



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

[WHOISHUSSAIN.ORG](http://WHOISHUSSAIN.ORG)

# IN 2022

A turbulent few years have, unfortunately, ushered in more challenges for countless individuals and communities worldwide. With no end to the hardships they face daily, **Who is Hussain continually strives to be a beacon of hope for those suffering.** An optimistic year for the organisation, we reached further, and compassionately served so many more that need help and support, whilst sharing the legacy of Hussain ibn Ali.

2022 has indeed been a milestone year for Who is Hussain. Not only did it signify our first decade of servitude in the name of Hussain, but this year was also defined by some key moments that made it our best and most impactful one yet. This year's report delves into these significant achievements that will define our trajectory for years to come.



"The most generous of people, is the one who gives to those from whom he has no hope of return"

Hussain ibn Ali

# FROM THE TRUSTEES

Do you remember the tale of the elephant and the blind men? Six blind men, feeling different parts of the animal they had come across, each thought they understood its size and nature. "It's like a wall!" said one. "It's like a spear!" explained another. "A rope!" offered a third. In truth, none of them had anything close to full comprehension of the elephant. The group disputed amongst themselves in the folly of their partial knowledge.

It's a cautionary story: co-operate with others, don't rely on your own partial understanding to draw absolute conclusions, and our senses can offer limited information – don't be blinkered. The figurative elephant represents many of the real challenges we face in today's world, not least in the third sector. Taking on global challenges of homelessness, poverty, inequality and deprivation will not be solved unless we find a way to combine our knowledge, pool our resources and work together. We might not quite be blind in the face of these challenges – but no one can claim to deal in absolute truths.

Who is Hussain endeavour to tackle global problems with this approach. We understand the size and scale of our 'elephants': the various social challenges that blight our communities. But we will never shy away from first learning the scale of those issues, and then countering them with real ambition and determination.

And there is a worrying and growing belief around the world that the problems of the 21st century do not require joint thinking amongst transnational groups. It's wrong.

In the last year, we showed what Who is Hussain can be at its best, through the #GlobalBloodHeroes effort. Setting a world record for the highest number of blood donations in a single day is an immense achievement, and I'm so proud of each and every one of our volunteers for what they accomplished. It demonstrated what can be done when people across five continents put their heads together and combine knowledge for the greater good.

It's not enough to rest on this effort alone, and I hope this will just be the start of this global link-up between our teams – and indeed other key partners. I'm moved to see that the work of Who is Hussain continues day in, day out. And we won't stop working to serve our communities.

This year we've taken significant strides towards securing our strategic future. We've **partnered** with other organisations, such as the NHS, the Red Cross, and others. We've **showcased** our work, through print and broadcast media. And we've **recruited**, growing our critical mass. The last ten years of Who is Hussain have been a wonderful rollercoaster. I can't wait to see where the next decade takes us.



**Chair of Trustees, Who is Hussain**

# OUR DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

What an incredible year it has been, a year that has officially been noted in the history books - and the perfect way to mark ten years of service. The dedication from the entire team (in London HQ and our teams globally) since mid-2021 was met by jubilation as we broke the world record for blood units donated in one day on September 17th. However, outside of this great feat, the organisation carried on running campaigns and events as usual - and it was the ability to carry such a high workload that, on reflection, pleases me the most. Knowing that we are making a difference in so many ways, to so many people and in so many places worldwide, truly makes this organisation unique.

Of course, all the hard work is inspired by the most magnificent character of Hussain ibn Ali - it's his legacy that fuels us every day to keep doing more for those who need it. And, without the softest and kind-hearted donors, we are blessed with, none of this could be possible - for which we are eternally grateful. As the team head into 2023, we have more exciting and purposeful plans which we look forward to sharing with you soon.

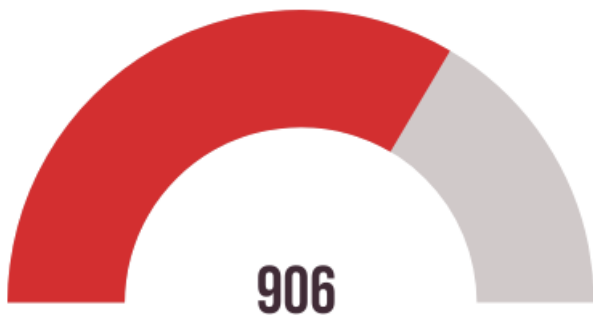
*Muntazir Fai*

Director, Who is Hussain



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was a poignant year in which we were able to do more, and support those who needed help. Whether distributing food to the homeless and struggling individuals in Birmingham, UK four times a week or providing sanctuary for domestic abuse victims in Dallas, Texas, our global teams provide an extensive range of localised care. The numbers below are a testament to how substantial an impact they have made this year alone.



Events that have taken place by teams across the year



Beneficiaries through acts of kindness, helping the vulnerable, and community building.



lives saved through 37,855 blood donations



People fed throughout the year

"Be steadfast and firm in the way towards what is right, even if your journey is full of pain and challenges"

Hussain ibn Ali

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

A decade of selfless service has yielded an incredibly positive impact on communities worldwide. Through their unwavering dedication to serve, our global teams have made a significant and valuable impression over the past ten years - the figures below truly reflect this.

**2,683**

Local events



**47,720**

Blood donations



**143,160**

Lives saved



**561,607**

Acts of kindness



**706,502**

People fed

# TRANSFORMING LIVES PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

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

## Global Blood Heroes

Amongst all the projects undertaken this year, Global Blood Heroes no doubt made a significant positive impact globally. Thousands of individuals worldwide united on 27 August to donate blood. Collectively, they broke a world record and spread the name of Hussain ibn Ali further than ever before via international mainstream media - and most importantly, saved over 110,000 lives. Read more about the campaign [here](#).

## The Fresh Start Project

Combining 3 different causes, and supporting 3 communities, the Fresh Start Project was the product of a collaboration with the Relief Societies of SOAS and City University, London (UK). Seeking to provide a fresh start to impoverished communities desperately in need, over £29,000 was raised. These funds were divided to support communities with their own localised needs, in Mbeya (Tanzania), Mombasa (Kenya) and Kinshasa (Congo). As yet, this project is partially complete, however, funds have been allocated and plans are underway to secure a fresh start for these communities.



# THE FRESH START PROJECT



In the small town of Mbeya, Tanzania, cataracts are becoming a huge concern amongst the adult population. With little to no access to health facilities, an otherwise treatable condition can cause blindness, deterring working adults from sustaining their livelihoods and providing for their families. A proportion of the funds raised from this project thus contributed to eye health checks and cataract surgeries, restoring sight - and transforming the lives - of more than 60 vulnerable adults.

The bustling streets of Mombasa, Kenya are, increasingly, filled with homeless children. Their unfortunate plight is due to several reasons, however, one fact remains - they should not have to undergo such hardship. Funds raised towards this cause will enable children to be put into foster care accommodation and their living costs supported. Thus giving them the best chance in life.

Working with Glad's House Kenya, an organisation that works with marginalised children, preliminary plans were put into place when the university students visited Mombasa in June this year. Currently, children that require long-term foster care are being identified - so this project will be ongoing throughout early 2023.

Access to sanitised water facilities is a constant issue in the rural areas of Kinshasa, Congo. Part of the funds raised for this project will be utilised to provide clean water facilities in an area where more than 1,000 individuals will benefit for the foreseeable future. This part of the project will be implemented in early 2023.



# SPRINT FOR SIGHT

Collaborating with global charity Sightsavers, our relief campaign this year aimed to provide much-needed cataract surgeries for impoverished individuals in Pakistan.

With little to no access to adequate healthcare, and in particular eye health care, communities in rural areas of Pakistan are affected. Many individuals suffering from cataracts have been unable to work, thus unable to support their families, as the primary breadwinners. Left untreated, cataracts can cause blindness, thus causing irreversible damage.

Easily treated with a straightforward procedure, Sightsavers provide many impoverished communities across the world with access to cataract surgeries. Fundraising for this cause, a 16-strong group of runners participated in the Richmond Park Half Marathon (London) in June. Collectively raising more than £50,000, these funds will help to restore the sight of over 1,400 individuals, transforming the lives of many more. An extraordinary effort from our fundraisers, many of whom were first-time runners!



Until now, the #GIVE campaign has raised over £100,000 for life-saving heart surgeries for children from impoverished families in Iraq, India and Yemen. Thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts over the past few years, 40 children have successfully been treated so far, with more surgeries planned for 2023.

Through these surgeries, children are given the chance of living a full healthy life, beyond what they or their parents can ever imagine. With so many children still in need of treatment, we'll be re-launching the #GIVE campaign in early 2023.

# #GIVE



# GLOBAL TEAMS: MAKING AN IMPACT WORLDWIDE

As usual, all our global teams have been outstanding. Delivering and participating in the record-breaking Global Heroes Campaign, did in no way deter them from continuing to make a positive impact locally. This is a mere snapshot of some of the activities from this year.

## Arusha, Tanzania (Africa)

Often overlooked, homeless children, adults and widows remain destitute, without anyone to fulfil their most basic needs.

Over 400 individuals were provided with a comforting meal, by our team in Arusha during the month of Ramadhan.

## Switzerland French (Europe)

Fleeing the familiarities of their homes in favour of safety, refugees often endure difficulties settling into their host countries. To bring a sense of comfort, the Swiss-French team organised a visit to the Centre d'hébergement collectif de Lancy, which houses over 100 refugee children. Here, volunteers distributed gifts and spent quality time uplifting their spirits through several fun activities. It was an unforgettable day filled with smiles and joy!



## Brisbane, Australia (Oceania)

With the effects of climate change, natural disasters are becoming a regular occurrence.

In response to the heavy floods in Australia in March, the Brisbane team put their efforts towards renovating 2 houses devastated by the floods. Over 10 people benefitted from this act of kindness.



## Jaipur, India (Asia)

In rural and impoverished areas of India, where women do not have access to necessary care or information, especially with respect to issues affecting them, any support is welcome.

To commemorate International Women's Day in March, volunteers in Jaipur visited these areas to raise awareness of feminine hygiene and distributed sanitary towels to more than 50 women and girls.



## Ottawa, Canada (Americas)

In the harsh Canadian winter, the team in Ottawa chose to bring some warmth to the general public in the busy downtown area.

As an act of kindness, they distributed free hot chocolate whilst raising awareness of Hussain ibn Ali. More than 325 people happily stopped for a conversation and hot chocolate, despite freezing temperatures.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

This momentous year for Who is Hussain has no doubt been due to all of those who have contributed, supported, and provided encouragement, in whatever capacity they have been able.

Firstly, to our donors, whether for large-scale projects or monthly contributions, your unwavering generosity has been extremely valuable despite these difficult economic times. With your continuous support, we are able to sustainably share the message of Hussain ibn Ali and make a positive impact globally.

To our partner organisations, collaborating to work towards worthy causes, such as the Global Blood Heroes campaign, has been extraordinary. With your assistance and expertise, we have collectively been able to transform countless lives positively - thank you.

We applaud the time and effort put in by numerous individuals to fundraise for life-changing causes. Your selfless dedication to making a difference is greatly appreciated and will be remembered indefinitely by the people whose lives you have impacted. Special mention to our runners of the Richmond Park Half Marathon (mentioned below) who collectively will transform the lives of over 1,400 people and their families.

## List of runners

Ashiqali Damani  
Ali Javad Jaffer  
Azmina Elias  
Haider Alassam  
Hasnain Mamdani  
Imran Ladak  
Kumail Merali  
Mahdi Dhirani  
Mahmood Jessa  
Mehdiya Lalji  
Mohamed Ridha Hamid  
Mohamed Jawad Gulamhussein  
Mujtaba Jaffer  
Saf Valjy  
Sajjad Panju  
Shaahid Jaffer

Finally, to our global teams and volunteers around the world. However you have been involved, we sincerely appreciate and commend the effort and time you put in to selflessly serve your local communities in need. We understand that with the pressures and chaotic nature of life, it is not always easy to take the time to accomplish everything that you do as representatives of the organisation. However, with the love of humanity and Hussain in your hearts, you always do so with such fervour, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

For all the support this year, to each and every one of you, we thank you.

# LOOKING AHEAD

Celebrating the organisation's first decade of servitude was an opportunity to reflect and re-assess.

Establishing the organisation and seeing it flourish organically over the past ten years, has been unexpected, yet remarkable. Significant progress has been made in building compassionate communities as our global teams serve and support the needs of their local communities. However, there are still so many vulnerable individuals and communities in need to reach.

As we enter 2023 and the next decade of Who is Hussain's presence in the world, we'll be exploring ways to further widen our reach, cementing plans to innovatively, yet appropriately raise awareness, of not only Hussain ibn Ali but also the values and principles he stood for, and which to this day, remain relevant.

These past ten years were just the beginning - we have so much more yet to achieve, and we hope that you'll continue to join us in making a positive impact, globally.

