

WHO IS HUSSAIN ANNUAL REPORT 2025



WHOISHUSSAIN.ORG

A NOTE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

At the dawn of very early human civilisation, anthropologists tell us men and women worked cooperatively. We learnt to collaborate and partner together to survive and to thrive. Whether that was in hunting and gathering food, alloparenting - collectively rearing children, caring for one another through sickness, and then in time, developing language and working the land.

No individual could hope to live a fruitful life living a nomadic, solitary existence. Intrinsically, we understood that to survive, the social contract between each person was to be respected and fulfilled. It wasn't charity - it was an understanding of the correct order of things. Give and take in equal measure to maintain equilibrium.

Thousands of years on, have we not lost a sense of that cooperative nature? Too many organisations - political, for profit or otherwise - extract value and do not create (sufficient) value.

This is great for bottom line analysis. Yet profitability reports too often talk about margin, numbers, revenue numbers, which may benefit some shareholders, but perhaps not always the wider stakeholder class. So whilst we have extraordinary wealth, with our first trillionaire this year, we are also more acutely aware of starvation, famine and unbearable poverty. Sudan and Gaza are just two examples.

In years to come, the 21st century may be seen as the time humans decided to extract all resources from the earth - to the earth's and all our detriment. We are effectively siphoning the promise of future generations for our present gratification.

Why mention this? It's my belief that whilst our society has advanced, we have lost our sense of equilibrium. Some are inevitably thriving - but others are most certainly not even surviving. Charity, supporting the neediest, altruism: these are too often framed as effective means of good public relations, tax efficiency, and strategic positioning.

A NOTE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

No doubt many will criticise my premise: it's craven, it's cynical, it's taking a swipe at the broad-shouldered rich. And by no means is this a generalisation of all those who are fortunate: it's an observation of some, and by no means all. Neither is this a socialist cry, nor an attack on capitalism. Far from it. But it's my view that to realise the full potential of our society, we need to have a 'giving' mentality. A giving mentality in all our endeavours will rebalance the scales.

Yes, unlike our ancestors, I do not need to go out and farm the land necessarily to feed myself and my family - I can go to a grocery store. But it should be in my considerations whether the staff from whom I buy are reasonably treated and reasonably paid. That the farmer who worked hard to produce the crops is able to trade fairly. That is surely still part of the social contract. A race to the bottom is bad for us all - and a rising tide sinks all ships.

At Who is Hussain, our purpose is to be the first and the most willing of the 'givers'. Whether that be in our work with the homeless, with the infirm, or with the elderly. We are one small part of a broad coalition that is working to reestablish and reinvigorate this social contract to which I refer. I'm very proud of the work of the Charity this year in this regard. Our people are our pride, and we have exceptional volunteers, outstanding staff members and patrons of whom I'm so humbled to stand shoulder to shoulder with.

I thank you for your support and for joining us in delivering this mission. I hope you enjoy reading this report and, in whichever capacity you do so, you can reaffirm your commitment to partnering with The Who is Hussain Foundation in 2026.

Mohamedali Gokal

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2025 has been a busy and fruitful year, but also one in which we have seen more suffering for the Palestinian people. Our partnerships with organisations providing basic and urgent medical assistance on the ground continues and we hope and pray that 2026 sees a more stable ceasefire, allowing more aid to enter.

Off the back of last year's Global Teams' Conference, we have made even further efforts to implement learnings taken from the conference, together with tightening policies internally at Central Team level to ensure that we are operating at the highest levels.

On a personal note, it still humbles and amazes me that we carry out more than one event, (on average), every single day of the year, somewhere in the world in homage to Hussain ibn Ali.

I'd also like to take a moment to remember Zohra Rajpar - our Pakistan Head Team Leader, who sadly passed away a year ago, after a decade of service to the organisation.

Moving forward, 2026 promises to be another busy year, but with my attention focused on storytelling. With so many incredible teams carrying out tremendous events, together with thought-provoking encounters with beneficiaries, we are hoping to capture more of this through multimedia content - so watch this space!

As always, the organisation and I are so incredibly grateful to each and every volunteer, supporter, and member of this blessed organisation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mantazir Rai', is positioned at the bottom right of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath it.



2025, A YEAR OF SOLIDARITY

2025 has been a whirlwind year. Amid uncertainty and hardship, countless individuals have chosen to act, to stand up for **justice, dignity and hope** through:

- Supporting people in conflict zones.
- Helping people feeling the deep economic divide.
- Rebuilding where destruction struck.
- Speaking truth where silence prevailed.
- Choosing kindness in moments of despair.
- Feeding the hungry.
- Amplifying unheard voices.

Such a monumental and consistent effort is impossible without **solidarity** with those who have no helpers. For the 13th year running, **we have answered Hussain's final call on the sands of Karbala.**

This is a movement driven by values of **compassion and action** in the face of indifference. As we look back on this year, we honour not only the milestones achieved but the spirit that made them possible: Hussain's ever-lasting and timeless example.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 was a year defined by action. From city streets to rural communities, our teams worked tirelessly to meet growing needs and deliver hope where it was most needed.

Behind every figure in this report is a story: of a volunteer giving up their weekend, a neighbour helping a stranger, a young person choosing compassion over apathy. Together, these moments form a powerful picture of what's possible when people believe in humanity.



AT A GLANCE, OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

HUSSAIN: INSPIRING GENERATIONS



Hussain: Inspiring Generations is our flagship documentary that follows volunteers from around the world as they visit Hussain ibn Ali's final resting place in Karbala. Through their voices, we see how his legacy continues to move people today through providing:

- Courage when life feels overwhelming
- Inspiration to serve others
- Hope in difficult times

From Lebanon to Uganda, volunteers speak about Hussain as a living source of strength, one who pushes them to stand with the vulnerable, to show up when others look away and to turn compassion into action.

“If he called for help 1,400 years ago, then our actions today are our answer.”

We're delighted that our documentary **was selected as a finalist for Best Charity Film at the Big Syn International Film Festival**, recognised by the UN as the world's largest sustainability film festival, celebrating storytelling with real social impact.

We are also delighted to share that the documentary has been shortlisted for the **Smiley Charity Film Awards**. As one of the UK's largest celebrations of purpose-driven filmmaking, the awards shine a spotlight on charities using film to inspire empathy and drive positive change.

Public voting plays a major role in the final outcome, and we need your support to help bring Hussain ibn Ali's message to an even wider audience.

[Click here to vote for us!](#)

Multiple nominations affirm that Hussain's message still resonates, still inspires, and still changes lives. It shows that his message crosses borders, languages, and religions and exists not by words alone, but through ordinary people choosing extraordinary action.

GLOBAL TEAMS: 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

ASIA



MUMBAI: 1,100 MEALS DISTRIBUTED

AFRICA



MAURITIUS: 200 BLOOD DONATIONS

EUROPE



LEICESTER: 255 GIFTS DISTRIBUTED

OCEANIA



SYDNEY: SUPPORTING REFUGEES

NORTH AMERICA



MARYLAND: 72 BACKPACKS FILLED

SOUTH AMERICA



BUENOS AIRES: CARING FOR NATURE

MILESTONES FROM AROUND THE WORLD: 10 YEARS OF SHOWING UP



London has turned up every Saturday, no matter the weather, to distribute food. The team has also started offering long-term communication support, housing guidance and the **dignity of being seen and spoken to**.



Kashmir team has **collected 3,000 pints of blood**, enough to save 9,000 lives. Donations have reached hospitals, trauma wards, and patients in urgent need.



Chicago reached their biggest milestone yet, **packing 2,000 backpacks** with school supplies delivered to 10 public schools - an initiative that has attracted media coverage.



Toronto started serving meals at a homeless shelter once every three months. Now, they provide monthly meals and are a **dependable presence**.



PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS: SAVING LIVES

#GIVEGAZA

Gaza's healthcare system is on the **verge of collapse**. Hospitals aren't functioning, staff shortages and medicine, fuel and equipment scarcity have left families without access to treatment. Infections, injuries and malnutrition have sharply risen, and the conditions people are living in are unforgiving.

Our continued collaboration with the Ghassan Abu Sittah Children's Fund and INARA has enabled us to support life-saving surgeries for injured children and to set up two medical tents in Gaza City and Deir al-Balah, providing urgent care, free medication, and much more. These clinics are often the only accessible source of treatment for families who cannot reach distant or overwhelmed hospitals.

"The clinic saved us from travelling long distances for treatment."

Shared by a father after he and his son received care for serious injuries. This story is one of thousands made possible, thanks to your support.

TOTAL TREATMENTS

ACROSS GAZA CITY AND DEIR AL BALAH CAMPS



8,656 MEDICAL TREATMENTS



52 URGENT CARE CASES



3,850 NURSING SERVICES



1,756 PHYSIO SERVICES



6,132 MEDICINES DISPENSED

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

GAZA CITY AND DEIR AL BALAH



PAKISTAN FLOOD APPEAL

The 2025 monsoon season brought catastrophic flooding across Pakistan, **affecting more than 6.9 million people** and exposing the country's growing vulnerability to climate change. Intense rainfall, flash floods and cloudbursts devastated communities in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan, destroying thousands of homes, sweeping away livestock and damaging vital infrastructure.

More than 1,000 lives were lost, including many children, while millions were displaced with little access to food, medical care or shelter.

In response, we launched the Pakistan Flood Appeal, raising £3,500 to deliver urgent, on-the-ground support through our local teams.

From the earliest days of the crisis, our volunteers reached some of the worst-hit areas including Pishon, Shangla, Wazirabad and regions of KPK, to provide families with essential relief items such as cooked food, grocery packs, hygiene kits, medicines, crockery and bedding. Medical camps were set up to support injured and vulnerable individuals, particularly women and children.

Even as water levels slowly began to recede, vast areas remained submerged for weeks, leaving families without homes, livelihoods or basic necessities. Our teams continued to respond, ensuring that help reached those stranded in remote areas and those still waiting for formal assistance.



JAWAD KAZMI, PAKISTAN TEAM LEADER SUPPORTING FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

Rehabilitation remains the greatest challenge ahead: **from restoring homes to replacing essential household items**, and the needs across the northern regions and Punjab are significant. Your donations have enabled us to stand with affected families during their most difficult moments - thank you!

CONTINENTAL CAMPAIGN: COMPASSION WITHOUT BORDERS



SIX

CONTINENTS



46

EVENTS



28

TEAMS

Who is Hussain is proud of launching their first-ever continental-wide campaign: Compassion Without Borders. Designed to unite teams across the world through shared themes and coordinated times, this initiative represents a bold new approach to amplifying our global impact.

Months of planning, collaboration and coordination created a synchronised movement of compassion unlike anything we have delivered before.

How it works: Each continent selects a month and a theme that responds to local needs, allowing the campaign to move like a coordinated wave across the map. Although activities differed, the intention remained the same: turning compassion into meaningful, grounded action across each continent. See overleaf for highlights!

Together, these teams showcased the creativity and dedication that made Compassion Without Borders such a defining moment for our global movement.

CONTINENTAL CAMPAIGN: COMPASSION WITHOUT BORDERS



Adelaide planted 2,500 trees across two major sites, working alongside local partners to restore natural habitats and strengthen community engagement. Their efforts were acknowledged with a Certificate of Appreciation from Conservation Volunteers Australia.



London mobilised an impressive clean-up operation across multiple boroughs, working hand-in-hand with councils and civic groups to restore public spaces.



Mauritius ran back-to-back events that served hot meals, supported vulnerable children, distributed essential kits and brought comfort to homeless communities across the island.



Dar es Salaam marked World Food Day by providing 8,918 meals across four schools and supporting long-term community wellbeing through a new water well and hospital water coolers.

THE GIVE BACK GRANT: FUELING COMMUNITY-LED IMPACT

The Give Back Grant empowers volunteers to design and deliver impactful projects rooted in the needs of their communities

Since its launch, 12 projects have been supported, with four major initiatives reaching completion, including eye-care surgeries in Mbeya, skills training in Kashmir, Chicago's record-breaking backpack drive, and a Book & Stationery Drive in Dar es Salaam. Together, Give Back Grant projects have **benefited 8,915 people** to date, with **several due for completion within the next six months**.

What makes the Give Back Grant so impactful is the simplicity of its model: local teams identify a challenge, build a tailored solution, and deliver it with compassion and expertise.

Read our latest [report](#) on the Dar es Salaam Give Back Grant project and watch the accompanying [video](#). We look forward to sharing more as new initiatives unfold! See our projects currently in action:

Bangalore:
Educate 72

Supporting 72 children from low income families with school fees, supplies and academic monitoring.

Karachi: ESP

Funding full education costs for 50 students to keep children from underserved households in school.

Lahore: Learn
& Earn

Providing digital and professional skills training to unemployed youth

Uganda:
Backpack Drive

Delivering school bags and essential learning materials to underserved students to boost attendance.

Kashmir: Uplift
Shed Project

Renovating temporary shelters to provide safer, weather-resilient homes for vulnerable families.

Dar es Salaam:
School Kits

Providing essential school kits to over 2,200 students, helping children start school with confidence.

Toronto:
Refugee Project

Supporting Hazara and Gaza refugee families with employment and resettlement assistance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

This year has shown us, once again, the remarkable strength of the community that stands behind Who is Hussain. Every step forward, every project completed, every person served, every campaign brought to life has been shaped by people who chose to care. To all those who supported us through donations, guidance or sharing our mission with others, thank you for being part of this collective effort for good.

We also want to recognise our fundraisers, whose passion and creativity continue to push our work further than we could ever reach alone. Your willingness to organise events, rally your networks and advocate for our cause has turned ideas into action and compassion into measurable impact.

A special thanks to our young ambassadors at Imam Mahdi's Little Helpers for raising an incredible £4,200 through our #Kids4Gaza initiative.

And to our volunteers across the world: your service is the foundation of everything we do. You give your time, energy and heart without hesitation, embodying the values of Hussain ibn Ali through countless acts of kindness. Your commitment is both humbling and inspiring, and we are profoundly grateful for all that you make possible.





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

The year ahead offers new possibilities for growth, service and impact. With the foundations we've built this year, from expanding our global campaigns to strengthening long-term projects, we are ready to take bold steps forward.

Our focus remains clear: to spread the values of Hussain ibn Ali and support communities with dignity, creating meaningful change wherever we are needed. As new challenges emerge, we will adapt, collaborate and build on the momentum our teams have created around the world.

In 2026, we also plan to place a stronger emphasis on storytelling: capturing the powerful moments, human encounters and transformational work taking place across our global teams. And as the situation in Palestine continues to unfold with ongoing hardship, our commitment to supporting the people of Gaza through #GiveGaza remains steadfast.

We invite you to stay with us on this journey. Your involvement - in any form: whether through **donations**, **volunteering**, or spreading the word, helps transform compassion into action, and action into lasting change.

THANK YOU