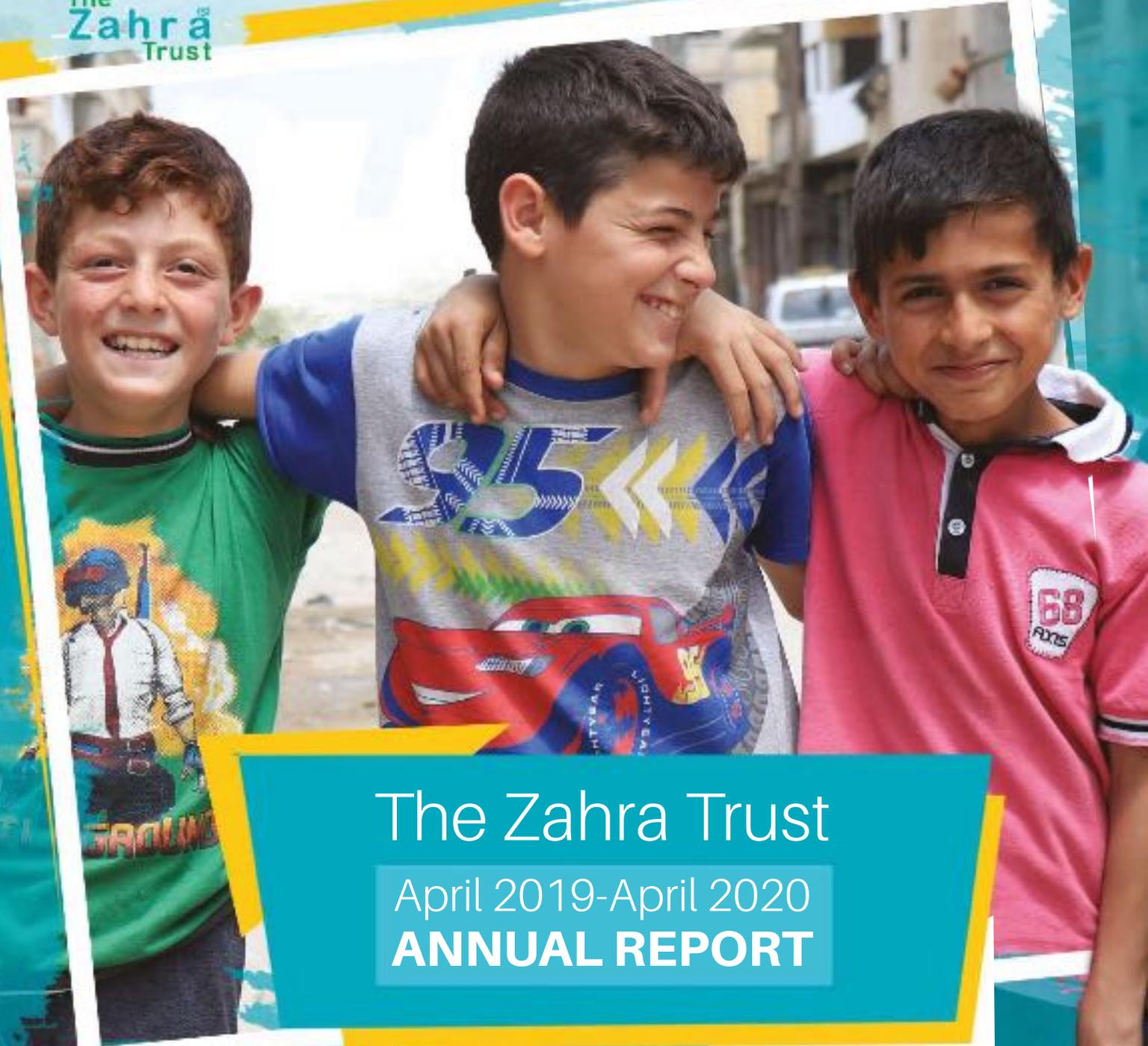




The  
Zahra  
Trust



# The Zahra Trust

April 2019-April 2020

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# MISSION

The Zahra Trust's mission is to aid those suffering from war, poverty and famine, by providing basic philanthropic needs, enabling them to survive and making them self-sustainable so that they will no longer require aid.

# VISION

A world where everyone has access to the basic necessities in life, living self-sufficiently with spiritual development.

# VALUES

Inspired by the Holy Household (a.s), The Zahra Trust aims to assist people in the practices taught by them with the principles of our faith.



## Message from The Zahra Trust Chairman & Staff



Whilst ongoing humanitarian crises continue to unfold, and chronic poverty persists, The Zahra Trust remains as committed as ever to alleviating suffering worldwide.

This year saw a continuation of what appears to be endless conflict within Syria and Yemen; we pray for a resolution and the de-escalation of violence. However, humanitarian assistance remains one of the many ways we can provide support from the comfort of our homes. By the grace of Allah (SWT) and with your generosity, we were able to continue providing a lifeline to thousands of families in desperate need.

We continue to address the aftermath of drawn out conflict which is prevalent in many of our other areas of operation, such as Myanmar, where we implement sustainable developmental aid in the form of water & sanitation and education.

Working in a climate that is increasingly hostile to aid work and aid workers, The Zahra Trust's dedicated teams throughout its areas of operation, continue to work against increasing odds in some of the most precarious regions of the world to deliver aid on your behalf.

With millions of people at risk, the need for our work grows each year. For this reason, we are continuing to expand and build upon our eleven years of experience so that we can extend and improve services to our beneficiaries.

It has been a privilege and an honour to provide you, our donors, the means to provide vital aid to those most in need throughout the world for another year. Whilst we envisage a world free of poverty; as long as it is a reality, we will strive to alleviate suffering wherever and however we can.

As you know, this is only something we can continue to do with your support.

May Allah (SWT) bless you and your families for your efforts and allow us all to continue on our mission to benefit those in need throughout the world.

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# Emergency & Rehabilitation

As conflict and natural disasters continued to devastate countless lives across the world this year, The Zahra Trust's field teams responded swiftly to address the needs of the most vulnerable throughout its areas of operation with life-saving aid. Your donations helped us continue to offer a vital lifeline of support to some of the most vulnerable people affected.



COVID-19, the deadly Coronavirus that swept across the world from 2019-2020 with a speed and ferocity that has not been seen in decades wreaked havoc on communities, economies and healthcare infrastructure worldwide. With the death toll increasing hourly, even the most developed countries in our world struggle to contain and cope with the spread of the deadly virus and its severe disruption to all aspects of society. Adapting to respond to this unprecedented need, The Zahra Trust's team in Iraq

acted to provide thousands of people throughout Najaf with face masks and prepared leaflets advising people of the hygiene measures to adopt which were distributed to public places in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.



The situation in Kashmir deteriorated significantly in 2019, with a sharp increase in violence and restrictions on movement. The escalation of conflict and insecurity in the region further exacerbated the suffering and hardship of families in Kashmir for whom this was already a stark daily reality. The Zahra Trust's team on the ground mobilised as

soon as the situation was reported, providing hundreds of families with emergency aid to ensure families were able to sustain themselves amid the terror and instability they faced.



The seemingly never-ending conflict in Syria has caused devastation and destruction at a scale that is difficult to comprehend. This has pushed millions into displacement and refugeehood, with over 80% of the population remaining in Syria struggling to survive below the poverty line. Having been among the first on the scene when

the conflict erupted in 2011, The Zahra Trust continued to provide vital relief for families in need including food and medical aid thus easing the burden on parents and caregivers to provide. The Zahra Trust team also made frequent trips to Lebanon to conduct emergency distributions to refugees struggling to survive from

day to day in makeshift and overcrowded refugee camps, with a focus on vulnerable female-headed households. Vital items to survive the winter such as blankets and heaters were distributed to ease the suffering of refugees with little or no means to improve their circumstances.

# Facts & Figures



Each year, natural **disasters** affect on average **160 million people** & kill an average of **90,000**

(WHO)

**70.8 million** people have been forcibly **displaced** worldwide as a result of **persecution**, **conflict**, **violence** or **human rights violations**



(UNOCHA)

**60%** of the people in the world that are **hungry** live in **conflict zones**

(WFP)



About **half of the world's poor** live in **fragile** or **conflict-affected** areas

(WFP)



In 2020, nearly **168 million** people will require humanitarian assistance & protection. This is the highest figure in **decades**

(UNOCHA)

**10 out of 13** of the world's main **food crises** are driven by **conflict**

(WFP)



# Food Drive

With nearly half of all child deaths in the world occurring as a result of poor nutrition, The Zahra Trust provides healthy, nutritious food to communities throughout the year with a focus on seasonal and religious occasions as part of its Food Drive. This project is primarily aimed at supporting vulnerable female-headed households and orphaned children. Nutrition is particularly important given its impact on child development, with the focus on adequate nutrition being provided within the child's first 1,000 days as this is the most crucial to the prevention of irreparable damage as a result of malnutrition.

In Syria, where the UN estimates that 9 million people are in need of food assistance, The Zahra Trust distributed over 1,000 large food parcels throughout the year. These packs, costing just \$70 each, provided a large supply of food estimated to last an entire family roughly two months. The staple items, including pasta, flour, lentils, rice, cooking oil, tea, sugar and tomato paste ensured that families were able to sustain themselves and access nutritious meals without compromise.

The UN considers Yemen the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The already dire situation, made worse by conflict and unrest in recent years, continues to be marked by extreme poverty and malnutrition with over 15.9 million people experiencing hunger daily and subsequently requiring humanitarian assistance. In order to address this concerning and increasing need, The Zahra Trust invested over \$70,000 in food aid for thousands of families in Yemen. The distribution of these staple food items helped to ease the anguish experienced by families to provide food each day and protected them from further falling victim to hunger, malnutrition and premature death.



## Food Drive



The Zahra Trust invests in large, quality food packs that contain staple items to sustain families throughout the entire month of Ramadhan. In an effort to provide the best possible service to our beneficiaries, we tailor the items in packs and meals to the region we are distributing within and in cooperation with local communities, ensuring the items given are those most needed and sought after. As well as easing the burden on struggling families to produce meals without the means to do so, this support at the time of Ramadhan helps these families feel less alone by letting them know that they are not forgotten.



In addition to over 1,000 large food parcels being distributed throughout the year in Syria, The Zahra Trust provided a further 1,000 families in Syria with vital food supplies throughout the month of Ramadhan as well as iftar for a further 12,568 people across the Middle East daily. In Africa, 257 food packs were distributed in Kenya and 850 meals were also served per night at a local masjid whilst in Tanzania, 500 food parcels were distributed to families in need. In India, food was provided throughout the year to 3,670 families with an additional 63 benefitting throughout the month of Ramadhan. In Pakistan, 6,000 meals were provided each day with an additional 1,000 food packs distributed to families. In Myanmar, 1,283 families received food parcels and 483 of these families also received additional aid to support them throughout the month.



# RAMADHAN

The demand for food increases in the Holy month of Ramadhan, as families across the world prepare to fast long hours in worship of Allah (SWT) and break their fasts with nutritious meals. In our areas of operation, accessing food can be a challenge throughout the year, especially that which is nutritious. In Ramadhan, this becomes a greater concern and can often leave families distressed over their ability to fast and increase in their Ibadah

with no food to keep them going, or even to break their fast at the end of a long day. The Zahra Trust ensures that throughout the year and particularly in the month of Ramadhan, disadvantaged families are able to access staple and nourishing meals and food packs in order to supplement nutrition and observe the holy month free of concern over how they will provide meals for Iftari and Sehri.





# QURBANI

The blessed occasion of Eid-ul Adha is a time for spiritual reflection, worship, sacrifice and celebration. Unfortunately, for those who struggle throughout the year, observing and celebrating this occasion can be a challenge. The Zahra Trust ensures families that experience hardship throughout the year are able to partake in

festivities and that nutritious meat and other staple food supplies are distributed in the spirit of charitable giving in this blessed period.

Performing the religious duty of sacrifice on behalf of our donors, The Zahra Trust sourced healthy, quality livestock from reputable farms across our

areas of operation to provide thousands of vulnerable families with meat on the day of Eid ul-Adha. This year, over 600 animals were sacrificed as part of our Qurbani campaign across Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen, with orphan and widow families given priority.



# Facts & Figures

## WORLD HUNGER

**5 million** children are suffering from **wasting** due to severe **malnutrition** (WHO)

**20 million** babies are born **underweight** each year (UNICEF)

Around **45% of deaths** among children under the age of 5 are linked to **undernutrition** (WHO)



**2 billion** people are **food insecure** not knowing where their next meal will come from (WHO)

More than **820 million (1 in 9) people** are **hungry** globally (WHO)

**462 million** children are **underweight** (WHO)

Over **150 million** children are **stunted** due to **malnutrition** (UNICEF)



# Empowering Communities



With the right resources, communities thrive and develop, providing meaningful and wholesome environments for children and their families. It is for this very reason that The Zahra Trust implements projects in the UK and overseas aimed at providing vital support to actively engage with communities to help them to strengthen their bonds, develop and progress. Investing in the facilitation of strong communities is a long-term, high impact

effort that reaps long lasting results and this is why throughout the last year, we continued to empower communities across the world with a tailored approach and with the active participation and consultation of community leaders and members.

Providing monthly support for a widow, orphan or vulnerable family is an act of charity as much as it is solidarity with those who are

directly impacted by your gift each month. The physical and emotional relief that this provides is immeasurable for a family that feels forgotten and alone. The Zahra Trust continues to facilitate your support for over 5,000 vulnerable households across its areas of operation that have limited means of regular income and that would otherwise struggle to survive day by day. In addition to financial aid to ease the suffering of individual families, we

are also able to utilise your generous donations to provide relief to entire communities in the form of fun days and community initiatives for high risk and vulnerable mothers and children, opening up a network of support with other families experiencing similar issues and making the impact of our project holistic and multifaceted in terms of the benefits it achieves.

## Empowering Communities



Across the Middle East, the hardship of losing a family or community member can lead to additional distress as bodies are often held in a mortuary until a fee is paid to release them. For those who are faced with poverty or financial difficulties, not affording to have the body of a loved one released for burial is a harrowing and painful experience. The Zahra Trust addressed this issue across its areas of operation in the Middle East, covering the cost of mortuary fees to have bodies of the deceased released to receive a decent burial and bring their families and communities comfort and closure.

In Iraq, ghusl and mortuary facilities for the deceased are vital due to the climate of the region. The Zahra Trust is in the process of developing state of the art facilities at a mosque in Iraq to receive, store and conduct ghusl for the deceased ahead of burial in

accordance with Islamic jurisprudence. The mosque serves a large community and once complete, will provide community members with this essential service for years to come.

In addition to providing support to help communities flourish, The Zahra Trust has also helped to establish communities. The Zahra Trust facilitated the purchase of land to build a village in Iraq as part of a Global Sadat Programme, housing over 400 orphans and widows and providing them with shelter and a monthly income, covering all their essential needs and offering a safe and nurturing community environment. This year, we were able to provide assistance in the building of 30 more homes and with your continued support we plan to continue to expand our projects and house even more vulnerable orphans and widows. The small Shia community in Myanmar has not come together

as a group for a unified activity in over 100 years. Living amid already difficult conditions with the threat of persecution and danger present each day, The Zahra Trust conducted welfare visits to the families at Imam Baragah. Through this effort, we were able to establish a social welfare committee among the Shia community, including a dedicated group for women, in collaboration with Ahlul Sunnah Jamaat, Thandwe Town. We were also able to establish religious community activities, arranging Majalis-e-Imam Hussain at Imam Baragah and holding Quran classes. We hope that through these efforts the members of the Shia community in Myanmar can thrive and support each other for many years to come.

Each year, we arrange Project Majlis for Shia communities in the UK. The aim of this initiative is to strengthen the bonds of our local communities as well as provide a fun, engaging way for children to learn about their heritage and the Battle of Karbala. This year, Project Majlis was held in Manchester and children were invited to tap into their creative side, utilising collective graffiti art to depict the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (as). By involving the children throughout the planning stages, we were able to help develop key life skills including project management, teamwork, communication and problem solving. We hope to help develop the children into confident, determined and wise young adults who will go on to be future community leaders.

# Medical Aid



Medical care and medication are luxuries in many parts of the world, despite the need and right of every person on earth to access them. Whether this is due to living in a remote area or as a result of poverty and disadvantage, families experiencing poverty often suffer needlessly and are forced to make difficult choices, such as between saving the life of a family member or feeding their children. The Zahra Trust helps to safeguard access to health services and medication across the world for the most vulnerable members of society including children, the elderly and those with disabilities.

Emergency casualties, chronic malnourishment cases and cases of other preventable diseases caused by poverty are straining Yemen's health care system to the brink of collapse. The cholera outbreak that began in 2016 has further exacerbated this problem, making the situation unbearable for families and health care professionals struggling to cope. This year, The Zahra Trust continued to provide cholera vaccines to children at risk, protecting them from the risk of contracting the deadly illness. 5,000 children were vaccinated against cholera throughout the year, saving lives and easing the burden of the health care system and health care professionals.

Gaining access to healthcare in Syria is extremely challenging, with half of all health care facilities partially functioning or not functioning at all. Compounding the issue, hospitals and clinics in Syria are often targets of bombardment, with 51 attacked in Northwest Syria between January and June 2019 alone. The Zahra Trust facilitated access to vital treatment and medication for families in need across Syria, sending qualified health care professionals and equipment to hold clinics across four visits throughout the year. These clinics supported an average of 3,000 people in total and provided treatment for both emergency and chronic injuries as well as ongoing illnesses. In addition, The Zahra Trust ensured orphans received specialist care where special cases and needs were identified. As part of these efforts, five children received specialist treatment ranging from eye operations to reconstructive surgery for burns. The psychological impact of years of violence has also been addressed by The Zahra Trust for the second year in a row, providing solace and healing through essential mental health support for orphans and widows experiencing trauma which is now unfortunately a common issue amongst Syrians.

## Medical Aid



The refugee crisis that unfolded in Europe, largely as a result of widespread conflict in the Middle East, persisted in 2019, despite limited media coverage of the issue. Since the beginning of the refugee crisis, The Zahra Trust's teams were on the ground assessing the situation and offering what was most necessary to the stranded, desperate families fleeing violence. Having identified medical aid

as one of the greatest requirements, The Zahra Trust has supported an ongoing medical clinic amid the makeshift camps, facilitating in the provision of first aid, medication and medical treatment to those in need. In addition, The Zahra Trust supports the only dental clinic in the camps which sees 250 patients on average per month.

Following decades of conflict, families in Iraq struggle to access treatment and medication due to poverty and a lack of available services. This leaves the most vulnerable in society suffering without treatment for short and long-term illnesses and struggling to cope with other aspects of daily life, such as earning an income. The Zahra Trust's team on the ground facilitates ongoing weekly clinics in Iraq to help those who are unable to afford access to medical treatment. Patients requiring specialist care or special attention due to their condition are also provided with grants to access care which are assessed on their individual circumstances.

Any child suffering from an illness is heartbreaking, however, children receiving treatment in hospitals for an extended period of time due to chronic illnesses, is especially traumatic and painful for both the child and their parents. This year, our aid towards the Cancer Hospital Support project in Iraq helped to provide operational and running costs for a specialist cancer hospital for children in Karbala. We assisted with the costs of drugs, essential services and even providing psychological relief in the form of counselling and toys. In addition to supporting the noble efforts of the hospital, we aim to make each child's stay in hospital as comfortable and easy as possible so they can remain focused on battling cancer.





The situation in Myanmar remains tense and precarious. With over 985,000 people in need of assistance, the majority of which are living in camps that are not fit for habitation, The Zahra Trust has provided essential support on the ground in the form of medical aid. In Ramadan 2019, we assisted in the provision of health screenings for women and girls, who are most affected and at risk during conflicts. A total of 185 people were tested for health conditions including diabetes, hypertension, Hepatitis B & C, liver function and kidney function. Subsequently, we assisted in the facilitation of treatment for those who required it. Five patients are now receiving ongoing treatment for serious blood conditions and plans to expand this project to include both genders are also underway along with care for the elderly and social support.

# Facts & Figures

The most common **health conditions** in school-aged children have been linked to a **reduction** in **IQ points**

(Global Partnership)

**22,000 children die each day** due to **poverty**

(UNICEF)

It is estimated that **over half** of the **world** lacks access to **health services**

(WHO)

## HEALTH



**500 million days of school** per year are **lost** due to **sickness** in developing countries

(Global Partnership)

In the **first 9 months** of **2019**, there were nearly **800 attacks** on **health workers** and **health facilities**, claiming the **lives of 171 people**

(UNOCHA)



## Water Aid

A lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities is sadly a defining feature of the developing world and has a catastrophic impact on communities, leading to widespread disease, disability and death, whilst further entrenching families in the cycle of poverty. Conversely, the provision of these necessities allows communities to heal, thrive and succeed without the need for reliance on aid. For this reason, The Zahra Trust implements long-term projects that facilitate access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, thereby reducing the need for other forms of aid when they are scarce, such as medical aid. The pairing of education aid with water and sanitation facilities also ensures projects are high impact, multidimensional and efficient.

In Myanmar, where it is estimated that 800,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including water and sanitation, The Zahra Trust is responding with a holistic, evidence-based approach to safeguard the right of children to both education and water and hygiene facilities. This year, we provided funds for hand pumps and latrines for two schools to ensure a continuous water supply and a hygienic environment for the children and teachers within the schools. Coupling the provision of education with water and sanitation is known to lead to a sharp reduction in illness and low attendance among children within developing countries and so this ongoing project continues to provide multiple benefits to the children and teachers it supports.

## Water Aid



In Yemen, where 17.8 million people lack access to safe water for drinking, bathing and cleaning, The Zahra Trust established water purification plants, purifying polluted water and making it safe to drink on a large-scale. Throughout the year, it is estimated that over 2,000 people benefitted from this ongoing project in Yemen.

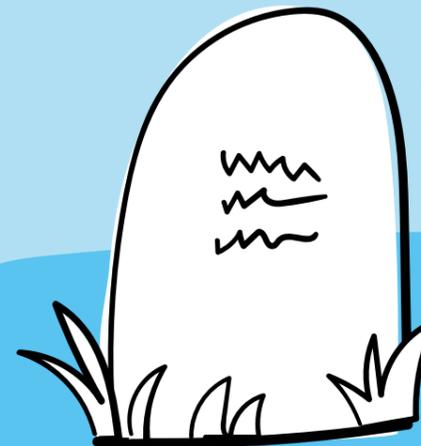
In Pakistan, a staggering 17 million people are forced to drink unsafe water every day, leading to acute and chronic health conditions as a result. In order to address this issue, by which the impoverished are the most effected, The Zahra Trust provided funding for the building of 48 wells and hand pumps in Pakistan throughout the year in response, facilitating entire communities with access to clean, safe drinking water and thus assisting in safeguarding their health. In addition, families were also provided with sanitary toilets to protect their dignity and prevent the spread of communicable disease.

# Facts & Figures

**Children under 15** are nearly three times more likely to **die from unsafe drinking water** than from direct violence within a conflict zone



Around **829,000** people die each year from **diarrhoea** as a result of **contaminated water**



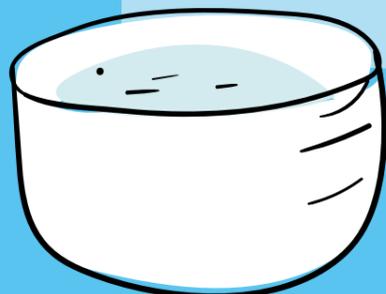
**2 billion** people do not have access to basic sanitation facilities, such as **toilets** or latrines



**Poor sanitation** is linked to the **transmission of diseases** such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid, polio and exacerbates stunting



Globally, at least **2 billion** people use a water source **contaminated with faeces**



**Inadequate sanitation** is estimated to cause **432,000** deaths each year



**785 million** people lack even **basic drinking water**, including **144 million** who rely on surface water



## SYRIA

**Ongoing** conflict has left Syria and a large proportion of Syrian people utterly devastated

**13.1 million** people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria (UNHCR)

**6.6 million** people are internally displaced within Syria (UNHCR)

**Nearly 3 million** people are in hard to reach and besieged areas (UNHCR)

**An estimated 83%** of people inside Syria live below the poverty line (UNHCR)

**Over 90%** of Syrian refugees face hardship that has pushed children to adopt extreme survival measures, such as dropping out of school to work or marry (UNICEF)

**Around 2 million** of children in Syria do not attend school (UNICEF)

**Over 7,000 schools** have been damaged or destroyed (UNICEF)

## LEBANON

**Millions of refugees** live in camps across Lebanon with little to no opportunity for development with existing social and political issues facing the host country

**Lebanon hosts** more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees, over 475,000 Palestinian refugees and an additional 17,000 refugees from other countries (UNHCR) & (UNRWA)

**49% of Lebanese people** are worried about access to food (WFP)

**Lebanon** hosts the largest number of refugees per capita in the world (UNHCR)

## TANZANIA

**Tanzania** relies heavily on agriculture for nutrition and livelihoods, leading to food insecurity and a loss of income when the weather is not conducive to growing crops.

**34% of children** under the age of 5 are stunted (WFP)

**Around half of** the population lives on less than \$1.90 a day (World Bank)

**270 children** die each day from easily treatable or preventable illnesses (UNICEF)

**Ten regions** in Tanzania account for half of the children suffering acute malnutrition (UNICEF)

## INDIA

**Both levels** of poverty and inequality are high in India.

**A new-born** baby dies every minute in India (UNICEF)

**Less than 50%** of the population has access to safely managed drinking water (UNICEF)

**An estimated** 1/3 deaths among children under 5 in India are a result of undernutrition (UNICEF)

**Around 21%** of the population lives on less than \$1.90 a day (WFP)

**India is home to** a quarter of all undernourished people worldwide (WFP)

## PAKISTAN

**Pakistan** is an impoverished country that is also prone to flooding and other forms of natural disaster which can hinder development and progress.

**An estimated** 22 million children are out of school (UNICEF)

**Nearly 10 million** Pakistani children suffer from stunting (UNICEF)

**8/10 children** in Pakistan do not eat the right type and quantity of food (UNICEF)

**Each year**, about 91,000 children in Pakistan die of pneumonia (UNICEF)

**An estimated 70%** of households drink bacterially contaminated water (UNICEF)

**400,000 children** in Pakistan die each year due to waterborne illnesses (World Bank)

**37% of the population** faces food insecurity (WFP)



## MYANMAR

**Poverty**, conflict and tension are the defining factors of life for so many in Myanmar, in particular the Rohingya, who continue to live in squalid camps that are unfit for habitation.

**25% of children** live in households without adequate toilet facilities (UNICEF)

**986,000 people** are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF)

**An estimated 20%** of children and adolescents work, with half under the minimum working age (UNICEF)

## KENYA

**Whilst it is** rich in history and has been described as the 'cradle of humanity', many people in Kenya experience poverty daily.

**More than** 1.2 million children in Kenya are out of school (UNICEF)

**Every year**, 74,000 children die before reaching the age of 5; 46% of these are neonatal deaths. (UNICEF)

**26% of children** under the age of 5 are stunted and 4% suffer from wasting (UNICEF)

**Only 59%** of Kenyans have access to basic water services and only 29% have access to sanitation services (UNICEF)

## YEMEN

**Yemen** is the world's largest humanitarian crisis (UN)

**80% of the entire** population is at risk of hunger and disease (World Bank)

**17.8 million** people lack access to water and sanitation (World Bank)

**19.7 million** people lack access to adequate healthcare (World Bank)

**3.65 million** people have been displaced from March 2015-present (UNHCR)

**Over 80%** of the displaced have been displaced for more than a year (UNHCR)

## IRAQ

**Ongoing** challenges in Iraq include chronic instability due to political and economic instability and social unrest stemming from unemployment, an erosion of public services and persistent low standards of living.

**6.5 million** people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection (UNHCR)

**Nearly 3.2 million** Iraqi children are out of school (UNICEF)

**1.77 million** people are susceptible to food insecurity (WFP)

**Iraq ranks 120** of 189 in the 2019 Human Development Index

## AFGHANISTAN

**Afghanistan** is prone to droughts and floods which cost lives, homes and livelihoods.

**68 out of 1,000** babies born will not live past their 5th birthday (Asian Development Bank)

**An estimated** 3.7 million children are out of school in Afghanistan

**Half a million** children were denied their right to education when 1,000 schools closed by the end of 2018 owing to security risks (UNICEF)



**5,000**  
children were  
vaccinated



**5,000**  
orphans  
were sponsored



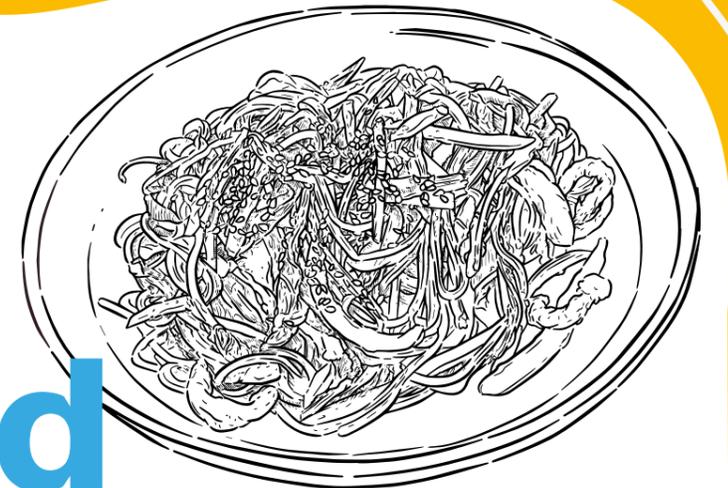
**Over 45,000**  
people received  
meat parcels



**10,000**  
benefitted  
from our regular  
medical clinics



**More than  
half a  
million  
people  
were fed**



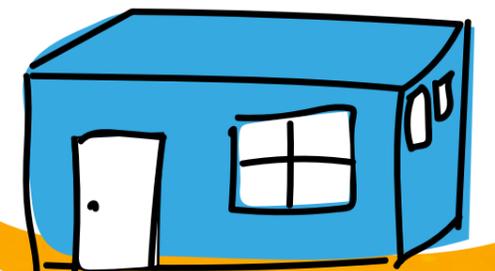
**Over 318,000**  
people received  
**meals**

**10,000**  
**food**  
parcels were  
**distributed**



**Over**  
**50 wells  
& water  
pumps**  
were  
**constructed**

**Over**  
**750** vulnerable  
families  
received homes  
vital home  
repairs  
or appliances



# Family Welfare



The institution of the family unit is vital for the stability of both individuals and societies. Despite the circumstances families face, they are ultimately responsible for creating a nurturing and safe space for the development and wellbeing of each of its members. For this reason, The Zahra Trust provided support for families and households experiencing hardship.

This year, for example, we were able to successfully intervene to protect 20 families identified as being vulnerable from homelessness. Additionally, in

Iraq, The Zahra Trust covered the cost of repairs for several family homes including roof repairs to provide protection from the harsh elements. We also furnished 300 homes in Iraq and Syria with equipment such as cookers, fridges, heaters and washing machines to ease the burden of widows and mothers already struggling to afford these items which we rely upon daily within our homes

One income within a family can make all the difference; it can cover the cost of the family's expenses and it can help a family live a life of

stability and dignity with a view to pave the way to a life free of poverty and disadvantage. Many of the Rohingya in Myanmar had small businesses before violence and tension escalated in 2015. The Zahra Trust helped families that lost their small businesses in this way, providing grants to help breadwinners re-establish a steady monthly income to provide for their families. During the rainy season, roofs were also repaired for families that were unable to cover the cost themselves and would otherwise have no protection from the cold or rain.

With the cost of marriage high in most societies across the world, many are unable to afford it, leading to an increase in associated social ills within communities. The Zahra Trust continued to cover the basic wedding ceremony and associated costs for couples in order to ensure that they were not prevented from marriage due to their circumstances.

These projects incur a small cost to you and to the charity, but provide an essential lifeline and offer comfort, dignity and safety to our beneficiaries.

# Eid Gifts



The occasion of Eid ul-Adha is a time of reflection, worship and sacrifice, as well as joy and celebration. For families and communities that are disadvantaged and cannot afford to participate, however, this can also be a time of great hardship and isolation, instead serving as a stark reminder of their challenging daily lives.



Through the generosity of your donations, we were able to bring happiness, dignity and joy to hundreds of families during Eid.



With your support, we marked the blessed and joyous occasions of Eid with gifts for the less fortunate who would otherwise have felt excluded from the celebrations. These gifts ranged from toys and clothes for children to clothing, shoes and hijabs for widows and vulnerable women.



We were able to provide Eid gifts to 234 children and 79 widows across the sub-continent of Asia including toys, shoes, clothes and hijabs. In addition, 200 children across the Middle East also received toys along with over 100 children in India.



A photograph of a man sitting inside a makeshift shelter constructed from heavy, grey tarps. The man is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. He is holding a large, colorful bag of food or supplies in his lap. The shelter's interior is dimly lit, and the tarps are draped over a structure, creating a sense of a temporary dwelling. The overall tone is somber and highlights the man's situation.

O Prophet! Tell those of My servants who believe that they should establish Prayer and spend out of what We have provided them with, both secretly and openly, before there arrives the Day when there will be no bargaining, nor any mutual befriending.

The Holy Qur'an  
(14:31)

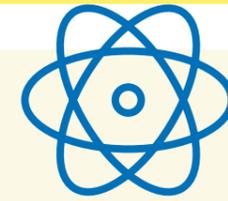
# Zawar Initiative

The Zahra Trust's Zawar Initiative remains a key service for the visitors of Imam Hussain (as) each year during the period of Arbaeen. This year, we maintained our two mawkibs along the walk to Karbala, and were honoured to serve 800,000 visitors from across the world with services ranging from food, hot showers, massages and air conditioned resting areas to essential medication and medical treatment.

We continue to receive excellent feedback from those who use our services, who comment on the attention to detail we give to extending these services to improve each person's experience. We are proud to run this initiative each year with the support of our benevolent donors and our dedicated volunteers.



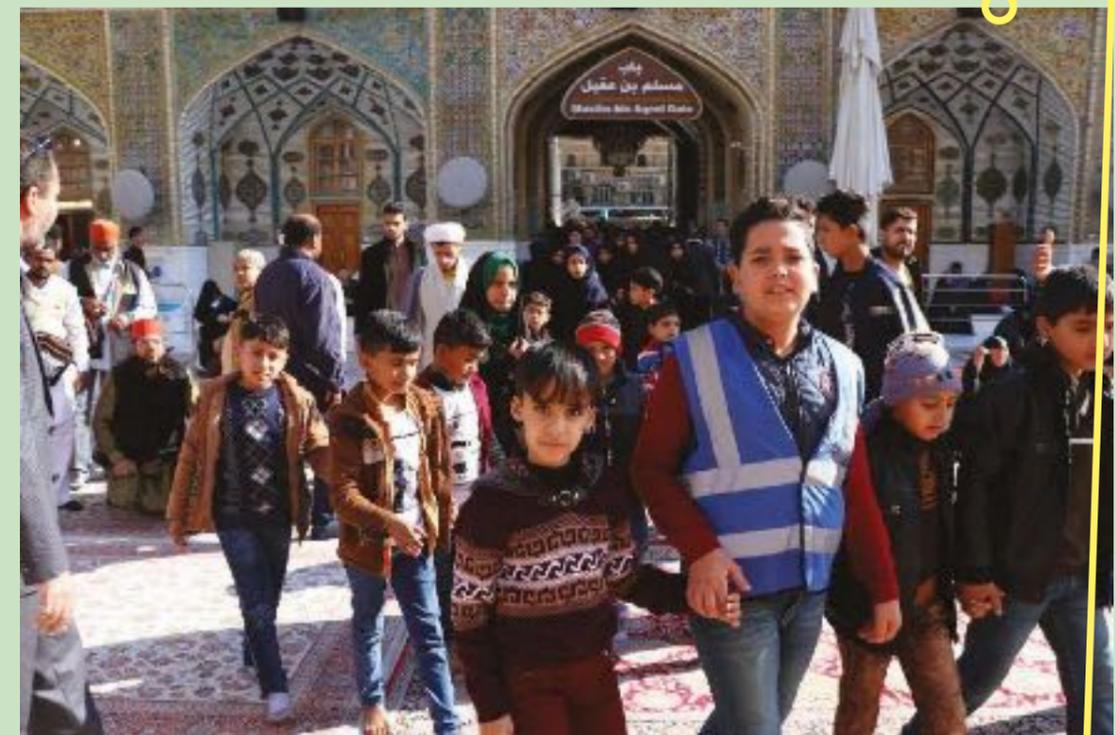
# Education & Training



majalis. A floor will also be dedicated to providing vocational training to teach skills and bolster employment opportunities. Throughout the year, The Zahra Trust also continued to support 100 children in Iraq with weekly tuition classes and provided them with food and drink during sessions. As part of this holistic initiative, the project involves religious and spiritual education, including majalis in Ramadhan, waladat and shahadat, as well as fun days for the children for the purpose of social relief. In addition to academic education, The Zahra Trust also continued to support the religious and spiritual education of mothers and children through Tabligh classes, covering Tafsir, Fiqh, Akhlaq and Tariq classes. These classes incorporate a social aspect by including frequent spiritual trips and activities so that mothers are able to establish support networks with each other inside and out of the class setting. A long-standing initiative to teach illiterate widows to read and write is also ongoing and continues to provide huge benefits to the women both mentally and socially whilst helping them to better integrate into society.

Education is a key component of development. Whilst millions of children are out of school worldwide due to conflict, poverty or inequality, many are forced to work, become child soldiers or marry by force. The provision of education, and indeed making access to education easy or even incentivised, has been proven to help reverse these trends and ease pressure on families to make difficult decisions about their children's futures. On this basis, The Zahra Trust invests in education and training projects across its areas of operation, ensuring that children and adults are given the opportunity to access schooling, reach their full potential and earn a livelihood.

In Iraq, where it is estimated that nearly 3.2 million children are out of school, The Zahra Trust facilitates the provision of education and supplementary tuition and training to further bolster educational achievement and future employment prospects for Iraqi children. As part of its efforts to provide quality education aid to children in Iraq, The Zahra Trust has funded a school in Karbala which is currently being built to facilitate education for over 500 children at a time across two school shifts. This school will have toilet facilities on each floor and remain equipped all year round with generators, a kitchen and community halls for religious classes and



## Education and Training

The situation in Myanmar has deteriorated in recent years, with widespread inter-communal violence and displacement severely restricting daily life for the Rohingya community. The Zahra Trust has been providing vital support to those in need since the violence escalated in 2015, ensuring that vital services such as education are provided at a high standard. In keeping with this, we have secured the provision of fully furnished and equipped learning facilities across three villages, containing all that is required to run a school, including school kits containing books, stationery and uniforms for 1,041 of the schools' students. As part of the project, 20 teachers received employment and training to ensure that learning within the schools is of the highest standard. The holistic, multifaceted nature of this project is also underpinned by the inclusion of water and sanitation facilities provided as part of it. As well as academic achievement, learning through play and socialising is an important aspect of school, which we facilitated this year by constructing two playgrounds for the children.

 Around 70% of children in Tanzania do not attend school

Around 70% of children in Tanzania do not attend school, despite education playing a major role in development since the country's independence. In 2019, The Zahra Trust endeavoured to provide access to quality education to children in Tanzania, by funding the building a school and the purchase of land to build a second school for orphans. The schools will be furnished, equipped and contain water and sanitation facilities to ensure that this project is fully effective. Both schools are expected to benefit hundreds of children at a time and provide a safe space for them to learn and socialise.



# EDUCATION FACTS

More than  
**260 million**  
worldwide are  
**out of school**  
particularly within  
**conflict areas**

Less than  
**15%** of **child**  
**labourers**  
**attend school**  
(UNICEF)

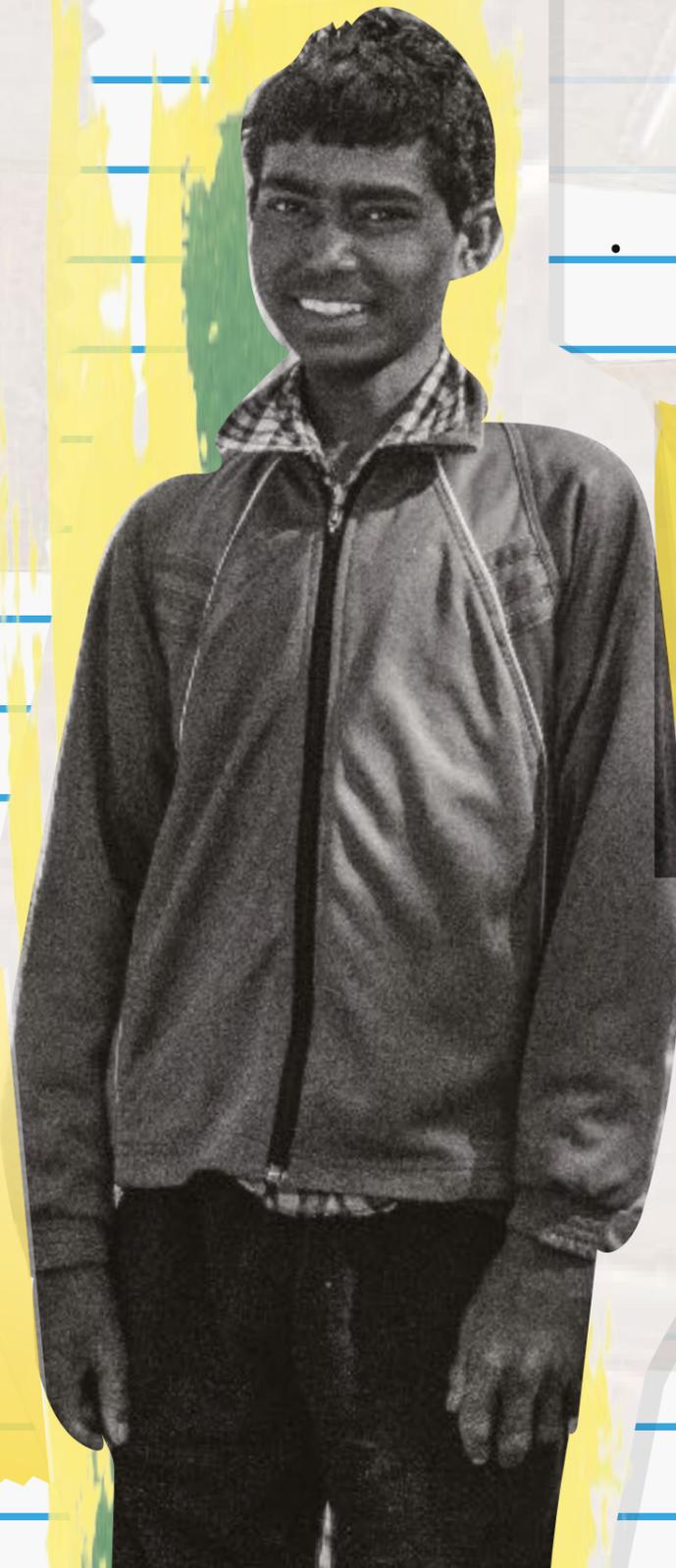
**617 million**  
youths  
lack basic  
numeracy  
or literacy skills

Over  
**150 million**  
children are engaged  
in  
**child labour**  
worldwide  
(UNICEF)

**420 million**  
children would be  
**lifted out**  
of **poverty**  
with a **secondary**  
**education**  
(UIS/GEM)

Among the  
poorest countries,  
**1 in 4 children**  
engage in **work** that is  
potentially **harmful**  
to their **health**  
(UNICEF)

**53%** of  
**children** in  
moderate to low  
income countries  
are **illiterate** //  
(World Bank)



# Sadaqa Jariya

Sadaqa Jariya, or ongoing charity, is truly a mercy from Allah (SWT), allowing a person to continuously reap the reward of an act of charity-even after death. We offer a range of services to cater to Muslims fulfilling mandatory and optional acts of worship; our Sadaqa Jariya projects are high impact in terms of both the difference they make to families and communities and for your akhirah.



## BUILDING A SCHOOL IN KARBALA

We are in the process of assisting in the building of a fully furnished and equipped school to provide quality education to over 500 children at a time. In addition, the surrounding community will benefit from vocational training for employment, religious education, majalis and Quran classes that facilities will be made available for.

We need your support to complete this school to safeguard education for generations to come.

## BUILD A WELL

Across our areas of operation where water is most scarce and where ground water is available, The Zahra Trust establishes hand pumps and water wells which benefit entire communities for years to come. Access to clean drinking water, such as that from a well, is proven to decrease illness especially those linked to water borne diseases, school absence and poverty rates whilst simultaneously boosting development.

A contribution like a water well can make the world of difference for an entire community, helping to lift them out of poverty for life.

# Baraka

The Zahra Trust offers Baraka services as a gift for loved ones that have passed away which involves:



Praying  
on behalf of Marhoomeen



Recitation of the Quran  
on behalf of Marhoomeen



Paying orphans  
on behalf of Marhoomeen



Fasting  
on behalf of Marhoomeen

Through these services to our local communities by helping those in need, we hope to help facilitate reward for the Marhoomeen as well as bring peace of mind to grieving families.

# The faces behind the facts

When we first met Fatima, a widow with two children who is also pregnant, her skin had turned yellow as a result of severe malnutrition. Mothers in her situation are, more often than not, forced to sacrifice their own meals to feed their children in an attempt to cope with extreme poverty. In dire need of food to safeguard her health and the health of her unborn child, The Zahra Trust's team provided her with staple food items and aid to cater to her immediate needs. In addition, we continued to provide her and her children with support to relocate to a safer area and ensured she received all that she needed to have a healthy baby and covered the needs of her children.



Batoul, Zainab and Aziza are three elderly refugee widows who live together and struggle to make ends meet. Their husbands and sons were killed during the conflict that led to them living in a refugee camp that barely offers shelter from the elements, let alone facilities such as running water and electricity. Now in their old age, they are particularly vulnerable and require support. Since becoming aware of their situation, The Zahra Trust's team on the ground has conducted frequent welfare checks on the ladies and provided them with food and all their other basic needs. The team have also helped to provide them with adequate shelter that will better protect them.



Ahmad, a young refugee, had an accident that resulted in a fractured arm. His family was unable to cover the hospital bill that was required for the treatment of his arm, which he urgently needed. With close ties to local clinics and hospitals, The Zahra Trust teams are able to identify and address special cases and cover the cost of treatment for those who need it. We covered the cost of Ahmad's treatment and our team provided welfare visits to ensure he was on the road to a full recovery at home.



28-year-old Haidar is a cancer patient who has long-suffered a brain tumour which severely affects his everyday life. When we met him, his basic functions such as walking were impaired as a result of the location of the tumour. Due to his circumstances, his family were unable to cover the cost of surgery to remove the tumour which we were told would give him the best chance to restore his health and provide him with relief and a sense of normality. The Zahra Trust team ensured that Haidar's operation was able to go ahead by covering the costs incurred by the hospital in addition to physiotherapy during his recovery. We are pleased to report that Haidar is doing well and learning to walk again and is slowly regaining his life back as he recovers from his illness.

*Please note that the names of the individuals described and depicted here have been changed to protect their identities.*

Anti-government protests erupt and quickly escalate in Iraq.

**November  
2019**

The first cases of Covid-19 are reported in China.

**December  
2019**

Protests subside in Lebanon with the establishment of a new government a third of its original size.

**January  
2020**

Violent riots ensue in India, with Muslims as the prime target of aggression. Many Muslims are publicly killed and attacked simply for their religious beliefs.

**February  
2020**

Covid-19 virus declared a pandemic and a large proportion of the world's population is put on lock-down.

**March  
2020**

Monsoon floods hit South Asia, displacing over 1 million people in India and thousands in Myanmar.

**July  
2019**

The annexation of Kashmir takes place with widespread violence and the deprivation of basic rights, such as the right of free movement ensuing as a result.

**August  
2019**

A fire erupts at a refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece, highlighting the dire living conditions refugees endure.

**September  
2019**

The World Health Organisation becomes aware of Ebola cases in Tanzania.

**October  
2019**

The Syrian conflict escalates-an increase in airstrikes and attacks take place, further destabilising the situation.

**April  
2019**

The US pulls all non-emergency staff from Iraq due to security concerns.

**May  
2019**

A drought is declared in Africa, affecting millions in Kenya.

**June  
2019**



The  
**Zahra**  
Trust  
"Changing Lives"

# WHY MAKE THE ZAHRA TRUST YOUR CHARITY OF CHOICE?

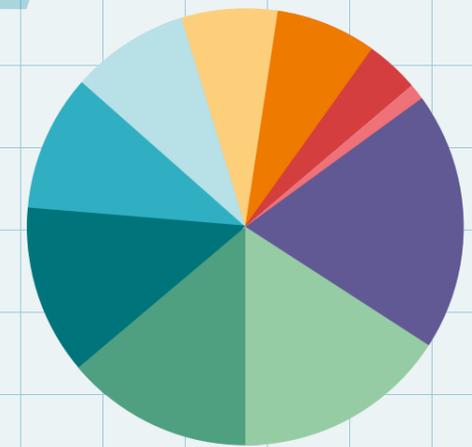
With over a decade of experience and with consistent exponential growth of our operations on the ground each year, we are expertly placed to deliver aid internationally on your behalf, facilitating a variety of innovative solutions to poverty and services to those most in need.

- We employ our own dedicated teams of experts in the field of humanitarian aid across our areas of operation with specialist local knowledge
- Through our local teams, we are poised to respond to crises as they unfold
- 0% admin is taken from your donation
- We fed more people than ever between 2019-2020 and we continue to expand our Food Drive each year to reach more, addressing the issues of food insecurity and malnutrition
- We apply sustainable and holistic solutions to chronic poverty in order to prevent the need for ongoing or emergency aid
- We are highly adaptable to the constantly changing environments of our areas of operation and the world, which is why we are able to swiftly respond to changing needs
- We empower communities through the direct consultation and participation of community leaders and members
- Our programmes are developed and applied with the context of each area and culture in mind
- We are able to identify where aid is most needed as well as beneficiaries that are most in need through the application of effective needs assessment processes
- The Zahra Trust is an NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations since 2017

# FINANCIAL HISTORY

## PROJECT FUNDING

- EDUCATION & TRAINING
- MEDICAL AID
- QURBANI
- SADAQA
- FOOD DRIVE
- WATER AID & SANITATION
- RELIEF AID
- ORPHAN & FAMILY WELFARE
- GENERAL
- ZAKAT & KHUMS



## FINANCIAL HISTORY



# Our Trusted Partners

Abu Dhar Muslim Mission

Ahlulbayt Foundation

Al-Khoei Foundation

Alulbayt Foundation

Beta Charitable Trust

Bilal Muslim Mission

Brighter Hope

Dar Al Zahra

Every Human Matters

Friends of ZT

Global Kindness Foundation

Health-Point Foundation

Hussaini Foundation

Imam Ali Foundation



The  
Zahra<sup>(S)</sup>  
Trust  
*“Changing Lives”*

Jabir ibn Hayyan

Kauthar Institute for Higher Education Trust

Kitrinos Healthcare

Lady Sumayya Humanitarian Aid Foundation

Masters Foundation

Muslim Aid

Nasimco

Noor Trust

Orison Charitable Trust

Share Aid Yemen Organization

The Council of European Jamaats

The Mainstay Foundation

World Ahlul Bayt Islamic League

Zahra Foundation

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The  
**Zahra**<sup>TM</sup>  
Trust  
"Changing Lives"



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Thezahratrust

**Charity Registration Number:** 1129501

Bank Transfer (Sterling account)

**Account Name:** The Zahra Trust

**Bank Name:** Barclays Bank

**Sort Code:** 20-44-91

**Account No:** 53681130

**Swiftbic:** BARCGB22

**IBAN GB53 BARC 2044 9153 6811 30**

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**Gif Aid Number: XT19092**

