Following the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, many Syrian families fled to neighboring countries where they stayed in government refugee camps or in tents. The desert of the governorate of Al-Mafraq, located in northeastern Jordan near the Syrian border, has been host to thousands of families who resided in tents and made a living by working on nearby farms. They had to endure rough weather conditions, horrific rodents, reptiles and wild animals, and forced seclusion from main cities and populated areas that were difficult to reach.

HHRD took on the responsibility of providing Caravan of Hope homes for refugee families living in tents in the desert. Each home consists of two rooms, a bathroom, a small kitchen area and water tank so that they can live in a healthy and safe shelter near the Syrian-Jordanian border.

Background

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure families are protected from harsh weather conditions.
2. Ensure the protection of families from insects and rodents.
3. Ensure enough living space for extended families.

OVERALL IMPACT OF CARAVAN HOMES FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES AND SHELTER HOMES FOR ROHINYA REFUGEES

Number of Homes 5,629

Number of Beneficiaries 32,395
Targeted Area

The project targets the desert area near the Syria-Jordan border in Al-Mafraq and the desert of Madaba. This area is home to the Za'atari Syrian Refugee camp and others camps.

The Za'atari camp, in Jordan, is the world’s largest camp for Syrian refugees. Eventually this camp became overcrowded and as a result HHRD has provided new, one room, Caravan of Hope homes for families that grew due to the marriage of their children, to live comfortably in a decent shelter.

| SUMMARY OF HOMES DELIVERED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| YEAR | NUMBER OF HOMES | BENEFICIARIES |
| 2019 | 140 | 700 |
| 2020 | 200 | 1,000 |
| 2021 | 331 | 1,655 |

SUCCESS STORY

My name is Khader and I’m 26 years old. I took refuge in Jordan in 2013. This was a very difficult time in my life. My family and I didn’t know what was ahead of us. We ended up in Umm Al Quttain- East of Mafraq. It’s the coldest area in the city, but we had to live there because of our work on nearby farms. The tent we stayed in could not withstand strong winds. It collapsed several times over my wife and three children, injuring my wife twice.

My wife and I work on the nearby farms; she also cares for my elderly father. She leaves our children every day for 1 to 2 hours, cleans the tent and cooks food, then returns to the children, the eldest of whom, Aya, is six and youngest, Al Abbas, is 2. I was constantly worried about the safety of my little kids from the electricity, cold, insects and scorpions. I have been given a caravan home by HHRD.

Aya is happy with this new gift, she can’t believe we finally have a roof over our heads, and walls that protect her while playing with Safa and Al Abbas.
Mobile Learning Centers
Jordan

Background

The 2011 Syrian crisis forced a large number of Syrians to flee the conflict and seek asylum in neighboring countries where they were provided with adequate living conditions. Jordan played a significant role in hosting refugees by offering them formal camps such as Zaatari Camp. However, seeking to support their families, a group of refugees chose to live near farms, which are very far from formal schools, forcing their children along the process to drop out and work at a young age.

To support this refugee population and relieve Jordan’s already overcrowded classrooms, Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) proposed an initiative to deliver classrooms inside and outside formal camps, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

HHRD also delivered educational centers, with the support of its partners, in non-formal refugee residential neighborhoods near farms to teach children basic school subjects that will help them pass the national tests required to enroll in formal schools.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Bridging the gap for students who dropped out of school after emigrating from their country of origin.

2. Securing a spot in an appropriate and regular educational environment for students.
In this old, humid, cramped school, 1st grade students did not have a classroom of their own. In addition to that, there were no nearby schools for those kids to join. The mobile classroom donated by Helping Hand USA was a lifesaver for this institution, which had been in desperate need of a new space for years. The students were not only happy with the room, but also with its equipment, spaciousness, and the functional washroom unit it came with. The students were so excited about the room that they started using it immediately!

Thank you to Helping Hand USA and its donors, by supporting these projects you are helping create a future for these children.
Shelters for Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Background

The Rohingya have faced decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in the Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) has been assisting the needy in Myanmar since 2008 and scaled up its assistance during the August 2017 mass migration. An estimated one million Rohingya reside in what has become the world’s largest refugee camp in Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh. They remain tremendously vulnerable living in exceedingly challenging conditions.

OBJECTIVES

1. To make stronger shelters, with solar electricity facilities, for the comfort and security of Rohingya refugees

2. To help families protect their children from reptiles and rodents

3. To reduce the suffering of the most susceptible, needy, and calamity affected communities.
Need for Shelter Homes

Rohingya refugees were forced to take refuge in Bangladesh. They have been experiencing numerous challenges including the crisis of accommodation. Initially, they lived by their own means, mostly under polyethylene protection. However, they were suffering terribly during the hot summer and monsoon seasons.

HHRD decided to make more sustainable shelter homes for these refugees. Reinforced cement concrete (RRC) bamboos were used as the pillar and fence of these houses. Solid cement flooring made their lives more comfortable along with solar packages, a package of utensils, floor mats and sleeping mats. These well-equipped shelter homes brought joy to their lives, in particular women who felt their dignity and honor was preserved and protected in the safety of these homes.

### SUMMARY OF SHELTERS DELIVERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER OF HOMES</th>
<th>BENEFICIARIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>3,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>11,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>*250</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>25,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Due to Covid-19 related issues, besides 250 shelters, more than half of the 2020 projects were completed in early 2021.

SUCCESS STORY

My name is Mohammad Ali and I am one of the unfortunate Rohingya migrants who fled to Bangladesh. It was very troublesome for my family and I to secure safe passage to Bangladesh. The journey was long and dangerous, especially without proper nourishment. We witnessed people face serious injury along the way.

We took shelter in a place where some locals provided us with drinking water, cakes, and other foods. For three days our children survived this until we resumed our trek. Unlike other Rohingya migrants, we did not have the luxury of having families make arrangements for relatives who also fled. We give thanks to the government of Bangladesh who opened their borders, and the people of Bangladesh for their generosity. It took us a week to make it to the refugee camps. Along the way we became sick with diarrhea, vomiting and other diseases.

Finally, we reached Camp-16 where we lived in a shelter only covered by tarpaulin with bamboo. For a year and a half this living arrangement proved to be extremely dangerous. Seeing our plight, Helping Hand USA provided us enough bamboo to make a sturdy shelter. They provided us with strong pillars. It made our shelters strong and we felt happy to escape from the storms. In order to make a shelter HHRD provided 8 cement pillars and bamboo, enough to make fences and roof strong. We are happy for their assistance as we no longer have to share others’ shelter.

Before this we did not know about HHRD. They provided us with shelters, and proper medical support through their established Medical Centers. We received the best medical treatment here as compared to the other medical centers at the camp. HHRD’s Medical Center provides services for normal, treatable illnesses. Some medical services we continue to need are proper support for expecting mothers. Pregnant women need to travel to other towns or local hospitals regardless of how critical their conditions are. This puts them at risk of losing their newborn or developing other life-threatening complications. Leaving the camps to go to other medical centers or hospitals put financial strain on us, as we cannot afford these medical treatments.

We are very grateful to HHRD for providing us with essentials such as buckets, glasses, and other household items. We are grateful to Allah, HHRD and its donors for supporting us these past four years in Camp 16.
Many of the Palestinian Refugees live in old homes which need maintenance. Some homes need construction of a room, kitchen, and bathroom. Because they are unable to renovate the dwellings by themselves, refugees continue to live in the same cramped conditions, with little space, repair, or maintenance.

Helping Hand has repaired 30 homes in 2021 in Gaza and Soof Camps. These are the oldest camps.
Amal is a 41-year-old woman. Her husband died in the year 2019. Amal lives with her five children, three boys and two girls, in the same house. The eldest son is in ninth grade, while her youngest son is in second grade.

Following a visit by the Helping Hand team to the family's Jerash, it was discovered that the house was in ruins, with a corroded zinc tin roof that allowed rain water to flow in. They couldn't live in peace since the house couldn't keep them cool in the summer or keep them warm in the winter. However, thanks to Helping Hand's efforts, the house's condition improved after maintenance, and another bedroom was constructed for the family. Amal and her family appreciate Helping Hand's outstanding work because they are now sheltered from rains and the severe seasons. They pray that Allah blesses everyone who contributed to this initiative.