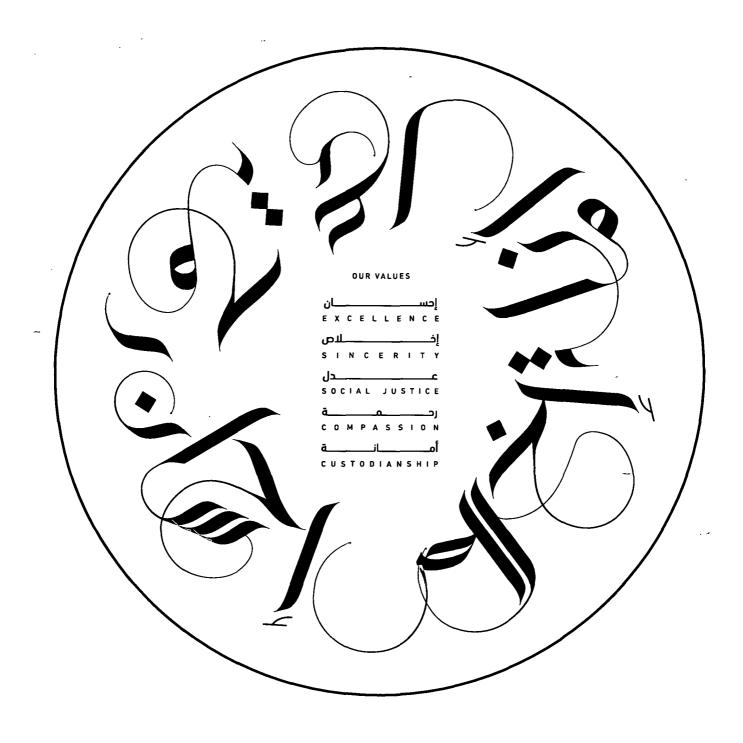


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## Islamic Relief Worldwide

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022



#### Cover photo:

Junaid Saeed/Islamic Relief Pakistan

"The unprecedented floods destroyed everything we had," says Sher, speaking in the aftermath of the disaster in Pakistan in 2022.

Islamic Relief gave him materials to rebuild his home in Sardar Abdur Rasheed village, Balochistan. In addition, a cash grant helped meet the family's other urgent needs.

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST MERCIFUL, MOST COMPASSIONATE.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Assalamu alaykum Peace be with you

My third year chairing the Board of Trustees of Islamic Relief Worldwide has been both challenging and fulfilling. I am extremely proud of what has been achieved by our hard-working staff and volunteers, the resourceful and resilient communities we serve, and those who continue to give so generously to support the cause.

Our global income reached a record £234 million in 2022. This represents a 28 per cent increase on the previous year, and a doubling of our income just 10 years ago.

More importantly, we were able to channel this record income into touching more lives than ever before, reaching an incredible 17.3 million people worldwide in 2022.

We could not have achieved this unprecedented reach without the extraordinary philanthropy of our donors. I am thankful for their generous and selfless giving against a backdrop of global economic stagnation, rising inflation and escalating cost-of-living pressures. Their continuing support speaks volumes for their passion and compassion, and for the trust they place in us to fulfil our mission.

This Annual Report brings to life the wide-ranging work that Islamic Relief does across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, to help those affected by humanitarian crises and to lift communities out of poverty. It is work that requires initiative, innovation and real determination at a time when global hunger is on the increase and climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent and severe.

In the Horn of Africa, for example, five successive failed rainy seasons have resulted in the worst drought in decades. This has left around 14 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya – the three countries worst affected – unsure where their next meal is coming from and in need of humanitarian aid. The war in Ukraine has made the crisis worse, pushing up the price of fuel and staple foods.

Our £3.8 million (\$5.2 million) Global Hunger Prevention and Response Programme helped communities in eight African countries to tackle hunger in a multifaceted and integrated way. That meant not only providing food, but also supporting health and nutrition programmes, as well as restoring water sources and investing in livestock health and drought-resistant seeds. We aim to stand by families in the long term, helping them to establish or rebuild sustainable livelihoods.

In a changing world, the Islamic Relief family is changing too. In countries in North America and western Europe where our primary focus has historically been fundraising and awareness raising, our member offices now have significant domestic aid programmes to help those in need on their doorsteps. In the southern hemisphere, where aid delivery has been our historic focus, an increasing number of our country offices are now also fundraising in their own communities to reinforce their work.

It is my privilege to chair a diverse Board of Trustees that is elected by the global membership of the Islamic Relief family in a federated structure. Our nine trustees – five men and four women – come from seven countries across five continents.

In 2023 I am looking forward to the addition of our first publicly recruited independent board members, as part of a commitment to further strengthen our diversity, transparency and wider accountability. We are also launching an exciting new long-term strategy for the organisation that sets out to strengthen not only our humanitarian and development work but also our campaigns for change and the coordination and collaboration we are building across our federation.

With your continuing support, Islamic Relief will continue to do all we can to build a future free from poverty and suffering.

Dr Ihab M. H. Saad

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Islamic Relief Worldwide

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Assalamu alaykum Peace be with you

2022 has been a year of once-in-a-generation and once-in-a-lifetime humanitarian crises. Afghanistan has suffered its worst drought for 30 years, and East Africa, its most severe this century. Pakistan is still reeling from the worst floods in living memory, while Europe has seen the worst refugee crisis since World War II.

It is testimony to the unfailing generosity of Islamic Relief's donors, the hard work of our staff and volunteers, bilateral and multilateral donors and other strategic partners that we have been able to rise to these challenges.

In Afghanistan, Pakistan and East Africa alone, over 70 million people needed humanitarian aid in 2022 – more than the entire population of the United Kingdom. Behind these mind-boggling statistics are the heartbreaking stories of individual families, families we are standing beside as they rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

My journey with Islamic Relief began as a local aid worker in my native Pakistan over two decades ago. In 2022, I witnessed the devastating impact of the floods at first-hand on a visit to some of the areas worst affected. Amid the devastation, I was proud to see the speed and effectiveness of Islamic Relief Pakistan's response. By the end of the year, we had assisted over 1 million people, raising over £10 million in funds around the world to support our efforts on the ground.

The continuing strength of our institutional funding partnerships has underpinned the strength of our humanitarian response in Pakistan. Among those who directly or indirectly funded our relief efforts in Pakistan were the aid departments of the UK, Canadian and Swedish governments – the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Global Affairs Canada, and Sida. In partnership with UNICEF, we provided clean water to over half a million people. A further partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is set to help us rebuild shattered livelihoods in the coming months.

We also formed a new partnership with UNDP in Afghanistan, delivering a £19m million (\$23 million) project that has so far created employment for 158,000 people, supported 1,200 women entrepreneurs and provided 200,000 impoverished and drought-afflicted farmers with much-needed new irrigation infrastructure. The expertise and experience of our Treasury team and our strong relationships with banks have been pivotal in helping us to deliver aid to those who need it most in hard-to-reach places like Afghanistan, while complying with the complexity of international sanctions. In Yemen, we continued to be one of the leading partners of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), delivering vital food aid and cash vouchers to nearly 2.4 million people.

What matters is not just the number of people we are assisting, but also the long-term impact of our work and what the communities we serve think of what we are doing. In Syria, for example, we have provided constant support almost since the conflict began in 2011 to displaced people inside the country and refugees in neighbouring Jordan, Iraq, Türkiye and Lebanon. Since 1994 we have provided lifechanging microfinance to over 100,000 people worldwide. Since 2017 we have been certified annually against the coveted Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), independently verifying the quality of our aid delivery in the eyes of the communities who receive it.

It is also important that Islamic Relief invests increasingly in advocacy, speaking out on the root causes of poverty and suffering and campaigning for positive change. In 2022 we published research to highlight the impact of climate change on poor communities in Indonesia and Pakistan and advocate for increased and better-targeted climate finance. We marked World Refugee Day by joining the Lutheran World Federation and HIAS in organising Welcoming the Stranger – a major international interfaith conference to promote the vital work faith communities and organisations do in supporting refugees and displaced people. Later in the year, we participated in events in 11 countries as part of the annual UN-led 16 Days of Activism Campaign for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence.

As this report testifies, the tremendous support we receive from so many people enables Islamic Relief to touch millions of lives worldwide. Jazak'Allah Khair, thank you for your continued support.

#### Waseem Ahmad

Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief Worldwide

# OUR VISION AND STRATEGY

Inspired by the Islamic faith and guided by our values, we envisage a caring world where communities are empowered, social obligations are fulfilled, and people respond as one to the suffering of others.

We provide lasting routes out of poverty, empowering people to transform their lives and serving all communities without prejudice.

Our current global strategy has four goals that aim to ensure we respond effectively to humanitarian emergencies, contribute significantly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and advocate for positive social change. These goals are based on four key areas of work we present in this report: humanitarian, development, campaigns and partnerships.

## **OUR GLOBAL GOALS**

- Reducing the humanitarian impact of conflicts and natural disasters
- **2** Empowering communities to emerge from poverty and vulnerability
- **3** Mobilising people and funds to support our work
- Strengthening the Islamic Relief federation

Abu Kamal, 45, lives in the countryside outside Idlib, Syria. The country's prolonged crisis has uprooted the father of four, alongside millions of other people.

"I was working in a factory but I had to leave my work and my village to escape the violent bombing and harsh conditions. I moved near the Turkish-Syrian border and lived in a camp there with my children for several years.

"The living conditions were harsh and we were not able to adapt to camp life. After I returned to my village, I found my house had been damaged but I was able to restore some of it. However, there were no jobs.

"Thanks to Allah, Islamic Relief provided us with sheep and fodder. Now I take care of these sheep and we produce milk, cheese and yoghurt. We rely on ourselves to earn a living, whereas in the past we relied on aid and food baskets."

## **OUR GLOBAL REACH**

#### IN 2022 WE SUPPORTED OVER 17.3 MILLION PEOPLE

COUNTRY	TOTAL	
Yemen	3,560,269	
Niger	2,013,734	
Afghanistan	1,239,724	
Pakistan	1,214,985	
Somalia	1,134,739	
Sudan	1,088,452	
Syria	999,392	
Occupied Palestinian Territory (Gaza)	993,710	
Bangladesh	892,202	
Mali	878,934	
Ethiopia	723,424	
Kenya	460,106	
Malawi	333,822	
South Sudan	298,769	
Kosova	141,733	
Jordan	135,267	
North Macedonia	124,179	
United Kingdom	123,194	
Sri Lanka	108,387	
Türkiye	96,735	
The Philippines	87,714	
Lebanon	86,474	
Nepal ·	84,377	
Indonesia	79,476	
Tunisia	78,450	
Iraq	66,251	
Myanmar	66,119	
South Africa	50,742	
Albania	48,092	
India	39,109	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	32,386	
Russian Federation (Chechnya)	22,002	
Madagascar	9,262	
Spain	5,036	
Italy	1,946	
Moldova	838	
Malaysia	810	

#### Number of people reached through global programmes

Grand total	19,210,387
Seasonal	6,407,464
Orphan sponsorship	92,841
Advocacy	26,339
Development	2,834,443
Humanitarian	9,849,300

The figures in this table are included within the country figures on the map. The grand total in this table (19.2 million) is different to the total number of people reached (17.3 million) because some people have been reached by more than one Islamic Relief intervention. For example, a child enrolled in our orphan sponsorship scheme may also benefit from a development project to build a well in their village.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE **REACHED THROUGH OUR PROJECTS IN 2022** 

1 - 9999

10.000 -49,999

50.000 -99,999

100.000 -249,999

250.000 -499,999 999,999

500,000 -

1,000,000 +

## THE TOP THREE

Yemen **3,560,269** 

Niger **2,013,734** 

Afghanistan **1,239,734** 

#### CHECHNYA:

Four hundred children living with disabilities in the Chechen Republic are benefiting from access to speech therapy, sports and counselling.

#### INDONESIA:

"I would like to thank Islamic Relief for helping to rebuild our economy. Now, we have an income to help our families."

Nursiana is among 26 women now earning income by cultivating honey thanks to an Islamic Relief intervention to help communities struggling in the aftermath of an earthquake and tsunami in 2018.

#### SOMALILAND:

Nour, 66, is the head of Warcimran village in Togdheer Region, a part of Somaliland ravaged by prolonged drought. Islamic Relief has been digging and repairing water boreholes, trucking water into communities, and supporting families with survival items.

# TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED: 17.3 MILLION

# 2022 IN NUMBERS

More than 830 projects in 40 countries

366 emergency projects reached 9.8 million people

2.8 million lives changed by 325 development projects

11.5 million people helped by food aid and security interventions

Over 4 million individuals benefitted from qurbani meat

Over 1.57 million people in 33 countries reached by Ramadan food parcels 17 projects improved the resilience of nearly **456,000 people** to climate change

2.6 million people given life-saving and life-changing healthcare

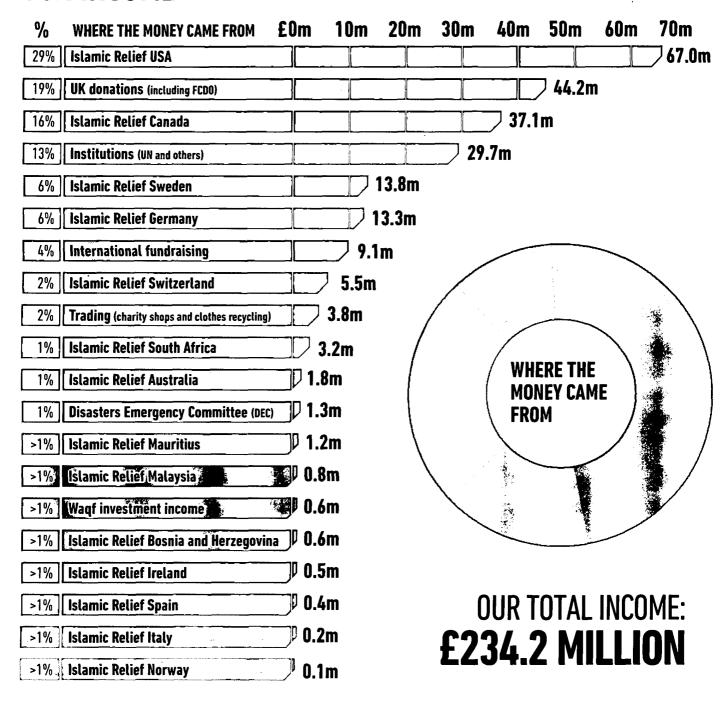
**503,000 people** received winter survival items

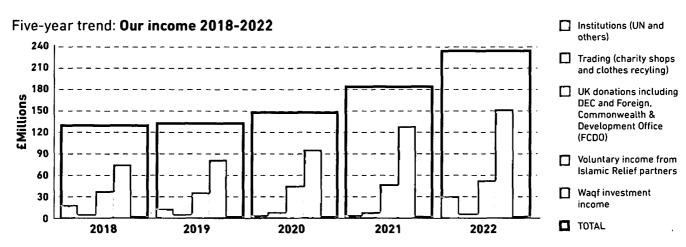
Water, sanitation and hygiene projects served over 1.15 million people

Nearly 93,000 orphaned children received life-changing sponsorship

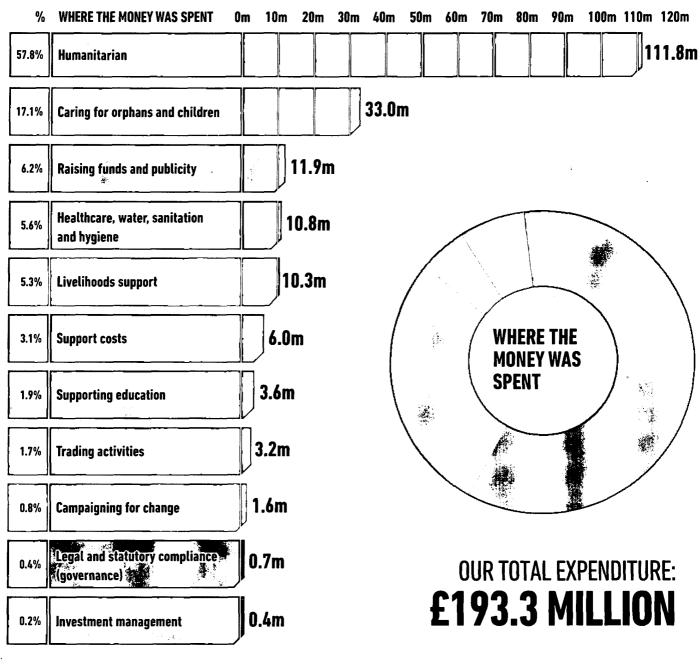
## 17.3 MILLION PEOPLE DIRECTLY ASSISTED

### **OUR INCOME**

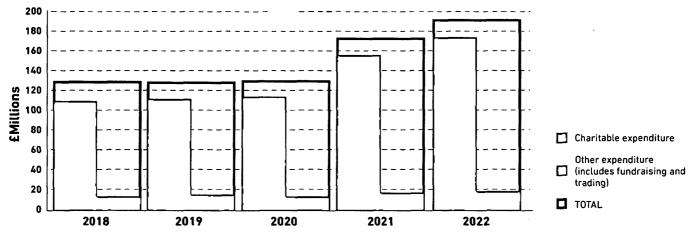




### **OUR EXPENDITURE**







## HUMANITARIAN

2022 WAS A
YEAR IN WHICH
THE EFFECTS
OF CLIMATE
CHANGE
WERE STARK,
WITH MANY
COUNTRIES
AROUND THE
WORLD HIT BY
DEVASTATING
NATURAL
DISASTERS.

Islamic Relief was needed more than ever as the world became increasingly instable amid natural disasters and new and ongoing conflicts and crises. It was critical to work with local communities to increase their resilience, and support long term projects.

- 366 humanitarian projects helped 9.8 million people
- 9.1 million individuals given life-saving food aid, including over 2.3 million in Yemen
  - 1 million people in Pakistan reached by our emergency and disasterrecovery flood response
  - 1.2 million people received vital support in crisis-stricken Afghanistan
  - Over 4 million individuals benefitted from qurbani meat
  - Over 1.57 million people in 33 countries reached by Ramadan food parcels
  - Nearly 969,000 people in crisis received cash or vouchers with which to meet their urgent needs

## **January**

Lebanon's economic crisis continues to deepen, and an astonishing 80 per cent of its population begin the year living below the poverty line. Amid eye watering levels of inflation, the price of essential items has increased by 800 per cent. Many people are out of work, and even the previously comfortably off struggle to make ends meet. Electricity, communications, fuel and medicine are in short supply. To ease the suffering, Islamic Relief provides food packages to struggling families throughout Lebanon, and also helps renovate homes and improve the living conditions of families, including orphaned children.

"The situation is so bad in Lebanon, I have been without work for two years," says Walid, who lives in Beirut. The father of five mourns the loss of two daughters, who died when their home's dilapidated balcony collapsed. He cannot afford to keep his home in a good state of repair, or even to pay for basic essentials. "Life is expensive. We have no electricity, no water, no food." Islamic Relief has helped Walid and other vulnerable families make essential repairs to their homes.

**Disaster:** Heavy rainfall in Gaza triggers severe flooding, affecting thousands of people.

Impact: Ponds overflow, water pumps stop working, and sink holes appear in streets and roads. Hundreds of homes are damaged and waterborne diseases threaten thousands of people.

Response: Islamic Relief distributes bedding, winter clothes and hygiene kits; and provides cash transfers to support almost 5,500 vulnerable people affected by the floods.

Flooding in Gaza affects thousands of people.

## **February**

Ukrainian refugees in Moldova receive food parcels.

A major escalation in conflict in Ukraine begins, taking thousands of lives and destroying vital infrastructure such as hospitals, roads, and water and electricity facilities. The violence triggers what will become Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II as millions of people flee the country. Calling for an end to the fighting, the global Islamic Relief family provides life-saving humanitarian aid: the £580,355 (\$700,000) we give to trusted international partners equips vulnerable families, many fleeing to bordering Moldova, with vital survival items such as food and hygiene kits.

The crisis also has a devastating impact around the world: disrupted trade routes make staple foods increasingly scarce and expensive, pushing many more people in the poorest countries into poverty and hunger.

**Disaster:** Freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall worsen conditions in northwest Syria for those already uprooted by the decade-long crisis.

Impact: At least 57,000 people living in temporary camps had their tents and belongings damaged by the weather, leaving them less able to protect themselves from the bitter cold.

**Response:** Islamic Relief provides families with desperately needed tents, mattresses, and heating materials.

In Bardaqli camp in northern Idlib, Syria, Islamic Relief distributes essential items including blankets, sponges and contraception to displaced people.

## March

In Sana'a governorate, boys collect water from a facility repaired by Islamic Relief as part of our response to the dire and deepening crisis in Yemen.

March marks the seven-year anniversary of the Yemen crisis, which has shattered millions of lives. Hospitals and schools have been bombed and half of the country's health facilities have shut down. Rising unemployment and the cost of living has pushed food and other essentials beyond the reach of many families. A staggering 17.4 million people face food shortages and half of all children under five years old are malnourished. Millions of people have fled their homes and 21 million people – more than two thirds of the population – urgently need humanitarian aid.

As one of the biggest partners to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Yemen, we give essential food supplies to over 2.3 million vulnerable people in 2022. We provide access to clean drinking water and distribute food, fuel and blankets during the cold winter months. In addition, our Orphan Sponsorship Programme provides reliable financial and education support to thousands of children facing extreme hardship in Yemen.

Disaster: A combination of political changes, economic collapse, the worst drought in 30 years and a freezing winter have left over 24 million people in Afghanistan facing extreme hunger and poverty.

Impact: A staggering 98 per cent of the population is not getting enough food to eat, according to the United Nations.

Response: Islamic Relief announces a new \$22 million partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to boost food production, inject cash into the local economy and support women entrepreneurs in some of Afghanistan's poorest places. The partnership is later increased to £19 million [\$23 million].

#### "I wish and pray for all women to achieve their dreams"

"I am the local engineer for the project, which will create a flood barrier that is vital to protect the houses in this village from flooding," explains Sakina, who lives in Bamyan, Afghanistan. The project she is working on is part of a landmark partnership between Islamic Relief and the UNDP. Together we aim to boost food production, inject cash into the local economy and support female entrepreneurs in some of Afghanistan's poorest places.

The partnership provides employment opportunities for more than 158,000 people who could not rely on getting enough food. Covering six provinces, this cash-for-work intervention enables labourers to meet their family's basic needs as they work to repair and improve over 1,200 kilometres of irrigation infrastructure, flood defences and bridges. Their efforts provide irrigated water to more than 98,400 hectares of agriculture land, directly benefitting more than 200,000 poor farmers. In the long term, these efforts will enable more than 1 million people to gain reliable access to sufficient food.

Islamic Relief also supports Afghans facing hunger, including survivors of a devastating June earthquake, by providing unconditional cash to help meet acute nutritional requirements. Through this initiative, we

directly support over 2 million men, women and children.

Women face multiple challenges to earning an income in Afghanistan. The women's empowerment component of the partnership supports just over 1,600 small businesses owned by women. It provides training, grants and networking opportunities to help entrepreneurs develop their products and access new markets. Many of the women supported so far have significantly boosted their profits and production as a result.

"Being an Afghan woman who works outside the home is very difficult," Sakina says. "I am the only woman working among 300 men, but I will continue working and doing my best. I wish and pray for all women to achieve their dreams and for Afghan girls to have the freedom to learn, work and improve themselves. I thank Islamic Relief for supporting my work here. [Many] of your staff are also women, which shows Islamic Relief's respect for us."

Late in 2022, the authorities in Afghanistan bar most women from working in humanitarian organisations, with immediate and devastating consequences for vulnerable people throughout the country. Islamic Relief joins other organisations in calling for a swift reversal of the ban.

## **April**

Successive failed rainy seasons have resulted in the worst drought in decades in the Horn of Africa, with many young children dying from hunger and illness. Around 14 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are now in urgent need of aid, with hundreds of thousands of people fleeing their homes to search for food and water. Many are now living in overcrowded camps.

The war in Ukraine has made the crisis even worse as the price of staple foods and fuel soars. In the Horn of Africa many countries previously imported most of their wheat from Ukraine, so the effect is dire.

With the region on the verge of famine, Islamic Relief responds by providing poor families with food and cash, vaccinating and feeding livestock to keep them healthy, repairing water supplies and providing sanitation facilities; supporting health workers to care for severely malnourished children; and helping farmers develop new irrigation systems and use drought-resistant seeds.

Fifty-five-year-old community elder Yusuf has lived his whole life in War Imran village, in the Togdher region of Somaliland. His village has endured two terrible years of drought in which thousands of livestock – vital for local livelihoods – have died.

In Somalia's Bari region, a woman collects water from a facility provided by Islamic Relief. The drastic rise in food prices has made life here even tougher. Previously, £59 used to be enough to feed a family of six for a month, but now basic food supplies cost at least £85 a month.

**Disaster:** The heaviest rains in over 60 years destroy homes, livelihoods and vital infrastructure in South Africa.

Impact: Over 440 people die and more than 40,000 are displaced. Four thousand homes are destroyed and thousands more severely damaged, along with schools and public infrastructure. The supply of water and electricity to many residential areas is disrupted.

Response: Islamic Relief staff and volunteers swing into action in the worst affected areas: Clermont, Marianridge, Savannah Park, Redhill, Waterloo, Amaoti and Tongaat. We provide blankets, mattresses and kitchen sets, repair flood damaged houses and raise awareness on water, sanitation and hygiene.

#### May

Islamic Relief aid workers survey the damage after the worst floods Bangladesh has seen this century.

With many rivers prone to overflowing, Bangladesh has a long history of flooding – a vulnerability that has increased amid the climate crisis. In June, Bangladeshi communities are inundated again when the worst floods this century strike, affecting over 4 million people.

Islamic Relief teams use boats to rescue stranded people and to distribute emergency aid including food, hygiene kits and cash. We rescue over 500 families that were trapped by the flood water in Sylhet and Sumanganj.

"I have never seen anything like this before," says Jakir Hossain, an Islamic Relief aid worker in Sylhet. "I saw a huge number of domestic animals washed up. Our boat rescued a drowning madrasa student in Sunamganj. The extent of the damage is horrendous. More than 90 per cent of the city is flooded and tens of buildings are completely underwater."

## **June**

In Barmal district, Afghanistan, an earthquake leaves families with only makeshift shelters.

**Disaster:** The deadliest earthquake of the year hits the Paktika province in Afghanistan, destroying whole villages while residents sleep.

**Impact:** Where homes used to be there is now only rubble, and entire families have died. Survivors sleep outside, exposed to the wind and rain, and food and safe drinking water are in short supply. More than 1,000 people have lost their lives while some 6,000 people have been injured.

**Response:** Barmal district, one of the worst affected areas, receives little aid until Islamic Relief reaches the remote, mountainous location. Our emergency team delivers vital food supplies to more than 2,000 families. Our team also highlighted the crisis in international media including the BBC, Al Jazeera, Sky and more.

## **July**

This month communities in Balochistan, Pakistan, suffer heavy monsoon rains and flash flooding. Over 180 people lose their lives and hundreds more are injured. Homes, buildings, farms and livestock are destroyed. Communities are also having difficulty accessing clean drinking water and are at risk from waterborne diseases. In Quetta, the provincial capital, and in other communities, Islamic Relief emergency teams are on the ground providing 3,000 families with cash grants which they use as they wish to cover their most essential needs. Islamic Relief also works with local government to support relief efforts.

**Disaster:** We stand in sorrow and solidarity when children related to an Islamic Relief aid worker are among the civilians killed by an airstrike in Idlib, northwest Syria. Aged just two, four, five and eight years old, the children were at home when the bombs fell just after dawn.

Impact: While Islamic Relief has been providing life-saving aid since the start of the Syrian crisis, even after 11 long, harrowing years, we feel every tragic death just as acutely. In 2022 the humanitarian crisis remains one of the largest in the world: hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and more than 12 million individuals have been forced from their homes. By July 2022, over 85 per cent of the population needs humanitarian aid, almost everyone lives in poverty, and hunger is widespread and worsening.

Response: Islamic Relief's response includes providing food aid, building permanent shelters for families living in makeshift tents, and improving water facilities. As poverty increases, we also support local livelihoods such as agriculture. We assist nearly 90 schools with books, sports equipment, and refurbishment; while the stipends we give enable teachers to continue their life-changing work with children. By the end of the year, we will have provided critical humanitarian aid and access to vital services to over 1 million people.

"The planes bombed the hospital, which was evacuated, [but] I remained, alone with my children, weeping in fear. I refused to leave until the blood transfusion ended, and then we miraculously got out from among the wreckage," says Umm Hammadi, 42, recalling an attack on the Syrian hospital in which her four children were being treated for thalassemia.

Now living in a camp in northwest Syria, the family are among over 570,000 people reached by our health interventions in the country in 2022. Altogether, 14 health facilities receive drugs and medical disposables, as well as stipends and training for medical staff.

Boys in Sri Lanka collect qurbani meat provided by Islamic Relief in time for Eid al-Adha this month. Our qurbani distribution reaches over four million people across 28 countries and follows our largest ever Ramadan programme, which ploughed over £13.4 million into reaching 1.57 million people in 33 countries, including 23,000 people in Sri Lanka.

## **August and September**

"At least we are not out in the open now: the tent protects us from the blazing heat during the day," says father-of-five Ubaid, who received shelter and other survival items from Islamic Relief. His family home in Killi Batto village, Pakistan, has been uninhabitable since the floods. "Losing your house is painful. We were already poor, the floods made us poorer."

In one of the most devastating natural disasters in living memory, massive flooding triggered by a 'monster monsoon' and glacial melting, hits Pakistan. One-third of the country is submerged, affecting 33 million people. Over 1,700 people die and nearly 13,000 others are injured. More than 2.2 million people lose their homes and many now live out in the open, without food or water. Dangerous diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria, and typhoid spread rapidly in flooded communities and — with over 2,000 health facilities thought to be damaged—access to vital healthcare is difficult for months.

Other essential infrastructure has been badly hit, with more than 13,000 kilometres of roads damaged and 400 bridges destroyed. Livelihoods are also ruined: more than 4.4 million acres of crops and orchards have been affected, while over 1.1 million livestock have died. The total cost of the damage is thought to exceed \$10 billion [£8.5 billion].

Islamic Relief has been on the ground providing vital humanitarian aid from the very start. We provide food packs, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and tents to over 91,550 individuals in heavily affected areas such as Noshki, Quetta and Balochistan. In areas such as Malir-Karachi, Thatta, Dadu, Mirpur Khas

and Sindh, we provide over 200,000 individuals with food packs, household kits and tarpaulin sheets. We build pit latrines and team up with UNICEF to provide over 1 million litres of drinking water for more than 550,000 people. The counselling we provide helps people come to terms with all they have experienced.

As communities begin the enormous task of rebuilding in the aftermath of the disaster, we remain by their sides. Islamic Relief provides 4,600 permanent shelters to families displaced in the worst affected areas, helps other communities rebuild their homes themselves, and builds temporary learning centres so children do not miss out on their education.

In November, we team up with the UNDP to announce a partnership to create job opportunities and support the construction of vital community infrastructures in Sindh. We provide cash-for-work opportunities for local people, enabling them to earn as they help to repair their communities.

**Disaster:** Caused by torrential seasonal rains, flash flooding in Sudan kills scores of people:

Impact: As climate change makes natural disasters increasingly frequent and intense, flooding is becoming an annual occurrence in Sudan. 2022's flood affects around 136,000 people, damaging or destroying tens of thousands of homes as well as important infrastructure such as healthcare and water sources.

Response: In our emergency response, we prioritise areas in which we were already delivering humanitarian and development assistance. We provide survival items, food packs and water, and sanitation and hygiene services reaching more than 100,000 people.

Samira (left) with some of the survival items Islamic Relief distributes in Sudan's River Nile State. Flood-affected families receive essentials such as blankets, mosquito nets, shampoo, sanitary pads and soap.

When flash flooding strikes 10 Afghan provinces, the home of Amruddin, in Musahi district, is among those destroyed. Islamic Relief gives essential staples such as wheat, pulses, cooking oil and salt to his family and more than 300 other affected households in the area.

## **October**

"I am now more hopeful for my children's future," says Bibi, a widow struggling to provide for her daughters in Afghanistan. The family relies on the regular stipend provided by our Orphan Sponsorship Programme. "The money I've received means that I can now feed them properly," she tells us, adding that she has also been able to send her children to school again.

**Disaster:** A hunger crisis is affecting Afghanistan, including 1.6 million orphaned children.

Impact: A disastrous combination of natural disasters, endemic poverty and economic collapse have left over half of the Afghan population in need of humanitarian aid – and children are particularly vulnerable. Most households are unable to afford food, so children often go days without eating. Malnutrition is soaring, and around 4 million children in Afghanistan are thought to be severely malnourished.

Response: Islamic Relief provides a lifeline in the form of the Orphan Sponsorship Programme, giving families a regular stipend to help pay for essentials such as food, while also ensuring children receive an education. Islamic Relief sponsors more than 5,000 orphans in Afghanistan, with over 1,400 joining the programme in 2022.

# November and December

In Kusiong, the Philippines, families affected by Tropical Storm Nalgae gather to receive drinking water, food, and hygiene supplies from Islamic Relief. Known locally as Storm Paeng, the disaster inflicts significant damage in over 300 villages, killing 50 people and uprooting many more. Our emergency response is a lifeline for 1,000 affected families.

As well as the powerful storm Nalgae, Filipino communities also face a spike in conflict in Maguindanao province. Almost 14,000 people flee their homes. Already on the ground supporting communities, Islamic Relief swings into action to provide essential food and hygiene items to over 8,000 affected families.

Further disaster relief is required in Southeast Asia when a deadly earthquake strikes Indonesia. Killing over 160 people, the 5.6 magnitude quake leaves thousands of people homeless and destroys over 2,000 houses in West Java province. Working through a local partner organisation, we provide affected people with tarpaulin sheets for emergency shelter, hygiene kits and other much-needed items including food, water and blankets.

"When I held the cash in my hand, I was so happy that my heart was beating out of my chest," says Husna, recalling her relief upon receiving an unconditional cash grant from Islamic Relief. Part of our life-saving response to the dire drought in North Kordofan, Sudan, the grant enables Husna to meet her family's most pressing needs.

"I bought food supplies and cooked a meal for my children. My children almost never drink milk [so] I am going to invest the remaining cash in buying a goat." As well as supplying grants, Islamic Relief install hand pumps and solar-powered water sources, give farmers drought-resilient seeds, and train community leaders and government officials on climate change. Altogether, we help over 3,300 drought-affected households.

# DEVELOPMENT

IN 2022, WE CONTINUED
TACKLING ISSUES DRIVING
POVERTY AND EMPOWERED
MORE COMMUNITIES TO
BECOME SELF-RELIANT.
WE IMPROVED ACCESS TO
LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES,
HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION
AND WATER AND
SANITATION, WITH OUR
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
HELPING IMPROVE THE LIVES
OF 2.8 MILLION PEOPLE.

Our development work also aimed to boost resilience to food insecurity and the negative impacts of climate change on the communities we serve. Through livelihood programmes and disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, we helped ensure communities are more prepared to face an uncertain future.

- £75.2 million invested in 302 development projects worldwide
- Nearly 2.4 million people provided with food security and livelihood opportunities
- Over 2.6 million individuals reached by healthcare interventions
- 1.1 million people given access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene support
- Over 149,000 children and adults helped to gain an education

In Harem, northern Syria, Islamic Relief teams hard at work building homes for uprooted families.

In 2022, 57 displaced families in Harem and Darkush, Syria, swapped tents for new homes. Islamic Relief built each family a housing unit of their own, each with two rooms, a kitchen and a separate toilet. Umm Muhammad, a mother of five who has been living in a tent for seven years says: "We lost the sense of safety and reassurance while fleeing from one camp to another. By the grace of Allah and Islamic Relief's support we are able to live much better than we used to."

Uprooted families in Myanmar also benefited from new, safer homes that protect their dignity and privacy. This year Islamic Relief built 83 more sturdy shelters in Sittwe township, enabling 64 families to move out of flimsy bamboo shelters that leaked miserably during the monsoon. Three new school buildings were also equipped with furniture, water facilities and latrines in Sittwe and Myaungmya townships.

## **Growing food security in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Islamic Relief Palestine country director Muneeb Abu-Ghazaleh helps plant an olive tree.

A school in Kan Chaung village, Myanmar, renovated by Islamic Relief. We added three classrooms, toilets and new school furniture. Safe drinking water and a new entrance road were also provided, supporting children to continue their learning in a safe and suitable setting.

2022 saw the launch of an olive tree planting project in Gaza, where the Israeli blockade has devastated the economy and forced 80 per cent of residents to rely on aid. An integral part of the local food basket and a source of income for rural families, olives are a highly prized part of Palestinian heritage. The hardy trees tolerate the salty water in Gaza and can withstand many disease and climatic

changes. The Islamic Relief project will help plant 330,000 square metres of olive trees of different types, expanding the green space in the Gaza Strip. It will also support 665 farmers by providing farming tools to improve agricultural production.

#### Fighting hunger and its root causes

As food insecurity around the world continues to deteriorate, more families do not know where their next meal will come from. Through our Global Hunger Prevention and Response Programme, we support affected populations in eight African countries to tackle hunger not only by providing food, but also addressing interlinking issues such as water and sanitation, health and nutrition and livelihoods.

The \$5.2 million [£3.8 million] programme aims to support the most vulnerable in Mali, Niger, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Madagascar, where we support communities through a partner.

In Mali, we trained 200 women to recognise the signs of malnutrition in young children and to refer them for appropriate care.

Their work resulted in 598 children – most of whom were moderately acutely malnourished – being referred for care. All the trained women said they now feel they have the knowledge and skills to prevent, identify and refer cases of malnutrition in the community; while mothers reported being more willing to bring their children to receive nutritional care.

Vulnerable people in Kenya receive mobile cash transfers to help meet their basic needs.

adopt climate-smart agriculture techniques, and running disaster risk reduction activities, while in Madagascar we offered vulnerable families cash and advice on how to invest it to meet their needs, alongside information on issues ranging from child protection to addressing gender-based violence.

In Niger, our intervention included supporting farmers to

In coordination with Sudan's Forests Department, 600 people learned how to protect their communities against desertification, including by planting trees, and 1,400 households received cash to cover their food needs. In South Sudan, we transformed three boreholes into high yielding solar-powered water yards and established five new boreholes to combat water scarcity. We also conducted extensive awareness-raising activities on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, actively targeting influential figures within communities - an encouraging 70 per cent of people reported positive change in their community as a result. Recognising the importance of livestock to food security and financial stability, we worked with experts to run education sessions in Ethiopia on animal health, reaching more than 2,000 people.

In Somalia, we help families earn a reliable living from livestock by supplying cooling machines to reduce milk spoilage, and offering training in cheese production. Armed conflict in the Philippines'
Maguindanao municipality has uprooted
families and devastated communities and
the local economy. Islamic Relief responds
with a six-month project to revive smallscale businesses and improve protection for
women and other at-risk groups.

We equipped 100 entrepreneurs with startup grants, along with training in financial management and business proposal writing. The women also received feed and materials enabling them to produce and sell duck eggs.

As well as strengthening social bonds in the community, the project enabled participants to earn a living, provide for their families, and even set aside some savings. Encouraged by the project's positive results, five local government units introduced mental health and psychosocial support. Referral pathways, including for genderbased violence and child protection, were also bolstered as municipal and provincial authorities pledged their support.

An Islamic Relief livelihoods scheme in the Philippines brings together 100 women to kickstart businesses producing and selling duck eggs.

#### Sewing self-reliance in Jordan

"I am so glad that I was accepted into this project," says Hanan, a mother of three whose husband's poor health means she must provide for her family alone. A Syrian refugee, she now lives in Jordan, where a shortage of work opportunities leaves many women struggling to support themselves and their families. In 2022, Hanan was among 63 women in Irbid governorate to whom we provided counselling, financial grants and vocational training so they could build stable livelihoods.

"I have benefitted a lot from the counselling and training in financial management and sewing. I was always afraid of working outside the home because it would mean leaving my children. But now, I can take care of them and manage my work from home at the same time.

"After I complete all the training sessions and receive a financial grant, my goal is to have my own home-based tailor shop. After that, my greatest ambition is to open a huge tailoring store. The project is helping to empower women and I hope similar projects reach women in need across the world."

# Enhancing enterprise and employment in Ethiopia

As in many other countries, Ethiopia has significant barriers typically preventing women and young people from earning a living. Islamic Relief has helped tackle this by linking orphan sponsorship with lasting livelihood interventions. As a result, 3,500 orphaned children in 2022 received regular financial support through Islamic Relief, which also helped their mothers begin earning a reliable living. Altogether we trained 1,800 widows to promote and manage small businesses. Setting up or

improving 557 enterprises, the women formed self-help groups to support each other on business matters, and savings groups to help maximise their income. In addition, we provided vocational training to prepare 150 of our sponsored young people for the world of work, with seven of them securing employment in 2022.

Afghanistan suffers its coldest winter in a decade with temperatures plummeting as low as minus -33°C [minus -27°F] in some mountainous areas. Islamic Relief provides blankets and winter foodpacks to vulnerable families.

#### **Supporting Afghanistan through crises**

As Afghanistan struggles with economic crisis and widespread hunger, Islamic Relief has been working to support the country's most vulnerable. In 2022, we helped more than 1.1 million people meet their basic needs, implementing projects worth £32 million, including our live-saving seasonal Ramadan and qurbani programmes. We supplied over 6,300 households with fuel and blankets to weather the colder months, and empowered 1,539 vulnerable women to earn a sustainable living by providing

a pregnant goat to each. We also ran life-saving health and nutrition services, reaching more than 122,500 people across seven provinces, and helped ensure children did not miss out on an education by supporting over 7,000 children who were out of school to receive education in their communities. More than 6,200 households received cash for food and over 63,000 food packages were distributed to those struggling to feed themselves and their families.

### PROTECTING COMMUNITIES ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY FRONTLINE

In 2022, the world's poorest communities continued to pay the highest price for the world's failure to halt the looming climate catastrophe. Strengthening the ability of such communities to cope with the effects of the changing climate therefore remained a priority for Islamic Relief, with programmes to boost resilience in disaster-prone countries.

### Backing Bangladesh's poorest families

Communities living in Bangladesh's Dhaka North City Corporation and Sylhet City Corporation are extremely vulnerable to disasters, which are worsening as the climate continues to break down. The poorest families bear the brunt of suffering, finding it particularly difficult to access vital healthcare, education and social safety nets.

In 2022, Islamic Relief helped 600 households living in extreme poverty to change that. Determined to boost their resilience, we offered training in how to earn a living despite the challenges presented by climate change. We showed families how to prepare so when disasters strike they inflict less damage, inspiring 150 young people to champion this in their communities. We also improved drainage facilities and identified and created safe evacuation spaces.

Islamic Relief supervises a water trough being constructed in Tourchawane village, Gourma-Rharous, Mali.

## Building community resilience in Mali

Gourma Rharous, Mali, is prone to severe drought, prolonged dry spells, and recurring flooding. Climate challenges contribute to the conflict and displacement that also impact the area, devastating lives and the agricultural livelihoods upon which 86 per cent of local families depend. In 2022, Islamic Relief provided life-saving aid and interventions to strengthen communities against the pressures of climate change, and to improve social cohesion.

Providing 6,000 individuals with temporary shelter meant that 99 per cent of local people had protection from the hot, dry and dusty winds of the Harmattan season. Food aid meant 1,000 families could eat three nutritious meals per day, and hygiene kits helped 6,000 women and girls keep healthy. We also distributed essential items such as

mosquito nets, cooking pots and torches. Giving goats to 300 women boosted their livelihoods, reduced household hunger, and contributed to re-establishing vital local livestock.

Ensuring better access to water was critical, so Islamic Relief helped to build four multi-purpose water points, training local people to run management committees to maintain their new facilities. We installed lights at the water points to make them safer for women to access at night, and ensured people with visual impairments could also access the points by installing gravel platforms around the standpipes to indicate they had arrived at a waterpoint. In addition, with our support 10 communities developed disaster risk preparedness action plans to cope with future water shortages and other emergencies.

When erosion destroyed her home, Romuja moved to Sylhet, Bangladesh. With an Islamic Relief grant she set up a small grocery enterprise so she could earn a living once more.

# Installing green energy solutions in Kenya

## **Equipping local communities to respond to disasters in Indonesia**

300 households in Wajir and Mandera counties benefit from solarisation.

Communities living in Kenya's droughthit Wajir and Mandera counties face many challenges, including low literacy levels, which entrench poverty, particularly among women; and poor electrical infrastructure that forces local people to burn wood for energy, damaging the environment. In addition, competition over increasingly scarce natural resources fuels conflict, further increasing the vulnerability of local people.

An 18-month integrated project by Islamic Relief tackled these challenges. benefitting more than 2,700 people. We improved the electricity supply, setting up solar panels for over 100 businesses, 300 households and 10 schools. This reduced the need for harmful wood burning and the cost of running a small business. Islamic Relief made three boreholes solarpowered, ensuring communities have access to clean, safe and affordable water. In addition, we worked within communities to promote peace and social cohesion, gave children with special educational needs the specialist learning materials they needed to thrive, and boosted financial resources available to women entrepreneurs.

Islamic Relief and volunteers identify suitable evacuation sites in Balaroa, Indonesia.

While responding directly to emergencies is a key part of Islamic Relief's work around the world, we also develop the capacity of disaster-prone countries to respond effectively to emergencies locally.

In Indonesia, we have teamed up with communities and local authorities, sharing expertise to help save lives and reduce casualties when disasters strike. We have trained communities on what to do in a disaster, identified suitable

evacuation sites, and ran simulations in conjunction with other non-governmental organisations and local emergency services. We have also worked with faith leaders to revitalise the role of religious sites and organisations in disaster response – including in helping communities cope with the shock and trauma disasters cause. In 2018, we launched an extensive programme in Indonesia which drew on our experience helping Muslim and Christian communities in South Africa to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

Emergency response volunteers receive training in Sigi, Indonesia. Many have been affected by disasters and use their insights and experience to help their communities prepare and respond to crises.

Our efforts have helped ensure swifter and more effective responses to emergencies including flash floods, a fire and a hospital evacuation, as well as awareness raising and distribution activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Local government has also secured a higher budget for disaster risk reduction.

Alarmingly, Indonesia is on the frontline of the climate emergency. Disasters and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense, placing even more stress on the poorest communities. Islamic Relief is therefore helping through interventions such as planting bamboo along riverbanks to protect against flooding and establishing mangroves in coastal areas to guard against erosion.

"The programmes that [Islamic Relief has] conducted locally have already strengthened and honed our response. We know how to become a community that is resilient to disasters, including the women and children among us. As the government, we are so grateful for this because if a disaster happens, we know the community is ready and knows what to do."

- Irmayanti Pettalolo, secretary to the mayor of Palu, Indonesia

"Disaster risk reduction activities are so essential because we experienced how challenging the 2018 earthquake was. There were many victims at that time and our communities lacked information on how to evacuate themselves. We've come to solve this issue by explaining the evacuation sites. It's not only for our community: all communities in the area can access these evacuation sites."

– Lukman, Islamic Relief volunteer, Balaroa, Indonesia

#### Supporting teachers in Sudan's refugee communities

Teachers in Sharg Alnile, Khartoum, receive payment through an Islamic Relief project with UNICEF.

In collaboration with UNICEF and Sudan's Ministry of Education, Islamic Relief provided payments for teachers, supervisors and workers at schools for South Sudanese refugees in Khartoum. The payments are part of a wider programme aiming to ensure access to quality primary education and improve the skills and knowledge of teachers, parents and communities. In addition, 58 refugee students received support for exam fees in West Kordofan, where we also equipped schools with essential furniture, and refugee camps with tents to use as temporary learning spaces.

Twenty girls in Takurgaon, Bangladesh received bicycles through an Islamic Relief project aimed at improving children's access to education. The bikes make it safer and easier for the girls, who live in a poor, rural area, to get to school and it is hoped this will encourage them to continue their education. The same project also provided 4,000 children with education materials including school bags, umbrellas and stationery.

# Improving living conditions in drought-affected communities in Somalia

Latrines with lockable doors help improve safety for women in Baidoa, Somalia. Drought in Somalia affected nearly 22 per cent of the population in 2022, with 1 million people forced to leave their homes behind in search of water. Vital agricultural livelihoods were ruined while poor hygiene and sanitation facilities and scant access to safe water saw dangerous waterborne diseases spread. As water became harder to find, women and girls – who are typically tasked with fetching it – travelled further, leaving little time for education or employment, and putting them at greater risk of male violence.

Islamic Relief helped improve living conditions in Baidoa and Dinsoor. We provided 267 individuals with cash support for two months, so they could buy what they needed to meet their basic needs. In addition we built separate latrines for men and women, with lockable doors, and installed 10 solar lights at strategic locations to improve safety.

# **CAMPAIGNS**

THE IMPACT WE **ACHIEVED IN 2022 WAS** MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR **GENEROUS DONORS** AND PARTNERS. WHO CONTINUED TO **SUPPORT US. AS WELL AS RAISING THE FUNDS NEEDED TO DELIVER OUR PROGRAMMES. WE BATTLED TIRELESSLY** FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. PRESSING THOSE WITH **POWER TO ACT TO MAKE** THE WORLD SAFER AND FAIRER FOR EVERYONE.

We called for action to tackle injustice against women and girls, climate change, and to support people displaced across our tumultuous world. We also supported those among us who are most vulnerable such as children, including orphans and those at risk of child labour and human trafficking. We used our knowledge of Islamic teachings to work with religious leaders to challenge harmful practices such as gender-based violence, to advocate for peace, to respond to the climate emergency, and to protect children from abuse.

- Our 16 Days of Activism campaign activities raised awareness of gender-based violence in 11 countries
- Nearly 456,000 people helped to adapt to climate change challenges
- 154,000 women, children, older people and people with disabilities reached by protection and inclusion interventions
- Nearly 93,000 children in 26 countries supported through our orphan sponsorship scheme

# Responding to catastrophic climate breakdown

As the global climate emergency worsened in 2022, Islamic Relief continued our vital efforts to assist communities suffering its devastating effects. Whether providing disaster relief amid calamitous flooding and persistent drought; helping vulnerable communities better protect themselves from climate breakdown; or amplifying the voices of people on the frontlines of the climate emergency, we fought tirelessly against the biggest threat to our world today.

For the first time in our history, Islamic Relief established a climate policy that supports every ethical action to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and restrict the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. The countries, communities and people on the frontline of the climate crisis already face a myriad of interconnected development challenges: our policy sets out how to ensure that climate action addresses the root causes of their vulnerabilities.

In conjunction with the policy, we launched two accompanying position papers. The first focuses on climate migration – a phenomenon in which millions have been forced to flee their homes due to climate breakdown. It sets out Islamic Relief's stance on addressing the challenge at the international level. The second paper, on climate finance, discusses how low-income countries should receive more international funding to assist them in addressing the fallout of climate breakdown.

# Amplifying the voices of communities on the climate crisis frontline

To bolster the case for bold climate action, we published research papers detailing how the climate crisis is affecting the communities we support, including:

- The Land is Aching: Extreme Climate-Induced Flooding in Pakistan. After experiencing its worst ever disaster the already cash-strapped Pakistan faces soaring poverty, disease outbreaks, and widespread infrastructural damage alongside the grim certainty that the floods will come again. Pointing to the positive impact of Islamic Relief's climate adaptation interventions in the country, we call for urgent support for disaster risk reduction and management in Pakistan and funding from rich, high-polluting countries to compensate poorer countries for the loss and damage from climate-related disasters.
- As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of disaster events, women and girls are often the first affected and the last to recover.
   Our Gender-Based Approach to Climate Change Adaptation report, developed in collaboration with IPB University, Indonesia, examines the vulnerability of women and girls to the impacts of climate change, and shares best practices and recommendations.

## **Advocating for climate adaptation**

From helping farmers in Ethiopia switch to drought-resistant crops and establishing fish farms to diversify incomes in Niger, to developing a community-based climate school in Indonesia, Islamic Relief has significant climate adaptation experience. In 2022 we used our insights to call for greater focus on helping communities lead efforts to adapt to the changing climate.

For the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, we engaged virtually with negotiations and published articles in the influential ECO daily newsletter. Islamic Relief joined

other organisations in securing pivotal agreements to address loss and damage caused by climate disasters.

We also pressed decision-makers at the intersessional meeting (SB56) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany. Representing the 1,800 organisations that make up the Climate Action Network, we pushed for swift and decisive action to minimise the harm already being inflicted on the world's most vulnerable communities.

### Speaking out for justice for women and girls

Over 20 boys attend our workshop in Tulza, Bosnia and Herzegovina to learn about positive masculinity through the example of the life of Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him). The boys discover how to uphold respect for women as embedded in the Muslim faith.

The Islamic Relief family once more engaged in activities to highlight the global campaign 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence Against Women.

Drawing on Islamic teachings, we spoke out against harmful practices such as early/forced marriage, abuse and female genital mutilation/cutting. With positive masculinity a key theme in 2022, we helped inspire men and boys to become allies in the fight against gender-based violence.

We held 16 Days of Activism events in 11 countries, including Somalia where more than 80 people took part in public awareness forums highlighting Islamic teachings against gender-based violence. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, our community and school workshops spotlighted domestic violence, modern slavery, human trafficking, and forced labour. In addition, we teamed up with local associations and institutions to organise a peaceful walk called "Not One [Woman] Less", which drew attention to femicide-the intentional killing of women and girls because they are female. An online petition called for the country to introduce new legal frameworks on the issue.

### Supporting survivors of sexual violence in Sudan

\*Name changed to protect her identity

"I did not understand what happened to me, I only knew it was something terrible. I was scared, ashamed, and in pain," says Asia\*, 17, who was raped by her neighbour in a camp for internally displaced people in Central Darfur, Sudan. When the schoolgirl later suffered a miscarriage and was admitted to hospital, she was referred to one of Islamic Relief's sexual and gender-based violence recovery centres. Based in rural hospitals, the centres offer vital counselling and medical care as part of an integrated intervention providing access to

healthcare to over 52,200 conflictaffected people.

For Asia, the support has been a lifeline. "The therapy sessions have helped me through my ordeal. The first thing I told my psychologist is that I do not want to quit school, but I cannot afford the fees. A week later, he came with his colleagues... and they provided me with cash and school supplies. My psychologist encouraged me to go to school and have a normal life. I dream of becoming a doctor one day, to help people."

### Reducing gender-based violence in Nepal

Women in Nepal campaign against gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence is a serious threat to women and girls in Nepal, where incidents often go unreported. Islamic Relief stepped up efforts to tackle this by launching a new project with our partner, the Rural Development Centre (RDC), which supports women and girls subjected to gender-based violence in Ratuhat district. The initiative strengthened government protection structures, developing referral pathways between institutions working on protection to ensure a coordinated response to incidents of violence.

We trained local journalists on ethical reporting around gender-based violence, and in the community, ran awareness-raising campaigns and self-defence classes for adolescent girls. The 15 bathing cubicles we supplied gave women and girls a secure place to bathe, and 19 survivors of gender-based violence received assistance with necessities such as medical treatment, food, and clothing. In addition, the project also offered counselling and vocational training to survivors and at-risk individuals.

The impact was significant: 94 child marriages were prevented and 86 girls who had dropped out of school re-enrolled as a result. The annual income of those who participated in the project's livelihood activities increased by 28 per cent. We hoped the awareness-raising campaigns would boost reporting of gender-based violence cases by 20 per cent, but they achieved more than twice that, with a recorded 47 per cent increase.

### Combating child marriage in Bangladesh

In 2022 Islamic Relief ran a project to help combat child marriage in Bangladesh, which has one of the world's highest rates. According to UNICEF, almost one in five girls are married before the age of 15, and 51 per cent of girls marry before their eighteenth birthday.

In Rangpur, we worked with parents, faith leaders and young people to educate them on girls' rights and the harms of child marriage. The child protection committee we set up to identify and support children at risk and their families intervened to help 14-year-old Kabita. Learning that the girl was engaged to be married, members of the committee – local people trained to assist children at risk – met with her family to explain the dangers of child marriage and the laws prohibiting it.

Kabita accepted their invitation to join a girls' group, in which she learned about the importance of education, sexual and reproductive health and the harm caused by early marriage. "I want to be independent and self-sufficient. Only then will I consider getting married because I will be in a much stronger position," says Kabita, who is one of 300 girls the project has reached so far.

Her mother, Manjuara, credits our awareness-raising sessions with helping her decide to call off the marriage: "Many thanks to Islamic Relief for opening my eyes. Their efforts have moved me away from the wrong path and I pray that Kabita will now have a brighter future ahead."

# Providing a lifeline for Tigray refugees

"We went from making lunch for the children to picking them up and running for our lives," says Bayan, 75, describing the moment conflict forced him and his family from their home in Tigray, Ethiopia. "We didn't know the value of peace, until we didn't have it anymore."

Bayan and his family now live in Tunaydbah camp, one of numerous camps in eastern Sudan in which Islamic Relief provided life-saving aid in 2022. Refugees received food, water, sanitation and hygiene items and education support. Islamic Relief has also installed a solar-powered lighting system to help keep people, especially women and girls, safe at night.

Despite the challenges of adjusting to a new life in the camp, Bayan has hope that peace will be restored and spends his time supporting other refugees. "God tells us never to lose hope", he says.

Participants in an Islamic Relief workshop in South Africa learn how to create compelling resumes and prepare for job interviews. The session formed part of our efforts to reduce discrimination, promote social cohesion, and support refugees and asylum seekers to gain employment.

# Assisting uprooted families in Syria and beyond

Around the world, conflict and the effects of climate change continued to drive people from their homes, where many faced dire living conditions and uncertain futures. As well as continuing to press for their rights, dignity and protection needs, Islamic Relief provided important, practical support.

"We have lived a very harsh life since we left our village four years ago," says father-of-13 Abu Ghaith, who first took his family to the Atma camps in northwest Syria before fleeing again to a camp in the Babasqa area. Though he works as a teacher, the little he earns cannot feed his family or pay for fuel to heat their tent, even in the depth of winter. Islamic Relief

provided every family in the camp with fuel for heating, and supported a nearby health centre, which provides free care to displaced families.

The crisis in Syria has created the world's worst displacement crisis: a staggering 6.8 million people are thought to have fled the country, with another 6.9 million internally displaced. Many of our interventions in 2022 targeted uprooted families facing dire conditions in camps scattered across northwest Syria, and refugees in neighbouring countries including Türkiye, Jordan, and Lebanon.

### CHARITY OF THE YEAR IN THE UK

2022 was a year of emergencies. In an unrelenting string of climate-change related disasters, Islamic Relief UK supported the equally tireless responses across Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and East Africa. Alongside our emergency relief operations, we persevered with our crucial international development and domestic work, supporting millions of people with access to food and nutrition, clean water, healthcare, high quality education, sustainable livelihoods and more.

Despite the global cost of living crisis and the many unprecedented challenges since the Covid-19 pandemic, Islamic Relief UK remained steadfast in our commitment to improving the lives of those we serve - as did our supporters, who enabled us to achieve record-breaking fundraising. Our success was encapsulated by being the first Muslim organisation to win 'Charity of the Year' at the prestigious Third Sector Awards. We were thrilled to be once again able to host our Lifesaver Awards event - the first in three years, due to pandemic restrictions - to honour the work of our dedicated volunteers that make possible our vital work.

Islamic Relief UK colleagues collect the Charity of the Year Award at the Third Sector Awards in October 2022.

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£542,000.

centre stage as Islamic Relief surged to respond to the disaster. Our UK appeal received extraordinary media coverage from outlets such as ITV News and BBC Breakfast, and our fundraising team engaged with a cross section of the community, pulled in key connectors and worked with local councils, businesses and sporting foundations to raise crucial funds. Our dedicated creative teams across the world captured and coordinated powerful imagery and coverage of the disaster as it unfolded, and even provided the DEC with the main image for their Pakistan Floods Appeal, which raised in excess of £30 million in just one month. Our digital engagement efforts strengthened the appeal, with notable moments such as a viral Instagram fundraiser that raised a staggering

A year of emergencies

The historic flooding in Pakistan took

The DEC campaign for Pakistan features this striking image, which was captured by Islamic Relief.

In 2022, we also saw the strength and determination of our amazing community of donors to engage with fundraising at a new level. Hundreds joined us across 32 phenomenal international and domestic challenges throughout the year, kick-starting with Snowdon in the Snow which raised over £80,000 for Afghanistan. The momentum of success for our fundraising challenges continued as we ventured to Pakistan, Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere to support 10 powerful causes – raising over a record-breaking £451,000.

Naz Shah MP on a visit to Pakistan following the floods in September 2022.

Our advocacy team also worked closely with government ministers to raise awareness of the direct link between the disaster in Pakistan and climate change, drawing attention to our crucial climate-change advocacy work. Our team arranged for Naz Shah MP to visit flood-affected areas in the lead up to a Parliamentary drop-in session, which successfully hosted 26 cross-party members, including the Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and the United Nations, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon. Lord Ahmad also visited the Islamic Relief Pakistan team. which helped galvanise support for the

UK's response to the Pakistan floods. One of our key highlights was King Charles III's donation to Islamic Relief, which was covered as a breaking story on various mainstream media channels including ITV, Good Morning Britain and Sky News.

Our close work with the community on the ground was also reflected in the response to the appeal. Together with Yorkshire County Cricket Club, Islamic Relief hosted an event to engage key existing and new supporters from within the Muslim community and beyond. Our fundraising team raised an astonishing £48,000 for the Pakistan Emergency Appeal.

Islamic Relief UK volunteers take on the challenge of the Ben Nevis trek.

# Supporting poor communities

Our Ramadan, Qurbani and Winter Food Drive campaigns continued to focus on improving food security for vulnerable people in the UK against the backdrop of the current cost of living crisis. Our work with outstanding organisations such as The Newham Community Project, Sufra NW Food Bank, Masjid Al Falah, East London Mosque, The Felix Project, Green Lane Masjid, Liverpool FC, Aston Villa FC, Celtic FC, FMO Leicester and so many more, bolstered the success of our efforts.

In 2022, we delivered an incredible 20,000 meals and 7,500 food parcels to families in need. Our work featuring people like Bushra and her children, who are relying on food banks we support to provide them with their daily meals, successfully caught

Volunteers support food banks as part of the Winter Food Drive.

the attention of several major media outlets including Sky News, BBC News, the Huffington Post and more. In addition, our Qurbani campaign also made a hugely positive impact on people facing difficulty by providing 9,000kg of qurbani meat in the wake of Eid al-Adha, as well as 2,300 meals and 3,400 food parcels.

Charity Week volunteers host the final event of the 2022 season.

Another turning point was reached in 2022 as Islamic Relief celebrated the beloved Cake Campaign's 10th Anniversary. The decade-long campaign has raised a total of £2.2 million for people in need since it began. This simple but transformative idea is an annual event for the Islamic Relief community – a testament to the sense of togetherness we have been able to nurture throughout this period. 2022's nearly 36,200 cakes sold adds to a staggering total of almost 216,200 cakes sold over the last 10 years (or 3 million slices!) The campaign was able to raise a phenomenal £402,000 in 2022 alone.

That's not the only record-breaking figure we achieved in 2022. A ground-breaking £1.9 million was raised in the first in-person Charity Week since the Covid-19 pandemic began. Over 100 institutions across the UK participated, raising crucial funds for a variety of

children's causes. In just two weeks they hosted over 42 auction events, raising £382,000 – a testament to the trust and enthusiasm we share with our donor community who have been able to achieve so much despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Volunteers deliver cakes during the 2022 Ramadan Cake Campaign.

# Harnessing the power of originality

One of our key focuses for in 2022 was to elevate the user experience of our loyal donor community – an integral part of our strategy to strengthen fundraising here in the UK. During Ramadan 2022, we were excited to introduce 'Scholar Verified' content for the first time here at Islamic Relief. The badge was awarded to content related to Islamic giving and other useful Islamic resources to signify that it has been vetted and verified by

one of the scholars Islamic Relief works with before being published. A new zakat policy and its own board of scholars was also introduced, to make the act of paying zakat as reliable and as seamless as ever for our donors.

We also collaborated with a range of incredible digital influencers to produce original and engaging content to spotlight our emergency appeals and campaigns. Our successful partnership with food artist Haneefa Adam significantly elevated the reach and content of our Ramadan Food Packs programme and our Qurbani campaign.



Reflecting on 2022, the success of what we have been able to achieve here at Islamic Relief is inextricably tied to both the sheer generosity of our donor community and the strength of our relationships. We remain dedicated to ensuring that they are at the heart of our incredible work, together with the communities we serve.

Despite political turmoil in Mali that has seen growing violence and increased suffering, Islamic Relief continues to provide vital support. This includes the annual Ramadan programme, which provides nearly 11,000 people in areas like Bamako and Ouélessebougou with food packages containing staple items with which to start and end their fasts. The Malian government welcomed 2022's programme as providing much-needed relief amid a bleak humanitarian situation.

# **PARTNERSHIPS**

IN 2022, WE
STRENGTHENED
EXISTING
PARTNERSHIPS AND
WORKED TO SUPPORT
THE ISLAMIC RELIEF
FAMILY IN OUR
SHARED MISSION TO
IMPROVE THE LIVES
OF VULNERABLE
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.

We joined forces with other leading UK-based charities through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to respond to some of the world's most pressing humanitarian emergencies. Islamic Relief also supported local organisations to build their capacity through training and funding.

- Trained humanitarians in more than 18 locations, boosting local capacity to deal with emergencies and development
- Islamic Relief recertified by the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

### **Making STRIDEs on localisation**

2022 saw Islamic Relief's multi-year Strengthening Response Capacity and Institutional Development for Excellence (STRIDE) project expand its work into new locations. The multi-million-pound landmark project aims to strengthen the capacity of local and national responders, governments and communities through training and funding.

Building on the success of STRIDE phase
1, STRIDE phase 2 has so far seen Islamic
Relief collaborate with humanitarians
across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.
In 18 territories where we already have
a presence, STRIDE helped Islamic Relief
work more closely with local partners.
We ran workshops for staff to develop
country-specific guidelines for building
and managing effective and equitable
partnerships. We also provided grants that
funded the creation of emergency response
plans, and equipped local organisations with
the skills and expertise needed to support
communities in times of crisis.

Through STRIDE, Islamic Relief is also identifying countries vulnerable to disasters where we do not have a presence, and working to develop long-term partnerships with local actors, providing them with technical and financial support. This capacity building empowers local organisations to be in a position to play a more prominent role

in emergency responses and to rely less on international aid.

Islamic Relief's commitment to localisation was further cemented in 2022 by the formal acceptance of our application to join the Grand Bargain 2.0. This is an agreement between governments, UN agencies, some of the largest humanitarian donors, and other humanitarian actors to work together to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of humanitarian action.

Islamic Relief Sri Lanka holds a consultation workshop with local partners to plan activities to build their capacity.

### Putting food on the tables of Yemeni families

In 2022, Islamic Relief continued its partnership with the UN World Food Programme (WFP), helping support families through extreme food scarcity in Yemen, where ongoing conflict and economic collapse have made even basic goods unaffordable for many.

When families are forced to flee their homes in an emergency, we make sure they have the food they so desperately need. We distribute food vouchers and packages containing essential staples such as rice, flour and cooking oil to displaced people.

Islamic Relief also continued working with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to improve access to safe drinking water for communities in Yemen, where an estimated 17.8 million people required support meeting basic water, sanitation and hygiene needs in 2022. Our project with Sida aims to improve living conditions and control the spread of waterborne diseases and Covid-19 in Al Hudaydah governorate, reaching 29,400 people.

A Yemeni girl receives aid items from Islamic Relief, which continues to partner with the WFP and Sida in Yemen.

# Representing Islamic Relief around the world

In 2022 our chief executive officer, Waseem Ahmad, had another busy year representing Islamic Relief and promoting our work around the world.

April saw the hosting of the Ramadan Tent Project – Open Iftar at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham, UK. It was the first time the iftar had been held in person since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The event aims to bring communities together and foster a spirit of friendship.

"Islamic Relief will remain by the sides of vulnerable communities in Pakistan throughout this disaster and beyond," promises Islamic Relief CEO Waseem Ahmad (left), who went to deliver aid to flooded communities in Nowshera, Pakistan, with British High Commissioner for Pakistan Christian Turner (centre). "We will help

communities rebuild and fortify themselves against the devastating effects of the changing climate. And we will continue to demand that world leaders act, at last, right now, to tackle the climate emergency. To do otherwise promises more misery, not only for Pakistan, but for everyone, everywhere."

While in Pakistan, our CEO Waseem Ahmad and our country director Asif Sherazi met with Pakistani prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and other top officials to discuss the flood response and the importance of longterm, sustained support for affected communities.

In November, Waseem was invited to speak at the UK government's International Ministerial Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI). Islamic Relief and World Vision worked closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to hold an event in support of the Declaration of Humanity, which calls for people of all faiths to act to prevent sexual

violence in conflict and denounce the stigma that survivors face.

Towards the end of 2022, Waseem was among DEC representatives that met King Charles III to discuss the life-changing impact of funds given by the UK public to international humanitarian crises and how the changing climate is affecting the world's most vulnerable communities.

### Joining hands across faiths to support refugees

CEO Waseem Ahmad presents alongside faith-inspired humanitarians from around the world at the Welcoming the Stranger conference.

The Welcoming the Stranger conference in June saw Islamic Relief team up with HIAS and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to bring together faith actors from 37 countries to share experiences and lessons on faith-sensitive responses to the global displacement crisis. More than 100 million people worldwide have been forced from their homes by war, violence and persecution. Local faith actors are often at the forefront of responding – yet their role is often overlooked.

The conference – named after the concept of 'Welcoming the Stranger' that is shared across Islam, Judaism and Christianity – highlighted how people of faith are often the first to respond when crises emerge and can play an essential role in promoting social cohesion and tackling xenophobia in the context of displacement.

Our CEO Waseem Ahmad joined a panel discussion with Rev. Anne Burghardt, General Secretary at LWF, and Mark Hetfield, President and CEO at HIAS, about working together to support refugees and build more inclusive societies. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), opened the conference, underlining concrete commitments from UNHCR to continuing its partnership, in particular to increasing their faith literacy.

In December, Islamic Relief, HIAS and LWF joined forces again to organise an Innovation Lab titled 'Shaping the Future, Living as Neighbours'. Held on the sidelines of the UNHCR's High Commissioner's Dialogue in Geneva, the event again highlighted the importance of faith perspectives in supporting responses to forced displacement.

# Digital developments power global connections

The Islamic Relief Worldwide website received a major overhaul in 2022, making a better online space to showcase our work around the world, attract and inform donors and policymakers, and increase brand awareness. The website is now more searchable than ever before and plans are underway to make it available in Arabic and French too. Another new feature allows us to easily host the Annual Report microsite. We also introduced Yammer, an internal social media network for our staff to connect and share the work we have been doing with colleagues around the world. The platform also allows colleagues to crowdsource their questions, share knowledge with each other, get involved with our campaigns, and join online communities to support their personal development and wellbeing.

# Protecting the rights of children in Pakistan

Seventy members of the Rawalpindi police force received child protection training from Islamic Relief in collaboration with the Pakistani government.

2022 saw Islamic Relief welcome a number of key partnerships to protect children's rights in Pakistan. We teamed up with National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) to protect the next generation from abuse, violence and rights violations. Our partnership aims to harness collective expertise to protect children living under challenging circumstances, particularly those experiencing homelessness.

We are also working with government departments and other stakeholders to address underlying issues around child poverty and lack of education. Towards this aim, Islamic Relief and Pakistan's Child Protection and Welfare Bureau Punjab (CPWB) trained the Rawalpindi police department. The session resulted in a referral mechanism being established between the police and child service providers, and a joint advocacy campaign to better safeguard the rights of children.

Also in Rawalpindi, we teamed up with the Punjab Education Department to install a water purification system at a local school on World Water Day. Previously, the school's water had been found to be contaminated, causing students to become unwell. The filtration plant will benefit 2,000 students as well as the local community.

### Investing for a brighter tomorrow

A woman receives dialysis at El-Souky Health Centre, Sudan.

In 2022, the International Waqf Fund funded 12 projects, including in Sudan, where El-Souky Health Centre in Sinnar state received dialysis machines that improved treatment for more than 15,000 patients.

"Patients used to travel for hours to get their dialysis treatment before El-Souky Health Center was fully functional," matron Elsadig says. "Some of the patients passed away because they were too sick to travel... Other patients preferred not to travel for treatment to cut down on transportation costs.

"Now the centre is near their homes, kidney patients are coming twice a week to get their dialysis treatment. Your generous support has saved the lives of our patients."

Waqf funding also helped to support families still recovering from the devastating impacts of war in Kosova. Rural communities rely on agriculture to earn a living, but many cannot afford suitable, modern equipment to make their farms thrive. Islamic Relief provided more than 100 families in Drenas municipality with greenhouses.

### Helping vulnerable children thrive

16-year-old Remaz from Sudan was among the 10,200 children supported by our Orphan Sponsorship Programme in 2022. The programme provides a regular stipend to families for children's education, medical and other needs. Born with intellectual disabilities, Remaz also lives with epilepsy and paralysis. She lives with her two sisters and mother, Hanan, who has been the family's sole breadwinner since her husband died 14

years ago. Though Hanan works hard as a laundress and cleaner, the little she earns is not enough to provide for her children. However the support she receives through Islamic Relief helps to cover the costs of Remaz's medical care and has allowed her sisters to continue their education. Now receiving the medication she needs, Remaz's epilepsy has stabilised.

# Harnessing the power of microfinance

Since 1994, we have provided life-changing Islamic microfinance to people who typically cannot access conventional financial services. With our interest-free Shariah-compliant loans, Islamic Relief empowered over 43,500 people living in poverty to start or expand small businesses in 2022.

We also launched Poverty to Profit, a new microfinance crowdfunding platform which links donors in the United States and Canada to disadvantaged people in Pakistan seeking financial support for entrepreneurship.

Nearly 1,000 poor people running small businesses have been able to build and improve their livelihoods through the power of the crowd.

2022 also saw our innovative Qurbani Plus programme launch in Mali, Pakistan and Sudan, as well as expand in Niger. The programme creates a sustainable source of income by supporting individuals to rear bulls, goats and sheep for qurbani. With the profits, participants can buy their own livestock or set up a kitchen garden.

# Equipping humanitarians with the skills to succeed



As the humanitarian sector continues to develop, the expertise of our Humanitarian Academy for Development (HAD) has been more in demand than ever. In 2022, HAD trained more than 200 humanitarians across six countries, equipping staff at Islamic Relief and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the knowledge and skills to deliver even more positive impact for the vulnerable people we serve.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, we trained humanitarians working for a variety of organisations in proposal and report writing, helping them to improve the efficacy of their writing and better defend their proposals. As a result of the training, several participants later secured funding for their proposals.

In Sudan, we also supported humanitarians in report writing, while in Iraq, our work included delivering advocacy training to the staff of an international NGO, as well as strategic planning training.

Tazhan, who works for the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), in Iraq, says our training in report writing helped to strengthen her problem solving skills, and will put her in a good position to meet her goal of becoming a project manager.

HAD also facilitated internships through the UK government's Kickstart scheme, which aims to help young people into employment, with several interns going on to work at HAD or elsewhere in Islamic Relief.

"I would like to thank the HAD team and trainer who explained the lesson and the importance of follow-up, evaluation and accountability during our report writing and strategic planning trainings."

- Tazhan, Iraq

"In my role as a Talent Officer I've been able to gain a lot of unique skills," says Adnan, who began working with HAD after taking part in the Kickstart scheme. "One of my favourite parts of working at HAD was when I organised an event for interns where I was given responsibility to coordinate and manage the event from start to finish."

# **SOME OF OUR VALUED PARTNERS**

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)

Bond

CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

CHS Alliance

Church of Sweden

**Climate Action Network** 

Disasters Emergency

Committee (DEC)

Finn Church Aid

Foreign, Commonwealth &

Development Office (FCDO)

**Gender and Development** Network (GADN)

Global Affairs Canada

**Habitat for Humanity** International

HelpAge

HIAS

**Humanitarian Coalition** 

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

International Civil Society

International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) International Islamic Charity Organisation

International Organisation for

Migration (IOM)

Islamic Development Bank Joint Learning Initiative (JLI)

Lutheran World Federation

PARD

Network for Religious & Traditional Peacebuilders (NRTP)

**Qatar Charity Qatar Red Crescent** 

Radiohjälpen Save the Children UK

Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri **Charity Society** 

Shelter Box UK

Sida (Swedish International **Development Cooperation** Agency)

Start Network

TZU Chi Foundation

**UN Office for the Coordination** of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

**UN World Food Programme** (WFP)

**United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

**United Nations Development** Programme (UNDP)

**United Nations Entity for** Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

World Vision

Zakat House

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To meet the changing needs of the Islamic Relief family and the challenging environment in which we operate, the International General Assembly (IGA) has been in operation since 2020, as the highest body of the Islamic Relief Worldwide governance structure.

The IGA is made up of representatives elected by and from Islamic Relief member offices

Ultimately, our aim is to have up to a third of the IGA consisting of independent members from outside the Islamic Relief family, helping to bring additional specialist skills and experience, as well as increased diversity and accountability.

The main responsibilities of the IGA are to:

- elect members of the IGA to Islamic Relief Worldwide's Board of Trustees
- approve any changes to the Islamic Relief Worldwide governing documents, membership policies, the mission and strategy, as well as being the final arbitrator on issues of membership
- appoint the Chair and members of the Membership Accreditation Committee (MAC)
- appoint the Chair of the Governance Committee, which is responsible for proposing best practices across the Islamic Relief family. It also reports on adherence to agreed standards, policies, and procedures across all member offices.

# ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Islamic Relief Worldwide Board of Trustees is elected by the IGA, with each trustee elected for a term of four years. The Board is diverse and by the end of 2022 was made up of seven trustees from seven countries across five continents.

Each trustee is a volunteer bringing differing skills, knowledge and experience which together will help the organisation develop and respond to key challenges.

The main responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are to:

- oversee the governance of Islamic Relief Worldwide in accordance with our statutory obligations, making sure we satisfy our regulatory requirements
- act always in a manner most likely to support the charity in meeting our aims and objectives
- oversee the development of the organisational strategy and the setting of priorities and objectives
- approve the executive management structure of the organisation together with delegated authorities
- evaluate performance and progress
- approve relevant new policies and procedures
- appoint the CEO, evaluate the performance of the executive management team and make appointments to, and dismissals from, this team
- approve the remuneration policy of the organisation and set the remuneration for senior management.

The responsibilities of trustees can be made more difficult by the scale and complexity of the organisation. To help them fulfil their duties to the best of their abilities each new trustee benefits from a mentor and comprehensive induction. They receive a full overview of our strategic and operational functions, as well as a welcome pack, which includes a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the financial statements, Board minutes, the Charity Commission guidance 'The Essential Trustee' and recent publications.

We actively encourage trustees to identify any training they may need, and our CEO keeps them up to date with training opportunities and changes in regulatory standards. We continually evaluate the Board's effectiveness.

The Board of Trustees receives regular performance reports, annual financial reports, plans and budgets. The Board is committed to continuous improvement and will soon put in place a periodic third-party review and assessment of its effectiveness and its way of working.

Islamic Relief provides training for our trustees to inform them of the key areas they need to know about to carry out their duties and responsibilities effectively and efficiently. We also train Board members and executives, drawing on their experience to strengthen their understanding and application of governance principles in line with best practice.

# OTHER BODIES AND COMMITTEES IN OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

#### **ISLAMIC RELIEF FAMILY COUNCIL**

Alongside the IGA, the organisation's foremost global governance body, we also have a global executive branch called the Islamic Relief Family Council. This is a forum that brings together the chief executives of Islamic Relief Worldwide and all Islamic Relief member entities to enhance communication, strengthen relationships and provide strategic insight to help improve processes within Islamic Relief Worldwide itself and the wider federation of members.

# THE MEMBERSHIP ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

The Membership Accreditation Committee (MAC) oversees the operations of the Board of Trustees and strengthens accountability within the IGA. The MAC is responsible for making recommendations on the suitability of members (both entities and individuals) to the IGA. These recommendations can potentially include the initial nomination, membership levels, renewals and ending membership. The MAC ensures adherence to the rules governing membership of the IGA and the Board of Trustees.

#### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The IGA has created a dedicated Governance Committee, which helps to identify best practice for all Islamic Relief entities and ensure compliance with agreed standards, policies and systems.

#### **AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The main purpose of the Audit and Finance Committee is to provide oversight of the financial reporting process, the audit process (internal and external), our system of internal controls, risk management and compliance with laws and regulations.

Islamic Relief
Worldwide
Board of
Trustees

International General Assembly (IGA)

Islamic Relief Family Council

Audit and Finance Committee

Governance Committee Membership Accreditation Committee (MAC)

#### **KEY PERSONNEL**

The chief executive officer (CEO) is accountable to the Board of Trustees and, along with other senior staff, is responsible for our day-to-day management. The CEO chairs the executive management team, which is made up of directors. Divisional directors make sure that the policies and strategies agreed by the Board of Trustees are implemented, and they also support the work of other staff and volunteers. A full list of trustees and key personnel is given in the corporate directory on pages 101 and 102.

#### **REMUNERATION POLICY**

We strive to attract and retain talented individuals based on their passion, commitment, values, knowledge, skills and experience. While the financial dimension is not the foremost basis for engagement, we are keen to pay our team appropriate salaries. As such, our remuneration principle is to be market relevant, not market driven - so we position ourselves in the median quartile of benchmarking exercises. Our remuneration model is designed to be costeffective and sustainable, and in line with our determination to be 'lean' to maximise the amount we spend on our programme work. Following a benchmarking exercise conducted in 2021, all staff received a five per cent pay increase on 1 January 2022. We also offered a one-off cost of living grant of £400 to staff at grade 6 or below on our pay scale, which over 100 staff members benefitted from. In 2022, we established the Remunerations Appointments Committee Plus, which has the responsibility to approve director remuneration, overall policy and increases affecting all staff.

We recognise that attracting and retaining the best talent requires sufficient flexibility to allow for a case-by-case consideration for particularly exceptional talents, hard-to-fill roles and top performers. By using the steps within a set grade range, we can apply this flexibility while maintaining the integrity of the wider grading system. We also encourage and reward opportunities for acting up and secondments within the charity to allow colleagues to learn and develop valuable skills and experience.

#### **GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

Islamic Relief Worldwide refers to the charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. Islamic Relief Worldwide's governing document, known as Memorandum and Articles, was originally dated 14 March 1989 and amended on 9 August 2010 and the Objects amended on 16 March 2020 to reflect the education, advocacy and broader work of Islamic Relief Worldwide rather than the original 'alleviation of poverty.' Islamic Relief Worldwide is registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales and with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Other pertinent documents that are now in place with the implementation of the new governance structure and the establishment of the IGA are:

- Licence Agreement: the document that confirms that Islamic Relief members can use the Islamic Relief name and logo in their respective geographical areas
- Members Agreement: a contractual agreement between Islamic Relief members and Islamic Relief Worldwide that cements and defines the terms of our mutually beneficial relationship.

#### TIC INTERNATIONAL LTD

TIC International is a trading subsidiary of Islamic Relief Worldwide. It supports our fundraising activities by recycling clothes and running charity shops across the UK. The registered address of TIC International Ltd is 19 Rea Street South, Birmingham B5 61 B.

#### INTERNATIONAL WAQF FUND

This is a subsidiary of Islamic Relief Worldwide and also a registered charity that undertakes waqf (Islamic endowment) activities (see page 52 and 66 for more information). The registered address of International Waqf Fund is 22 Sampson Road North, Birmingham B11 1BL. Islamic Relief Worldwide exercises control over International Waqf Fund, having the right to appoint and remove its trustees.

#### **ISLAMIC RELIEF MAURITIUS**

Islamic Relief Mauritius is incorporated as a branch of Islamic Relief Worldwide with local directors appointed to oversee operations. The entity's transactions and balances are included within the accounts of Islamic Relief Worldwide.

# TRUSTEES' COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR STATUTORY DUTIES

The trustees of Islamic Relief Worldwide are required to state how they have complied with their duties "to have regard to matters in Section 172(1) of the Companies Act 2006". The matters alluded to are given as headings below and in each section, we have detailed how the trustees have complied.

# THE LIKELY CONSEQUENCE OF ANY DECISION IN THE LONG TERM

The charity operates under a five-year Global Strategy and in order to meet this, the Board of Trustees has to pay due regard to the long-term consequences of its decisions. Throughout the life of the strategy, its implementation is regularly monitored through bi-annual progress reports, which help inform the long-term decision-making required to achieve the objectives set out in our strategy. A new long-term strategy has been developed during 2022.

## THE INTERESTS OF THE CHARITY'S EMPLOYEES

The trustees fully appreciate the work of our colleagues and involve them to the greatest extent possible so that their interests are served. For example, we conduct general consultation with our colleagues on policies before bringing them to the Board of Trustees for approval. Another example is that of the Gender Equality Steering Group, which is chaired by a trustee, supported by two co-chairs from amongst our staff. The Group is made up of individuals from across the Islamic Relief Worldwide workforce, representing all sections of the organisation.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees and the CEO hold regular organisation-wide webinars in which colleagues are encouraged to express their views and concerns. The Chair then reports back to the rest of the Board so that appropriate actions can be taken to address any matters raised. We also intend to formalise and strengthen the organisational identity that will underpin the development of the new strategy, with consultation extending to every colleague.

# THE NEED TO FOSTER THE CHARITY'S BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH SUPPLIERS, CUSTOMERS AND OTHERS

The trustees recognise the value in fostering relationships with all the charity's stakeholders, which leads to loyalty, mutual respect, trust and openness. Although our vetting processes for on-boarding partners and suppliers are necessarily rigorous, we try to build their capacity whenever possible by offering advice and sharing policies and procedures.

Islamic Relief Worldwide would not exist were it not for the generosity of our donors, so we exert a great deal of effort in keeping in touch with them in the manner that they prefer and informing them of what their contributions have achieved.

We try to give our volunteers the most rewarding experience possible, not least because we know that such an experience may lead to them becoming a committed employee, donor or advocate. Most volunteers support our fundraising efforts, others volunteer at the charity shops, get involved in campaigning, join our call centre operation, deliver cakes or act as brand ambassadors. We value their time and commitment and offer our recognition through initiatives such as our annual Volunteer Award Ceremony. We have also developed several volunteer development programmes that attract young adults and working professionals alike to develop the leadership and life skills needed to be effective volunteers. Our flagship programme, AimIR, allows learners to earn a Level 3 certificate in Leadership.

# THE IMPACT OF THE CHARITY'S OPERATIONS ON THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Board of Trustees has fully committed the organisation to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). This standard puts "communities and people affected by crisis at the centre of humanitarian action". The charity fully subscribes to this ethos, which we enact in all of our programme delivery. Indeed, the standard is also adhered to by all of our support departments, such as Finance, Human Resources and External Relations and Advocacy.

We are committed to tackling climate change and spend considerable resources advocating and campaigning in this regard, so it is incumbent on us to pay due regard to the impact our operations have on the environment. Accordingly, all our programmes are now designed to ensure that due attention is paid to their environmental impact. We are endeavouring to reduce our carbon footprint by seeking to cut back air travel and making our new headquarters more energy efficient.

# MAINTAINING A REPUTATION FOR HIGH STANDARDS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT

Our trustees are fully aware that the charity's reputation for high standards of business conduct has played a major part in our growth over the past years. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees consider it imperative that this reputation is maintained. To this end, we employ rigorous vetting procedures when recruiting staff and set out clear standards of behaviour expected from them in the Code of Conduct, which is instilled in them at their induction and subsequently reinforced. We have fostered a culture that abhors bribery and corruption, and actively implements policies to prevent wrongdoing.

Our procurement and ethical vetting procedures ensure that values are a key deciding factor in our selection of suppliers. Islamic Relief Worldwide requires all suppliers to adhere to our Code of Conduct which encompasses the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the International Labour Standards as defined by the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Global Compact's 10 principles, which cover human rights, labour, the environment and anticorruption. In this way, we aim to attract and do business with partners who strive for the same high standards, cementing our reputation still further.

## THE ISLAMIC RELIEF GLOBAL FAMILY

Based in Birmingham, UK, Islamic Relief Worldwide is the international office of the Islamic Relief federation. We oversee global standards, co-ordinate and monitor project implementation, identify new areas for fund development, oversee the response to emergencies and disasters by members of the Islamic Relief federation and support them as needed with marketing and media materials. We also coordinate engagement and ongoing relations with multi-lateral institutions, represent the federation in international forums and develop and coordinate the global strategy.

Registered as independent legal entities, Islamic Relief Worldwide's members raise funds for international humanitarian projects, implement local programmes and deliver advocacy and other activities in their own contexts. In these accounts we have included funds transferred to us from the following, legally recognised under Company Law, members of our IGA:

Islamic Relief Australia Islamic Relief Canada Islamic Relief Germany Islamic Relief Italy Islamic Relief Malaysia Islamic Relief South Africa Islamic Relief Sweden Islamic Relief Switzerland Islamic Relief USA Non-voting members also attend our IGA, and, while they do not yet meet the criteria for full membership, fully share in the Islamic Relief strategy and activities. The following are non-voting members:

Islamic Relief Ireland Islamic Relief Kenya Islamic Relief Norway Islamic Relief Pakistan Islamic Relief Spain

Some independent organisations are affiliated to Islamic Relief Worldwide through our Licence Agreement. These affiliates, some of which are independent legal entities, deliver projects on behalf of the Islamic Relief family and include:

Islamic Relief Indonesia Islamic Relief Russian Federation Islamic Relief Türkiye

Countries in which we have what we call 'country offices', delivering humanitarian and development aid, and sometimes engaging in advocacy and external relations locally:

Afghanistan Albania Bangladesh Bosnia and Herzegovina Ethiopia Iraq Jordan Kosova Lebanon Malawi Mali Nepal Niger Occupied Pal The Philippin

Occupied Palestinian Territory The Philippines

Somalia South Sudan Sri Lanka Sudan Tunisia\* Yemen

Countries in which we work through and with other partners to deliver projects include:

China\* India North Macedonia Madagascar Moldova Myanmar Syria\*

\*In early 2022 Islamic Relief stopped operating in China and in 2023 we ended our operations in Tunisia. Programmes in Syria are delivered directly through Islamic Relief Türkiye.

The trustees, who are also the company directors of Islamic Relief Worldwide, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report. This includes the group strategic report and the financial statements, preparing these in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires our trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. They must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in operation.

Trustees must keep adequate accounting records that are sufficient to:

- show and explain the charitable company and the group's transactions
- disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group
- enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the trust deed.

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and, therefore, must take reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

## STATEMENT ON DISCLOSURE OF... INFORMATION TO THE AUDITORS

Under Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006 the trustees' report must contain statements to the effect that, in the case of each of the persons who are trustees at the time, the report is approved:

- As far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which our auditors are unaware.
- They have taken all the steps that they should have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that our auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

We develop strategic plans to make certain that we deliver maximum public benefit and achieve our strategic objectives, which fall under purposes defined by the Charities Act 2011. The trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in setting our objectives and planning our activities.

#### **EMPLOYEES**

The organisation recognises that it is only as good as the staff that it employs. Accordingly, Islamic Relief Worldwide is an equal opportunities employer and we are proud to recruit and promote staff based on aptitude and ability, without discrimination. The steps we take include ensuring 'blindshortlisting' when recruiting to new roles, so applicants cannot be identified when we decide who to shortlist for interview. As set out in our Recruitment and Selection Policy, we make all reasonable adjustments necessary for candidates who tell us they have a disability and give full and fair consideration to all applications. It is the policy of Islamic Relief Worldwide that the recruitment, training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees. Our policies and procedures fully support our colleagues with disabilities and we take active measures to do so. The organisation is responsive to the needs of its employees and as such, should any employee of the Charity become disabled during their time with us, we will make reasonable adjustments to their

working environment where possible, in order to keep the employee with the organisation. Determined to do more, we are working to create and embed an Equal Opportunities Policy and to ensure our learning and development opportunities are accessible to all colleagues. We support our employees and actively develop their skills. We encourage all our colleagues to engage with our organisational strategy and objectives and to give their suggestions and views in the development of these. In 2021 we undertook a global staff survey which identified areas to explore but also areas to celebrate. Going forward, this data will help to shape our People and Culture Strategy.

We offer our employees management and leadership development through our Aspiring Managers and Management and Leadership Development programmes in order to enable them to forge career paths within the organisation.

We strive to promote a healthy workplace. In 2022 managers received mental health awareness training; and we trained an additional 10 mental health first aiders. Islamic Relief now has over 30 mental health first aiders offering support and guidance to colleagues. Staff benefitted from a programme of wellbeing initiatives, including webinars on financial, emotional and physical support; healthy snacks and nutrition advice; and a day off work to focus on their wellbeing.

We continue to provide greater flexibility to allow staff to achieve a better work-life balance and in 2022 we trialled a hybrid working model to allow staff to continue working from home for most of the week whilst developing a functional return to work premises to enhance cohesion and collaboration and boost morale.

We provide all our UK-based staff with a healthcare cash plan and access to an employee assistance programme which includes online consultations with a doctor. Recognising that our workforce was also affected by the cost of living crisis, we provided staff on lower salaries with a lump sum to help ease the strain.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

The commitment and passion of our network of volunteers continues to contribute greatly to the success of Islamic Relief Worldwide. These dedicated volunteers have been instrumental in supporting every aspect of our operations: across our shops, administration, fundraising and campaigning activities. Our active management of volunteers enables us to deploy them in the most effective way and enhances their experience.

#### **AUDITORS**

A resolution to reappoint Grant Thornton LLP as auditors will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **FUNDRAISING STRUCTURE**

Islamic Relief Worldwide raises funds through various channels including online platforms and through our International Fundraising and Partner Development departments, which help new member offices establish themselves and grow, as well as strengthen links with institutional donors around the world. In the UK, we engage donors and fundraise through our strategic business unit, Islamic Relief UK. The overall objectives are agreed with the Board and disseminated to Islamic Relief UK. The Board and Islamic Relief UK then plan accordingly, setting key performance indicators for their teams and delivering in accordance with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising, to which the charity adheres. Management regularly monitors the performance of the fundraising teams and reports are issued to the Board periodically.

#### **FUNDRAISING APPROACHES**

The charity adheres to all relevant statutory regulations including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Charities Act 2011. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and strive for best practice in fundraising by adhering to the Code of Fundraising Practice and are committed to its Fundraising Promise. Islamic Relief is also a member of the Institute of Fundraising. Our fundraising uses several different approaches, which include the following:

- Major-donor giving
- Corporate giving
- Community fundraising
- Digital peer-to-peer fundraising
- · Charity shops
- Sponsored challenges
- Live TV appeals
- Live radio appeals
- Volunteer activities
- Direct mail
- · Social media fundraising
- · Influencer fundraising
- Digital fundraising

Most of our activities were carried out by our own staff and volunteers. Islamic Relief Worldwide occasionally engaged third-party organisations to fundraise on our behalf, subject to contractual agreements and requirements to meet the same standards observed by Islamic Relief Worldwide in our fundraising practices.

#### **CHARITY WEEK**

A student volunteer led campaign, Charity Week engaged more than 5,000 volunteers across the globe and saw 107 UK educational institutions take part in the event. The project was run by 189 core volunteers who worked closely with our fundraising team. They received formal training and support to deliver an effective campaign which raised a total of £923,311 domestically.

#### **CODE OF FUNDRAISING PRACTICE**

In 2022 we developed and rolled out a new Data Retention Policy, outlining suitable time limits on how long personal data is held by Islamic Relief. We also made improvements to mandatory training for all staff by issuing reminders and tying this training to the staff appraisal process. The Islamic Relief website has also been updated to ensure those participating in fundraising challenge events are aware of age restrictions, fitness levels and training/preparation required at the point of sign up. In 2023, we will continue working on developing policies including our Donor Refund Policy and Donor Care Policy, as well as integrating the Code of Fundraising into our existing policies and procedures.



#### PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Islamic Relief Worldwide abides by the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and ensures our colleagues and volunteers are fully briefed about the protection of vulnerable people. We brief staff and volunteers about best practice before they undertake any fundraising, making them aware of the need to identify, respect, support and protect vulnerable people.

#### **COMPLAINTS HANDLING**

We pride ourselves in having an opendoor policy, providing stakeholders with transparency and an opportunity to give us feedback on their experience. However, there may be times when we do not meet the high standards we set ourselves. For such instances, we have a Fundraising Regulator-approved complaints policy in place. We try to make it easy for concerns and complaints to be raised via our website, where our Complaints Policy can be found. Complaints are captured centrally, dealt with in accordance with the process laid out in the policy and reported to the Fundraising Regulator through the annual return. In 2022 we received 44 complaints, each of which was dealt with in accordance with our complaints policy.

## QUALIFYING THIRD PARTY INDEMNITY PROVISIONS

Trustees' indemnity insurance, indemnifying each trustee against liability to third parties, has been in place throughout the year ended 31 December 2022 and up to the date of approval of this report.

## PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The circumstances in which Islamic Relief Worldwide operates can be complex and challenging, including areas of desperate need whose economies are fragile or failing, and conflict zones where sanctioned organisations are active. Some risk is inevitable for our operations in the context of the security, political and financial challenges we face.

With over 39 years of institutional knowledge and experience in over 40 countries, we have in place an active assurance framework and risk management protocols to manage and mitigate risk across the charity and our areas of operation. Our operational risk management is supported strongly by our Board of Trustees: their active oversight ensures that we do all we can to safeguard our people and the communities we serve, as well as to protect the funds and assets entrusted to us and the reputation of Islamic Relief Worldwide.

#### **ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK**

Our Board is supported by a dedicated Audit and Finance Committee (AFC). The AFC is responsible for ensuring that Islamic Relief Worldwide has robust systems of internal control, financial compliance, safeguarding, complaints management and audit to manage risk and to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Assessing and mitigating risk is central to our governance and management. Risks are regularly reviewed, reported and acted upon at Board of Directors level, divisionally and in country office teams. In 2022 we further strengthened our risk mitigation measures by raising staff awareness through internal campaigns about fraud and cybersecurity risks and establishing dedicated and regular counter-fraud reporting directly to the AFC.

We also have an independent Internal Audit function reporting to the AFC. This ensures that there is professional oversight and assurance of adherence to risk management policies and procedures, as well as effective mitigation actions when needed.

#### **RISK PROCESSES**

We conduct risk and assurance assessments periodically in every country office and functional division, alongside the strategic-level leadership of the senior executive and Board of Trustees. We are assisted in this by our use of a comprehensive risk management solution across all our offices in the UK and internationally, ensuring a consistent and coherent approach to risk monitoring, reporting and mitigation.

Our key processes include:

 carrying out quarterly risk management reviews at both executive and operational levels, with oversight from Internal Audit, reporting to the Audit and Finance Committee

- periodic review of the charity's strategic risks by the senior executive team
- regular audits undertaken by the Internal Audit function, in addition to statutory annual audits and external audits mandated by institutional funders
- reporting of the results of all internal and external audits to the Audit and Finance Committee, which oversee the implementation of recommendations by the senior executive team
- a dedicated team working to enhance our protocols to ensure that our people, and those we serve and work with, are kept safe and secure. This team also manages and responds to complaints, safeguarding concerns and whistleblowing
- monthly financial reporting, the results of which are reported to and appraised by both the senior executive team and the AFC.

#### **SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

We have identified the following significant risks at an organisational level. The executive monitors specific indicators relating to each risk, and implements specific actions with oversight from Internal Audit, the AFC and the Board of Trustees.

#### Food insecurity

A significant risk to Islamic Relief's operations and potentially also to the fundraising that underpins them has been the sharp increase in food insecurity across the world in 2022. Supply chain and living costs have been adversely affected by global economic stagnation, rising inflation and the effects of the war in Ukraine on the availability of food and fuel.

The impact on Islamic Relief's operations has included:

- rising costs for food items, and for the logistics required to deliver food aid
- increased demand for food and livelihoods support from affected communities both in the southern hemisphere and in traditional fundraising countries, with a significant rise in the use of food banks in the UK
- question marks over some aspects of future project delivery, requiring either additional funds to meet the needs of the affected communities or a reduction in the scope and reach of some programmes
- question marks over the potential to maintain the strong income growth achieved in recent years, as donors see a tightening of disposable income.

We are responding to these challenges in a number of ways:

- reviewing and adjusting the content and size of food packs for seasonal food distributions, to ensure higher costs are factored in while optimising our support for affected communities
- advocacy and fundraising activities internationally and in the UK to raise awareness of global hunger and food insecurity and inspire positive action by policy makers and by institutional and individual donors
- an increased focus on, and resourcing for, domestic food security programmes to meet increased demand from affected communities in traditional fundraising countries, and to ease the hardships of donor communities.

#### Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority for Islamic Relief Worldwide. This year we established a dedicated global team, evidencing the organisational commitment in safeguarding with further plans to expand. Over the past few years, the capacity of safeguarding staff in country offices has continued to improve and evolve.

We implemented an ambitious schedule of bespoke safeguarding and dignity at work training. All country office staff have continued to increase their knowledge and practices around safeguarding particularly around protection from sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment, workplace bullying, welcoming and raising complaints, and how we can best protect vulnerable people from experiencing harm.

Building upon the achievements of a safeguarding programme that built capacity of five country offices in 2020, a subsequent project has replicated its success, building capacity in an additional eight countries. This two-year project to strengthen safeguarding mechanisms continues to build staff capacity around safeguarding, raise community awareness - particularly for those at risk such as people with disabilities - and build engagement with faith leaders to establish a community-led approach to safeguarding. Islamic Relief is developing a new tool to increase awareness of safeguarding amongst children of all ages and abilities in our projects and programmes.

Ongoing, robust safeguarding training is critical in preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. In 2022, 27 specialist safeguarding professionals across the 25 country offices came together to attend a Global Safeguarding Summit in Türkiye. The conference included training and sharing best practice around safeguarding across the wide range of contexts in which we operate.

Our collective efforts to raise awareness and improve reporting mechanisms have contributed to an increase in the number of people coming forward to report concerns. In 2022, the safeguarding team received a total of 42 cases. Of these, 21 related to staff, some of which led to investigations and formal disciplinary action. Nineteen cases related to the community and did not involve Islamic Relief staff, volunteers or representatives. These figures are comparable to cases in 2021, indicating that communities, staff and volunteers trust in our complaints and feedback response mechanisms.

Communities continue to be at the forefront of reporting and preventing cases of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and protecting vulnerable members of their societies. The trust and relationship that communities have with Islamic Relief has led to greater accountability and open dialogue. Islamic Relief continues to adhere to best practice when investigating breaches of safeguarding policies, with the needs of the survivor always at the heart of our response.

#### Cybersecurity

Islamic Relief Worldwide takes cybersecurity and data protection very seriously. We have strong security measures in place to protect our data in a context in which there continues to be a high risk from phishing, malware and ransom attacks across all sectors.

Throughout 2022 we continued to strengthen our security provisions to protect our data and our underlying operating environment. We have seen cybersecurity threats increase in sophistication and number this year, so our approach has been to continually review our defences and the effectiveness of our countermeasures, with particular focus on high-risk assets and data.

As a consequence of our digital transformation programme, IT systems have a significant and increasing importance in the delivery of our mission. We recognise that operations could be adversely affected by IT system outages or by cybersecurity breaches. In this context we continue to train staff in cybersecurity awareness as part of the organisation's mandated annual training programme, and we regularly review our IT and security risk posture at board level.

#### Governance and reputation

Good governance across our global family is essential to fulfil our mission effectively, in alignment with our own values and with the needs and expectations of the communities we serve, our staff, our donors and other stakeholders.

Given the fragile and turbulent international context in which we work, it is essential to maintain high standards in our global governance and sustain momentum in the implementation of progressive governance

reforms. It is also important to be proactive in managing threats to Islamic Relief Worldwide's reputation, and to be open and accountable in providing information and assurances to our key external stakeholders concerning governance and reputational matters.

All Islamic Relief offices continue to enact complementary plans to deliver good governance under the new governance model introduced in 2020, as well as implementing additional governance reform recommendations stemming from the Independent Commission report published in January 2021.

All senior executives and board members of every member entity in the Islamic Relief family are screened using the Refinitiv World Check software favoured by the international finance sector, to ensure we do not engage anyone with links to proscribed entities or individuals on global watch lists. As part of our appointment processes, all senior executives and board members also have their personal social media accounts reviewed by a specialist independent monitoring agency. The agency's reports are shared with our Membership Accreditation Committee, which is empowered to veto appointments if necessary to uphold our values.

In 2022 our International General Assembly, which elects and oversees our Board of Trustees, appointed its first two independent members, identified through competitive public recruitment from a pool of candidates unlinked to any Islamic Relief member entities. In 2023, these independent IGA members will be added to our Board of Trustees after a year's service on the IGA, ensuring that the diversity and wider accountability of the board is further enhanced. All our trustees receive rigorous, bespoke induction and ongoing governance training.

Islamic Relief Worldwide continues to refute false or misleading adverse media reports to protect its own standing and the reputation of its partners. This work involves challenging media outlets to amend or remove false content, or to give Islamic Relief a suitably prominent right of reply, as well as setting the record straight with stakeholders when required.

#### Fraud and corruption

Risk is always present in challenging environments, humanitarian emergencies and other contexts in which Islamic Relief operates – so we must ensure funds and resources are not lost.

Islamic Relief Worldwide therefore continues to develop holistic counter-fraud resilience, which involves nurturing a counter-fraud culture across all Islamic Relief entities. We have recently defined and updated our counter-fraud roles, and are reviewing our strategy and planning to increase resourcing for fraud risk reduction.

Over the past year, we have enhanced our control processes and standardised procurement across country offices. We will audit these to assess their effectiveness.

#### Financial resilience

Islamic Relief continually monitors and responds to financial risks and opportunities, particularly the evolving economic environment in the UK and internationally as this affects the economic outlook for our funders, donors and the communities we serve.

An important part of our financial resilience is maintaining close working relations and communications with our key financial partners, whose expertise and engagement are vital in a global context in which some financial providers choose not to engage with the humanitarian aid sector because of risk concerns that are often misplaced. Another important discipline is continually monitoring our reserves to ensure that we strike the appropriate balance set out in our reserves policy. This requires us to maximise the funding we transfer as swiftly and effectively as possible to programmes delivering our global charitable mission, while maintaining a modest but prudent cushion of operational costs in reserve to absorb any financial shocks and thereby protect our future operations.

In 2022 the economic environment has been one in which sharply rising inflation, increasing costs of food aid and fuel in our aid programme delivery and the impact of cost-of-living challenges on food security and fundraising in our donor communities have all come into sharp focus – see 'the food insecurity' section above for further information.

An important priority financially, operationally and reputationally this year and every year is delivering aid in conflict zones and other complex environments while meeting the often-complex requirements of international sanctions, counter-terrorism regulation and bank compliance regimes. Islamic Relief continues to maintain strong relationships with its financial services providers to help us achieve this, and new partnerships were forged in 2022 to scale up funding for our programmes in Afghanistan in particular vital in a context of severe drought, strict sanctions and economic collapse. Our Treasury team's efforts in this area are supported and enhanced by the knowledge and insight gleaned from Islamic Relief's membership of the UK Home Office's Tri-Sector Group, which brings leading aid agencies, banks and government together to address sanctions challenges and overcome financial hurdles in transferring funds.

# STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (SECR)

This statutory reporting requirement is intended to encourage the implementation of energy efficiency measures, with both economic and environmental benefits, supporting organisations in cutting costs at the same time as reducing carbon emissions.

In 2022, Islamic Relief continued to push for climate justice through our policy, campaigning and advocacy work. Our new Climate Policy endorsed every ethical action to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and restrict the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. We bolstered the case for climate action with research papers detailing how the climate crisis is affecting vulnerable

communities, drawing on our extensive experience helping them adapt – with 17 dedicated projects reaching 456,000 people this year. We take our responsibilities seriously, and so have engaged specialist consultants Enica to determine our carbon footprint. The consultant's findings are set out in the table below.

#### **NARRATIVE TABLE**

[+ve denotes 2022 higher than 2021; -ve denotes 2022 lower than 2021]

	Energy source	SECR 2021 BASE YEAR (01/01/21 - 31/12/21)		SECR 2022 REPORTING YEAR (01/01/22 - 31/12/22)		VARIANCE Base year 2021 less 2022 [+ve denotes reduction -ve denotes increase]		
SECR Scope No.		Energy (kWh/yr)	Emissions (tCO <sup>2</sup> e/yr)	Energy (kWh/yr)	Emissions (tCO <sup>2</sup> e/yr)	Energy (kWh/yr)	Emissions (tCO <sup>2</sup> e/yr)	Emission (%) against base year total
Scope 1	Natural gas	354,502	64,9	366,426	66.9	-11,924	-2.0	-0.5%
Scope 2	Grid electric	568,337	120.7	628,164	121.8	-59,827	-1.1	-0.3%
Scope 1	Transport (Islamic Relief owned)	641,961	151.5	576,276	143.2	65,585	8.3	2.1%
Scope 3	Transport (business travel in rented or fuel paid by Islamic Relief Worldwide to employee-owned vehicles i.e. grey mileage)	33,190	6.6	79,168	18.8	-45,978	-12.2	· -3.1%
Scope 3	Public rail and air travel (without RF³)		44.0		-12.7		31.3	8.1%
_	Grand total	1,597,989	387.6	1,650,134	363.4	-52,145	24.2	6.2%
•	Annual income/Turnover <sup>1</sup>		£183,751,173		£234,180,000			

Intensity Ratio i.e. KPI 2

£183,751,173

£234,180,000

#### Note

#### Methodology

The methodology used was in accordance with the UK Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines (March 2019). The Department for Agriculture and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) kgCO2e conversion factors for 2022 were used for converting energy (kWh) to tCO2e.

In the UK Islamic Relief has 24 sites – including shops and a factory – as well as transport. The energy consumption data for gas and electricity was taken from the main billing meters across all the sites. CO2 emissions from all modes of transport used by the charity have also been included in this exercise and cover:

- Islamic Relief owned transport (cars and vans)
- 'grey mileage' from rented cars and vans and staff using their own vehicles on organisational business
- public transport; including flights to and from the UK.

#### **Energy management**

Islamic Relief has made significant changes in the way our offices operate, with hybrid working at all our major office sites requiring colleagues to attend only six days per month. When staff want or need to work from the office at other times, we provide desks in reserved areas in which we carefully control the heating and lighting. We have made only limited investment in our head office, since we are planning to move to a new site, the renovation of which was delayed by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, across all our sites we take care to ensure we provide a safe working environment while limiting consumption as much as possible by closely monitoring our energy and water usage. To ensure we record energy usage correctly, we are installing smart meters across our sites.

There were no further capital investments made since the last SECR 2020 report. Other energy saving technologies are being incorporated in the new building, Trafalgar House. No other estate site changes were declared.

The TIC International Plant was responsible for recycling 1,931 tonnes of clothing and shoes in 2022. As well as generating an income for Islamic Relief, this activity supported our sustainability objectives and prevented items going to landfill. Islamic Relief is committed to climate sustainable interventions in numerous countries. This includes interventions such as introducing solar energy to generate electricity for businesses, allowing more land to be irrigated or women-led businesses to stay open longer; providing environmentally friendly fuel and stoves; and promoting efficient agricultural practises such as half moon agriculture. There are examples of such projects throughout this Annual Report, particularly pages 33-35, and within our Climate Policy, which is available on our

TIC's key role is generating income for Islamic Relief, to support our programmes and our journey towards Net-Zero, by performing a valuable environmental service in recycling clothing that may otherwise end up in landfills and harming the environment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This income in **Em** is used to calculate the KPI

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Intensity ratio or KPI is the grand total of tCO 2e/yr + Annual UK income (£m) <sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> RF = Atmospheric Radiative Force. OnlyCO2 data available

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Islamic Relief set out our financial performance in 2022 and the review of our position at the end of the year, but our charitable activities do not end at the financial year end: we continue our programmes to support vulnerable people. In the final month of 2022, we secured significant contributions for the 2023 pipeline of funding projects, achieving a high level of liquidity, boosting our cash held.

Earlier sections of this report illustrate Islamic Relief's response to humanitarian disasters, delivering ongoing support to families suffering in the aftermath of the Pakistan floods and the displacement and hunger crisis in Afghanistan. Our financial position also enabled us to respond swiftly when earthquakes devastated communities in Türkiye and Syria.

Islamic Relief continually manages our financial risk and reserves, including assessing going concern, to achieve our mission.

### Financial performance

#### **INCOME AND FUNDRAISING**

Islamic Relief generates income primarily from three sources:

- donations, legacies and other fundraising activities (raising restricted and unrestricted income) generated by Islamic Relief member offices
- grants secured from institutions and other significant donors from across the globe to fund specific projects (restricted funding can range from short-term humanitarian interventions to longer-term development programmes)
- earned income through our trading subsidiaries (TIC International, whose primary activity is generating income through clothes recycling) and investment returns generated through investments and our investment vehicle, the International Waqf Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and funders, in 2022, our total income increased by 28 per cent to £234 million (2021: £183 million).

Islamic Relief is grateful for the donors and funders in the UK and globally, who contribute to Islamic Relief member offices, enabling them to fund an increasing number of vital projects. The growth areas for income generation have been across the UK, North America and Europe.

Grants from institutions and other major donors have increased compared to prior years and reflect Islamic Relief's enhanced engagement with institutions and other significant donors, and our efforts to empower poorer communities. We continue to monitor the ongoing global economic impact of the Ukraine crisis, the rising cost of living and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Funding from Islamic Relief member offices remained the most significant stream, at £145 million (2021: £123 million). This included income to fund critical projects from Islamic Relief offices across North America and the UK, which includes support for our Pakistan flood response.

Our UK donors continue to demonstrate their generosity, with committed giving and responses to appeals increasing despite the economic impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. The 2022 financial year ended with Islamic Relief collaborating with the DEC and fellow member agencies in a joint appeal for the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and starting 2023 by partnering on the humanitarian response to the Türkiye - Syria earthquakes.

#### **EXPENDITURE**

Islamic Relief's expenditure falls into three main categories:

- charitable activities: the costs associated with implementing programmes across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere
- fundraising and advocacy (communication) costs. As well as directly supporting vulnerable people, Islamic Relief seeks to support change and achieve the wider United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 by amplifying the voices of those we
- support costs, which include ensuring effective governance, people, policies and systems to support frontline delivery to vulnerable people and other stakeholders, and the efficiency and effectiveness with which we honour the donations entrusted to us.

Total charitable expenditure increased to £174 million from £157 million in 2021, which has allowed us to reach 17.3 million vulnerable people globally. Our most significant spend was on humanitarian programmes, with £113 million (2021: £84 million) spent responding to many prolonged and complex humanitarian disasters, including in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and East Africa.

Beyond humanitarian response, Islamic Relief brings about long-term change, empowering communities and individuals to be self-sufficient. A flagship programme continues to be our 'Caring for Children and Orphans,' with Islamic Relief investing £33 million (2021: £34 million) to achieve long-term and short-term benefits for vulnerable families.

Other long-term programmes aimed at achieving social change include spending £12 million (2021: £18 million) to give communities access to healthcare and water and £4 million (2021: £4 million) on supporting education.

'Sustainable livelihoods' programming builds financial inclusion in low-income countries, so poorer people can become financially self-sufficient. In 2022 our microfinance programmes supported 43,500 people living in poverty, with £10 million (2021: £13 million) invested into this programme.

As always, the expenditure detailed above has been in accordance with our donors' wishes as per the campaigns they have supported. Further details are available in notes 9 and 10.

### **Trading activities**

#### TIC

TIC International Ltd (TIC) is a wholly owned subsidiary that undertakes the trading activities of clothes recycling and manages a network of charity shops.

TIC's key role is generating income for Islamic Relief to support our programmes and our journey towards Net-Zero by performing a valuable environmental service in recycling clothing that may otherwise end up in landfills and harming the environment.

Beyond TIC's business activities, over the past decades it has played a crucial role in the Midlands, UK in employing local communities and support networks across its workforce. This has resulted in the long-term impact of economic progress for its workforce, as their children achieve further education and enhanced employment.

In 2022, 1,931 tonnes of unwanted clothing (2021: 1,518 tonnes) were converted into either income through re-selling quality clothing through Islamic Relief shops or recycling to generate profits to fund Islamic Relief humanitarian projects. This raised £242,000 (2021: £78,000), thanks to TIC's dedicated staff, who rose to the economic outlook challenges in the UK.

#### INTERNATIONAL WAQF FUND

We established the International Waqf Fund (IWF) to support Islamic Relief investments' long-term financial sustainability in generating social impact returns. This is known as waqf in Islamic terminology. Impact investments such as waqf reduce the dependency on donations and grants by generating an annual yield that is used to fund our programming.

IWF seeks to raise contributions to its waqf fund towards the goal set by the donor, with the donation achieving ongoing impact, year after year, into perpetuity.

The IWF Board of Trustees recognises that with all investments, it is crucial to manage risks and ensure that investment management capability, the purpose of deployment and impact, and effective administration and investment readiness are in place. The IWF endowments fund is at £1.7 million in 2022 (2021: £1.1 million).

#### **ENDOWMENTS**

Islamic Relief Worldwide continues to hold endowments that are invested in UK property. Returns from these investments are used for our humanitarian and development social impact programmes, as specified by the donors. Due to ongoing waqf donations and investment returns, the endowment fund grew to £8.4 million (2021: £8.3 million).

## FINANCIAL RESULTS AND CLOSING RESERVES

Islamic Relief reported a surplus of £40.9 million in 2022 (2021: £9.4 million). This is made up of unrestricted reserves of £4.9 million (2021: £1.6 million) and restricted funds of £35.9 million (2021: £7 million) with an endowment fund of £0.5 million (2021: £0.7 million).

Restricted reserves include funds secured for ongoing programmes into 2023 and beyond, and those secured for the 2023 pipeline of programmes.

Unrestricted funds include income generated from our general income generation activities through general fundraising activities and income earned by our trading subsidiaries. This funds Islamic Relief's operating and programme support costs.

#### RESERVES POLICY

Islamic Relief's unrestricted reserves on 31 December 2022 were £19.2 million (2021: £14.4 million). This includes funds designated to fund Islamic Relief's ongoing programmes. The free reserves are £17 million (2021: £8.7 million), representing eight months of operational budget. Total reserves are £110 million (2021: £69m), representing £82 million in restricted funds - the increase is funding for pipeline projects that will continue in 2023, and funds expensed. Endowment funds of £8.4 million (2021: £8.3 million) are invested in our property portfolio that generates a return.

#### We hold free reserves to:

- provide continuity to the people we help by protecting against unforeseen project expenditure due to the inherent risk of the VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) environment in which we operate, to manage economic and foreign exchange volatility as well as income fluctuations
- provide working capital and manage the seasonality of income generation for the effective running of the charity
- enable Islamic Relief to invest in unforeseen funding and growth opportunities for the benefit of our stakeholders and the vulnerable people we serve, subject to the Board of Trustees' approval.

The Board of Trustees and the Audit and Finance Committee annually review the reserves policy and the target for unrestricted reserves. The Board of Trustees and Audit and Finance Committee reviews the effectiveness of holding these funds by considering liquidity, security and investment risk.

The Board considers the level of free reserves remains an appropriate target considering Islamic Relief's size, operations and the financial risks to which it is exposed. The Board has reviewed the Reserves Policy post-financial year-end and considered future activities.

#### **GOING CONCERN**

The Board of Trustees has assessed Islamic Relief Worldwide's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees have considered numerous factors when concluding whether the organisation continues to be a going concern and have also considered the key risks, including the ongoing cost of delivery, rising costs and inflation, and the cost-of-living crisis that could negatively impact the charity.

The critical risk in our financial model is a fall in income and our ability to deliver charitable activities, leading to the lower recovery of core costs. We are mitigating the risk of lower core costs through a revised business model agreed upon with Islamic Relief family members and are identifying forward-thinking initiatives to mitigate further. The Islamic Relief Family Council has set up a multi-stakeholder Business Model Committee, which oversees the business model.

Our unrestricted core income is funded by fundraising and income-generation activities. Despite the ongoing geo-political and economic impacts, our financial results continue to see signs of generous giving by our donors, who continue to support generously across the UK, North America and Europe. This has led to a further record £234 million raised in total income.

Our pipeline for 2023 projects is already secured. It continues to be very healthy, with an influx of £68 million of cash into our bank accounts in December 2022 for 2023, enabling us to plan for the coming year with more certainty. We have repaid our bank loan, and no bank borrowings are required. Scenario planning has taken place, and worst-case scenarios have been considered, with a headroom reduction of 40 per cent factored in.

We have begun our new 10-year strategy, supported by a financial plan and our work to positively impact climate change and Net-Zero initiatives.

After considering these factors, the Board of Trustees has concluded that the charity remains a robust going concern and has adequate resources to continue delivering for the foreseeable future. The Board has therefore prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

As March

Dr Ihab M. H. Saad

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Islamic Relief Worldwide

Date: 31 May 2023

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Islamic Relief Worldwide (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2022, which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account, Parent Charitable Company Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account, the Group and Charity Balance Sheets, the Group Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102; The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state
  of the group's and parent charitable
  company's affairs as at 31 December
  2022 and of the group and parent
  charitable company's incoming
  resources and application of resources,
  including its income and expenditure
  for the year then ended
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

#### **Basis for opinion**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going

In our evaluation of the trustees' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the group's and parent charitable company's business model including effects arising from macroeconomic uncertainties such as the cost of living crisis, we assessed and challenged the reasonableness of estimates made by the trustees and the related disclosures and analysed how those risks might affect the group's and parent charitable company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Strategic Report and the Directors' report, prepared for the purposes of company law, included in the Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report included in the Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# MATTER ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or the Directors' Report included in the Annual Report.

# MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper and adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us: or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 60, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

# AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the group and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), Data Protection Act 2018 and The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016
- We understood how the group is complying with these legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries of management and those charged with governance. We enquired of management and those charged with governance whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, or whether they had any knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. We corroborated the results of our enquiries through our review of board and other minutes and through our legal and professional expenses review;

- We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur and the risk of material override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:
  - identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of certain controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud
  - challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting policies
  - identifying and testing journal entries, with a focus on unusual journals with specific risk characteristics and large value journals
  - identifying and testing related party transactions
  - inspecting the board and other committee minutes
  - assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.
- These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it
- The assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's:

- understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
- · knowledge of the charity sector
- understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the group including:
  - the provisions of the applicable legislation
  - guidance issued by the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.
- The team communications in respect of potential non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations included the potential for fraud in revenue through manipulation of income and management override of controls
- In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:
  - the group's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
  - the group's control environment, including:
    - the policies and procedures implemented by the group to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework and relevant laws and regulations
    - the adequacy of procedures for authorisation of transactions and review of management accounts
    - procedures to ensure that possible breaches of laws and regulations are appropriately resolved.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc. org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **USE OF OUR REPORT**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

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William Devitt FCA
Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP
Statutory Auditor, Chartered Accountants
Birmingham

Date: 31 May 2023

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022**

# Group statement of financial activities and income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowments	Total	Total	
Income and endowments from:	funds £'000	funds £'000	funds £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	Notes
Donations and legacies	13,377	186,384	399	200,160	166,893	2
Other trading activities	3,788	-	-	3,788	3,518	3
Investments	-	-	554	554	536	4
Charitable activities	-	29,678	-	29,678	11,993	5
Total	17,165	216,062	953	234,180	182,940	
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	14,915	-	14,915	12,770	10a
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other cost	3,546	-	-	3,546	3,095	10a
Investment management cost	-	-	424	424	456	10a
Charitable activities	9,161	165,177	-	174,338	157,216	10a
Total	12,707	180,092	424	193,223	173,537	
Net income	4,458	35,970	529	40,957	9,403	
Transfers between funds	443	-	(443)			26
Subsidiary funds brought forward on consolidation	5	-	-	5	10 ·	
Net movement on funds	4,906	35,970	86	40,962	9,413	
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	14,370	46,488	8,391	69,249	59,836	
Total funds carried forward	19,276	82,458	8,477	110,211	69,249	

# Parent charitable company statement of financial activities and income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2022

Income and endowments from:  Donations and legacies Investments Charitable activities  Total	Unrestricted funds £'000 13,609 -	Restricted funds £'000 186,386 - 29,678 216,064	Endowments funds £'000  - 140	Total 2022 £'000 199,995 140 29,678 229,813	Total 2021 £'000 166,192 536 11,994	Notes 2 4 5
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	14,915	-	14,915	12,769	10a
Investment management cost	-	-	55	55	89	10a
Charitable activities	9,161	165,177	-	174,338	157,215	10a
Total	9,161	180,092	55	189,308	170,073	
Net income	4,448	35,972	85	40,505	8,649	
Subsidiary funds brought forward on consolidation	5	_	-	5	10	
Net movement on funds	4,453	35,972	85	40,510	8,659	
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	12,838	46,489	8,392	67,719	59,060	
Total funds carried forward	17,291	82,461	8,477	108,229	67,719	

# Group and charity balance sheets as at 31 December 2022

	2022 total funds		2021 total funds		
Fixed assets	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Notes
Intangible assets	£ 000 856	856	9	9	13
-			·	·	
Tangible assets	8,391	8,157	8,173	7,994	14,15
Investments	169	1,045	169	1,045	16
Total fixed assets	9,416	10,058	8,351	9,048	
Current assets					
Stocks and work in progress	127	-	127	-	17
Debtors due within one year	18,201	18,072	7,199	6,780	18
Cash at bank and in hand	125,120	124,336	92,687	92,054	19
Total current assets	143,448	142,408	100,013	98,834	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within					
one year	42,653	44,237	35,615	36,663	20
Net current assets	100,795	98,171	64,398	62,171	
Total assets less current liabilities	110,211	108,229	72,749	71,219	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	_	_	3,500	3,500	
Total net assets	110,211	108,229	69,249	67,719	
Total funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds general	19,276	17,291	14,370	12,838	
Restricted income funds	82,458	82,461	46,488	46,489	26 -
Endowment funds	8,477	8,477	8,391	8,392	27
Total funds	110,211	108,229	69,249	67,719	

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Dr Ihab M.H. Saad

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Islamic Relief Worldwide

Date: 31 May 2023

# Group cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net income for the reporting period as per the statement of financial activities (excluding cash flow from endowments)	40,871	9,063
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	393	361
Impairment Loss	-	1,430
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	-	58
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(11,002)	(238)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	3,537	11,006
(Gains)/Loss on foreign exchange	4,266	(2,640)
Net cash provided by operating activities	38,065	19,040
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of intangibles	(847)	•
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(587)	(391)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	(17)	28
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(1,451)	(363)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Endowment (waqf)	85	351
Net cash provided by financing activities	85	351
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	36,699	19,028
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	92,687	71,019
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	(4,266)	2,640
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	125,120	92,687
Consisting of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	125,120	92,687.

# **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **COMPANY STATUS**

Islamic Relief Worldwide is a charitable company limited by guarantee, without share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles originally dated 14 March 1989 and amended as a Memorandum of Association on 9 August 2010 and the Objects amended on 16 March 2020. The company was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 6 April 1989. The Principal Address and Registered Office is 19 Rea Street South, Birmingham B5 6LB. Islamic Relief Worldwide is considered to be a public benefit entity.

# 1. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### a. Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 FRS 102 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended 2014). The subsidiaries consolidated into these financial statements have produced their financial statements to 31 December 2022.

#### b. Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements as outlined in the Financial Review. Assessments for Going Concern include long term cash flow forecasts and scenario planning.

Our pipeline for 2023 projects is already secured. It continues to be very healthy, with an influx of £68 million of cash into our bank accounts in December 2022 for 2023, enabling us to plan for the coming year with more certainty. We have repaid our bank loan, and no bank borrowings are required. Scenario planning has taken place, and worst-case scenarios have been considered, with a headroom reduction of 40 per cent factored in.

# c. Consolidation and group financial statements

The group financial statements consolidate those of Islamic Relief Worldwide, its trading subsidiary TIC International Limited, registered in England and Wales (company registration number: 2796175, 100 per cent shareholding) and the charity International Waqf Fund, a limited company by guarantee (company registration number: 8612172, registered charity number: 1162805). The results of TIC International Limited and International Waqf Fund have been incorporated on a line-by-line basis, in accordance with current legislation.

Islamic Relief Worldwide also controls Islamic Relief UK (company registration number: 5483053). It is registered in England and Wales and during the year the company remained dormant.

Note 7 gives the full details of the income and expenditure of the trading subsidiaries.

#### d. Fund accounting Unrestricted funds:

All donations are considered unrestricted unless specifically stated by the donor. Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated surplus or deficit on the statement of financial activities which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees of Islamic Relief Worldwide in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

**Restricted funds**: These are assigned by the donor, or the terms of the appeal, specified by a particular country or project. The donation and income deriving from them will be used in accordance with the specific purposes.

Endowment (waqf) funds: These are funds that have been given to Islamic Relief Worldwide subject to the restriction that they are to be held as capital or spent on a long-term charitable asset. Waqf is employed to generate a return while the original investment remains intact. Waqf returns are used to cater for long-term projects. Waqf is the Islamic equivalent of endowments.

# e. Incoming resources and investment income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

**Donations:** This comprises all incoming resources from donations and income from fundraising partners on the basis

of that which is remitted to Islamic Relief Worldwide in the UK.

Charitable income: Where related to performance and specific deliverables these are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Other trading activities: This comprises income generated by TIC International Limited from its trading activities, its charity shops and the sale of merchandise.

Investment income: This comprises income generated by waqf investment and rents receivable. Income generated from waqf forms part of the endowment funds.

#### f. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay. Expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category.

Costs of generating funds: These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and those as stated below under the headings 'Costs of generating voluntary income' and 'Fundraising trading'.

Costs of generating voluntary income: The costs incurred in seeking voluntary contributions.

Fundraising trading: This comprises the group's trading activities, namely the costs associated with the trading activities of TIC International Limited.

Charitable activities: These are costs associated with the provision of humanitarian relief and development programmes as elaborated on in the trustees' report section, 'Our global reach.' These include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.

Governance costs: These are costs associated with the governance arrangements of Islamic Relief Worldwide. Included within this category are strategic costs as opposed to the day-to-day management of Islamic Relief Worldwide's activities.

Support costs: Support costs for a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Where support costs relate to several activities, support costs have been allocated to each of the activities (stated in Note 10) on the basis of the number of direct staff supported during the period in the relevant activity.

Governance support costs are allocated on the basis of support activities provided on clearly interpreted governance matters.

Investment management cost: This incorporates costs related to the administration of waqf and costs relating to the promotion of the concept of waqf from unrestricted funds; therefore, this element is not charged to capital.

#### g. Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income as incurred.

#### h. Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated using the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date, and the gains or losses are included in the income and expenditure account. Foreign exchange gains and losses incurred in respect of humanitarian projects overseas are included in the charitable activities expenditure.

The company's functional and presentational currency is GBP.

#### i. Fixed assets and depreciation.

Except for items costing below £500, which are expensed on acquisition, all expenditure of a capital nature is capitalised.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their residual values, over their expected useful lives using the straight-line basis.

The expected useful lives of the assets to the business are reassessed periodically in the light of experience:

- freehold buildings over 50 years straight-line basis
- fixtures and fittings over four years straight-line basis
- office equipment over four years straight-line basis
- motor vehicles over five years straightline basis
- plant and machinery over eight years straight-line basis
- depreciation is not charged on land.

#### j. Intangibles

Intangible assets represent the organisation's registered trademarks. They are stated at cost, less any impairment loss. The useful life of the trademark is estimated to be 10 years. They are amortised and tested for impairment annually where indicators of impairment are identified.

#### k. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes noninterest-bearing accounts held at call with banks, and cash at hand. Cash equivalents includes monies deposited for less than 120 days or available within a 120-day notice period, without interest penalty.

Much of our pipeline for 2023 projects is already secured and continues to be very healthy with an influx of £68 million of cash into our bank accounts from October to December 2022 for 2023.

#### l. Stocks

Stocks and Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. In respect of work in progress and finished goods, cost includes a relevant proportion of overheads according to the state of completion.

#### m. Investments

Investments consist of unlisted investments, subsidiary undertakings, and property. Investments in shares are included at fair value. Investment property is included at market fair value. Gains are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### n. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value.

#### o.Debtors

Debtors are measured at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered.

#### p. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### q. Taxation

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from taxation of its income and gains to the extent they fall within the charity exemptions in the Corporation Taxes Act 2010 or Section 256 Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

The company is unable to recover Value Added Taxation charged on its purchases which is included in the related expense or asset in the accounts.

#### r. Volunteers

Islamic Relief Worldwide appreciates the hard work and dedication of its volunteers across the world. Almost 1,000 volunteers engaged in a number of activities including campaigning and domestic programmes. The contribution of volunteers is not recognised in the accounts as it is impractical to value given the absence of a reliable measurement basis.

#### Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Preparation of the financial statements requires management to make significant judgements and estimates.

Significant judgements: There are no significant judgements having a material effect on the financial statements.

**Significant estimates:** There are no significant estimates having a material effect on the financial statements.

#### Non-exchange transaction

The trading subsidiary's (TIC International) donated goods for sale in the shops and in the recycling operation are measured at sales prices when sold.

Estimating the fair value of donated goods for resale is considered impractical because of the volume of low value items received, the absence of detailed stock control systems in the shops and market factors.

# 2. Donations and legacies

Donations, appeals and fundraising events	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Endowment funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Notes
United Kingdom*	11,954	32,294	-	44,248	37,583	
Islamic Relief members	904	144,555	-	145,459	122,686	6
Network resource development**	519	8,205	399	9,123	5,701	
Disasters Emergency Committee***	-	1,330	-	1,330	923	
Total	13,377	186,384	399	200,160	166,893	

<sup>\*</sup> Figure includes:

£154,494 of Aid Match funding from the Foreign,
Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), for a longterm development project in Ethiopia. The project aims to
reduce vulnerability and strengthen the capacity of pastoralist
households to withstand drought shock.

Gift Aid tax recovered on donations made by UK taxpayers.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Network resource development includes countries in the Middle East and Emerging Markets in which Islamic Relief does not have a permanent presence.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) is an umbrella organisation of 14 humanitarian aid agencies, including Islamic Relief, that work together in times of crisis. For further information, visit www.dec.org.uk

# 3. Other trading activities

Trading subsidiaries	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
TIC Income from charitable shops	1,404	960
Clothes recycling income	2,384	2,558
Total	3,788	3,518

# 4. Investments

•	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Return on waqf	554	536
Total	554	536

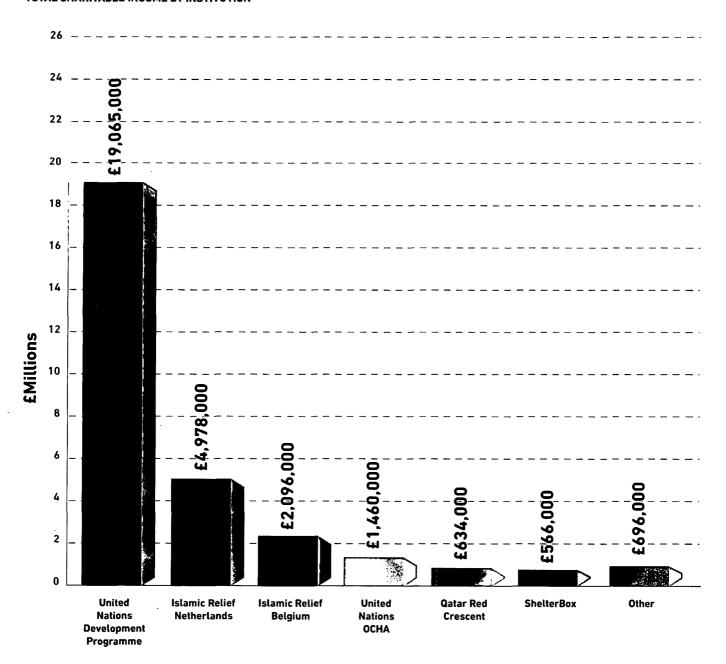
Return on waqf represents the income generated by investments made using waqf (endowment) assets.

# 5. Charitable income by institution

· Mana	Protecting life and dignity 2022	Empowering communities 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
Name	£,000	£.000	£'000	£'000
United Nations Development Programme	20	19,045	19,065	1,003
Islamic Relief Netherlands	2,164	2,814	4,978	4,557
Islamic Relief Belgium	1,221	875	2,096	2,333
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA)	896	. 564	1,460	1,172
Qatar Red Crescent	634	-	634	-
ShelterBox	566	-	566	-
Islamic Development Bank	38	340	378	474
Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri Charity – Kuwait	60	13	73	213
CARE Deutschland (CARE Germany)	65	-	65	-
World Vision UK	44	•	44	-
Finn Church Aid	26	-	26	18
UNAIDS	20		20	-
United Nations Population Fund	-	20	20	-
United Nations Office for Project Services	-	18	18	20
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	18		18	99
Qawafil for Relief & Development	14	-	14	56
Royal Netherlands Embassy	-	12	12	-
Oxfam	9	-	9	-
Plan International	4	•	4	-
Save the Children	3	-	3	429
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	-	-	-	165
Kuwait Zakat House	-	-	-	139
Qatar Charity	-	-	-	137
International Islamic Charitable Organisation Kuwait	-	-	-	18
Salam Organisation for Humanitarian & Charitable Activities	-	-	•	14
United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)	-	-	-	368
Stichting Zoa	-	-	• _	120
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	-	-	-	96
World Vision Germany	-	-	-	90
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	_	-	-	87
US Agency for International Development	-	-	_	57
United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS	-	-	_	19
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	_	_	_	1
Subtotal	E 002	22 701	20 502	
	5,802	23,701	29,503	11,685
In-kind donations	. = -			
Qatar Charity	175	-	175	308
Total in-kind donations	175	-	175	308
Total (including in-kind donations)	5,97 <i>7</i>	23,701	29,678	11,993

# 5. Charitable income by institution (continued)

#### **TOTAL CHARITABLE INCOME BY INSTITUTION**



# 6. Donations disclosure by member

	Protecting life and dignity 2022	Empowering communities 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
Name	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Islamic Relief USA	35,819	31,181	67,000	54,388
Islamic Relief Canada	18,786	18,332	37,118	29,833
Islamic Relief Sweden	8,455	5,311	13,766	14,024
Islamic Relief Germany	8,603	4,728	13,331	11,227
Islamic Relief Switzerland	2,716	2,759	5,475	4,702
Islamic Relief South Africa	1,161	2,019	3,180	3,352
Islamic Relief Australia	956	819	1,775	1,355
Islamic Relief Mauritius*	393	757	1,150	1,062
Islamic Relief Malaysia	585	201	786	758
Islamic Relief Ireland	198	328	526	615
Islamic Relief Bosnia and Herzegovina	586	5	591	531
Islamic Relief Spain	183	182	365	367
Islamic Relief Italy	164	76	240	316
Islamic Relief Norway	119	37	156	156
Total	78,724	66,735	145,459	122,686

All members are separate legal entities reporting locally in their respective countries. These amounts represent those transmitted to Islamic Relief Worldwide to be applied to Islamic Relief Worldwide projects.

\*Islamic Relief Mauritius is incorporated as a branch of Islamic Relief Worldwide with local directors appointed to oversee operations, and its transactions and balances are included within the accounts of Islamic Relief Worldwide.

# 7. Results from trading subsidiaries

	TIC International Limited £'000	International Waqf Fund £'000	Total 2022 £'000	TIC International Limited <b>£'000</b>	International Waqf Fund <b>£'000</b>	Total 2021 <b>£'000</b>
Subsidiary trading income	2,384	1,029	3,413	2,558	764	3,322
Income from charitable shops managed by TIC International Limited	1.404	_	1,404	960	_	960
Total	3,788	1,029	4,817	3,518	764	4,282
Operating and administrative costs	3,546	369	3,915	3,096	368	3,464
Net profit for the year	242	660	902	422	396	818
Amounts gift aided to Islamic Relief Worldwide Retained in subsidiary	454 -	- 659	454 659	78 344	- 396	78 740
The assets and liabilities of subsidiaries were:	the					
Fixed assets	230	3	233	174	3	177
Current assets	1,013	1,630	2,643	1,313	1,110	2,423
Current liabilities	(139)	124	(15)	(176)	(14)	(190)
Total net assets	1,104	1,757	2,861	1,311	1,099	2,410
Aggregate share capital and reserves	1,104	1,757	2,861	1,311	1,099	2,410

In 2022 a Gift Aid payment of £453,846 (2021: £78,459) was received from TIC International Ltd representing the taxable profits generated by the company in 2021.

### 8. Governance

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £'000	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £'000
External audit and statutory		
accounts	118	98
Legal and consultancy	210	177
Trustee expenses and board		
meeting costs	42	7
Internal audit	355	330
Total	725	612

# 9. Trustees' remuneration

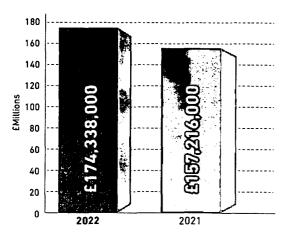
Trustee expenses and board meeting costs	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Meetings	6	1
Travel	35	6
Telecommunications	1	-
Total	42	7
The number of trustees claiming expenses	7	7

Apart from expenses, trustees are not remunerated. Neither the trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration, either in the current year or the prior year.

# 10a. Total resources expended

Costs of generating funds	Total support costs 2022 £'000	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Fundraising and publicity costs	2,696	10,347	13,043	11,180
Campaigns and events costs:			•	
Humanitarian	307	1,413	1,720	1,457
Empowering communities	22	101	123	104
Campaigning for change	3	12	15	12
Generating funds -branch	-	14	14	17
Total costs of generating voluntary income	3,028	11,887	14,915	12,770
Fundraising trading – subsidiary costs	369	3,177	3,546	3,095
Investment management costs	55	369	424	456
Total	3,452	15,433	18,885	16,321
Cost of charitable activities				
Campaigning for change	322	1,628	1,950	2,014
Humanitarian .	239	112,213	112,452	84,021
Empowering communities				
- Healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene	870	10,833	11,703	18,291
- Caring for orphans and children	206	33,124	33,330	34,483
- Supporting education	435	3,646	4,081	4,928
- Livelihoods support	438	10,384	10,822	13,479
Total	2,510	171,828	174,338	157,216
Total resources expended	5,962	187,261	193,223	173,537

#### **TOTAL COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**



Costs for campaigns, events and generating funds relate both to the UK and to support for the operations of international family members and emerging geographical markets in these areas. There is a collaborative approach to supporting family members, coordinating with them to ensure cost effectiveness globally. In this context the activities covered include media relations and social media engagement, stakeholder communications, advocacy campaigns, fundraising appeal preparation and communication costs. In 2022, the total cost of this activity by Islamic Relief Worldwide for its own purposes and to support the global family was £18 million (2021: £16 million).

# 10b. Support costs

Costs of generating funds	Costs of generating voluntary income £'000	Fundraising trading subsidiary costs £'000	Investment management costs £'000	Cost of charitable activities £'000	Total costs 2022 £'000	Total costs 2021 £'000
Subsidiary	-	369	-	-	369	290
Management and administration	1,038	-	19	860	1,917	1,558
Finance	296	-	5	246	547	547
Human resources	347	-	6	288	641	551
Information technology	765	-	14	634	1,413	1,178
Facilities	582	-	11	482	1,075	2,440
Total	3,028	369	55	2,510	5,962	6,564

Support costs have been allocated to each of the above activities on the basis of the number of direct staff supported during the period in the relevant activity. Governance support costs are allocated on the basis of support activities provided on clearly interpreted governance matters.

# 11. Net incoming resources

This is stated after charging/(crediting): Auditor's remuneration including non-audit	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
	393	361
Depreciation	373	301
Operating leases rental other than plant and machinery	295	295
Exchange (gain)/loss	(4,266)	2,640
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fees payable to company's auditor for the		
audit of the company's annual accounts	80	72
Fees payable to company's auditor for the audit of the company's subsidiaries pursuant		
to legislation	15	13
Tax compliance/advisory	23	13
Total fees	118	98

### 12. Staff costs and emoluments

Gross salaries Employer's National Insurance Employer's pension <b>Total</b>	Group 2022 £'000 14,756 1,197 792 16,745	Group 2021 £'000 12,958 1,041 734 14,732	
Average number of employees	Group 2022 Number	Group 2021 Number	Employee numbers do not
Engaged in raising funds	244	224	include trustees as they are
Engaged in charitable activities	123	124	not paid employees, and
Engaged in support activities	102	100	also do not include staff employed by Islamic Relief
Total	469	448	affiliates.
	2022	2021	
The number of employees with emoluments between £60,000 to £70,000 per annum	2	3	
The number of employees with emoluments between £70,000 to £80,000 per annum	1	2	
The number of employees with emoluments between £80,000 to £90,000 per annum	3	3	
The number of employees with emoluments between £90,000 to £100,000 per annum	3	1	

Total redundancies for the year ended 31 December 2022: Nil (2021: Nil)

#### Key management remuneration

Executive management team remuneration during the year totalled £880,068 (2021: £839,205).

Chief Executive Officer remuneration during the year totalled £96,261 (2021:£97,982).

Aggregate pension contribution included in total remuneration figure £67,673 (2021: 64,114).

Chief Executive Officer Aggregate pension contribution included in Chief Executive Officer remuneration figure £11,551 (2021: £9,359).

	Gross	Employer's National	Employer's	
	salaries	Insurance	pension	
Analysis of key management remuneration	£,000	£,000	£'000	
2022	724,540	87,855	67,673	
2021	693,750	81,341	64,114	

The key management personnel consist of the CEO and eleven executive directors in 2021.

The key management personnel consist of the CEO and nine executive directors in 2022. This reflects starters and leavers in the year, there are seven executive roles.

There were no Other Benefits received by key management and no salary for any individual exceeded £100,000 in 2022.

# 13. Intangible assets: Group and Charity

Group trademarks	2022 £'000
Cost	
At 1 January 2022	188
Additions	847
At 31 December 2022	1,035
	•
Accumulated amortisation	
At 1 January 2022	(179)
Charge for the year	-
At 31 December 2022	. (179)
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	856
At 31 December 2021	9

Trademarks are depreciated over their economic life of 10 years.

# 14. Group tangible assets

Group	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost/valuation	11//	624	4,427	251	16,746
At 1 January 2022	11,444		·		
Additions	162	16	404	5	587
Disposals	-	-	(6)	(50)	(56)
At 31 December 2022	11,606	640	4,825	206	17,277
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 January 2022	3,799	608	3,932	228	8,567
Charge for the year	151	7	232	2	392
Disposals	-	-	(23)	(50)	(73)
At 31 December 2022	3,950	615	4,141	180	8,886
Net book value					
At 31 December 2022	7,656	25	684	26	8,391
At 31 December 2021	7,645	16	495	17	8,173

Freehold property is valued at historical cost and depreciated. Freehold properties include properties held by Islamic Relief Worldwide for its own use and that of its trading subsidiary.

# 15. Charity tangible assets

	Freehold land and	Fixtures, fittings and	Motor	
Charity	buildings £'000	office equipment £'000	vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 January 2022	11,224	4,257	135	15,616
Additions	119	403	-	522
Disposals	-	(6)	-	(6)
At 31 December 2022	11,343	4,654	135	16,132
,				
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	3,651	3,846	123	7,620
Charge for the year	145	231	2	378
Disposals	-	(23)	-	(23)
At 31 December 2022	3,796	4,054	125	7,975
Net book value			•	
At 31 December 2022	7,547	600	10	8,157
At 31 December 2021	7,573	411	10	7,994

All assets are used for charitable purposes and there are no inalienable or heritage assets.

### 16. Investments

	Total Group £'000	Total Charity £'000
As at 1 January 2022	169	1,045
Increase/(decrease) in value	-	-
As at 31 December 2022	169	1,045

The above note includes the following significant investments:

An investment in Islamic Relief Worldwide's subsidiary TIC International Limited (£860,309), which provides clothes recycling services. TIC International Limited is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

An investment property located in Bradford, UK, which was kindly gifted to Islamic Relief. The property's value is included in the valuation at the time of the donation (£62,000). The trustees are satisfied that the current value of the Bradford property represents market value. This property is currently being held for sale.

An investment property located in Arbroath, UK, which was kindly gifted to Islamic Relief. The property's value is included in the valuation at the time of the donation (£55,000). The trustees are satisfied that the current value of the Arbroath property represents market value.

# 17. Stocks and work in progress

	Group 2022	Group 2021
	£,000	£,000
Donated clothing	127	127
Total	127	127

# 18. Debtors

	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Trade debtors	419	20	587	65
Amounts owed from group undertakings	-	319	-	234
Prepayments and accrued income	577	569	590	590
Other debtors	17,205	17,164	6,022	5,891
Total	18,201	18,072	7,199	6,780

# 19. Cash at bank

Much of our pipeline for 2023 projects is already secured and allocated to projects. Our position continues to be very healthy to continue the delivery to the vulnerable people we serve, with an influx of £68 million of cash into our bank accounts towards the close of the 2022 financial year.

### 20. Creditors

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Trade creditors	2,859	2,786	3,213	3,107
Amounts owed to group undertakings		1,603		1,243
Accruals and deferred income*	25,962	25,962	17,526	17,526
Tax and social security	282	259	274	254
Other creditors**	13,457	13,534	14,513	14,444
Unpaid pension contributions	93	93	89	89
Total	42,653	44,237	35,615	36,663
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year Bank loan > 1 year ***	-	-	3,500	3,500
	Balance as at 1			Balance as at 31 December
Deferred income	January 2022 £'000	Deferred £'000	Released £'000	2022 £'000
Islamic Relief members	17,258	20,412	(17,258)	20,412
International fundraising	172	5,398	(172)	5,398
Total	17,430	25,810	(17,430)	25,810

<sup>\*</sup>Deferred income comprises income received in advance that the donor has specified must be used in future accounting periods.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Other creditors represents amounts due to Islamic Relief independent implementing partners for projects committed to and implemented during 2022.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Bank loan has been repaid during 2022.

## 21. Financial instruments

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Financial assets measured at amortised cost		
Debtors	17,633	6,610
Cash	125,120	92,687
Total	142,753	99,297
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Creditors	16,399	21,251
Accruals	152	96
Total	16,551	21,347

# 22. Commitments

	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	2022	2022	2021	2021
Operating leases	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Less than one year	295	295	295	295
Between two to five years	879	879	925	925
More than five years	909	909	1,103	1,103
Total	2,083	2,083	2,323	2,323

As at 31 December 2022, the group had no capital commitments (2021: £nil).

# 23. Pension costs

The charity operates a group personal pension scheme. As of 2014 it became a statutory requirement for all employees to be made a part of the pension scheme and the charity makes a contribution to this. Employees can opt out of the scheme if they choose.

# 24. Analysis of assets and liabilities representing funds

At 31 December 2022	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Endowment funds £'000	Total £'000
Group				
Tangible and intangible fixed assets	-	-	9,416	9,416
Current assets	43,643	100,740	(939)	143,444
Liabilities	(24,367)	(18,282)	-	(42,649)
Total	19,276	82,458	8,477	110,211
	•			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	
At 31 December 2021 Group	funds	funds	funds	Total
Tangible and intangible fixed assets	-	-	8,347	8,347
Current assets	35,252	64,718	45	100,015
Liabilities	(20,881)	(18,228)	-	(39,109)
Total	14,371	46,490	8,392	69,253

# 25. Unrestricted funds

	General reserve 2022 £'000	General reserve 2021 £'000
Balance as at 1 January 2022	14,370	12,362
Net incoming resources	4,458	1,569
Subsidiary funds brought forward on consolidation	5	10
Movement from endowment funds*	443	429
Balance as at 31 December 2022	19,276	14,370

<sup>\*</sup>This is a movement of the returns generated to unrestricted funds for humanitarian projects.

### 26. Restricted income funds

Appeal funds	Opening balance £'000	income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Humanitarian	17,065	143,911	114,945	46,031
Caring for orphans and children				
in need	860	35,716	33,951	2,625
Supporting education	3,610	4,227	4,042	3,795
Healthcare, water, sanitation,				
and hygiene	11,195	17,045	11,277	16,963
Livelihoods support	13,758	15,163	15,877	13,044
Total	46,488	216,062	180,092	82,458

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which have been declared by the donors at the time of donation or created through legal process. All restricted funds of Islamic Relief Worldwide have been used to implement specific humanitarian projects in particular areas of the relief stated above.

Zakat funds (annual religious payments by able Muslims to help people living in poverty) have been used to cover shortfalls in zakat-eligible emergency, health, sustainable livelihood and water and sanitation projects implemented in various countries. Further shortfalls were covered using unrestricted funds.

### 27. Endowment funds

Endowment funds	Balance as at 1 January 2021 £'000	Total incoming resources £'000	Return on investments £'000	Total available resources £'000	Total resources expended £'000	Transfer £'000	Balance as at 31 December 2022 £'000	Balance as at 31 December 2021 £'000
Protecting life and dignity	321	12	-	333	2	19	312	321
Empowering communities	8,070	387	554	9,011	422	424	8,165	8,070
Total	8,391	399	554	9,344	424	443	8,477	8,391

Waqf funds are permanent endowment funds that are held within the charity to generate further funds. These are currently invested in the properties of Islamic Relief Worldwide.

Waqf investments give a seven per cent (notional and internally allocated) annual return on capital, from which projects are implemented for the purpose of waqf shares. A proportion of the return is also added back to the capital to ensure growth for reinvestment in future years.

In 2022, income from these waqf investments amounting to £553,928 will finance future long-term sustainable humanitarian development projects. Of this, £443,142 has been transferred to unrestricted funds to finance future humanitarian development projects.

# 28. Related parties

Some of the trustees of Islamic Relief Worldwide were also trustees of the following Islamic Relief members in the period: Islamic Relief Australia, Islamic Relief Canada, Islamic Relief Malaysia, Islamic Relief South Africa, Islamic Relief Sweden, Islamic Relief Switzerland and Islamic Relief USA. The income from these related parties in 2022 is given in note 6. The amounts due from these related parties as at 31 December 2022 were as follows: Islamic Relief Australia £602,195, Islamic Relief Canada £1,185,725, Islamic Relief Malaysia £1,738, Islamic Relief South Africa £68,511, Islamic Relief Sweden £361,367, Islamic Relief Switzerland £36,226, and Islamic Relief USA £5,986,127.

In 2022 a Gift Aid payment of £453,846 (2021: £78,459) was received from TIC International Ltd representing the taxable profits generated by the company in 2021.

# 29. Analysis of changes in debt

	At start of year £'000	Cash-flows . £'000	Foreign exchange movements £'000	Other non-cash changes £'000	At end of year £'000
Cash	92,745	4,298,320	(4,265,945)	-	125,120
Loans falling due after more					
than one year	(3,500)	3500	-	-	-
Total	89,245	4,301,820	(4,265,945)	-	125,120

Much of our pipeline for 2023 projects is already secured and continues to be very healthy with an influx of £68 million of cash into our bank accounts from October to December 2022 for 2023.

# 30. Statement of financial activities and income and expenditure account comparatives for prior year

la como and and and an analysis for more	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Endowments funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	7,676	158,516	701	166,893
Other trading activities	3,518	-	-	3,518
Investments	-	-	536	536
Charitable activities	-	11,993	-	11,993
Total incoming resources	11,194	170,509	1,237	182,940
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	12,770	-	12,770
Fundraising trading: cost of goods				
sold and other cost	3,095	-	-	3,095
Investment management cost	-	-	456	456
Charitable activities	6,529	150,687	-	157,216
Total	9,624	163,457	456	173,537
Net income (expenditure)	1,570	7,052	781	9,403
Transfers between funds	429	-	(429)	-
Subsidiary funds brought forward		100		
on consolidation	10	-	-	10
Net movement on funds	2,009	7,052	352	9,413
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	12,363	39,432	8,041	59,836
Total funds carried forward	14,372	46,484	8,393	69,249

# CORPORATE DIRECTORY

#### **ENGLAND AND WALES CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER**

328158

#### **SCOTLAND CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER**

SC042020

#### **COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER**

02365572

#### **ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

19 Rea Street South, Birmingham B5 6LB

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Dr Ihab Mohammad Hamdy Saad Chair of Board of Trustees

Mrs Nurhayati Binti Hassan Vice Chair

Dr Aarif Ahmed Pathan

Mr Haroun Atallah

Dr Muhammad Osman

Dr Nora Shikeen Amath

Mrs Samaa Sarsour

Dr Aqsa Aziz (appointed March 2023)

Dr Kasim Randeree (appointed March 2023)

#### **COMPANY SECRETARY**

Mr Nadeem Azhar (appointed 2 October 2022)

Dr Ihab Mohammad Hamdy Saad (resigned role 2 October 2022)

#### **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Mr Waseem Ahmad Chief Executive Officer

Mr Adnan Hafiz Director of Network and Resources Development Division

Mr Affan Cheema Director of International Programmes Division

Dr Hossam Said Managing Director of Humanitarian Academy for Development

Mr Javed Akhtar Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Mr Tufail Hussain Islamic Relief UK Director

Mr Martin Cottingham Director of External Relations and Advocacy (resigned 14 February 2023)

Mr Nadeem Azhar, General Counsel (appointed 1 September 2022)

# CORPORATE DIRECTORY

#### **AUDITORS**

Grant Thornton UK LLP 17th Floor 103 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 3AG

#### **BANKERS**

Barclays Bank Plc Level 12 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP

#### **SOLICITORS**

Stone King LLP 13 Queen Square Bath BA1 2HJ

Squire Patton Boggs LLP 7 Devonshire Square London EC2M 4YH

# "Whoever saves a life, saves the whole of mankind"



Islamic Relief Worldwide

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