



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

WHOISHUSSAIN.ORG

LOOKING BACK

2023. The year when the world witnessed increasing levels of oppression, injustice and suffering. The year when a relentless tide of challenges swept across nations. Economical, physical and emotional hardships overwhelmed communities, individuals. However, through these extreme adversities shone beacons of resilience and hope. The call for humanity to rise against injustice grew ever more resounding. Amongst these catastrophic settings, Who is Hussain continued to be a sanctuary for those enduring the daily tides of affliction.

In this annual report, each page is testament to our unwavering commitment to persist in our pursuit of empathy, compassion, and steadfast support for those weathering the storms of adversity.



FROM THE TRUSTEES

Every year as I sit to pen my reflections on the year gone by, I wonder: is Who is Hussain's mission still as important as it was when we set out in 2012?

I have no hesitation in answering this with a resounding yes. Who is Hussain must deliver the mission thousands of volunteers in every continent globally are working towards.

Fundamentally our aspiration is to lead with the values Hussain ibn Ali stood - of compassion, justice and dignity - to build a better world for us all.

We must lead with compassion and be a refuge for the single mother, wondering how to feed her child when no one else will offer support.

We must offer dignity to the family whose house has been torn down by a natural disaster or climate change-induced tragedy. Dignity, too, for the orphan with nowhere to turn.

We must centre justice: blind to bias, colour, caste, race or creed. Who is Hussain teams around the world try their utmost to act with fairness to all.

The work you'll read of in this report varies, from supporting the homeless to arranging operations and eyecare, education and skills training. This seems like vastly diverse work. But the theme of compassion, justice and dignity - I hope and I believe - runs through it all.

As I reflect on Who is Hussain, I feel more strongly than ever that the work of this charity is crucial and must not fail.

The last half century or so (certainly of) prevailing Western thought has been that a globalising world is good for all, lifting living standards, increasing opportunity and lifting millions out of poverty. It's for others more qualified than myself to say whether this is truly working, can work, or is altogether a vain aspiration. But what I do know is that in many places where our global teams operate, Who is Hussain is a safety blanket for many who are left behind by the imperfections of social, political and economic realities.

Every year our science advances, our technology grows and the store of human knowledge increases manifestly. Yet as we've seen over the last weeks, our capacity to destroy human life and prolong suffering has not reduced in equivalent measure. We, the Who is Hussain family - our volunteers, supporters, donors and friends alike - must be the first to always protect and advocate the cause of humanity.

This mission we have is not a small one. But in seeking to honour the life of Hussain ibn Ali, we must be ambitious - and we will always do whatever is necessary to serve our communities.

On behalf of the Trustees, I thank you for your support, which allows us to walk step by step along the path of this mission with courage and belief.



Chair of Trustees, Who is Hussain

OUR DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

After the record-breaking year we saw in 2022, I thought 2023 would feel lighter - but in true Who is Hussain style we kept the momentum high and followed through on the energy of the previous year. With team events flourishing globally, our biggest #GIVE fundraiser to date, more media coverage for our Global Blood Heroes event, strategic conversations aplenty and infrastructure developments, 2023 has been a phenomenal year. In light of the horrific events which bookended the year, I can only reflect on the resolve of our sincere teams who relentlessly help the most vulnerable in their local regions.

As we move into 2024, those strategic conversations need to change into implemented actions and January already looks set to be a busy month with structural changes and new work streams ready to go.

To all our supporters, thank you for trusting us to help make the world a better place through the inspiration of Hussain ibn Ali.

Muntazir Rai

Director, Who is Hussain



A YEAR IN REVIEW

After 10+ years of service, the heart and soul of Who is Hussain is thriving and goes from strength to strength. This year was no different. Following the extraordinary milestones reached in 2022, we were rejuvenated to make an even bigger impact - the data below shows this reality. That's the beauty of service in the name of Hussain ibn Ali - the heat to serve never subsides.



147,205

PEOPLE FED IN
2023



3,878

UNITS OF BLOOD
DONATED



570

EVENTS HELD ACROSS
ALL TEAMS



30,445

BENEFICIARIES
SERVED



11,634

LIVES SAVED
VIA BLOOD DONATIONS

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Third Sector Awards

From the far west coast of America, to the shores of New Zealand, thousands united on August 27th 2022 for one cause - to save lives through blood donation. The successes of this record-breaking campaign shone through 2023 as we were awarded the 'Big Impact Award' at the prestigious Third Sector Awards in the UK. At the ceremony, our global efforts as a small charity, achieving great things were also honoured as we were placed as runners-up for the 'Small Charity, Big Achiever' award. To be shortlisted and win alongside NGOs and long-established charities is a testament to ongoing supporters and global teams, without whom this organisation would not be where it is today.

Charity Film Awards

Released a year after the event, the Global Blood Heroes Documentary showcased the immense efforts to galvanise global communities in efforts to donate blood to save lives. We're also humbled to share that the documentary was also nominated for the Charity Film Awards. Designed to promote the incredible efforts of several organisations, awards will be decided by public vote - so watch this space!



GLOBAL TEAMS: MAKING AN IMPACT WORLDWIDE

In over 60 bustling cities, rural villages and vibrant towns, dedicated Who is Hussain volunteers are interwoven in the lives of the local community. Their journey towards creating a better, more equal society continues fervently even more than a decade on. Making an impact in education and other social services, their sole aim is to alleviate hardship and do their utmost to provide improved opportunities for all in line with the values of Hussain ibn Ali.

Washington DC, USA

More than a third of DC's population is facing food insecurity. On a mission to make food more accessible, the team established the "Lunch in the Neighbourhood" programme.

In collaboration with Adam's Place Emergency Shelter, they have partnered with local restaurants to serve fresh, healthy and hot food to more than 200 people experiencing difficulties of accessing food for themselves and their families.

Durban, South Africa

With some of the highest poverty rates in South Africa, the newly established team in Durban distributed snack packs to 130 children from underprivileged backgrounds, in the hopes that it would alleviate the burden on families to provide for their children.



Hong Kong

Having little to no rights, refugees in Hong Kong face a dire situation. Refused employment they have no other choice but to rely on the goodwill of locals. In collaboration with the Hong Kong Refugee Union, our volunteer team donated over 100 large hampers filled with essentials to feed refugee families. Consisting of rice, noodles, lentils and flour, amongst other staples, these provisions will enable families to have access to their most basic rights.

Palmerston North, New Zealand

Amidst the escalating numbers of homeless and vulnerable individuals in New Zealand's eighth-largest urban area, a critical need for support often goes unmet. In a deliberate effort to make a tangible impact, our team strategically established stalls in high-concentration areas. Through this initiative, they were able to provide essential comforts, including warm clothing and blankets, to 100 individuals, striving to alleviate their immediate challenges.

Leicester, UK

In a determined response to the homelessness crisis, a reality for more than 1,400 people on any given night, our team initiated a series of impactful food drives. Braving the elements, they've served 250 nourishing hot meals and beverages to those compelled to endure the unforgiving streets in and around the heart of the city.



TRANSFORMING LIVES PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

Amidst global activity organised by our teams, our larger-scale projects and campaigns seek to sustainably provide relief and transform lives.

#GIVE

“My daughter is the apple of my eye. She’s very charming and cheerful. I always observed pain behind her smile. I wished to see her smile without that pain. Her heart condition got worse with time. She experienced breathlessness and her lips turned blue which was very evident. Today, I have seen my dream come true. My daughter’s heart surgery was successful and she’s recovering well”

Born in Iraq with a congenital heart condition, **Fatimah’s family struggled to get her the treatment she needed.** Leaving her mother behind for the first time, she travelled with her father to Bangalore, India for surgery. On hearing the surgery was a success and Fatimah was recovering well, elation shone on her father’s face.



Funds raised from the #GIVE campaign allowed this to happen. YOU allowed this to happen. Fatimah is just one of 67 cases that we've supported, and from the fundraising that took place in 2023, we'll be able to help so many more children like Fatimah.

Summitting mountains and running miles our keen fundraisers raised more than ever for these lifesaving surgeries. More than a staggering £80,000 was raised, which will restore hopes to more children and their families, and give them the best chance of living a healthy life.



Give Back Grant

Extending their services to the wider communities, teams had the opportunity to realise their project ambitions through the internal grant system. Devising and leading their own large-scale projects empowered volunteers to deliver research-led services to individuals and groups who needed it most. Whilst some projects were completed during the year, others are still ongoing - watch this space!

Mbeya - Eye Cataract Surgery

The team in Mbeya, consisting predominantly of medics, have become experienced in organising eye camps over the past few years. Utilising their knowledge and networks they undertook another eye camp in a rural village of Mbeya, where access to healthcare is extremely limited. With 30 surgeries completed, there is the potential to undertake many more. To read the full report [click here](#)

Kashmir - Software Skills Development Program

Leaving school unable to fulfil their ambitions, a growing population of youth in Kashmir, India faces a struggle. Lacking the necessary skills to be eligible for employment, with no access to quality training, many youths, particularly from low-income households have nowhere to turn. The innovation and enthusiasm of the team in Kashmir sought to fulfil this need.



Focused on uplifting the software skills of ambitious young people from underprivileged backgrounds, this program supported the training and certification of 35 students through accredited courses provided by Pearson International and local institutes.

An extreme success, this project did more than develop skills:

"...The diverse range of skills covered and the thoughtful approach to each topic made a significant impact on my growth. I appreciate the effort and passion invested in empowering individuals like me. The skills I've gained are invaluable, and I feel more equipped in my professional journey. I feel more confident in my abilities now..." - Anika

"...I have gained a lifetime of experience...this course not only enhanced my creativity and computer skills but also helped in boosting my confidence..." - Mariya

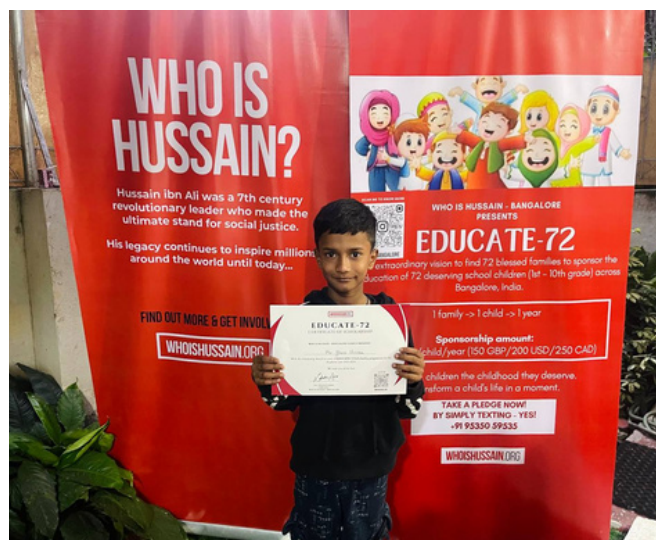
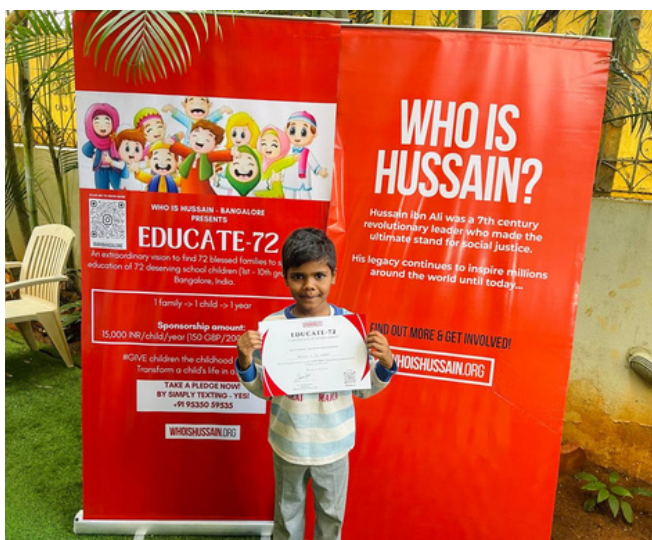
More details on this project to follow over the coming months.



Bangalore - Education Scholarship

Similarly, a few thousand kilometres away, in Bangalore, countless families are living beneath the poverty line, barely making ends meet. With just about enough to survive, children's primary education isn't a priority. School fees are unaffordable. In a bid to restore this most basic right of education, the team set up a unique scholarship programme. Alongside awarding scholarships to the most in need, the team sought to ensure the sustainability of this programme by calling for local donors to support the cause.

So far the team have awarded scholarships to 48 children - however, the project is still in progress, with more updates to be shared in the next few months.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

As the organisation grows, year on year, we can merely owe its growth and success to you, our supporters. For your contributions, whether they may be financial, advisory or by way of encouragement, we truly thank you.

A special thanks to our fundraisers for their passion and drive to see a world filled with compassion, equality and justice, who went above and beyond in their efforts. Stepping out of their comfort zones, they traversed mountains and were put through their paces incredulously to give others a better life. Special mention to Rizwan Moledina who summited Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the #GIVE campaign - a cause very close to him.

Finally, to our volunteers all around the world - you all know who you are. No amount of thanks can truly express the appreciation you deserve. Without your humble selflessness in serving communities in need, echoing and embodying the values as inspired by Hussain ibn Ali, this organisation would cease to exist. How you dedicate your time and energy to discovering and delivering support to those that are most in need, is truly admirable. Thank you for everything you do to make this world a better place for so many.

Half Marathon Runners

Abbas Kassam	Jimi Barnett
Adil Kachwala	Kumail Jaffer
Ali Al-Bakri	Mahdi Dhirani
Aliabbas Hirji	Maryam Hilli
Ammar Farishta	Mohamedkazim Bhaloo
Asgharali Jaffer	Mohammed Mamdani
Asifali Kassam	Muhammad Damji
Assad Abdulla	Mustafa Muraj
Fatemah Rajabali	Nadim Kapadia
Haider Alassam	Qabass Omran
Hasnain Mamdani	Shams Janmohamed
Hayder Hamza	Syed Sadiq Ali Sadiq
Husein Rajabali	Yusuf Nurmohamed
	Zohaib Shariff

Mount Snowdon Hikers

Asil Atwy	Malaak Daneshyar
Azmina Raffiq	Mariam Al-Sarraj
Betool Jumaily	Shafana Muraj
Farzana Karawalli	Shahista Jaffer
Fatema Valji	Soraya Chagani
Fatima Dhalla	Sukaina Kadhum
Hadeel Al-Najafi	Sukaina Nurmohamed
Irum Khaliq-Naqvi	Zahraa Kadhum
Kowthar shimirty	Zainab Noah
Lana Atwy	Zara Al-Marashi

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S TO COME

As we start this new year in full swing, there is never a quiet moment behind the scenes. Plans are underway to explore new avenues for sustainability, create more engaging content to share the legacy of Hussain ibn Ali, and develop teams that are central points of contact for communities in need. This includes rolling out and implementing a modular education programme developed over the course of 2023.

As the presence of Who is Hussain spreads further virtually, individuals worldwide are increasingly expressing interest in becoming involved - to start their own teams, desperate and ready to help those in need under the umbrella of an organisation dedicated to share Hussain ibn Ali with the world.

We're glad you're on this journey with us.

There's so much more still to do. You can continue to support us by donating [here](#).

