

# Shelter Relief Program

ANNUAL REPORT | 2023



**HELPING HAND**  
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

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## HHRD Mission

HHRD is committed to serving humanity by integrating resources for those in need. We aim to provide immediate responses in disasters and effective programs in places of suffering, all for the pleasure of Allah.

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**Shelter is a critical determinant for survival in the initial stages of emergency response**

## SRP Mission

Our mission is to offer modern, sturdy shelters for individuals affected by poverty, war, and natural disasters. HHRD's Shelter Relief Program operates in Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, utilizing local building supplies and labor to support growing economies.

As stated in the Sphere Handbook, "shelter is a critical determinant for survival in the initial stages of emergency response. Beyond survival, shelter is necessary to provide security and personal safety, protection from climate, and enhanced resistance to ill health and disease. It is also important for human dignity and to sustain family and community life as far as possible in difficult circumstances."

# 2023 In Review

This past year witnessed the completion of some of our most ambitious projects to date, Alhamdulillah. The Shelter Relief Program, in collaboration with the Emergency Relief and Disaster Management Program, undertook the monumental task of creating several new villages for displaced community members following the floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Syria.



In Pakistan, new homes were constructed alongside existing buildings, improving upon existing infrastructure. To avoid duplicating efforts with other relief organizations, HHRD ventured deep into the remote desert landscape of Northern Syria to identify communities in need of support. Residents were overjoyed to receive assistance, expressing their gratitude and noting that no other organization had traveled so far from the cities to provide services.

New homes were built in addition to other essential community structures. HHRD rebuilt mosques in the target area and established schools for children to learn. Upon completion of the construction phase, families in great need were selected to receive the dwellings. Many thanks to our esteemed donors for making these joyous gifts possible!



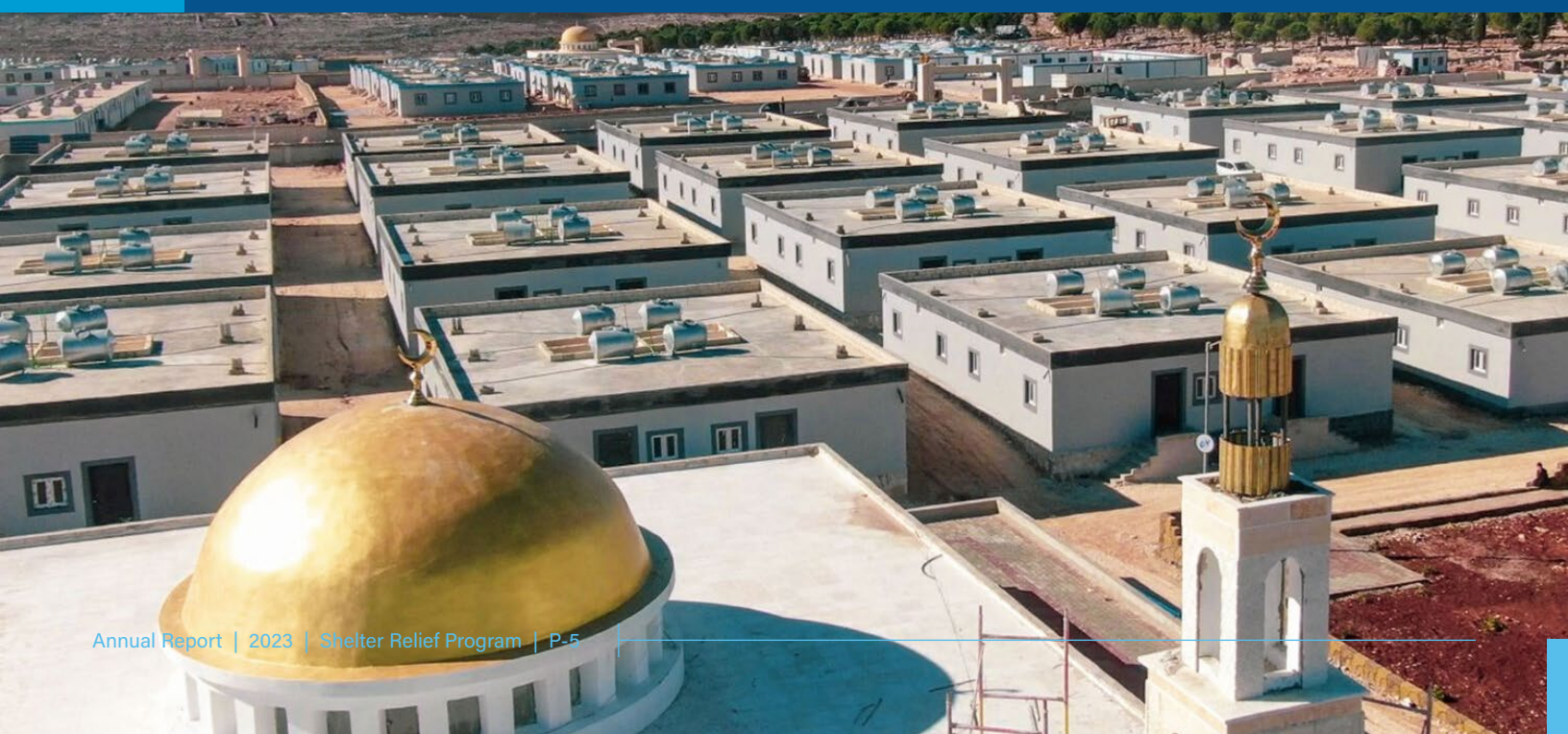
On February 6, 2023, record earthquakes in Turkey and northwestern Syria claimed tens of thousands of lives and injured many more. From the outset, HHRD was there with food and essential supplies to aid survivors in recovering from this tragedy.

In collaboration with the Syrian government, we embarked on one of our most monumental projects to date. In less than a year, HHRD constructed two entire villages from the ground up, transforming the desert landscape into a refuge for thousands. Each village features 250 homes, a school, a mosque, a playground, and a commercial district. On December 27, 2023, we hosted an opening ceremony, officially handing over the villages to their residents with a day filled with celebration and prayer.



In addition to the remarkable achievement of constructing 1,122 brand new homes, HHRD continued to deliver 200 Caravan of Hope Homes and 9 Caravan of Hope Learning Centers to refugee families in Jordan and Lebanon. We also provided renovations for 45 homes to displaced Palestinians in Jordan, helping to improve the livability of older structures. Additionally, our work in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazaar involved building 300 new shelters for Rohingya refugees. Furthermore, we expanded our operations in Cambodia, providing 6 weather-resistant homes for impoverished families.

May Allah bless all the donors involved, as well as the staff and personnel who dedicated their time, and may He provide safety and security to all the children who now have a safe place to sleep at night.



# Countries Served

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Pakistan
- Syria
- Morocco
- Gaza



# Data Story

Location	Project	Homes	Beneficiaries
Bangladesh	Shelter Homes	300	1800
Cambodia	Shelter Homes	6	26
Gaza	Rehabilitation of homes	12	66
Jordan	Home Renovation	45	225
	Caravan of Hope Homes	200	1,200
	Caravan of Hope Learning Centers	5	140
Lebanon	Caravan of Hope Learning Centers	4	112
Pakistan	Provision of homes for flood victims	622	4,354
Syria	Tent village	1,169 tents	5,759
	HHRD Village 1	250	1,250
	HHRD Village 2	250	1,250
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,863</b>	<b>16,182</b>



# Country Reports

## Pakistan

In 2022, severe monsoon rains caused devastating floods in Pakistan, resulting in approximately 2.2 million houses being damaged or destroyed, leaving millions in urgent need of shelter.

HHRD Pakistan promptly responded to the emergency, reaching 341,497 beneficiaries with interventions such as food packages, hygiene kits, and mobile medical camps. Following the initial relief efforts, attention shifted towards long-term solutions. To rebuild communities and better prepare people for future natural disasters, HHRD designed and constructed 622 new homes.



These new homes each include living spaces, kitchen areas, porches, restrooms, electricity via solar panels, water, and proper ventilation. Constructed of sturdy, flood-resistant concrete, they are designed to withstand and mitigate the impact of natural disasters. The foundations are designed to prevent water infiltration, ensuring residents' safety during flood events. Adequate restroom facilities improve the overall health and hygiene conditions of families, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases.

The houses were built within the affected communities, allowing residents to return to their previous locations without interruption to work or school. This restoration of normalcy is crucial for the economic stability of individuals and communities.



## MENA - Middle East and North Africa

### Jordan

#### Home Renovation

Since 2017, HHRD has been aiding families in Jordan with home repairs. Many Palestinian refugees, as well as local Jordanians, reside in aging homes requiring maintenance. Lacking funds and expertise, they struggle without adequate space, repairs, or maintenance. This project focuses on the families of HHRD-sponsored orphans and others in dire need.



#### Success Story

The Al Qassim family fled Syria many years ago, seeking refuge in Jordan. The father, aged 51, works on a farm, providing for his wife and seven children.

While winter typically evokes cozy memories for many children, for this family, it brings only harsh cold, heavy rain, and fierce windstorms. Their tent collapsed, leaving them exposed to the elements, with their blankets and belongings soaked in water and mud, and unable to stop shivering.

Summer offered no respite either. Their cramped tent provided no defense against the heat, leaving little room for the children to study or play.

Alhamdulillah, Helping Hand granted this family a clean, safe, insulated caravan, where their dreams can finally take root. With electricity and insulation, it offers warmth in winter and relief from summer heat. No longer do they sleep on the ground, and their clothes and belongings are shielded from harsh weather.



Following the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, many Syrian families fled to neighboring countries, where they resided in government refugee camps or tents. Tens of thousands of Syrians, predominantly women and children, endure harsh conditions in highly exposed desert areas. They face extreme weather, as well as the presence of rodents, reptiles, and wild animals, while being isolated from main cities and populated areas.

HHRD's frequent visits to these refugee camps highlighted the urgent need for proper housing. Hence, the introduction of the Caravans of Hope in 2017.

## Jordan



*Caravan of Hope Learning Centers*

Many Syrian families have opted to reside near farms for convenient access to employment opportunities. However, these farms are often distant from formal schools, leading to children dropping out and engaging in work at a young age.

To support this refugee segment and alleviate Jordan's already overcrowded classrooms, HHRD initiated the Caravan of Hope Learning Center project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. These robust, weather-resistant classrooms provide an ideal setting for young individuals to develop essential skills needed to pass national tests and eventually enroll in formal schools. Each learning center is equipped with a classroom, whiteboard, desks for both teachers and students, and fully functional restroom facilities.



*Caravan of Hope Learning Centers*

## Lebanon



One of the most significant challenges faced by Syrian children during the crisis was transitioning between the curriculum in Syria and that in Lebanon. Lebanon's educational content and subjects are highly advanced, placing Syrian children at a disadvantage compared to their Lebanese peers. Additionally, many children have been out of school for several years due to displacement, leading to developmental and emotional issues that complicate integration into a foreign school system.

There are approximately 488,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. The school system is overwhelmed, prompting the government to implement measures such as splitting the student body into two shifts. Despite these efforts, many schools are at full capacity, leaving some Syrian children unable to secure a seat.

To address this issue, HHRD provides Caravan of Hope Learning Centers. With modern, weather-resistant modular buildings, refugee children have a distraction-free environment to study and master the basics needed for effective integration into the Lebanese school system.



## Morocco



Caravan of Hope Learning Centers

HHRD has established a presence in Morocco to provide food supplies and Qurbani meat. When the earthquake occurred on September 8, 2023, the MENA team initiated relief efforts. Following the distribution of food, fresh water, and hygiene supplies, the Shelter Relief Program was activated. In collaboration with regional partners, HHRD is committed to providing the following homes and structures in the Taroudant & Al-Houz regions near Marrakech:

- 169 Caravan Homes
- 2 Social Centers
- 4 Public Restroom Units with 6 Stalls Each
- 2 Public Kitchens

Work on this project is currently underway.



## Syria

Following the earthquake on February 6, 2023, HHRD responded promptly with emergency relief items in Turkey and Syria. In the aftermath of the earthquake, families affected had to evacuate their homes and were relocated to secure areas. Tents were promptly set up and provided to meet their shelter needs. A total of 1,159 regular tents for families and 10 large tents for social centers were provided to survivors, including war refugees whose previous tents were deteriorating. This efficient solution helped protect 1,159 families from harsh winter and summer weather.

After assessment, it was determined that the best and most efficient method to create lasting stability for affected families was to design two entire villages from the ground up. This approach enabled us to make the most significant impact for survivors and maximize the utilization of the funds entrusted to us by our donors.

This project is specifically tailored to enhance the living conditions of extremely vulnerable Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) residing in Afrin, facilitating their journey towards a more sustainable future. Beneficiaries were selected based on criteria such as homelessness, degree of poverty, disability, number of children, and number of elderly family members. These villages were officially completed and handed over to the residents on December 27, 2023.



### HHRD Village 1

- 250 Homes (each home 55 M<sup>2</sup>)
- Mosque 307 M<sup>2</sup>
- School 900 M<sup>2</sup>
- Playground
- 12 Shops (each Shop 22.5 M<sup>2</sup>)
- Clinic 80 M<sup>2</sup>

### HHRD Village 2

- 250 Homes (each home 50 M<sup>2</sup>)
- Mosque 305 M<sup>2</sup>
- School 900 M<sup>2</sup>
- Playground
- 12 Shops (each Shop 22.5 M<sup>2</sup>)
- Clinic 95 M<sup>2</sup>

## Gaza

As attention shifts towards Gaza, witnessing the extent of devastation is heartbreaking. While the situation continues to unfold, HHRD is collaborating with vetted local partners to provide emergency assistance, including food and sleeping bags. Well before the events of October 7th, 2023, HHRD had forged strong bonds with community members and partners in Gaza, offering assistance whenever possible.

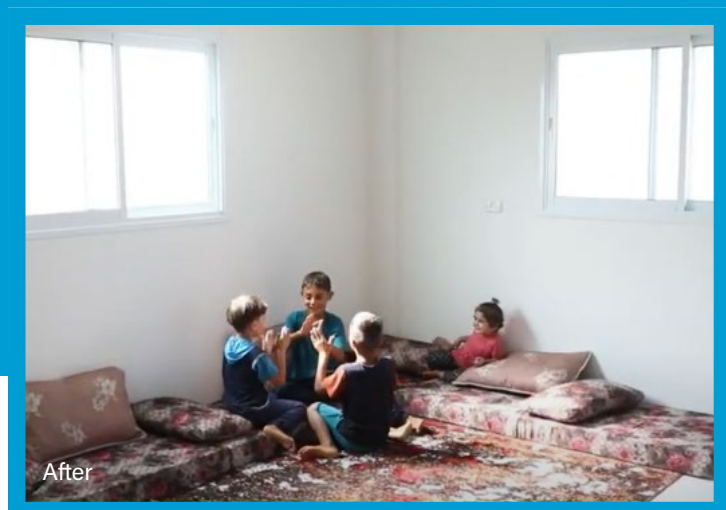
During the winter of 2022, families across Gaza endured extensive flooding due to heavy rains, as their stormwater collection systems proved inadequate. Floods damaged homes, blocked roads, and hindered children from outdoor activities and attending school.

In April 2023, twelve damaged houses were chosen for renovation based on the severity of damage and homeowners' needs. Interventions included repairing damaged steel roofs, upgrading toilets and kitchens, tiling, electrical work, masonry, installing aluminum windows, adding false ceilings in bedrooms to mitigate summer heat and winter cold, and installing water tanks and solar hot water units.

## Success Story

Maysaa Soboh and her children resided in a home severely damaged by floods. All floors were ruined, and the bathroom and kitchen spaces rendered unusable. Upon being selected for this project, she welcomed skilled craftsmen into her home and was astonished by the results. Everything appeared brand new.

"Our house looks completely different now," she exclaimed. "We never imagined it could look like this. It's like they've given me a whole new life."



## Bangladesh

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority group in Myanmar, hundreds of thousands of whom were forced to seek shelter in Bangladesh. Cox's Bazar is home to 33 refugee camps clustered together in a congested, five-mile plot of land. Many refugees are destitute, lacking money, food, and shelter. HHRD has been in the region since 2018, constructing durable bamboo structures for families in need.

Each shelter has a solid foundation of metal and cement to secure the supports. The roof is insulated to better shield the family from rain and regulate temperature. Solar panels provide electricity for fans and lighting. Waterproof materials are used in the lower walls to prevent flooding.

Accommodation strategies have evolved. The Rohingya Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) have developed new shelter designs. HHRD continually updates its building methods to comply with regulations. In 2023, we were pleased to provide shelter homes to 300 more families, offering a glimpse of relief in a challenging situation.



### Success Story

Mohammed Hossain is a resilient soul with a tale of hope and transformation. Born on January 1, 1956, in Myanmar, Mohammed's life took an unexpected turn when the Myanmar Army attacked his village, destroying their homes. His family of five embarked on a journey to escape the turmoil. Their path led them to Refugee Camp 13 in Bangladesh, where they initially found solace under a temporary tarpaulin tent. However, as the years passed, their makeshift home succumbed to the harsh elements, leaving Mohammed and his family in dire straits. In his own words, Mohammed says, "We struggled with the damaged house, hoping something would change. Our days were spent waiting for new help to arrive."

Recognizing the hardships faced by Mohammed and his family, HHRD stepped in to provide a lifeline. The intervention brought about a remarkable transformation. HHRD provided a new, durable shelter that became a sanctuary for Mohammed's family. No longer plagued by the fear of the dark, his children found joy in their improved living conditions.

But the assistance didn't stop there. HHRD, with its commitment to holistic support, equipped the family with solar energy systems, fans, and lights. Now, nights were illuminated, and hot days were met with a refreshing cool breeze. Expressing his gratitude, Mohammed Hossain shared, "The new shelter is more durable and comfortable than the previous one. We are immensely thankful to HHRD for providing us with this facility. May Allah bless you all and accept your kind efforts."



## Cambodia

HHRD collaborates with a vetted local partner to bring joy to families in Cambodia. Many of these families were living in crowded conditions, in tents, or aboard fishing boats. HHRD intervened by constructing permanent homes elevated above the ground to shield them from severe weather.

Beneficiaries were selected based on need and location. Consistent with its tradition, HHRD targeted remote communities to prevent duplication of efforts with other relief groups. We were delighted to deliver six new homes in 2023 to deserving families in a small village in the Koh Thom District of Kandal Province.





Thank you



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[www.hhrd.org/srp](http://www.hhrd.org/srp)