



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Shelter Relief Program

Semi-Annual Progress Report
JANUARY ~ JUNE 2023



Mission

HHRD

HHRD is committed to serving 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 SWT (God Almighty).

SRP

To rescue vulnerable families from the elements by providing safe, sturdy homes in locations affected by war and poverty.

Problem Statement

Shelter is a basic human need that provides safety, hope and dignity. No matter what the circumstances or how insignificant a family's income, everyone deserves a place to call home. This necessity is all the more poignant when people have been displaced from their lands either through war or environmental disaster. HHRD recognizes the importance of protecting vulnerable populations from violence, discomfort and disease through the provision of both temporary and permanent shelter solutions.

UN's Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global objectives to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges to achieve a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030. All United Nations Member States officially adopted these goals in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. HHRD's SRP program primarily focuses on:

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by providing adequate shelter for all.



Spheres Criteria

Sphere was created in 1997 to improve the quality of humanitarian responses in disaster relief situations. The Sphere philosophy is based on two core beliefs:

- People affected by disaster or conflict have the right to life with dignity and, therefore, the right to assistance; and
- All possible steps should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of disaster or conflict.

The Sphere Handbook, which has developed into one of the most widely referenced humanitarian resources globally, indicates key standards for Shelter Relief projects. HHRD's SRP program addresses six of these standards as follows:

Standard 1:

Shelter and settlement interventions are well planned and coordinated to contribute to the safety and well-being of affected people and promote recovery.

Standard 2:

Shelters and settlements are located in safe and secure areas, offering adequate space and access to essential services and livelihoods.

Standard 3:

People have access to living spaces that are safe and adequate, enabling essential household and livelihood activities to be undertaken with dignity.

Standard 6:

The affected population has security of tenure in its shelter and settlement options. HHRD seeks to provide beneficiaries with as permanent a solution as possible, dependent on the circumstances.

Standard 7:

Shelter and settlement assistance minimizes any negative program impact on the natural environment. Caravan homes are equipped with solar powered electricity.

Countries of Operation

- Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh
- Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon
- Palestinian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon
- People displaced by floods in Pakistan
- People displaced by earthquake in Syria

Highlights

Country	Development	Beneficiaries
Jordan	2 Homes in Desert + 55 Homes in Zaatari Camp 1 Caravan of Hope School	285 individuals 28 students
Bangladesh	Temporary shelters for Rohingya Refugees (A part of HHRD Shelter Village)	350 families 1,750 individuals
Syria	Construction underway for two communities featuring 250 homes each, shops, a playground, schools and a masjid.	Estimated 2,500 individuals
Pakistan	621 houses to deserving families who lost their homes in the flood.	4,347 individuals

Climate Change

For many decades, environmentalists have warned of the dangers of relying on fossil fuels and excess carbon in the atmosphere. While the majority of the pollution comes from wealthy nations, the first to suffer have been the displaced and vulnerable people around the globe. HHRD is on the front lines of the climate challenge, helping people whose homes, livelihoods and lives have been put at risk due to rising temperatures. In 2023, we saw soaring temperatures in the deserts where many of our Syrian and Palestinian families reside. We responded to floods caused by melting glaciers and superpowered monsoons. The Shelter Relief Program felt the following impacts of climate change and took measures to help our beneficiaries cope:

- The mix weather of excessive heat and monsoon has made the project in Bangladesh (Cox's Bazaar) more challenging. HHRD provided solar powered fans in shelter homes to help people cool down, and sturdy structures to help them weather severe storms.
 - The floods in Pakistan were brought on by heavy monsoons and runoff from melting glaciers, both symptoms of climate change. HHRD restored hope to families through the construction of sturdy, permanent homes.
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COUNTRY REPORT

Bangladesh

Over one million stateless Rohingya refugees are residing in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas. The majority of them live in 34 extremely congested camps, including the largest site known as the Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site, which hosts approximately 864,000 Rohingya refugees.

After more than five years of collaborative response efforts, the situation has gradually improved to some extent. Basic assistance has been provided, living conditions in the camps have slightly improved, and measures for disaster risk mitigation have been largely successful.

However, despite this progress, the Rohingya refugees still face an extremely precarious situation. The underlying causes of their displacement in Myanmar have not been addressed, leaving their future uncertain. While they have access to basic necessities such as food and healthcare, they remain highly vulnerable, living in challenging circumstances exposed to the elements during monsoon season and relying on aid from humanitarian organizations. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and complicated global situation, many humanitarian organizations have reduced their donations, creating an uncertain future for the refugees.



SUCCESS STORY

Nurul Amin lives with his family of nine in Camp 10-D. They escaped Myanmar when their village was attacked by the army. After they arrived in Bangladesh, the family received help from some organizations and local people including a temporary tarpaulin tent designed to shelter them from the rain. But the tent was not very secure and the weather damaged the structure to the point that it was difficult for the family to live. HHRD provided a new home, complete with solar energy. They have lights for the children to study at night and fans to keep people cool on hot days. "May Allah bless the people who made such a beautiful house for us," Nurul Amin says.

COUNTRY REPORT

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Jordan and Lebanon

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 Al- Mafraq governorate, 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 in 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's SRP program offers two solutions to people in the Al-Mafraq desert: Caravan of Hope Homes and Caravan of Hope Schools.

Caravan of Hope Homes

provide individual families with sturdy caravan homes built to exacting specifications, each featuring a working kitchen, bathroom, solar powered electricity, shared space and bedrooms. These homes are provided to Syrian refugee families living in Jordan.



COUNTRY REPORT

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

The Caravan of Hope Schools

provide learning space for out-of-school children in camps who cannot attend traditional schools due to transportation or family issues. They are not accredited institutions but provide space for teaching basic skills to enable children to keep up with their studies in anticipation of eventually being returned to an official classroom. Also, many children have been out of school for several years due to their displacement and many are facing developmental and emotional issues, making integration within a foreign school system particularly difficult.



SUCCESS STORY

Nour is 13 years old. Previously, she lived with her family of 7 in an old, weathered caravan. The place was too cramped to offer Nour and her siblings the privacy they needed for studying and sleeping. Although Nour was a hardworking student, she couldn't always finish her school assignments due to the distractions around her. The family was gifted a caravan by Helping Hand. Their home is now spacious and clean. It features two windows that bring in enough light to study in the morning and a door that can be shut at night so the family can sleep safely. Nour says, "Thank you to Helping Hand and its wonderful team of employees and donors. May Allah bless you with health and prosperity."

COUNTRY REPORT

Syria

Since the very first day following the record earthquakes in Türkiye and Northwestern Syria, HHRD has been conducting relief operations in the region. After weeks of emergency assistance with food and other supplies, the Shelter Relief Program has begun to help rebuild the homes and lives that came to a halt. HHRD has a small window of time allocated to work directly in the country. To address multiple concerns and make the greatest impact, we have designed two fully functioning towns, each with a total of 250 homes along with a school, masjid, shops, a playground, and other amenities. Construction is still underway, but with the help of Allah SWT, we anticipate completion of all projects before the deadline.



COUNTRY REPORT

Pakistan

In response to the 2022 Pakistan Flood and the urgent need for housing, HHRD initiated the Permanent Shelter Program. This program aimed to provide long-term solutions to those who had lost their homes in the flood. In cooperation with HHRD's Orphan Support Program, Children With Disabilities Program, Skills Development and Livelihood Program and the Emergency Relief and Development Program, SRP successfully constructed 621 homes for individuals displaced by the floods. This includes 564 one bedroom houses consisting of a single bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom, as well as 57 two-bedroom houses with two rooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom.

