

ANNUAL REPORT
2022



Education Support Program



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

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Mission and Vision

HHRD is committed to serve humanity by integrating resources for people in need. We strive to provide immediate response in disasters, and effective Programs in places of suffering, for the pleasure of Allah.

ESP Mission and Vision

To use all available recourses to implement educational projects aimed at transforming the lives of deprived children and youth from a foggy to a bright future.

Beneficiaries

We served
7,991 children &
youth in 2022

Countries Served

Jordan
Bangladesh
Lebanon
India
Somalia
Pakistan
Kenya
Bosnia
Indonesia
Haiti
Uganda
Thailand

Introduction

*“Read in the name of thy Lord who taught
by the pen: [He] taught the human being
what he did not know.” (Q96: 1-5)*

Education has the power to elevate individuals, families and communities from poverty. Unlike gifts of food, water and shelter, a gift of education will last a lifetime. Children who successfully complete high school, college and graduate school can transform entire neighborhoods. The social mobility that education provides benefits both individuals and governments alike.

Educated citizens are more likely to participate in civic affairs, helping others as they were helped. They are less of a burden on the public dollar, able to support themselves and pay for their own homes, food and healthcare. They contribute to regional development with income and innovation. And they are likely to take care of their extended families, thus spreading the joy.

HHRD’s Education Support Program removes barriers to higher education by providing students with the necessary fees to attend school. Many students are previous beneficiaries through the Orphan Support Program (OSP) which assists younger children with school supplies, tuition, food and clothing. We work with learners in high school through university, providing tuition and scholarships for those who excel in their classes but lack financial means.

Rimsha Shabbir was one such individual who found herself in dire straits when her father tragically passed away one Eid day. The family was left without enough money to cover their basic expenses, much less funds for Rimsha and her siblings to attend school. By connecting up with HHRD through the OSP and transitioning into the Educational Support Program after high school, her university tuition was covered. She graduated with a Bachelors in Economics and went on to become an Import Officer at GULF Construction Company Pvt. Ltd.

Through a simple act of financial support, we are able to open the entire world up to talented young people who would never have had a chance to prove themselves otherwise. We deliver hundreds of professional innovators, doctors, engineers, architects and teachers to each partner country. More than any other act of charity, helping someone further their education has the potential to change the world.



Objectives

ESP activities have six major objectives, all under the umbrella that everyone has a right to an education.

- Fulfill the vision that each refugee, orphan and underprivileged child/youth has a **right to learn**;
- Promote quality education through **scholarships** sponsoring underprivileged youth;
- Provide **Learning Centers** for literacy learning to children in camps through caravan homes;
- Provide all day access to **Child Care Centers** for refugee children where they can learn, play and eat in safety and comfort;
- Provide **Higher Education** opportunities for disadvantaged students, especially OSP graduates;
- Provide orphans with access to HHRD's **School of Excellence** where they can receive a quality education.



MENA

(Middle East and North Africa)



ESP operates in two countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region: Jordan and Lebanon. Large populations of Syrian and Palestinian refugees are situated near the borders, in tent camps in the desert. Some Palestinian refugees have been in Jordan for generations, and have become citizens. They may live cities or in camps that have been well developed. More recently arrived, the Syrian population is in need of food, shelter and water in addition to educational opportunities for their children.

HHRD believes that every refugee child has the right to receive a proper education, creating a better future for him/herself, their family and country. The education program protects refugee children and youth from dangerous elements of the environment including child labor and child marriage. Education also strengthens community resilience and empowers the entire population by giving refugees and local beneficiaries the knowledge and skills they need to live productive, fulfilling and independent lives.

When HHRD ESP was first launched launch in 2015, HHRD MENA supported 100 Syrian refugee students in Jordan only (Amman). Alhamdulillah, by year 2022, HHRD was able to extend its basic education support in Jordan and Lebanon to 1,600 Syrian refugee children.

Interventions in MENA

Sponsorships for Public and Private Schools – ESP provides sponsorships to cover the cost of tuition and fees for both public and private schools. This includes school supplies, books, uniforms and transportation.

Home and School Visits – HHRD implements both home and school visits to check on sponsored children and make sure that they are thriving.

Allowance – ESP provides families with an allowance three times per year. Funds can be spent on whatever is most pressing for the family, whether that is food, clothing, shoes or heating oil.

Tutoring – ESP provides tutoring for students who are struggling in math and language to ensure that they progress alongside their peers.

Mobile Learning Center/School of Hope – In refugee camps, children don't always have access to formal education. Until they can be enrolled in regular school, HHRD provides the School of Hope for children to interact in a safe environment and enhance their skills. We teach basic Arabic, English, math and Quran to keep children on track. One mobile learning center served 24 scholars with classes three times per week.

Higher Education Support - Higher Education is expensive in both Jordan and Lebanon. Thousands of students finish high school and achieve grades qualifying them to go to college, however, they are unable to afford university tuition fees. HHRD started this program to help some of those students with either full or partial scholarships to enable them to enroll in universities and pave the way to towards a prosperous future Insha'Allah. In 2022, we were able to serve 159 scholars.



2022 in Review

- Supported 900 students in Jordan & 700 students in Lebanon for a total of 1,600 beneficiaries.
- All 700 Lebanese students attend private school fully funded by HHRD
- In Jordan, 310 go to private schools and 590 to public schools (families are provided aid with cash allowances)
- 109 students in Jordan and 50 students in Lebanon are being sponsored under Higher Education Support Program.
- Two new learning centers opened, serving 36 children



Success Story

Mohammad (6th grade) fled from Syria with his family in 2011 after the war began. His family moved around in Jordan, and Mohammad was put into several different public schools. He suffered from speaking difficulties that made it hard for him to connect with other children and an easy target for bullying.

After he joined the school in Irbid supported by Helping Hand, the teachers took special care of him and encouraged him to participate in the lessons. The other children in this school treated him very kindly and he was able to make friends. With newfound confidence, he began to speak fluently, even getting involved with the school radio station.

He concentrated on his studies and progressed very well educationally. He even started to memorize several Surat from the holy Quran. HHRD's ESP brought him out of his shell, changing his life and enabling him to transition to his new home. He and his family appreciate the support of the donors who made this miracle possible.

Pakistan



HHRD recognizes education as a basic human right and one of the most direct and viable pathways out of poverty. ESP Pakistan started in 2010 with the goal of “providing quality education to students and taking Pakistan towards a knowledge-based economy.”

HHRD's ESP improves the access to education for students, particularly those who live in geographically remote areas of Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. HHRD strengthens the education system by upgrading and renovating educational institutions, providing supplies for educational institutions, and scholarships for young people from primary to higher education. ESP provides equal opportunities to enhance male and female education in all these projects. ESP is committed to increasing and improving access to education for all without any discrimination.

2022 in Review

- With 19 projects, 2,994 students have been helped in 2022.
- 980 scholarships for OSP graduates to support their intermediate and BA and BS education.
- We have given 115 special scholarships to general students for higher education.
- 15 students were granted admission into the Doctor of Physiotherapy Program at Helping Hand Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences (HHIRS)
- 6 students were accepted into the BS program at HHIRS.
- New project for out-of-school children started with two centers and 43 students.
- Career Counseling to 700 female grads.
- About 100 activities for youth.
- Various other components like upgrading educational facilities, teacher trainings, internships, renovation of schools and educational tours for female students.



Interventions in Pakistan

Scholarships – ESP provides two general types of scholarships, those for sponsored orphans and those for individuals who were not a part of OSP. There are many different scholarships ranging from location-specific funds for residents of Baluchistan to institution-specific funds for those interested in NED University. In 2022, ESP sponsored 965 adopted orphans and 161 others.

Upgrading Educational Facilities – ESP sponsors two schools that are engaged in outstanding work, providing free or low-cost education to the communities they serve. Save the Future Community School in Sanghar Sindh and Al Hera School Orangi Town, Karachi both received funds for the improvement of the facilities. In addition, ESP sponsored 125 students at Save the Future and 75 students at Al Hera, allowing the schools to use the tuition for general operating expenses.

Building Teachers' Capacity – ESP hosted a fifteen day training workshop for teachers of religious schools. These schools play an important part in educating the general population, especially when it comes to spiritual aspects. Without targeted training opportunities, teachers are often forced to rely on outdated instructional techniques. ESP also supports internships for young people to help them build their resumes. In 2022, 15 interns worked for HHRD in some capacity.

Education for Out-of-School Children – ESP operates its own education center in Ratta Amral, in Rawalpindi, Punjab, a slum where many children are vulnerable to child trafficking, drug addiction and abuse. Out-of-school children are a problem not only in Ratta Amral, but in many other locations where families don't have the money, transportation or desire to send their children to school. The learning center is a pilot project that will be duplicated elsewhere if successful, Inshallah.

Mentoring & Coaching – In partnership with a local, vetted organization, ESP brings professional



women and girls in the program together for mentorship and practical advice on being a woman in the workforce in modern Pakistan. We also arrange for college and university exposure trips for young people living in remote areas. These trips are especially designed to get children excited about the prospect of going to college, and show them that it is possible.

Success Story

Raza Mehmood lives with his mother and four siblings in Karachi. Raza's life turned upside down when his father took his own life due to a series of financial crises and heavy loans. Raza and his siblings were very young and unable to support themselves when this tragedy happened. Their family did not have a regular source of income and while initially, his school waived his tuition fee, eventually they demanded compensation.

The news of his father's death was reported in the print media, attracting the attention of the HHRD. OSP provided them with food assistance, education support, and health coverage. After completing secondary education with high marks, Raza was enrolled in the ESP. He was a hard-working student and earned his bachelor's degree in mass communication.

He began a professional career as Project Coordinator of Karachi Cluster at HHRD to give back to the next generation of intrepid young people.

Africa



Africa is a unique region with a diverse topography and a young population. More than 60% of residents are under the age of 25, making things like education and employment a focus. HHRD works in Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia providing scholarships for high school students. The School of Excellence in Somalia is the only licensed educational facility managed directly by HHRD, though we have a number of informal learning centers and partnerships with other schools. In this case, the need was so great, we were privileged to step up and fill the void.

2022 in Review

- 400 students are currently enrolled in the School of Excellence.
- In Kenya and Uganda 77 students are being helped in high schools through scholarships.
- 800 University Students have been trained through youth leadership workshops

Interventions in Africa

Scholarships for High School Students - High school education is the most difficult stage in the educational system of these three countries. Providing education opportunities elevates the hopes of these children to focus on academic performance and Insha'Allah graduate to university and career goals. In Kenya, we have 62 students who are sponsored in high school while 15 are in Uganda.

School of Excellence – The School of Excellence (SOE) in Mogadishu provides quality education in a safe and enabling environment for 400 sponsored students. The school employs the best principles and faculty, high quality instruction and wraparound supports that contribute to the learning, development and self-confidence of all students.

Youth Leadership Program – The Youth Leadership Program empowers youth through knowledge and skills development to become agents of change in their communities with major focus becoming university students. Since they represent such a large portion of the population in their respective countries, their contribution is crucial to bring about the change that is needed in our society. 600 youth took advantage of the YLP in 2022.

Provision of School Supplies – ESP delivered school supplies to children in the School of Excellence as well as those receiving scholarships. Supplies included uniforms, shoes, paper, pencils, erasers, rulers, exam books and notebooks.

Health Screenings – HHRD provided health screenings for students in Uganda and Kenya. 77% of those seen were healthy, while 20% were treated for a variety of conditions and 3% were given referrals to specialists.

Provision of Hygiene Kits – All students received a personal care kit including soap, shampoo, nail cutters, tooth brush and tooth paste. Female students were given sanitary napkins to aid them in their personal hygiene and ensure that a lack of protection does not become a barrier to continuing their education.

Hygiene Awareness Sessions – It's not enough just to hand out personal care products. Many young people will have questions, and as an educational program, it is our duty to enlighten them. Topics focused on included COVID safety and menstrual health.

Food Support – Children are unable to focus on school when they are hungry. To avoid this barrier to learning, HHRD provides food parcels on a quarterly basis. Packages include flour, rice, spaghetti, sugar and cooking oil. Students at the School of Excellence also receive daily meals.

Home and School Visits – To support the healthy development of our students, HHRD conducts both home and school visits. Home visits are designed to make sure children have everything they need outside of school, while school visits determine whether the schools are living up to their duty of providing quality education in a safe and healthy environment.

Mentorship – Mentorship is provided to high school students to help prepare them for graduation.



Indonesia



Indonesia is an island nation situated between China and Australia. A member of the Association of South East Asian Nations, Indonesia lies on a series of fault lines and is part of the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” causing the population to suffer earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions with devastating consequences. Politically stable and able to take advantage of recent globalization trends, Indonesia is categorized as an emerging market.

Interventions in Indonesia

Food Distribution – A study by Indonesian Food and Nutrition Experts found that around 60% of students did not eat breakfast before going to school. This tells us that not many parents understand the importance of breakfast. In order to solve this issue, ESP's vetted local partner distributes healthy food and encourages children to eat breakfast before starting the day. In 2022, 240 children were served.

Provision of eyeglasses – A research study in China states that the COVID-19 pandemic has a strong correlation with the increasing of eye problems especially myopia cases in students aged 6-18 years. Myopia is also known as near sightedness. HHRD's local partner provided eyeglasses and free eye health checkups for 100 students who lack access to health facilities.

Laptop distribution – in the 21st century, every student needs a laptop to be able to compete on a national stage. Much of the learning environment is still online, even after COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. HHRD's local partner distributed laptops to 20 students and selected three of those scholars to participate in a graphic design workshop.

School Supplies and Uniforms – Uniforms are designed to give students a sense of pride and belonging. Many students are unable to attend school because they don't have the funds to purchase uniforms. In 2022, HHRD's vetted local partner purchased school supplies and uniforms for 130 children.



Bangladesh



The Rohingya people have faced decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Such persecution has forced Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh for many years, with significant spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991-1992, and again in 2016. August 2017 triggered by far the largest and fastest exodus into Bangladesh. Since then, an estimated 745,000 Rohingya—including more than 400,000 children—have fled to Cox's Bazar.

2022 in Review

- HHRD established Child Care Homes for Rohingya children in the refugee camps.
- 455 children were served in two Child Care homes in 2022
- These children are provided with education, food, hygiene supplies and extra-curricular activities.

Interventions in Bangladesh

Child Learning Center- Children in the refugee camps need somewhere to go to learn basic reading, math and social skills. The Learning Center provides breakfast, lunch and snacks, clothes, toys and multi-lingual education. It is a place where children can just be children, even though the rest of the world may have changed. In 2022, 400 children benefitted from the structured environment.

Psychosocial Counseling – Some students have direct experiences with military crackdowns, losing parents or family members to violence. To reduce their fear, and help them adjust, our teachers and staff work with the children on painting, artwork, and poetry recitation in school and sometimes in their homes. During 2022, there were 48 home visits conducted and 174 school visits by counseling specialists.



Success Story

In Myanmar, we lived in a village called Nyunga Change. I was a second grade student when the government started attacking people with fire arms and burning houses, mosques, and school. I saw them chopping people into pieces, throwing babies into fire, and raping girls and women. We fled to Bangladesh and were provided with shelter in Camp 16. Now I am 16 years old and take classes at the Child Learning Center sponsored by HHRD. When I came from Myanmar to Bangladesh, I was a poor student. Alhamdulillah, I have learned English and Math and I can read and write both Burmese and English as well. I am good at science and life skills. I dream of being a doctor someday.

I am provided with an education kit every year, food and hygiene supplies, clothes and other necessary items. Alhamdulillah, this program has changed my life and mitigated my family's worries a bit. We ask Allah (SWT) to grant our donors adequate Hasanah and Barakah, Ameen.

Thailand

A periphery district of Bangkok, Non Chok houses many Rohingya refugee families. Though their numbers are decreasing year by year because so many are arrested and detained in Immigration Detention Centers for being considered undocumented. Hundreds of families still live in communities outside the big city. Each family has children that are enrolled in local schools. However, the cost of uniforms and other school supplies causes many children to drop out. ESP partnered with a vetted local organization to provide uniforms, bags and school supplies to 300 children in Non Chok.



India

2022 in Review

- Supported 30 girls through scholarships to Jameatus Salehat in UP. This institution was established in 1956 and has become a symbol of Islamic education for girls worldwide.
- 500 female students were provided with computer classes in addition to laptops for studying.
- 35 male students were helped with scholarships in AP.

