

**THIS EDITION**  
**2020 World**  
**Humanitarian**  
**Day**

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**WANDER to WONDER**

# WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.  
G.K. Chesterson**

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## editor's note

*Welcome to this edition of WANDER to WONDER*

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on World Humanitarian Day on 19 August to honour the work of people who work to address crises throughout the world.

Until next edition, with another theme,

*Martina*

MARTINA NICOLLS





## world humanitarian day: 19 august

August 19 is celebrated annually as World Humanitarian Day (WHD). This day marks a tribute to all front-line workers and those people who face the brunt of any crisis situation: natural disasters, violence-prone areas, and person-made disasters. In 2020, this includes the Coronavirus pandemic, which has killed, to date, over 600,000 people from the COVID-19 disease in 213 countries and territories around the world.

World Humanitarian Day celebrates those who go out of their way to offer help and bring affected communities to a safer situation. Humanitarians are known for providing service in various areas of world challenges, like hunger elimination, gender bias and female discrimination, violence against women, settlement of refugees, helping people access food, clean water and education, and helping people of rural and remote areas access good sanitation facilities, etc.

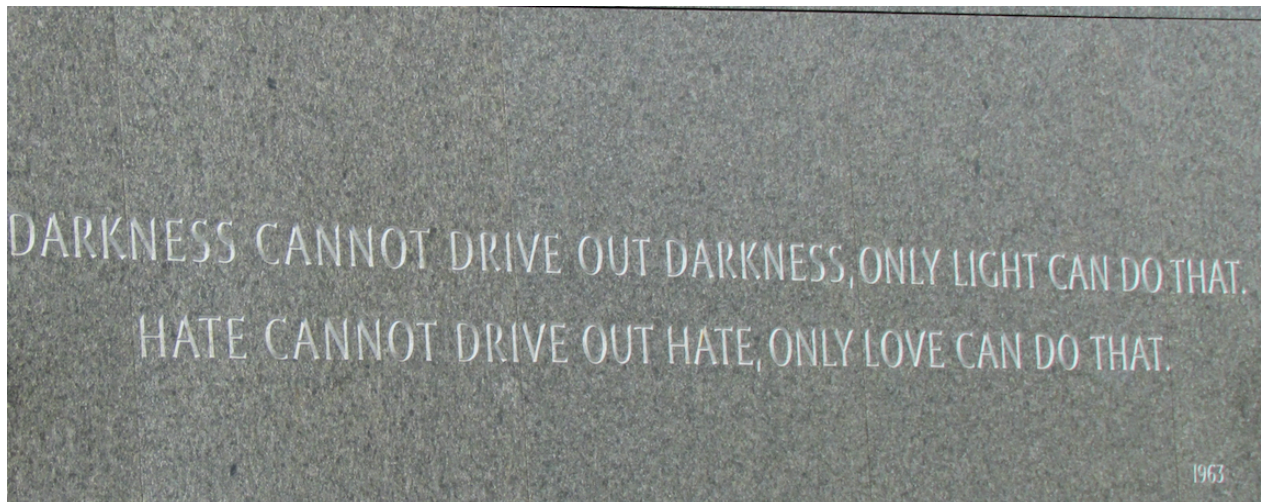
The people involved in such humanitarian tasks are to be celebrated, not just for a day or two, but longer term. The day aims to amplify their efforts and dedicates a day of celebration for all humanitarian workers by campaigning for them, joining a social campaign cause to give wings to their efforts, or offering unconditional support. The main agenda of the day is to spread the word.



## background

Humanity in the broadest sense means offering service or charitable activities selflessly. World Humanitarian Day came into effect to honour the death of the 55-year-old United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and 21 of his associates, after they were killed in the bombing of the UN centre in Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 August 2003. I was in Baghdad on that day.

Sergio, a native of Brazil, spent almost 30 years working on humanitarian efforts, serving those affected by warring nations or countries affected by disasters. Five years after the bombing, in 2008, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to commemorate the day, commencing from 2009, in his name.









## humanitarian work in 2020

As the Coronavirus pandemic affected the globe in 2020, it highlighted the work of humanitarian efforts at the local level in people's own neighbourhoods, cities, and countries. At the international level, the Coronavirus pandemic upended the lives of those working in the aid industry as travel became restricted.

In April 2020, Devex conducted a survey of humanitarians and development professionals around the world, asking them how the pandemic was affecting them and their work.

Devex's latest COVID-19 Trends Tracker, conducted between 29 June and 13 July 2020, included roughly 500 respondents from 110 countries, reflected little change from the effects people were seeing over the three months from April to July 2020.

The results showed that 71% of respondents cited reduced or eliminated travel as an immediate effect of the pandemic. Thirty-one percent (31%) had lost employment or income, and 24% said that all their operations have been completely halted.











# humanitarian rats detect landmines

The APOPO Rats Visitor Centre in Siem Reap, Cambodia, demonstrates detection technology with the help of rats. African Giant Pouched Rats (also known as Gambian Giant Rats) are trained to sniff the ground and scratch when they detect a landmine. For this reason, they are called hero rats.

APOPO is an acronym for Anti-Personnel Landmines Removal Product Development. APOPO is a not-for-profit humanitarian non-government organization (NGO).

APOPO, in conjunction with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), is conducting humanitarian landmine clearance in northern Siem Reap. When the land is cleared of mines, the safe land is returned to the villagers so that they can travel safely across their land to farm it.

There are 65 countries around the world still dealing with the effects of landmines, including about 900 square kilometres of Cambodia. There were estimated to be 4-6 million landmines in Cambodia, mostly after 1979. Cambodia has the world's highest ratio of mine amputees (people who have lost legs or arms) per capita with 64,000 reported casualties since 1979.

APOPO's founder, Belgian-born Bart Weetjens, began training rats in Tanzania, Africa. Tanzania continues to be the training centre for all of the rats used for landmine clearance.

Rats have an acute sense of smell. They undergo nine months of training to sniff out the chemical compounds of TNT found in landmines and other explosive remnants of war. Each rat must pass a rigorous test to be accredited and certified to International Mine Action Standards.

The rats ignore scrap metal, which makes them much faster at detecting landmines than human de-miners with metal detectors. One rat can systematically check an area the size of a tennis court in less than 30 minutes. A human de-miner with a metal detector would take up to four days to check the same area.

Rats are also light and do not trigger the explosion. The rats, 29 of them in Cambodia, wear small harnesses attached to wire held by their human handlers. The rats indicate where landmines are by scratching the ground. Their handlers (de-miners) reward their rats with food, mark the spot on a map, and the mines are later safely deactivated.

Rats can also be taught to detect tuberculosis (TB) and other diseases.

















## ways to observe WHD

### 1. Donate to a humanitarian organization

There are humanitarian organizations all over the world in need of resources – time and/or money. Search online for organizations doing humanitarian work, or go directly to the UN's World Humanitarian Day website for resources to get you started.

### 2. Do some humanitarian work in your community

Being a humanitarian doesn't have to mean traveling to a disaster zone — the point of humanitarian aid is to alleviate people's suffering and maintain human dignity anywhere, including locally.

### 3. Contact your elected leaders

Call, email or send a tweet to let your elected leaders know how important humanitarian crises are to you. Ask them to commit to any number of actions to help humanitarian causes in the locations (countries and cities) and areas (health, education, environment, etc.) that are important to you.







G3

What works well?

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Where / who

Tand

Eco-tourism in Jisheng Community

- ↳ Income from it
- ↳ conservation
- ↳ Private sector / the oppor.

FACT in some states  
↳ passed to community

Ex: kompung plastik cfm, SR  
50% needs Filter

On-going project

- Link to tour appendix
- SVC (N60)
- SAP/SRI
- Resource Mobilization
- LCIP

WCS up

two towns  
ACEA  
Lander, N.C.

by then, SR, coastal  
La Biosphere Reserve  
La Sirena 2010

LCPA

- accessible location
- flip flop

Le 2<sup>o</sup> tour

- Skill → 2 of labor
- Product dev.
- VPPP/Marketing
- TVET → No LV
- Skill dev.

Swiss-Contact  
Lausanne met/2011  
SD, TVET  
L'entreprise

## Small & Medium Enterprise

Tourism - & Agri (work well in) work through partners

VSD

Voluntary Models / Market / MSP / Sustainable Agr / etc.

~~PIA~~

BTB, SR, Ca

TVET

ET  
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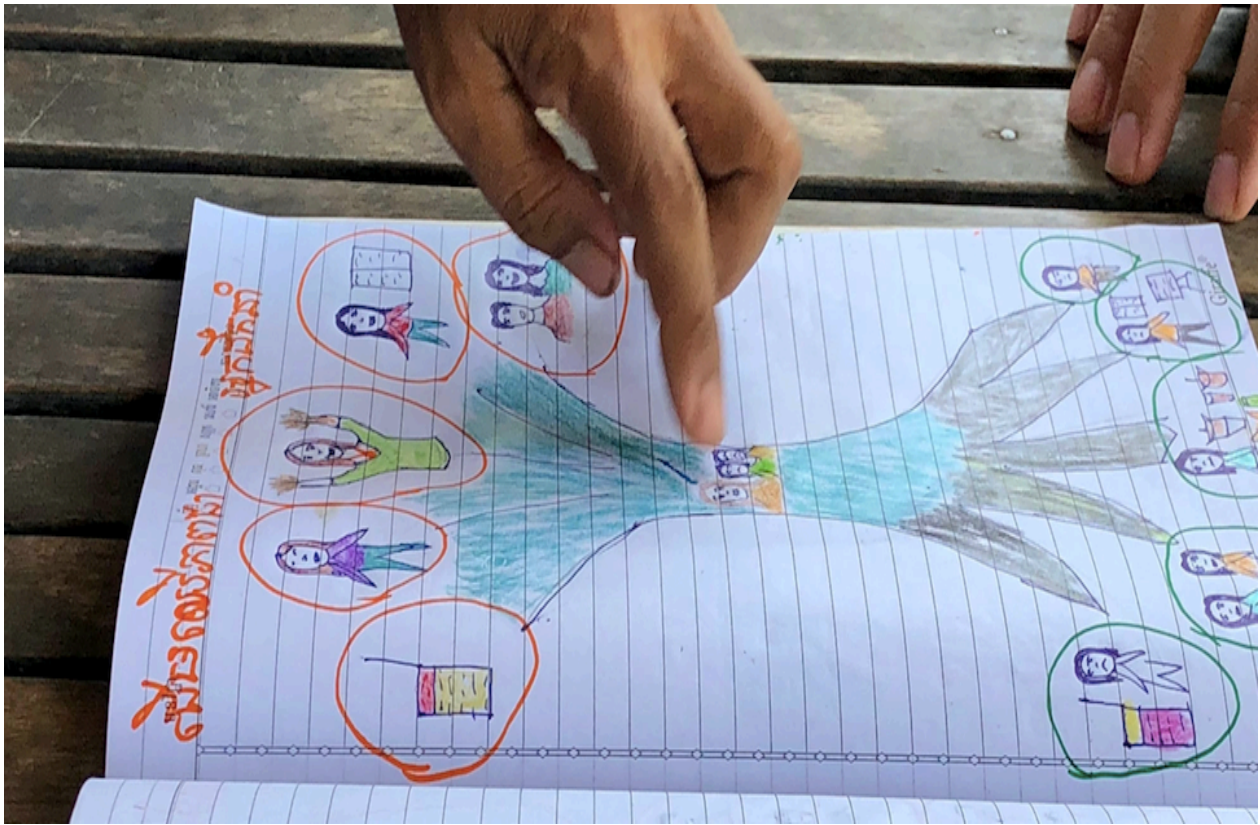
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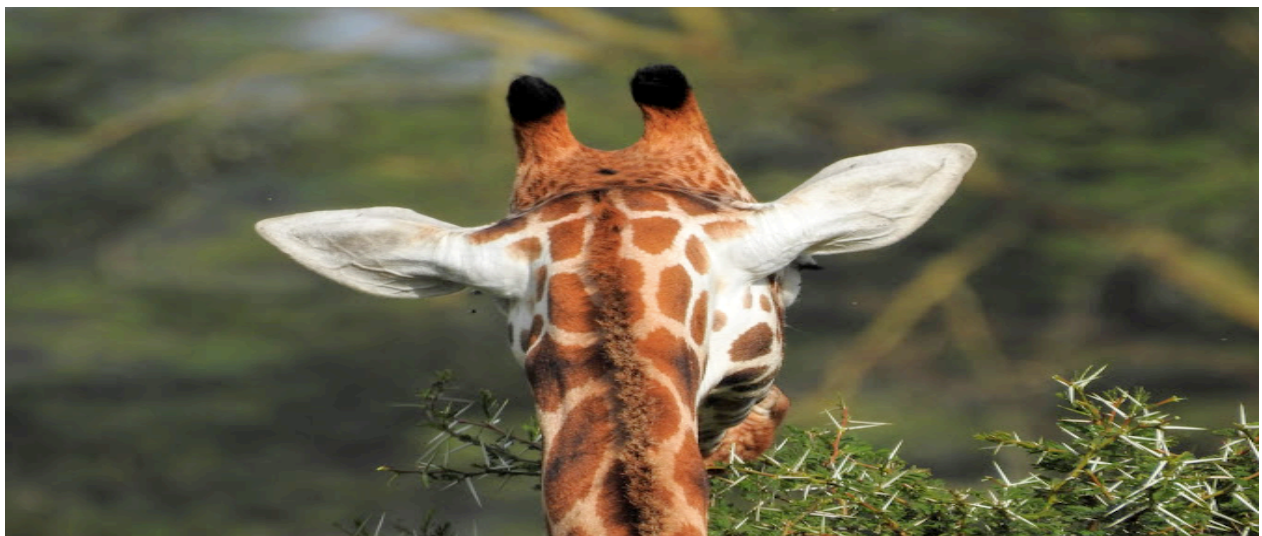




## --- the environment



Boeung Kak - Flori Green - Miguel Jeronimo & Eric









--- disability services







--- migrant services









## the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and aid development consultant with about 35 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international programs, particularly in post-conflict environments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Georgia, Kosovo, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekista – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, human trafficking, and data quality.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

The Paris Residences of James Joyce  
(2019)  
Similar but Different in the Animal  
Kingdom (2017)  
A Mongolian Lament (2015)

The Komodo Verses (2012)  
Liberia's Dearest Ends (2012)  
Bardot's Comet (2011)  
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)  
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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