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Elizabeth MacNairn Named Handicap International (USA) Director

News Brief

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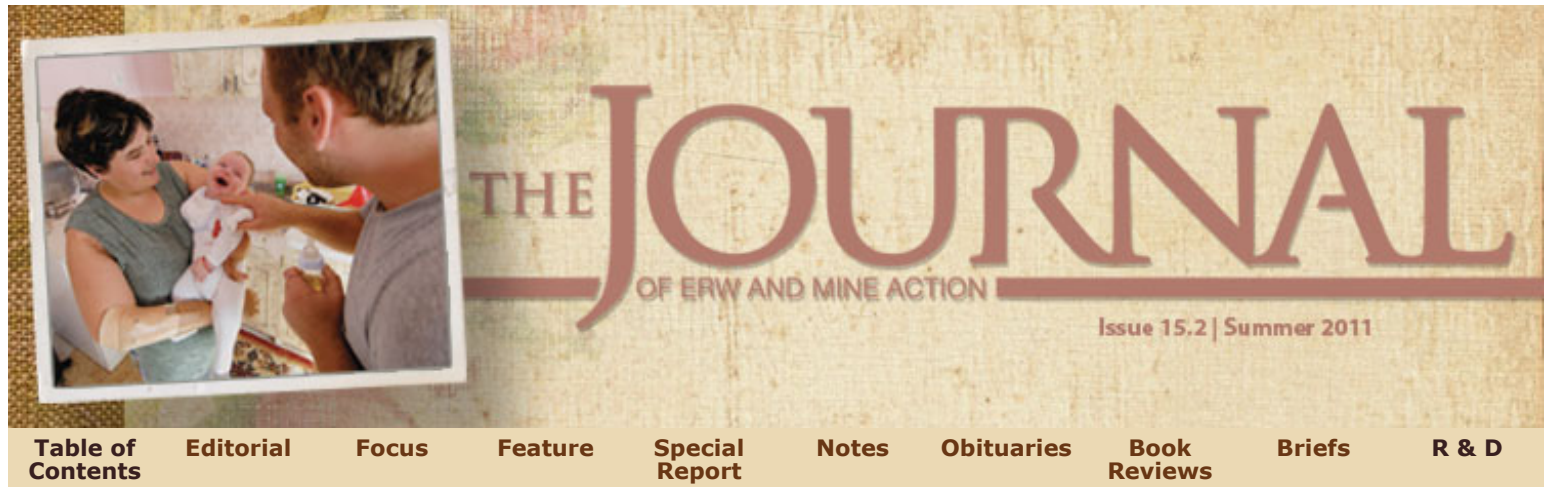
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Elizabeth MacNairn Named Handicap International (USA) Director

On 1 June 2011, Elizabeth MacNairn was named Director of Handicap International (USA). MacNairn succeeded Wendy Batson, who had served as Director since 2006, when the American branch of the organization was founded. HI was founded in 1982 by two French doctors in response to landmine injuries suffered by Cambodian refugees. Since then, the organization has focused efforts on providing assistance to persons with disabilities and vulnerable populations in conflict and disaster-affected areas. In addition to landmine clearance, HI provides rehabilitation and economic and social integration services.

MacNairn has been part of the HI-USA team since 2008, when she began working as Senior Program Manager for Institutional Funding. In January of 2011, she became Deputy Director of HI-USA in preparation for her promotion following Batson's resignation.



For the past two decades, Elizabeth MacNairn has dedicated her professional expertise to the fields of international development and humanitarian relief program management, teaching/training, fundraising and communications. Prior to her work at HI-USA, MacNairn worked both domestically and abroad for educational institutions and nongovernmental organizations. She has worked for AMIDEAST in both Washington, D.C. and Cairo, Egypt; Catholic Relief Services in Morocco; and she has done consulting work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2002, MacNairn began working with Health Volunteers Overseas for four years until 2006. In the same year she began managing a job creation project as Haiti Program Coordinator for ResCare International, where she would continue operations until joining the HI-USA team. No stranger to challenge or HI-USA, both Batson and the HI-USA Board are confident in MacNairn's abilities as the new director.

Former Director Wendy Batson plans to relocate to Maine with her family and looks forward to continuing her work in the field by consulting on emergency response and development issues. ↴

~Carly Quaglio, CISR staff

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