

Charity registration number: 1180851

Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year 2nd February 2020 to 1st February 2021

Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation

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Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation
Business Information

Charity name

Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation

Charity registration number

1180851

Trustees

Rizwan Rafiq

Kashif Mohammed

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Mohammed Ozair

Waqas Ahmed

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Glen View

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ABOUT AL-AJAR CHARITY & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Aims, objectives and activities

The Charity's objects are;

(1) To advance in life and help young people through:

(a) The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life;

(b) Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

(2) For the public benefit the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in particular but not exclusively in Marrakesh particularly but not limited to through the provision of services, items, education and financial assistance.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The section of this report above entitled 'aims, objectives and activities' sets out the aims and priorities of the Charity.

The Trustees have considered this matter, in conjunction with the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and have concluded:

- That the aims of the Charity continue to be charitable;
- That the aims and work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need;
- That the benefits are for the public, and are not unreasonably restricted in any way.
- That there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.

CHAIRPERSONS MESSAGE

Another proud year to report as chair for Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation and special in many ways. We have continued our grassroots work here in Calderdale with our community development activities and Covid response efforts as well as growing as a poverty relief charity across five sites internationally.

The charity continues to strive in its effort to provide relief of poverty and sickness anywhere in the world, and in particular, those affected by natural causes or by wars and conflicts either foreign or domestic by the provision of financial or other ongoing assistance.

We thank all our donors, supporters, volunteers and well-wishers. Through your hands, we are able to provide support to some of the most vulnerable people on earth, helping to remove the fear of hunger and start a cycle of poverty alleviation from the lives of men, women and children.

The Charity's view is that relief, as important as it is, is only the beginning. Giving people the confidence to participate in their own development and to secure their own future without the need for continuing external assistance is the ultimate goal. Our ethos is built around empowering young people and members of the communities around the world to become self-sufficient through education.

Our main area of work continues to be Orphan sponsorship, with particular focus on the education of those most in need, including orphans, anywhere in the world by the provision of financial aid, materials and the required tools and also through supporting orphans in orphanages, schools, colleges, training centres and universities.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation continues its dedication to serving orphans and widows in 2020-21 with the continued growth of its one-to-one orphan sponsorship programme, increase in food parcel distributions to widows, the increase in work of its Water well & Solar panel project in West Africa & the Covid support & Extra-curricular activities here in Calderdale including its Saturday school, Sports & Volunteers programme.

This reporting year, we continue to support and work with children and young people across 5 sites through our orphan sponsorship & education programmes. Each child has a different level of support dependant on individual and area needs with some receiving a fixed monthly stipend contributing towards their education, food, clothing and other necessities. The progress of these children is measured by our partners on the ground, who maintain that each child on the programme remain in education as a minimum.

We strive to ensure that our children stay with extended family, where possible (Pakistan Orphan education and family support programme). The support we provide them allows them to send the child to school where in other circumstances they may be forced onto the streets to beg or into child labour which is an increased concerning case in The Gambia. The success of our orphan sponsorship programme is down to our generous donors, who undertake to provide these children with hope through their regular donations.

Our Ramadhan fundraising campaign & sponsored challenges has allowed us to raise extra funds with which we can supplement the care provided & allow for a wider reach of donor participation. Our Orphan support sites include Morocco (two sites), the Sahara, Pakistan, Palestine and The Gambia.

Covid-19 Community Response & Food bank

The Saturday Soup Kitchen was established in December 2017 where the charity has been working in partnership with JMAH, providing free hot meals on a weekly basis -, which includes meals for the needy, refugees and the most vulnerable in and around Park Ward, Halifax.

Since the start of the pandemic the soup kitchen has adapted through the lockdowns to provide these families with weekly essential food parcels. Initially we networked with the

local authority and with other local volunteer groups to deliver food parcels weekly from the kitchen to the doorsteps. As the pandemic eased the food parcel service became a pick-up provision which has continued and we now have families benefiting and collecting food parcels from our base on Hopwood Lane every Saturday.

In total over 1600 food parcels were delivered / collected as part of the food bank & £1500 worth of food vouchers were handed out over the Autumn/Winter period. Funding from the community fund along with reserves from the Saturday school fees were utilised to deliver this much needed project in the local community.

Hospital of Hope (*Enfant Espoire - Abandoned Babies Project*)

Based on recent studies, 2 in 100 children are abandoned in Morocco, a number that drives us to continue to help with this youth-led project. In 2009, UNICEF relied on hospital and community sources to identify the number of abandoned children. For children placed in an institution, almost half of them are taken care of through care, and around 8 out of 100 children are taken care of by their families. Also, 37 out of 100 children remain in the host institution, and 8 out of 100 children sadly die.

Following contact with Enfant Espoire, we made a pledge to help the association to support abandoned new-borns until their adoption including disabled new-borns who have not had the chance to be adopted because of their various complex disabilities. For disabled children and underprivileged children, Al-Ajar has supported via the distribution of school supplies, medicine, clothing, food and support for cultural and educational activities. Donations made were used to develop a garden to support the health and wellbeing of all at the association. Grass has been laid to make the area child friendly and benches and tables have been placed for dining and outdoor play. Administration equipment and a projector was purchased to assist families in the administrative process of adoption. A display cabinet has been funded for the association where they display items, they sell to generate money that is used for the babies.

Pakistan Orphan education & family support

Initially we made a commitment to sponsor a small number of Orphans who could not afford to enrol in to schools. We now Sponsor 116 young people of which the majority are girls, for whom we cover the cost of school tuition fees, uniform, books and stationery is sponsored. Zakat is given on a monthly basis to the child's mother or carer for daily food and groceries.

Dar Ul Tifl Orphanage

We continue to support up to 300 orphans with their educational needs and sports development programme.

Having the right supplies is essential for teaching and learning to take place anywhere. We ensure this can happen each year by providing a range of stationary equipment which include exercise books, pens, pencils, scissors, school bags amongst many other teaching

resources. We have also helped renovate classrooms and provided the orphanage with whiteboards, tables and chairs to give learners a comfortable and realistic teaching experience.

Furthermore, our commitment to the orphanage's sports development programme has enabled us to give children and young people the chance to learn key values through play. Honesty, team building, fair play and respect are just a few examples of key values acquired through playing sports. Most recently we have supplied a wide range of sports equipment including footballs, boxing bags/gloves, badminton rackets, basketball nets, ping pong table, bikes and sports kits.

The Association for taking care of Orphans Marrakech

Our monthly sponsorship project aims to relieve some of the hardship suffered by widows and their children. We aim to ensure the most vulnerable and isolated widows in and around Marrakesh have access to basic food and essential non-food items all year round. The association looks after over 1,000 families and carefully handpicks the most needy beneficiaries after undergoing vigorous checks to ensure we reach out to the most vulnerable and needy people of Marrakesh. We are proud to sponsor and support the association to continue their hard work.

The Gambia –Orphan Sponsorship, Education and Water projects

The new build school provides free education and daily healthy school dinners to refugees and children living in an area of high deprivation. We have now enrolled 130 children who attend regularly, of which 75 children had no access to education previously. The school is located in Kaling Village – it has 4 large classrooms which are fully kitted out with tables and chairs. A wash area, teachers office and a kitchen and outdoor dining area. We have land available to expand in the future and to develop the outdoor play area.

Water Is Life Project

When we build a bore hole or a community well, we ensure communities have a sustainable source of clean water for years to come. Hence after conducting site visits in the Gambia in the previous year, we started to implement the digging and construction of solar powered bore holes which are sustainable for a longer term and reduce the risk of drought and disease. Having good links with local partner organisations on the ground enables us to purchase materials and hire workers to keep costs to a minimal. This year we have completed 10 bore holes and water wells in the region which are now benefitting 10 different communities with clean drinking water. That's over a thousand people who are benefitting on a daily basis. This is part of our long-term development plans for the area as on average a bore hole lasts for 10 years without needing any repairs or work done to it.

Siraj Al-Quds School

Al-Ajar is currently supporting Siraj Al-Quds School and Society for the Blind and Special Needs in Palestine. The families served by Siraj Al-Quds include those experiencing severe poverty, health problems, and physical and learning disabilities; also, families that are broken, experience domestic violence, or who are at risk of home demolition.

This year, Al-Ajar Foundation organised some incentive trips for the children of Siraj Al-Quds instead of distributing gifts. We thought this would be a good way in which to relieve some of their psychological stress as well as give them a happy childhood memory. We also provide ongoing support ensuring the school has sufficient furniture and where urgent renovations need to be done, we provide assistance there too.

Furthermore, for the coming year, we have raised funds to enable us to continue to support the school so that it is a building fit for purpose: repairing the new school premises and the surrounding walls, parts of the playground and the basement floor.

KEY RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the Charity faces on a regular basis, in particular those relating to its operations and finances. They are satisfied those systems are in place to mitigate the charity's exposure to the major risks. The risk management strategy comprises:

- A regular review of the risks which the Charity may face; including an updated risk assessment of any new activity, organised event or visit.
- The adequacy of current systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the strategy;
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential risk on the Charity should any of those risks materialise.

The strategy will be reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Charity was founded and is based in Halifax, West Yorkshire. The Charity works with local organisations in Yorkshire and abroad. The Trustees are responsible for the governance of the Charity, and the day-to-day management is performed by the Trustees and a volunteer run management committee.

VOLUNTEERS

The charity is being run through the kind help of a team of committed volunteers who share responsibilities and tasks to meet the charities aims and objectives. The team of volunteers are managed by the chair. The Trustees would like to thank all the volunteers without whom the Charity would not be able to run.

GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION & MONITORING

In 2020-21, the organisation's agreements and areas of work with partners were reviewed as well as a number of key organisation policies and procedures.

Monitoring of our work to ensure delivery is in line with our charitable objects is carried out and due diligence checks through paper trail for all projects along with monitoring visits carried out by staff to the areas of need. Although this has been difficult to carry out due to the pandemic, we undertook a physical trip to The Hospital of Hope, Dar Ul-Tifl Orphanage and the Association for taking care of Orphans in Morocco. These trips included an assessment of the quality of delivery to our beneficiaries along with an examination and review of the financial support offered. At our areas of support in Sahara, Pakistan & The Gambia this was supplemented with partner and beneficiary interviews through video conferencing.

Al-Ajar is entrusted by donors to deliver to orphans and widows and we maintain strict controls on expenditure, striving to keep associated costs to a minimum and all staffing and admin work undertaken on a generous 100% volunteer led basis - which ultimately makes us unique and saves thousands in expenses. Although we work hard to keep our administration costs to a minimum, we also value our commitment to ensuring that we are monitoring, assessing and improving our work with beneficiaries and this does require us to invest in thorough due diligence, volunteers and appropriate policies and procedures.

The Charity does not make any deduction from zakat donations. All admin expenditure is taken from our fundraising activities fees via the Saturday School. For the following year (2021-22), it has been agreed by trustees that all admin costs will be taken from gift-aid income. This will allow us to continue to spend 100% of charity & zakat donations on our poverty relief projects.

Our project development work & grassroots activities continue to be transparent and inclusive and we strive to ensure that our fundraising is respectful, open, honest and accountable to the public and open to scrutiny.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trustees regularly review the risks to the charity and are actively monitoring the reserves available to the charity. As there are significant commitments to sustain sponsorship support projects and the work continues only when funds are available, the trustees have decided to keep a minimal reserve amount of £50,000 to cover contingencies & rolling poverty relief projects across 5 sites.

The charity relies fully on voluntary & grant making income which was £104,796.18 during 2020/21. The expenditure for the year was £79,293.11 of which £44,520.56 was on Zakat projects. The expenditure for non-Zakat poverty relief was £17,325.90, which included building works and materials for the new build school in the Gambia in addition to some Water & Bore hole constructions. The total expenditure for community & education projects was £12,283.11, which included the Covid-19 community response & food bank expenditure

in Halifax. The expenditure for facilities & coach hires for our weekend youth & sports provision totalled £2,305.36, this was paid from non-charity enrolment income paid by the attendance fees. The Public liability & volunteers insurance cover costs amounted to £271.77 and were also covered by the Saturday school fees.

At the financial year end the charity had a closing balance of £60,879.06, of which unrestricted reserves were £778.76& restricted reserves were £60,100.30.

The trustees are satisfied that the funds received have been applied in a wholly effective manner.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2021, We increased our efforts to support our beneficiaries affected by the pandemic, both here in Calderdale and across our sites in Asia & Africa.

The charity aims to supplement and develop the foundations it has already built through the orphan sponsorship programme. We will continue to provide orphans, their carers and orphanages with the extra support that is needed through the pandemic that is not possible through the limited scope of direct orphan sponsorship. This will range from medical care such as covering the cost of medicine and hospital visits and treatments. For us this is an exciting time as we dig in deep and encourage our donors, volunteers, supporters and well-wishers to stay involved and be part of the heavenly reward in supporting humanity and poverty relief.

As the lockdown eases here in the UK we aim to start physical contact and encourage participation in fundraising activities. At the time of writing this report we have completed the Mount Snowdon trek over the summer of 2021 with 50 trekkers who raised just over £10,000 for our charity projects. Our Youth teams completed the gruelling Yorkshire Tough Mudder challenge to raise a fantastic £5,000 for the Hospital of Hope. And most recently we have had a team complete the Istanbul Marathon where over £10,000 was raised for refugee support and their education and training initiatives.

We have increased activities for our weekend & sports provisions which allows young people to participate and develop locally. We plan to cut enrolment fees and offer some additional free places to refugees and disadvantaged young people who are new to the area. We have key meetings to follow up and plan to network with partners at Calderdale College, 3Gi Health & Fitness & Team Unique to deliver a fantastic youth & sports provision in the area.

Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year 2nd February 2020 to 1st February 2021

	2021	2020
VOLUNTARY INCOME		
Appeals and donations	104,796	89,286
Total resources expended		
Direct costs		
Projects and relief	74,130	102,591
Accountancy	240	240
Hire of facilities	2,306	3,912
Advertising	2,346	2,355
Insurance	272	201
	<u>79,294</u>	<u>109,299</u>
Profit/loss for the year	<u><u>25,502</u></u>	<u><u>(20,013)</u></u>

Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation
Balance Sheet
for the year 2nd February 2020 to 1st February 2021

	Note	2021	2020
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		60,878	35,376
		<u>60,878</u>	<u>35,376</u>
Creditors			
Accrued expenses		240	240
		<u>240</u>	<u>240</u>
		<u>60,638</u>	<u>35,136</u>
Net business assets represented by			
Capital account:			
Balance brought forward		35,136	55,149
Net profit or loss		25,502	-20,013
		<u>60,638</u>	<u>35,136</u>

I approve these accounts and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Mohammed Husnain
Trustee

Al-Ajar Charity & Education Foundation
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 1st February 2020

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.