

# 2020/2021 Annual Report

Social: @ashrafulaid

#### WHO WE ARE

Ashraful Aid has been sustaining the needs of communities for over 25 years.

From caring for orphans, to women's empowerment programs and workshops to extensive food programmes and the construction of wells around the world, Ashraful Aid carries out an array of local and international projects, through which we seek to uplift communities and spread the ethos of humanitarianism.

'Ashraful', meaning honourable, shapes and directs all that we do. Over the years, we have assisted thousands, and transcended the barriers of colour, class, and creed. Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, with access to approximately 135 countries around the world, we strive tirelessly to assist all those in need of our help.

#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

ML. SUHAIL WADEE - CHAIRPERSON

2020 was accompanied by a multitude of challenges, many of them spurred on by the coronavirus pandemic. Ashraful Aid, under the five levels of the government-imposed lockdown in South Africa, has been catering to the needs of destitute and vulnerable communities across the country. Our local projects have had a wide reach and we have extended our assistance to many communities and have attempted to get many volunteers involved in what we do.

Our international projects have taken flight, with our projects in Yemen taking root, and our most recent trip to Turkey involving the opening of a Psychosocial and Vocational Training Centre to assist those affected by the conflict underway in Syria.

Disaster relief has been of utmost importance, and following the explosion in Lebanon and Cyclone Eloise in Mozambique, Ashraful Aid was one of the first humanitarian organisations on the ground assisting victims.

As we hurtle toward an uncertain future, Ashraful Aid hopes to extend its reach and continue assisting the vulnerable, whether it be in townships, villages, or cities around the world. We aim to increase our focus on supporting children, women and the elderly, and to expand our hunger relief, women's empowerment, refugee support and educational programmes over the next year. With the help of our donors and partners, we will be able to make a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across the world.

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#### OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT



Being based in South Africa does not stop us from providing humanitarian assistance to all those in need around the world. Whether it be in South Asia, the Middle East, or Africa; Ashraful Aid is ready to lend a helping hand after a catastrophe has struck. From our disaster relief missions to our water projects to long-term support for refugees displaced from their homes, we make sure that our aid reaches all those in need. We are not constrained by borders, and despite the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic, we continued to help those in dire need of our assistance in many countries across the world. We currently have active projects in 12 countries around the world.



#### **STATS**









**500 000 LITRES DONATED** 



**40 VENUES SANITIZED** 



2 SCHOOLS BUILT





**50 WATER WELLS ERECTED** 



**500 BLANKETS DONATED** 



2500 PRISONERS SUPPORTED



2000 SANITARY PADS **DONATED** 



**100 WOMEN EMPOWERED** 

6 OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS **DONATED** 



150 000 LIVES TOUCHED

### **GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS:** SPOTLIGHT ON YEMEN AND SYRIA



#### YEMEN

In the midst of one of the worst humanitarian crises in the modern world, Yemen is facing strife, famine, and poverty; all of these only made worse by the coronavirus pandemic. The COVID-19 phenomenon has altered the fabric of the entire globe in unimaginable ways, but has done so to impoverished countries to an even greater degree. In the face of the pandemic, Yemen is riddled with hardship, its population suffering more than ever before.



Ever since 2018, Ashraful Aid has been collaborating with teams on the ground in order to assist the people of Yemen and ease the situation faced by individuals across the country. Despite the pandemic serving as a disruption to everyday activities, Ashraful Aid continues to function as an international organisation and work on ongoing projects in vulnerable communities and countries.

Thus far, Ashraful Aid has delivered meals and food parcels to the people of Yemen in an attempt to combat widespread starvation and has contributed to water and sanitation projects which aim to ease the situations in refugee camps.





#### YEMEN

In Yemen, a majority of the population - approximately two thirds - is in dire need of humanitarian assistance while an additional 14 million are in need of other kinds of assistance. Millions are on the brink of starvation and dehydration, while millions more have been displaced. Public infrastructure has been in gradual decline, and, at present, only approximately half of the health centres and hospitals in the country are functional, and access to medication and medical equipment remains severely limited. Refugee camps are overpopulated and the limited infrastructure cannot sustain the millions of men, women, and children who have been left destitute by this crisis.

The political situation in Yemen remains precarious as coalitions and groups struggle for power over certain regions of the country, affecting the lives of civilians.

Food insecurity, coupled with health issues such as constant cholera outbreaks and the coronavirus, as well as weak governance, all allow for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen to be classified as the worst in the world.









# GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: SPOTLIGHT ON YEMEN AND SYRIA





#### SYRIA

As the civil war in Syria enters its tenth year, so does the humanitarian crisis which plagues the Middle Eastern country. Along with death and destruction, the war has given rise to widespread trauma, specifically amongst children, and has resulted in the creation of many widows. Without networks or support structures of any sort, refugee children and widows are two of the most vulnerable groups affected by the strife and conflict. Approximately over 2.6 million children have been displaced over the course of the war, and this undoubtedly has terminal psychological effects, which, if untreated, will severely affect these children for the rest of their lives. Hundreds of thousands of women have been widowed, and are left to fend for themselves, and even for their children, after having lost their husbands; many of whom were typically the breadwinners in the family. In 2020, Ashraful Aid announced the opening of a Psychosocial Support and Vocational Training Centre for refugees in Syria. The centre focuses on providing support and trauma counselling for the children affected by the crisis and the suffering in its aftermath. The vocational training branch of the centre will focus on empowering women who have been widowed as a result of the war, and will teach them valuable skills which will allow them to support themselves and their families.

#### SYRIA

The Syrian economy has been severely affected by the war, and as a result, Ashraful Aid has; over the years; built schools for struggling learners and provided thousands of Syrian refugees with hot meals as they brave freezing temperatures and the most difficult of circumstances. Winter in Syria is accompanied by bitter cold, and in an attempt to warm little hearts, Ashraful Aid provided schools with fuel which was used to power heaters in classrooms.



















### ZERO HUNGER ASHRAFUL

Hunger is a severe problem which affects millions on a daily basis and many people cannot afford even one nourishing meal per day. In line with the UNICEF Global Goals, Ashraful Aid is striving toward achieving zero hunger, a goal we believe can be achieved in our lifetime. The coronavirus has exacerbated world hunger and starvation rates have been on the rise. Whether it be in South Africa or in other destitute communities, we aim to assist all those facing food insecurity by providing them with food hampers or meals in an attempt to give them the nutrition they need and easing the burdens they face.



OVER 12 500 HAMPERS DISTRIBUTED

SUPPORTING OVER 50 000 PEOPLE

PROVIDING
OVER 500 000
MEALS





### GROCERY Hampers

Hundreds of families, scattered across informal settlements in South Africa face food insecurity. By providing them with grocery hampers, they are able to sustain themselves with food high in nutrients for several weeks. Over 12,500 hampers have been distributed across the country from Munsieville to Cape Town, supporting over 50,000 people and providing over 500,000 meals.

Ashraful Aid also collaborated with the SA Rugby Legends Association, Vodacom Bulls, the Cell C Sharks, the DHL Stormers, and the Emirates Lions, in partnership with Vodacom and Cell C and donated grocery hampers worth R330 000 to assist households facing food insecurity as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on.

Internationally, Ashraful Aid supported the refugees and destitute in Yemen and Syria who live in dire conditions and are often in need of food and other necessities. By providing families in the refugee camps with grocery hampers.

### ZERO HUNGER



#### DONATE A PLATE

World Hunger Day is annually marked on 16 October, and for 2020, Ashraful Aid commemorated this day with the 'Donate a Plate' campaign. For only R10, those in need were given a wholesome and nutritious plate of food which served to ease their hunger. The continuous running of campaigns such as this will surely assist along the journey toward achieving zero hunger.







# ZERO HUNGER



#### HOT MEALS

Nothing in the world is quite as comforting as a hot meal after a difficult time. Wherever there is a crisis, there are people in need of food. In the fire which ravaged an informal settlement in Booysens, victims were left hungry, and were provided with hot meals by Ashraful Aid. Often, people require immediate assistance, and a hot meal eases the suffering faced in the aftermath of a crisis and provides a small relief to the victims.







#### FORMULA

#### DISTRIBUTION

Malnourishment and malnutrition are serious problems faced by many South African children and adults. Oftentimes, South Africans cannot afford proper food, and do not meet daily calorie intakes. In order to combat these nutritional issues. Ashraful Aid donated over 6000 units of F100 Therapeutic Formula to malnourished children and adults at the Wits hospice. The formula has all of the required vitamins and will allow for a balanced nutrient intake

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# ZERO HUNGER



#### SADAGAH SHEEP

Ashraful Aid offers sadagah sheep, each of which costs R2 000. We slaughter, clean, cut, and pack your sheep, and donate the meat to the poor and the children at Ashraful Aid Children's Home, all of whom gladly welcome the meat, as they often survive only on vegetables and other staples, such as rice and bread.



**NUMBER OF PEOPLE BENEFITTED** 1500

**MEAT DISTRIBUTED** 2000 KGs

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN'S HOMES REACHED** 

### DISASTER RELIEF



As an international humanitarian organisation, disaster relief is undoubtedly a cornerstone of the mission and vision of Ashraful Aid. Whether it be local or international, we strive to help those who have suffered massive losses in the face of either a natural disaster or a manmade crisis. As soon as we get word of an event which affects the wellbeing of people on a large scale, we deploy our teams to the scene and begin assisting victims, providing them with relief materials, food, and water to help them in their time of need. Restrictions put into place by the coronavirus pandemic has made disaster relief, especially on an international level, rather difficult, but our organisation has managed to successfully navigate this new terrain and provide assistance to those who need it most.

#### LEBANON

On 4 August 2020, an explosion at the port in Beirut devastated the country, leaving the economy in shambles, damaging houses and businesses, and affecting millions of Lebanese people, thousands of whom were injured and hundreds of whom were killed in the blast. In the midst of the pandemic, Ashraful Aid worked with teams on the ground in Lebanon, providing the injured with medical supplies, and distributing food and water to those who were left with nowhere to go after their houses and businesses were obliterated by the explosion. Our teams managed to assist many victims, providing them with muchneeded support.





# DISASTER RELIEF



#### MOZAMBIQUE

Cyclone Eloise which struck the Sofala province of Mozambique caused significant damage, and tore apart many houses and businesses. Strong winds and floods obliterated people's possessions, and the quick-rising water levels led to the displacement of thousands of people. Ashraful Aid rushed to the scene soon after the tropical storm and began to assist those on the ground in Beira and Buzi, providing individuals and families with relief assistance. Our teams assisted victims and with food hampers and materials to rebuild their homes that were destroyed.





# DISASTER RELIEF



#### ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN SUDAN

In November 2020, political upheaval in the Tigray region of Ethiopia resulted in thousands of people, many of whom were women and children, fleeing across the border to Sudan, where they began to live as refugees. Sudan does not have adequate infrastructure to house and cater to the needs of the Ethiopian people, and many are forced to live in cramped conditions in refugee camps where the risk of the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases is incredibly high. Ashraful Aid assisted refugees by providing them with much-needed food aid.









### COVID-19



In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic took the world by surprise, crippling economies on a macro and a micro level. Entire countries were locked down in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus, but it was individuals and families who suffered the biggest losses. In South Africa, the lockdown led to thousands losing their jobs and being plunged into poverty and food insecurity. Ashraful Aid, under all five levels of the government-imposed lockdown, has been assisting those affected directly by the virus by providing them with medical supplies; and has been assisting those affected indirectly by providing them with food hampers and hot meals as they face hardships in the face of an economic crisis.



#### MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The coronavirus attacks many parts of the body, but significantly affects the lungs. Many people who had contracted COVID-19 had hacking coughs and other lung issues. This led to breathing difficulties and an inability to absorb oxygen from the air. Ashraful Aid donated oxygen concentrators to victims of the virus to assist them during their most difficult time.

At the beginning of the pandemic, frontline workers faced a shortage of adequate protection. With protective gear being sold at exorbitant rates, Ashraful Aid began an initiative which involved donating hazmat suits and gloves to frontline workers. This assisted many of the most vulnerable individuals, such as doctors and nurses, in the peak of the first wave.

### COVID-19



#### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The South African economy took a nosedive in March 2020, as the government locked the country down to curb the spread of the virus. Level 5 of lockdown saw the closing of many businesses and industries, and thus the loss of thousands of jobs. With no steady stream of income, people were facing extreme hunger and had no way of getting food. Ashraful Aid donated over 100,000 hot meals and food hampers to those hit the hardest by the economic shutdown, providing them with muchneeded nutrition.









### WATER

Across the globe, many countries face water shortages as a result of climate change, war and strife, pollution, government inefficiency and drought. Without water, it is the vulnerable women and children who suffer most, as they face many difficulties and cannot even complete daily tasks due to a lack of water. Ashraful Aid provides access to clean water to communities in South Africa to help sustain them through short-term water shortages or long-term access to sustainable water supplies where access to water has been limited.



#### LOCAL WATER DISTRIBUTION

Certain areas in South Africa received little to no rainfall in 2020, and some were even classified as drought-stricken. With no rainfall and dams being at an all time low, Ashraful Aid set about donating 5L bottles to assist communities who had been affected by droughts. Over the course of the year, we deployed teams with many 5L bottles of water to Adelaide and Nelson Mandela Bay in the Eastern Cape, and Chatsworth in KwaZulu Natal. We aim to continue to give communities around the country the gift of water.



### WATER





#### WATER WELLS

Many rural areas and communities do not have taps and sanitation facilities and must make use of rivers, to which residents must walk many kilometres. Wells are more effective and can be erected close to vulnerable communities. At a cost of R12 000, water wells are a very cost effective solution to provide a sustainable water supply for communities in desperate need of water.

#### YEMEN

Facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in history, Yemen is one of the most destitute countries in the world. Many water supplies in the country have been compromised, leading to impoverished individuals and families relying on rivers and other polluted sources, many of which are filled with diseases such cholera and bilharzia. Ashraful Aid deployed water trucks to the most destitute regions of Yemen to provide civilians with clean water as they faced immense hardship.







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### WATER



#### MOZAMBIQUE

Located near the bottom of the African continent, Mozambique has many villages which are povertystricken and in desperate need of water. In order to assist destitute individuals and families. Ashraful Aid embarked on a project to erect water wells in the country to establish a sustainable source of water for residents.





#### SRI-LANKA

A small country in South Asia, Sri Lanka is destitute and full of villages without infrastructure to provide individuals and families with water. Ashraful Aid set about erecting wells in Sri Lanka in order to provide civilians with water. A number of wells were provided during this year, with more in progress or planned in the coming year.

#### KENYA

In 2020, Ashraful Aid erected a water well in the destitute and rural Kambini Village in Kwale County, south of Mombasa, Kenya. This well will cater to the needs of over 40 families and travellers who pass through the village, all of whom will directly benefit from its water supply.



### **EDUCATION**

Children are our future and it is of the utmost importance that we provide them with the tools and supplies that they need to learn and grow. In order to bloom into happy and successful adults, children must be nurtured. By providing primary school students with stationery, their experience is made easier and more colourful, and donating toys to toddlers and little children allows them to have an enriching and stimulating time with their friends and teachers.



#### STATIONERY DRIVE

The beginning of 2020 was accompanied by the reopening of schools after the December holidays. While students were excited to return to school, many did not have adequate stationery and certain schools require learners to procure their own stationery. Ashraful Aid ran a fundraising drive to purchase essentials students. A pack of stationery, which included a pencil case, pens, a ruler, a pair of scissors, a glue stick, a sharpener, an eraser, and packs of highlighters and pencil colours cost R40 and many students were provided with new stationery as they excitedly began the new school year.

#### DRIVE TOY

An initiative implemented only at the end of the year; the toy drive has been incredibly successful. Ashraful Aid has provided toys to schools and crèches around Johannesburg. These toys, coupled with social interaction, will undoubtedly assist toddlers and children in their development, both emotionally and mentally. We aim to expand this initiative across South Africa, so that children around the country can easily access toys, grow and develop in a sufficient manner, and get a chance to dream.





### **EDUCATION**



#### SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to absorb information, children require a safe, clean, and stable environment. Ashraful Aid has renovated a school in Cape Town and continuously provides support and ongoing maintenance to schools in Marlboro and Kelvin.

A school was built in Syria by Ashraful Aid. This will undoubtedly provide children in the war torn country with a chance to receive an education, and may even serve as a safe haven amid the civil strife.



#### LEARNER SUPPORT

Ashraful Aid provides ongoing support to students across Johannesburg. Learners have been provided with bursaries which will assist them in furthering their education and pave the way for a bright future.

### **OTHER PROJECTS**

# ASHRAFUL INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION

#### WOMEN'S

#### EMPOWERMENT

In a country like South Africa, many women are incredibly vulnerable and rely on male breadwinners, many of whom do not adequately provide their families with what they need. Around the country, women in the most destitute communities are often not well educated and have a limited skill set, and are thus unable to earn a sufficient living. August, which is commemorated as women's month, saw Ashraful Aid carrying out an array of workshops to empower women by teaching them how to sew. Sewing is a valuable skill which can be harnessed and used to assist these women in earning a living.





### CHARITY BAKE-DFF

In October 2020, Ashraful Aid hosted a series of charity bake-off events in Marlboro, Azaadville and Lenasia. Delicious baked goods were provided by contestants and judged by a panel. Following the event, baked goods were donated to children's homes and orphanages in the surrounding areas.

### **OTHER PROJECTS**



#### WINTER WARMTH

IIn the winter months, temperatures drop drastically in South Africa, and many have only limited resources to protect them from the cold. Ashraful Aid distributed blankets, each of which cost R120. These blankets assisted in keeping recipients warm and protected them from the harsh weather.



### PRISONER SUPPORT

Ashraful Aid, in conjunction with the Muslim Prison Board of Gauteng, donated spiritual packs, at the cost of R50 each, to muslim prisoners across the province. Each pack contained a tasbeeh, topee. miswaak, and musalla. Oftentimes, prisoners become despondent, and encouraging them to hone their spirituality can serve as a light in the darkness and support the prisoner rehabilitation effort.

#### SANITARY PADS

Many girls and women face immense hardships as a result of being unable to afford sanitary products each month. This gives way to them having to stay absent from either school or work, and affects their daily life. Ashraful Aid donated sanitary pads to women and girls across South Africa in an attempt to curb period poverty and ease the lives of many girls and women.



### **OTHER PROJECTS**



#### DOMESTIC

#### WORKERS

More often than not, South Africans are unaware of the massive impact that their domestic workers have on their lives. More than cleaning houses, looking after children, and cooking food, our domestic workers are the women we rely on and turn to in times of need. To show our appreciation, Ashraful Aid, in collaboration with various organisations, distributed to domestic workers in communities across Johannesburg.





### BABY ESSENTIAL PACKS

Many shelters in South Africa cannot afford bare necessities for their residents, let alone the essentials that they need to raise the babies in their care. For R400, Ashraful Aid raised funds for baby essential packs containing baby formula, diapers, wet wipes, and other items needed for infants. These packs were then distributed to various shelters around Johannesburg.

#### GURBANI

Under lockdown. Eid al-Adha was rather different to the Eids of the previous years. 40 sheep and 7 cows were secured and held at the Ashraful Aid premises in Marlboro, where they were slaughtered, skinned, cleaned, and sliced by our team of workers. The meat was then distributed to those in need.

### LO®KING FORWARD







#### **AREAS:**

- SOUTH AFRICA
- MOZAMBIQUE
- ZIMBABWE
- SUDAN/ ETHIOPIA • KENYA
- SRI LANKA
- YEMEN
- SYRIA
- BANGLADESH (ROHINGYA)
- PALESTINE
- PALESTINE/GAZA
- MALAWI

### AREAS OF FOCUS





