



AL-AYN  
SOCIAL CARE FOUNDATION  
مؤسسة العناية الاجتماعية



# Activities **Report** 2021

Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation (UK)



# Meet Narjes

Baby Narjes was born orphaned. Her mother who had lost her husband whilst pregnant, was now also facing poor living conditions. Narjes's four older siblings were soon sponsored through Al-Ayn.

On the 15th of February 2021, baby Narjes's birth was a reason for them all to smile again. Narjes was also sponsored and immediately received consistent monthly support.

Narjes is turning one soon. She is amongst over 75,000 children that Al-Ayn currently sponsors. That is over 10,000 additional children supported since last year, thanks to people like you!





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# Who **We** Are

At Al-Ayn, our goal is to empower every orphaned child in poverty. We believe that when a child is supported, their own future is transformed as well as their families, and society at large.

We are evolving. We aim to build on over 16 years of experience to ensure our services have a lasting impact. This includes improving the existing work as well as increasing access. Every child we support receives consistent financial aid. Today, 75,563 children are sponsored every month in Iraq alone. We are humbled to share that your support is now reaching children in Afghanistan too. Work is also ongoing to train teams in other countries. We are committed to ensuring the children we serve receive dignified care wherever they may be.

To date, your support has allowed 75,000+ physical and mental health treatments to be provided. Over 747 homes have been rebuilt, including housing complexes, to provide shelter to hundreds of families. Regular food aid continues to be distributed to every registered household. However, providing access to basic care is just the beginning.

We aim to ensure every child's educational needs are being catered for through tuition programmes and Back to School packages. The transition into adulthood is also crucial. That is why 3 vocational training centres are already serving children and youth. A further 12 are under construction across Iraq with a number due to open later this year.

One of the key goals at Al-Ayn is to cater to the needs of both mother and child at key developmental stages. We are excited to share that our flagship Hikayati (My Story) programme is now underway. Your support allowed this extensive programme to become a tool for hope. We cannot wait to share the impact.

During the existing crisis in Iraq and Afghanistan, vulnerable individuals need urgent support. Our personnel are working in exceptionally challenging conditions to distribute aid, including critical food and medical supplies. Our commitment to those we serve remains the same throughout these emergencies and beyond. We can do what we do thanks to people like you!



# Authorisation

Al-Ayn (Iraq) was registered as an NGO in 2006. It has since been registered in the UK and 12 other countries.

Al-Ayn (Iraq) currently holds special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council.

Al-Ayn also operates with the direct support and blessings of Al-Sayyid Ali Al-Sistani. This encompasses his authorisation (ijaza) to receive religious dues including Khoms (both parts), Zakat, Kaffara, and Fidya, in addition to encouraging supporters to donate towards Al-Ayn's various projects and schemes and to leave a portion of their inheritance to Al-Ayn.

The Ijaza is subject to renewal periodically, with the most recent one lasting till Safar 2022.







Our **Work**

# Child Sponsorship

Our Child Sponsorship Programme gives our supporters in the UK an opportunity to rebuild lives. Becoming a sponsor means lifting an orphaned child in Iraq above the poverty line.

The interested individual or group would pledge to covering the basic monthly financial assistance for the child (£55 a month). Al-Ayn would in turn deliver this to the sponsored child. Alongside the financial aid, Al-Ayn will give the child and their guardian access to free medical care, psychological rehabilitation, personal development, educational support, housing, clothing and other services tailored to their need.

Once the sponsorship process starts, the sponsor is matched with a particular orphaned child and receives basic information about them. The guardian of the child receives the entirety of the financial aid at monthly intervals from their local Al-Ayn Office. In some instances, the living conditions of the family improve and therefore the sponsorship is no longer needed. The sponsor is notified of any significant changes in the circumstances of the child they are sponsoring.

With the expansion of the work of Al-Ayn, we are now also sponsoring orphaned youth through university or vocational training. In addition to this, children with special medical needs who continue to be in need of their sponsorship beyond their childhood years continue to be supported. Sponsorship programmes are also underway in other countries.

The number of sponsors increase every month thanks to people like you. Each sponsor with their unique reason for making a pledge to help transform a life. Sometimes it is in honour of a loved or lost one. It could also be a gift to their own child, as a reminder of their blessings. We have heard many stories from you that have inspired us. Thank you for empowering orphaned children in need!





# SadaqaBoxes



Perhaps the most identifiable marker of Al-Ayn is its Sadaqa Box. In light of his general guardianship over orphaned children and the needy, Al-Sayyed Ali Al-Sistani has considered the act of putting money in Al-Ayn's Sadaqa Boxes to be a transfer of ownership to him, on behalf of the orphaned children. Hence money placed in these boxes is considered Sadaqa Maqbootha (Received Sadaqa), and the rewards of Sadaqa are reaped immediately.

As the Sadaqa Box itself developed over the years, (with the current one being a re-usable model) the demand also increased. The work of Al-Ayn had begun reaching new communities, and an increasing number of Sadaqa Boxes are being requested in homes, offices and shops. Today, thousands of Sadaqa Boxes are in circulation across the UK.

Sadaqa Boxes can be requested and returned in various ways. These include:

- directly through our offices,
- online - [www.alayn.co.uk/sadaqaboxes](http://www.alayn.co.uk/sadaqaboxes),
- via one of our coordinators,
- during our events throughout the year,
- through stalls at external events and centres.

The box is then returned to Al-Ayn when it is full, or after a maximum of four months from the date it was received. Money placed in the box is then counted under strict guidelines, and the donor is issued with a receipt confirming the amount in the box.

Due to COVID-19 considerations, please do contact us for information on how to request a collection or a new Sadaqa Box. Or, for updates, visit: [www.alayn.co.uk/sadaqaboxes](http://www.alayn.co.uk/sadaqaboxes)

## ■ ELECTRONIC SADAQA

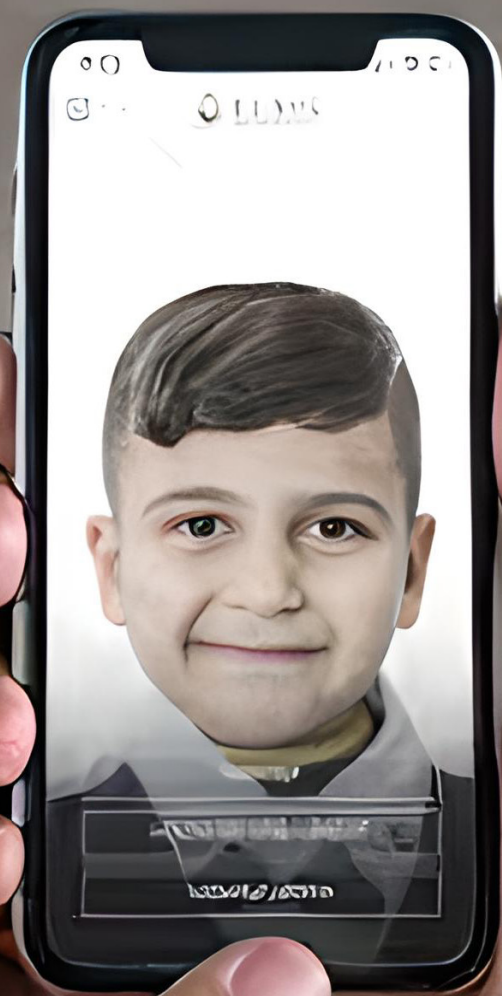
In line with demand, Al-Ayn has made it possible for its supporters to also give Sadaqa electronically via [www.sadaqa.uk](http://www.sadaqa.uk).

Sadaqa donations are then combined in a fund. Every penny donated in them contributes towards the sponsorship of orphaned children who are awaiting private sponsorship.

## ■ AL-AYN APP

The 'Al-Ayn' App continues to provide an opportunity to give with just a few taps! Wherever you may be, giving is made simple. It is available for download from the Apple Store and Google Play for both iPhone and Android phones.

[www.alayn.co.uk/app](http://www.alayn.co.uk/app)





# Sadaqa **Jariya**



Al-Ayn has a total of 147 Sadaqa Jariya projects to serve orphaned children. This includes housing complexes across Iraq, mental health and vocational training centres, medical facilities and income-generating projects. Whilst 48 projects have been completed, many more are under construction today.

Thanks to your generosity, various projects were fully funded before construction was completed! To find out more about current opportunities, do get in touch: [outreach@alayn.co.uk](mailto:outreach@alayn.co.uk)

# Wills

Legacy giving is an aspect of the work that we do that gives our supporters access to choice about how they would like their legacy to be shaped. When individuals contact us to arrange a gift in a will, we are able to support them so that they are able to make informed decisions.

In light of the demand expressed by our supporters, we published a guide titled: Writing Your Will: Islamic and Legal Perspectives to provide support to those wishing to find out more. Our second edition was published in 2019. The guide covered the following areas:

- An introduction to the Islamic requirements for writing a will
- An introduction to the legal requirements for writing a will
- An introduction to tax rules
- An introduction to child guardianship rules
- A checklist of areas to consider

We offer a delivery service for the guide that could be ordered online: [www.alayn.co.uk/wills](http://www.alayn.co.uk/wills)

Due to the ongoing situation, we have held a number of Will Writing related events remotely. Do get in touch for more information. Email: [outreach@alayn.co.uk](mailto:outreach@alayn.co.uk)





# Afghanistan



Over the last two years, we have been working on the ground in other countries to reach out to even more orphaned children in need. In 2021, we were humbled to announce that Al-Ayn opened an office in Afghanistan.

We are working hard to build sustainable, effective and dignified services. We aim to support orphaned children in need in Afghanistan with monthly allowances, health care, housing support, and other essential needs.

With over 50% of the population under 18, Afghan children continue to face trauma due to war, conflict, displacement, exposure to violence and natural disasters. In Afghanistan, an estimated 3.8 million children urgently need humanitarian aid.

The ongoing crisis has left many children orphaned and living in poverty. We will keep you informed about how you can support various causes.

100% of your aid will be spent on those in need.



# Hikayati **Project** Update

Our vision is that every orphaned child deserves a fair start in life. Through Hikayati, we can give children the necessary tools to realise their potential. The Hikayati programme will enable us to provide tailored services and we are humbled to share an update.

During our two visits to Iraq in June and August 2021, we completed recruitment and trained the staff on the Hikayati philosophy, modules, protocols, facilitation skills, behaviour management and more. During this time, we piloted the programmes again for both girls and boys in Najaf.





# Hikayati **Project** Update



We have recruited twelve members of staff in Iraq who come from a wide range of backgrounds, including teaching, psychology and experience working in NGO's. The staff have taken on the concepts of the workshops really well and are brimming with enthusiasm to work with the children.

In October we also completed the girls Hikayati Pilot programme in London, UK. Workshop topics included problem-solving, communication skills, careers, goal setting, and art therapy techniques. We are currently also planning a very exciting programme for boys in early 2022 which will include a blended mixture of both Hikayati and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) sessions.



# Our **Outreach**

## OFFICES

As your support continues to grow, we work to ensure that our services are easily accessible.

Due to COVID-19 considerations, our offices in London, Birmingham and Manchester continue to update opening hours for receiving our supporters and helping them with their queries.

If you plan to visit us, we kindly ask you to call us before travelling to our offices. Due to the ongoing situation, we want to ensure that we are there to serve you when you arrive.

### Head Office (London)

Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation,  
Unit 5 Watling Gate, 297-303  
Edgware Road, Colindale,  
NW9 6NB

**Email:** [enquiries@alayn.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@alayn.co.uk)

**Phone:** 0203 719 5221

### Birmingham Office

28 George street,  
Balsall Heath,  
Birmingham,  
B12 9RG

**Email:** [birmingham@alayn.co.uk](mailto:birmingham@alayn.co.uk)

**Phone:** 012 1446 6823

075 9120 4827

### Manchester Office

Suite 147, City View House  
5 Union Street, Ardwick  
Manchester  
M12 4JD

**Email:** [manchester@alayn.co.uk](mailto:manchester@alayn.co.uk)

**Phone:** 016 1277 7883

## COORDINATORS

Over the years, our team has expanded significantly. Many individuals have approached us and offered their time to make our services more accessible to our supporters. We currently have coordinators in 23 cities across the UK, distributing and exchanging Sadaqa boxes, and facilitating donations and child sponsorship requests.

However, we are yet to reach some communities and we need your help! Particularly if you are in an area where you feel having a coordinator would ease access for you and other supporters. We are keen to find out more about how we can together serve more orphaned children, so please do get in touch. Email us: [outreach@alayn.co.uk](mailto:outreach@alayn.co.uk)





## **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

We have been able to transform thousands of lives thanks to you, and the dedication of the volunteers who form a crucial part of our team.

We believe that volunteers contributing to the work in all departments allow us to offer opportunities that serve our local community here in the UK. Their support simultaneously helps us serve orphaned children in poverty. We have had hundreds of volunteers join the Al-Ayn family, all helping in their unique ways. The various types of volunteering include:

- Volunteers who work alongside other team members in our offices.
- Volunteers who work from home.
- Volunteers who support us at our events and peak periods.
- Work experience placements or DoE Awards assignments.

Each volunteer informs us of their preferences from the outset and we work together to arrange a plan that is most suitable.

The work that volunteers have carried out to date ranges from Sadaqa Box making to research projects, administrative tasks, running stalls, assisting the team at events and more. Although the ongoing pandemic has limited the in-person opportunities available, we have still received invaluable support from our volunteers in this crisis.

We are always humbled by the time that they have gifted to empowering orphaned children in need. We are thankful for what we continue to accomplish together.





Your **Impact**



# Meet **Ali** Reza



This is Ali Reza. He is 6 years old. He lives with his sister Saliha and mother Razia in Kabul. Ali Reza lost his father the same year he was born, leaving Razia to care for her newborn child and daughter whilst facing poverty.

Though Razia was unable to complete her education as she grew up in a family struggling in poverty, she is doing all she can to ensure both of her children stay in school.

Razia insists on working to support her family, but her income is still not enough, and Razia's health is deteriorating.

Ali Reza is one of the first children receiving monthly support in Afghanistan. When you support children like Ali Reza through Al-Ayn, you are giving him and his family the support they need to rebuild their lives.

100% of your aid will be spent on those in need.

Thanks to the support of kind people like you, the work on the ground has witnessed constant growth. Each service provided by Al-Ayn has helped transform thousands of lives.

As we look back to see the impact of your generosity, we hope that you join us in looking forward so that we can together succeed in tackling the immense task ahead. With thousands of registered children on the waiting list and tens of thousands not yet reached, the urgent need for your support continues.

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

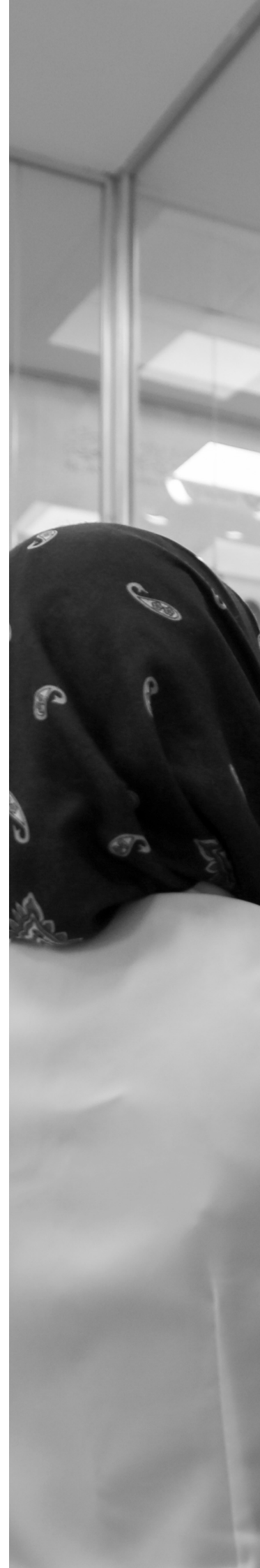
The largest ongoing campaign at Al-Ayn currently serves 75,563 orphaned children by lifting them above the poverty line. The work of Al-Ayn is able to continue to grow and improve through the vast grassroots support in Iraq (that make up the majority of supporters), global support from the USA, Canada, Australia, China, throughout Europe and the contributions of supporters via Al-Ayn (UK).



Mothers (or the guardians) of orphaned children visit their local Al-Ayn (Iraq) branch on a monthly basis to collect their financial aid. Collection points are designed to mimic a bank which allows the payments to be received in a professional manner where privacy is respected. Children are encouraged to play in the play area or pick a toy from the Al-Ayn Toy Shop during this process. This is especially important to Al-Ayn, as it allows checks to be made on the child, and the mother is able to communicate any issues or requests she may have.

In addition to monthly allowances, orphaned children benefit from access to medical care, educational support, psychological rehabilitation where needed, and other programmes tailored to their needs.

Due to the ongoing crisis, many families were unable to reach their local offices. Therefore, the aid was delivered to their doors!





## MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE

Al-Ayn provides medical support access to all registered orphaned children and their guardians (often, their guardians are their widowed mothers). To date, Al-Ayn has provided over 74,000 medical treatments.

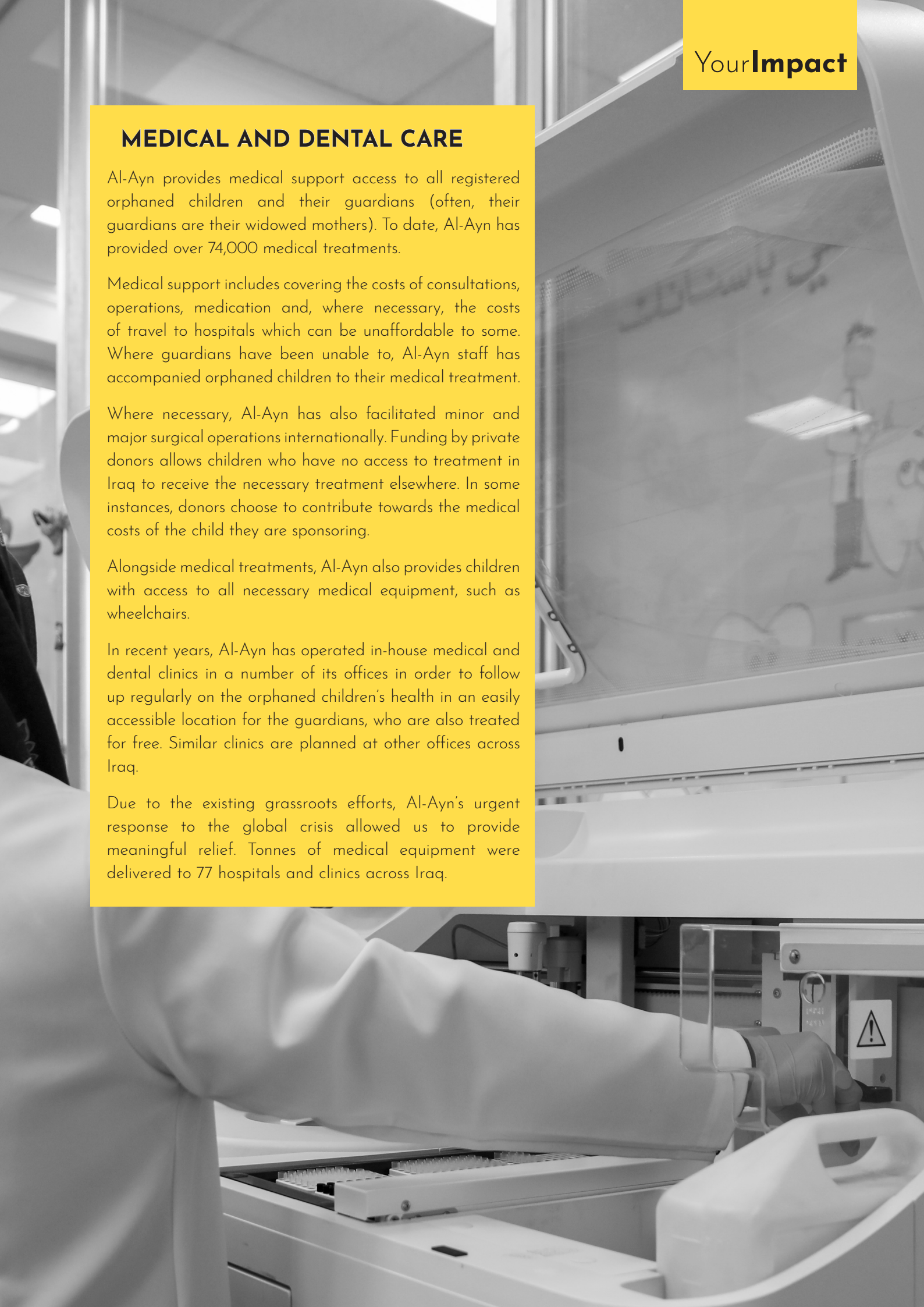
Medical support includes covering the costs of consultations, operations, medication and, where necessary, the costs of travel to hospitals which can be unaffordable to some. Where guardians have been unable to, Al-Ayn staff has accompanied orphaned children to their medical treatment.

Where necessary, Al-Ayn has also facilitated minor and major surgical operations internationally. Funding by private donors allows children who have no access to treatment in Iraq to receive the necessary treatment elsewhere. In some instances, donors choose to contribute towards the medical costs of the child they are sponsoring.

Alongside medical treatments, Al-Ayn also provides children with access to all necessary medical equipment, such as wheelchairs.

In recent years, Al-Ayn has operated in-house medical and dental clinics in a number of its offices in order to follow up regularly on the orphaned children's health in an easily accessible location for the guardians, who are also treated for free. Similar clinics are planned at other offices across Iraq.

Due to the existing grassroots efforts, Al-Ayn's urgent response to the global crisis allowed us to provide meaningful relief. Tonnes of medical equipment were delivered to 77 hospitals and clinics across Iraq.





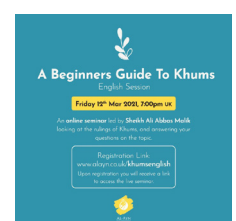
## CHILD PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

We also held workshops for children that formed part of the pilot scheme relating to the 'Hikayati' programme. Children developed essential social, personal and emotional skills by participating in highly interactive certified workshops. They were amongst the first to experience Al-Ayn's "Hikayati" programme and through their feedback and evaluation will contribute to preparing the programme for the benefit of orphaned children in Iraq. Their input follows on from pilots held in Iraq.

## OTHER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR

Although we were unable to meet and serve many of you in person this year, we were touched by the scale of remote support. We held multiple remote events in this period and you joined in your hundreds. These are some of the events we held:

- Will Writing Seminar: Islamic & Legal Perspectives
- A Beginners Guide To Khums
- Child Personal Development Workshops
- Annual Dua Nudba
- Fidya & Kafarra Rulings
- Bereavement Workshop
- The Virtual Little Iftar
- Webinar for Sponsors
- Children's Forest Majlis





A man in a grey suit and dark tie stands at a podium, speaking into a microphone. He is holding a white envelope or document. The room is a large, modern conference room with a high ceiling, recessed lighting, and decorative ceiling panels. In the background, several people are seated at long tables, some looking towards the speaker. The overall atmosphere is professional and formal.

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted children's education particularly harshly. With the lack of viable alternatives, children's learning and development suffered. However, Al-Ayn continues to believe in the importance of education. Wherever possible, we will continue to do what we can.

Supporting orphaned children from the beginning of their journey through formal education and throughout their time in school is a priority for Al-Ayn. In fact, Al-Ayn places particular emphasis on ensuring registered children of school age remain in education.

Al-Ayn supports children who are struggling with particular subjects by providing free tuition through local volunteer teachers. It also encourages children to excel by providing additional financial aid to academically talented children and holding annual ceremonies to celebrate high achievers.

Alongside this, children who face particular issues or have low attendance are monitored and supported by Al-Ayn wherever possible. In some instances, Al-Ayn acts as an intermediary between the school and the guardians in order to better the situation at hand.

Unfortunately, living below the poverty line places barriers that may prevent children who are willing and able to attend school from doing so. For instance, the high costs of school uniforms and stationery may be a limiting factor. Al-Ayn strives to remove such barriers: for many years, it has been providing Back to School kits for every registered child of school age, ensuring orphaned children are provided access to the tools they need to learn and explore the possibilities their futures can hold.

However, educational support does not end with the orphaned children. Guardians are frequently invited to attend educational lectures and relevant workshops relating to topics such as health, parenting and more.

Al-Ayn is also keen to give children access to learning opportunities outside of the traditional curriculum. For instance, a series of 'Coding for Kids' workshops took place over the past year. These sessions were held for the first time in Iraq! Children who took part at each workshop had a fun and challenging day full of learning and exploration.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION**

This crisis has presented further mental health challenges that ought to be addressed.

Orphaned children in poverty face a variety of challenges that cannot be addressed through financial aid alone. Al-Ayn (Iraq) recognises that mental health support is a crucial service, without which some children would be unable to progress. Unfortunately, some orphaned children have witnessed violence, while others have suffered in dire living conditions. Although each case is unique, what is consistent is the need for access to professional support.

Teams at Al-Ayn (Iraq) have been receiving training for years to address some of the common cases. This includes support to manage special needs such as autism, aggression, ADHD, depression, various phobias and more. As soon as children are registered, wherever possible, treatment plans begin to be implemented.

Often, the taboo of mental health treatment is a stumbling block. However, 2,020 cases have been registered at Al-Ayn to

date. The centre receives children and allows them to play freely. Sometimes, treatment is implemented in a play setting to comfort the guardian and the child.

After the success of the service in treating a significant number of cases with records of positive outcomes, Al-Ayn (Iraq) is in the process of building its psychological rehabilitation services and replicating the project in other





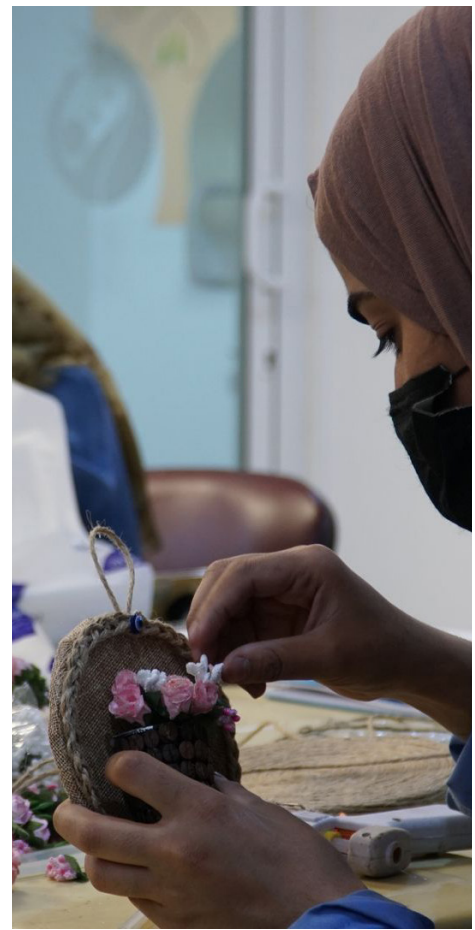
## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT - HIKAYATI

We are very excited to share that the first children arrived to the Hikayati centre on the 11th of December to start non-residential workshops. The Iraq staff are running the workshops themselves, which are taking place approximately four times a week.

Additionally, they are being supervised virtually by our programme manager in the UK, where they meet twice a week to receive training on the workshops, conduct debriefings, discuss feedback on their performance and ensure any safeguarding cases are carefully managed.

We are planning for a full launch with all the facilities in 2022 as the Hikayati centre itself is very much near completion, and we look forward to keeping you updated with its progress.





## Luminous Stars Centres

The Luminous Stars Centre was a pilot project aimed at providing orphaned children, youth and widowed mothers with access to mental health services and vocational training. Since then, 3 Luminous Stars Centres have opened in Baghdad, Diwaniya, and Najaf. Over 2,000 mental health cases are now registered.

Alongside mental health services, the centres provide vocational training workshops that build skills allowing orphaned youth and widowed mothers to become independent.

Although the pandemic has slowed down such services, over 300 students have already graduated, found employment and opened their own businesses, employing others!

12 further centres are being built across Iraq today.



## HOUSING

Rebuilt over 700 homes. However, with the major housing crisis, many families await decent accommodation. Below are examples of completed projects that have provided safe shelter for families across Iraq.

- A residential complex in Al-Maamil District in Baghdad, which consists of 8 residential units.
- A residential complex in Karbala, which consists of 44 residential units currently housing families in need.
- A residential complex in Muthena, which consists of 20 residential units currently housing families in need.
- A residential complex in Babil, which consists of 12 residential units currently housing families in need.
- A residential complex in Salahuldeen, which consists of 44 residential units currently housing families in need.
- A residential complex in Baghdad, which consists of 28 residential units currently housing families in need.
- A residential complex, located in the holy city of Najaf, consists of 66 residential units and has also recently been handed to eligible families living in dire housing situations.

With many families awaiting a place to call home, the need continues. That is why alongside more residential complexes, we continue to build as well as repair individual homes.



## CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL COMPLEXES

Al-Ayn constructed the Imam Al-Hasan Residential Complex in Karbala. It consists of 20 residential units and was handed over to families this year.

With many families awaiting a place to call home, the need continues. That is why alongside more complexes (including a complex in Balad and Babil), individual homes continue to be built on donated land. These donations are either left for the benefit of the children in the wills of supporters of Al-Ayn or donated by generous individuals during their lifetime in their names or on behalf of loved ones.

## GetInvolved

We believe that volunteers are crucial to our ability to empower orphaned children. By contributing to our work in all aspects, they allow us to offer opportunities that serve local communities in the countries we operate in whilst simultaneously serving orphaned children in Iraq.

We have had hundreds of volunteers join the Al-Ayn family, all helping in their unique way. Our fundraisers have been incredible over the years, inspiring us with their creative ways of raising money from running marathons to climbing mountains, bake sales and more! We also hold events throughout the year. To find out what is happening near you, to volunteer or to fundraise for orphaned children in need, do get in touch!

## GetInTouch



[www.alayn.co.uk](http://www.alayn.co.uk)



0203 719 5221



[enquiries@alayn.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@alayn.co.uk)

Follow us @alaynUK



## Donate

### Bank Details\*

Account Name: Al-Ayn

Account No: 20315753

Sort Code: 20-35-93

\*Please use the relevant Donation Reference when donating via bank transfer. To confirm the status of your bank transfer after making it, please visit [www.alayn.co.uk/bankconfirmation](http://www.alayn.co.uk/bankconfirmation)

Where Needed Most: AYN WNM

General Donation: AYN GEN

Khoms (Both Parts): AYN KHB

Khoms (Sahm Al-Imam): AYN KHI

Khoms (Sahm Al-Sada): AYN KHS

Medical Care: AYN MED

Educational Support: AYN EDU

Continual Charity: AYN CON

Housing Complexes: AYN BUI

Toys: AYN TOY

**0% Admin Fees**

