cognitive disabilities, others visual or hearing impairments and more, but all come together to encourage each other to live their best lives and learn new skills to function well in their communities. Their programmes vary: computer training, art, social outings, care for animals and the practice of life skills. Through these, some of their members have successfully gone on to college or found a full-time job.

Thriving as they are, Good Companions Bolton depends on outside support, as does any non-profit organisation, and we have had the privilege of regularly helping supply

goods for their projects. In 2019, the group gratefully received a donation through Global Hand of goods from a local UK fire station. They were giving away a surplus of 'robe and dis-robe packs': highly useful sets of protective gear from jackets to face masks and gloves. The handover itself was an event for the Good Companions Bolton members, who made a day of collecting the goods from them, with a tour of the fire station, demonstration of the fire-fighting equipment and meeting the fire-fighting team, all to the great excitement of participants.

They are now using the gear when working on their allotment, and were able to share some of the excess with a local care home: a beautiful picture of true community in action!



How can Crossroads help you meet medical needs?

Donate goods from anywhere: We can help place your medical goods, if in good condition, with health projects anywhere in the world. Simply phone, email us (details below) or offer them on www.globahand.org. Our team will guide you through it.

Donate goods in the UK: If you have medical goods to give away in the UK, whether large or small, we can also connect you with health projects. Again, you can phone, email us (details below) or offer them on www.globahand.org or just call our UK number to chat it through with our manager.

Donate money: Got funding but don't know who would most benefit? We have trusted partners with health projects across the world. We can help direct your funding in crucial ways.

Receive health goods: If you have a project related to health or disability, register on Global Hand, where you can find donors with health-related goods to give.

Other ideas? We'd love to talk!
Email cgvuk@crossroads.org

“Decent work” is the term used by the United Nations to describe the kind of employment they are working towards through the Sustainable Development Goals. Many people are forced into work which leaves them vulnerable and, in some cases, places them in danger. This goal points towards people working in gainful employment, with dignity and fulfilment. We love to support it any way we can.



India: Empowered people, cleaner planet



Photo: Milla Adam

The Yamuna river, in Northern India, battles pollution on a tragic scale. Although its waters are clear in the early stages of its journey, the picture changes drastically when it flows through New Delhi. Up to 80% of its pollution is gathered in the 22 km stretch within the city.

Entrepreneur Vimlendu Jha has been working to make a difference. Targetting young Indian students, the leaders of tomorrow's generation, he sought to gather environmental issues to be addressed and, in time, began a very successful scheme they call “Green the Gap.” It was created to give waste another life by upcycling old materials. He and his team purchase materials from rag-pickers and waste markets, transforming old tyres, juice cartons and waste fabrics into products of superb design.



Craftsmen at Green the Gap in India work with recycled materials, including cans and tyres, to create notebooks and other gifts.

We sell Green the Gap's upcycled tyre notebooks as part of our fair trade handicrafts work in the UK. These products 'do a double good'. Not only are they brilliant in re-purposing trash. They also, being a fair trade organisation, provide employment opportunities: decent work. Many 'Green the Gap' workers come from low income backgrounds and this work empowers them, in bringing change to the environment and to their personal lives as well.

China: Crafting new futures for the hearing impaired

Lei Mei was 25 when she suddenly lost her hearing. Grievous enough in itself, it was doubly hard because she knew this would also mean the loss of her job as a salesperson. She did, indeed, lose her job and learned that the only way she could hear again would be a cochlear implant, costing US\$30,000. Even when she had been on a salary, it was a mere US\$200 per month, every one of which was needed to meet her living costs. So a cochlear implant was impossible.

Lei Mei's life became harder at this point. She tried to eke out a living selling simple goods on the street at night but, with her hearing challenge, she struggled as this was harder for her than others in the noisy marketplace. She had nothing else to fall back on. She had only ever had two years' formal schooling.

It was, then, a very welcome surprise when she learned that a fair trade social enterprise, 'Hearts and Hands', had been set up in her area specifically to employ people with hearing difficulties. They took her in and taught her how to make handicrafts. She thrived (see photo) and, today, is in charge of the organisation's stock and fabric rooms. When a team from Crossroads' Hong Kong office visited Hearts and Hands, they told us: “She said that normally, in her local community, deaf people were treated as second rate and very often cheated. Here, though, she is genuinely respected and valued and nobody cheats anyone. It is truly run on a Fair Trade basis. She loves this work.”

We're delighted to sell beautifully quilted goods from Hearts and Hands in our UK fair trade work.



Lei Mei is one of the deaf artisans who found new hope and employment making beautiful fabric products for Hearts and Hands.



Mongolia: Single mothers with grit

Mongolia is a culture that conjures up images of yore with Genghis Khan, in gorgeous attire, riding across its vast steppes. In the 21st century, though, life on the ground has little of that romance. The harsh reality is that almost a third of Mongolians live in poverty and it takes grit for them to manage.

One of the groups who craft items for the fair trade organisation, Mary Martha Mongolia, epitomise that grit. 'Kind Hearted Mothers' is a team of single mothers who come together to produce adorable handcrafted animals, made with traditional Mongolian wool felting techniques. As they create together, they share life and support one another. At the same time, their children are cared for and given education through the social enterprise. As well, they earn an income to support their families with dignity and pride.

CGVUK sold their felted animals in 2019 at Christmas fairs and other events where we had a table for fair trade goods. Mongolia may feel a long way away but this provides a very direct path for us to support those who are battling poverty.



How can you help support decent work for those in need?

We can bring fair trade to you: Our team can bring beautiful handicrafts from around the world to a stall at your school, company, fair or special event, allowing your community to shop with a purpose.

Suggest a fair trade partner: If your group or a group you know produces handicrafts on a fair trade basis, we may be able to sell them through Crossroads Global Village UK.

Fair trade simulation: We run simulations that teach fair trade principles and encourage your school, company or community group to support fair trade.

Other ideas? We'd love to talk! Email enquiries@cgvuk.org



"I ask you to ensure
humanity is **served** by wealth
and not ruled by it."

Pope Francis

LINKLATERS LLP: Poverty simulation, 'Struggle for Survival'

This year, legal firm Linklaters invited us to bring the 'Struggle for Survival' to London: our experiential programme that simulates the multi-faceted challenges of poverty. Previously, our team had been very impressed when hearing from Matthew Sparkes, Head of Corporate Responsibility, about initiatives already underway in Linklaters. In Matthew's words, these address "both the consequences and causes of poverty and disparity around the world. Some of these are local to our offices, others are far away. Some are face-to-face and some are remote. Some effect immediate change, others might take years. All play to our strengths as skilled professionals who want to make things better."

Matthew told us, after 'Struggle for Survival', "Feedback has been excellent and I am pleased that the experience - and the hard-hitting messages alongside - resonated so strongly... A theme of the session was that things are not hopeless, that we can make a difference, both personally and together."

Duncan Campbell, Professional Support Lawyer at Linklaters, wrote of 'Struggle for Survival', "...this event was excellent and the memory of it will stay with me for some time. I did not appreciate the stress-induced mental states that dealing with poverty can produce... As a direct response, this morning, I extended my first ever micro-loan and I hope to extend more of them in future on a rolling basis."

When we bring simulations to companies, it is always our goal to see the events deepen empathy and motivate greater engagement. It was a privilege to collaborate with Linklaters, to this end, as they themselves use their expertise and global reach to impact lives across the planet.



At Linklaters' offices, Natalya Hanley, Crossroads' UK manager, demonstrates the task of bag making: a form of work often found among the poor in South Asian countries (large photo right). In the simulation, the participants then needed to produce the same bags, under a compressed time line, in order to provide food, shelter, sanitation and other needs for their 'families'.



"WISH EVERYONE COULD HAVE THE SAME EXPERIENCE..."

During these UK simulations, we asked for volunteers who could support the cast. One of them, Kim Elwell-Sutton, had never seen this experiential programme before and was struck by the participants' response. She writes:

"You could have heard a pin drop afterwards. You could tell there was deep connection with the issues: there was no escaping the overwhelming need. Yet it was presented

in such a thought-provoking, sensitive, compassionate and, yes, at times humorous way, that whilst what I learned was unbelievably sad and shocking, the whole experience was both empowering and uplifting.

I wish that everyone I know could have the same experience. Imagine what a difference breeding such empathy, throughout humanity, could make."



Kim Elwell-Sutton playing the role of a corrupt shop keeper in the simulation. This and similar roles are intended to demonstrate the weak legal infrastructure often found in such economies.



FACEBOOK: Helping change a world that needs changing

Sheryl Sandberg has famously said: "We cannot change what we are not aware of, and once we are aware, we cannot help but change."

We were first inspired by Sheryl when we met her, a decade ago, in Davos, during the World Economic Forum. She participated in our refugee simulation and, before she left the venue, told us she would remain in touch. For many years, Facebook graciously became premium sponsors who supporting our annual presence at the Forum to bring the needs of refugees before that community. We are indebted to them.

Facebook in the UK also invited us to bring our poverty simulation, the Struggle for Survival, to their office in London. We really appreciate the fact that this company, already active in the humanitarian sector, was willing to further deepen their identification with people disempowered by life and needing strategic initiatives before that could change.



COMING TOGETHER OF WORLDS

Ashridge House was once among the many homes owned by Henry VIII. Today, it remains a magnificent site, though business school educators working within it have a desire for their students to help close the gap between rich and poor: a coming together of worlds, so to speak.

Hult Ashridge Executive Education invited us to run our 'Struggle for Survival' for their faculty and school leadership. This move, reflecting global trends, was continuing to explore how experiential programs, and topics of sustainable development, can be incorporated into MBA and business development courses.



Participants being debriefed following the Struggle for Survival simulation at Ashridge House.

How can Crossroads help your corporate group?

Bring fair trade to your workplace: We can bring beautiful fair trade gifts, ornaments and homewares to sell at your workplace or company event.

Book a simulation: We run simulations for UK companies on themes such as poverty, refugees and fair trade

Donate goods: We can help UK companies find non-profit projects to partner with. Whether you have huge quantities of stock to donate, or a small quantity from your office or warehouse, please let us know. You can offer your goods on www.globalhand.org or email / phone us to discuss.

Other ideas? We'd love to talk! Email enquiries@cgvuk.org



THE UNITED NATIONS' ECOSOC: Keeping the human in humanitarian

Following the World Economic Forum, in January this year, the Swiss Mission to the United Nations asked us to run a simulation for the humanitarian response community of ECOSOC (the UN's Economic and Social Council.) Our UK manager, Natalya Hanley, joined the broader Crossroads team for this event.

It brought considerable emphasis on the need to design projects from the point of view of those who will be impacted and therefore, to quote a phrase we often use, to use simulations as a brief opportunity to 'step into their shoes'. Some participants commented on the fact that they found this tool a good reminder, in that sense: keeping the human in humanitarian.

We particularly loved their choice of poster with its poignant call for 'More Compassion'.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES



"Syria has become the great tragedy of this century"

It has been some years since Antonio Guterres, head of the United Nations, spoke these sobering words yet, the tragedy is, there has been no resolving the conflict which is devastating so many lives.

In light of that, we were grateful when a company called us with Syria on its mind. They had approximately 200 items of new clothing - trousers and shirts - which they no longer needed and wanted them to help those who have been devastated by the incessant struggle. Our UK office helped match them with an international non-profit group to see the clothing reach a worthy home.

We are deeply grateful for companies who show commitment of this kind. So much resource in one corner of the planet can make a massive difference in another: one where life's basics are beyond the reach of those who suffer.



Championing the poor

How often people say, "I really don't want to throw this out, but I don't know how to find someone who could use it." If you ever find yourself saying that, please know we would love to hear from you. It's why, in fact, we set up an online tool: www.globalhand.org. We have a network of NGOs whom we contact when a valuable donation is offered and they, in turn, pass the goods on to people in need. When a company was re-branding recently, for example, they had a range of stock that was new but no longer able to be used by them. They contacted our UK office and, through Global Hand, we linked them with Goods for Good: an NGO that itself 'champions the poor' by providing, as they put it, 'an essential lifeline of goods'.

That kind of lifeline is likewise our raison d'etre.

A young child, likely from a rural or developing area, is the central focus. The child is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored knit sweater with large red and yellow patches, and a matching hat with a red trim. The child has a joyful expression, with a wide smile showing their teeth. The background is slightly out of focus, showing other people and a structure made of sticks and branches, suggesting a rural or village environment. The lighting is bright, indicating it's daytime.

"We can't help everybody, but **everyone** can help **someone.**"

Ronald Reagan



Whoever you are, we'd love to connect with you!

Whoever you are: students, companies, families, NGOs, individuals who care about a world that is not okay, we'd love to connect with you. How?



DONATE GOODS

...located in the UK

Dealing with excess stock? Re-branding school clothing? Downsizing the office? Upgrading computers, furniture or medical equipment? If you have goods to give away, and they are in working order, please let us know. We can offer your goods directly to a network of registered charities who may need them.

...located anywhere in the world

Does your company, school or organisation have goods located in another country? We'll be glad to look for a 'match' with people in need through our Global Hand service: www.globalhand.org. Those receiving them may be in the same country or a different one. The NGOs handle the logistics (unless you want to), so you need only link up with them and they'll take it from there.



BOOK AN X-PERIENCE

Step 'into the shoes' of others in need through simulation

We offer a range of simulations for schools, companies, community associations or other groups on issues such as refugees, urban poverty and fair trade. Many groups choose programmes which tie in with their existing curriculum or social responsibility agenda. Afterwards, they explore ways their core strengths can be aligned with the relevant global concerns.



ORGANISE A GOODS DRIVE

Your group can run a collection drive of goods which Crossroads can help place with non-profit projects in places of need. It is ideal if you ask us before you undertake your drive so we can let you know which goods are most needed.



RUN A FUNDRAISER FOR CROSSROADS

We're rich in goods, but not in funds! We benefit annually from the generosity of groups who care enough to host fundraisers or make Crossroads the beneficiary of their event.



BRING FAIR TRADE TO YOU

You can sell goods from our fair trade producers on consignment, supporting artisans in communities of need around the world. Alternatively, we can bring a manned booth or table to your fair or event.

Got other ideas? Let's talk! Email enquiries@cgvuk.org

EVERY

WELL